



Finchley & Golders Green Area Committee

8 November 2021

Title	Members Items – Applications for Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) Funding
Report of	Head of Governance
Wards	Various within Finchley & Golders Green Constituency
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	None
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Summary

This report informs the Finchley & Golders Green Area Committee that the application(s) listed under section 1 for Neighbourhood CIL funding have been submitted. The Committee are requested to consider the information highlighted within this report and decide on its desired course of action in accordance with its powers.

Officers Recommendations

1. That the Area Committee consider the request(s) as highlighted in section 1 of the report.

2. That the Area Committee decide whether it wishes to:

- (a) award funding (either fully or partially) and any conditions attached and note the implications to the Committee's NCIL funding budget;**
(b) defer the application for funding for further information, giving reasons; or
(c) reject the application, giving reasons.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 Applications for funding from the Committee's allocated NCIL budget have been raised. The application(s) are as follows:

Title	<u>Community Grant – Long Lane Pasture Trust</u>
Raised by (Councillor):	Cllr Ross Houston
Ward:	West Finchley
Member Request:	Grant Funding to renovate path
Funding Requested (£):	£15,983.12
In consultation with (e.g. named Officer): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is within the parameters outlined in CIL statutory and regulatory definitions• Falls within the CIL Funding Priorities agreed by the relevant Area Committee• Links to priorities in any existing Council policy or strategy and/or whether any insight and intelligence may support the application• The scheme has considered any potential impact on the Council's Strategic portfolio including those considered for strategic CIL funding• The scheme has no ongoing incremental revenue costs to the Council• That the scheme budget is forecast accurately• That the scheme deliverability has been assessed to ensure it can be resourced and successfully implemented	<u>Long Lane Pasture Trust</u> The aim of this project is to renovate our path from the main gate to the gazebo, and to pave the area under the gazebo. The current path is crumbling away and sunken in places along its length resulting in it being under water in places during very wet weather. The hardstanding under the gazebo has deteriorated in its 17-year existence to the point where it is being blown away in the wind and children take delight skimming the loose stones across the pond. During the summer we have local school classes come to the Pasture to study the wild nature of the place and a

- That the scheme outcomes and benefits have been assessed including benefits for the wider community and/or including those with protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010

And Area Lead Officer (NAME), on (DATE):

The scheme has been reviewed by the Lead Officer Phil Hoare (22/10) and CIL Officer Graeme Clayton (22/10)

paved floor would offer some additional place to sit where currently the dusty floor is inhospitable.

We plan to begin the work, if funding is received, with ground clearance, with construction taking place during dry weather through the winter months, to be ready by spring next year.

We are **requesting £15,983.12**, the result of a **tendered quote**.

Another quote for bonded resin was prohibitively expensive and was rejected at a committee meeting in favour of a cheaper and environmentally better paved and compressed gravel solution.

If funding is secured, we can purchase all materials and have them safe and ready on site to enable work to begin whenever the weather is dry.

The improved path and hardstanding will make it easier for pushchairs, prams and wheelchair users to access the Pasture, and for the Pasture to remain open during wet winter weather, where currently we do not open if the main path is sodden.

There will always be a committee member in attendance whenever work is carried out on the path as we do not allow lone working on the Pasture; also, volunteers will do the heavy lifting and moving materials around on site so the workman can concentrate on the skilled job of laying the new path.

We are a two-acre area of mixed Pasture and emerging woodland located in Finchley and we are open to the public every day for most of the year unless the ground is flooded and impassable.

We are always open whatever the weather every Saturday morning to enable a hardy band of healthy volunteers to help maintain the site. Currently we have helpers of all ages as volunteers bring their children. We cut the grass on all the paths, encourage native plants, keep the bramble in check, and manage the trees.

In the summer we have school classes visit, pond-dipping days, butterfly days and volunteer working groups like Barnet GoodGym helping with various tasks.

The Pasture offers an attractive and peaceful setting in Finchley for people to visit. Visitors walk or run around the Pasture on the mown paths and there are areas for picnic and play, and benches to just sit and enjoy the tranquillity. We positively encourage community engagement.

The main aim of the funding of the hardstanding and renovated path is:

To enable more days to open in Winter despite wet weather.

Promote a greater use by families with pushchairs and the elderly with a safer all-weather path.

Increasing the overall number of visitors to the Pasture.

In 2014 Long Lane Pasture won a Green Flag award and a London in Bloom award for being 'outstanding' and have successively won these awards each year since due to the dedication of our volunteers in looking after the Pasture.

Visitors and residents benefit from having this 'jewel of Finchley' to picnic on, pick blackberries exercise, watch birds, butterflies and study a traditional hay meadow.

We encourage wildlife and add to our list of birds and butterflies seen each year, and many other creatures and wild-flowers and grasses.

We make jams from the various fruit trees on site and sell these at local festivals. Bees are also kept on the Pasture that benefits the pollination of plants on the adjacent allotments.

We also produce a calendar each year with photographs of our activities and our wildlife to help raise funds and our profile in the borough.

The main aims of our Trust are:

- ***To continue keeping Long Lane Pasture for public recreation and enjoyment.***
- ***To create an environmental resource for local schools.***
- ***To encourage families and children of all ages to visit and benefit from the site.***
- ***To maintain the land by removing litter and invasive plant species.***
- ***To restore, enhance and protect the site's wildlife value.***
- ***To involve the community and volunteers in management.***
- ***To obtain resources to implement the Management Plan.***

	<p>The charity is wholly run by volunteers and has no paid staff.</p> <p>The Pasture will be able to be kept open earlier in spring and later in the autumn as we would not have to close during periods of very wet weather.</p> <p>School visits would not have to be cancelled or curtailed if it rains as the path will still be usable and not muddy.</p> <p>We will know how well the Pasture is being used more as there is a people counter installed under the main entrance gate that counts footfall. The government sanctioned exercise allowed during Covid-19 in 2020 increased our visitor numbers by 50%, resulting in more people enquiring about helping.</p> <p>Usually, we recruit volunteers as a result of people coming to the Pasture and wanting to help in some way, either by donating money or more usually by joining our volunteer sessions every Saturday. The more people that come and enjoy the peacefulness of the Pasture, the more opportunities there are of gaining new eager volunteers.</p>
<p>Any additional information (please list any documents here to be published with the agenda, or circulated to the Committee):</p>	<p>The group have provided a completed a grant CIL application form setting out their eligibility for the funding, the nature of the scheme, the funding request and budget and have submitted relevant documentation to demonstrate their constitution and financial controls. They have also agreed to the grant terms and conditions.</p> <p>These documents are confidential and have been reviewed by officers.</p> <p>Officers will conduct a site visit to establish the delivery of the scheme and report back to the committee.</p>

Title	<u>Community Grant – The Hope of Childs Hill</u>
Raised by (Councillor):	Cllr Shimon Ryde
Ward:	Childs Hill
Member Request:	Grant Funding to purchase e-bikes
Funding Requested (£):	£16,490
In consultation with (e.g. named Officer):	<p><u>The Hope of Childs Hill</u></p> <p>The Hope of Childs Hill was incorporated in 2016 from funding provided by Barnet Council to create transformational change, provide programs to overcome disadvantage and reduce ever increasing poverty gaps amongst local hard-pressed families in Childs Hill. We are a local charity formed by residents living on the Granville Road Estate, delivering a wide range of projects and activities for residents living on the nearby Social Housing estates such as Longberrys, Hermitage and Lisle Court.</p> <p><u>The Community Impact</u></p> <p>We have delivered numerous cycling projects (TfL funded) at Basing Hill Park along with Cycle Confident. (Barnet Council's school provider)</p> <p>Barnet Council have acknowledged the impact we have had on persuading many more residents to cycle locally.</p> <p>Intergenerational-family outdoor cycling increased over 60% since inception of our projects.</p> <p>We have helped over 2000+ residents of different ages in our community with their health and well-being.</p> <p>Our cycling sessions since</p> <p>2018 – April - August - 461 adults and children 2019 – April - August - 577 children and 144 adults 2020 - April - August 183 children 23 adults (Covid) 2021 - April - August 145 children 96 adults (Covid)</p>
And Area Lead Officer (NAME), on (DATE):	
The scheme has only been initially reviewed by CIL Officer Graeme Clayton (22/10) and referred to the Area Committee for discussion	

The proposed scheme

Our container was recently broken into and a number of essential ebikes were stolen which impacts our delivery going forward.

With this misfortune we have identified an opportunity to modernise our fleet and expand our offering by purchasing 10 2nd generation ebikes (£16,490) which will enhance the experience of more resident's keen to get out and about with friends.

<https://www.halfords.com/bikes/electric-bikes/>

5 Carrera Crossfuse Mens Electric Hybrid Bike - 17", 19", 21" Frames

£1,899.00 each



5 Carrera Crossfire E Women's Electric Hybrid Bike 2.0 - 17", 19", 21" Frames

£1,399.00 each



We are approaching the Area Committee to replace the bikes and inclusion of 2 extra bikes to ensure we can continue with the project in the future.

	<p>eBiking is not only a sustainable way to get around town, but also a healthy way to stay physically active.</p> <p>eBiking has pedal-assist features, making it the perfect ride for any level, from novice gliders to expert riders</p> <p>eBikes require less intensity than traditional non-electric bikes, so there's no need to worry about breaking a sweat</p> <p>eBikes have helped to electrify the daily commute of residents while also doing their part for the health and well-being of their communities.</p> <p>During the lockdown eBiking proved to be a Healthy, Socially Distant Activity leading to community health motivation, beneficial for public health.</p>
Any additional information (please list any documents here to be published with the agenda, or circulated to the Committee):	This scheme is presented to the Area Committee for consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.2 The Committee is requested to decide in respect of each application submitted by Ward Members for Neighbourhood CIL Funding, in line with its terms of reference set out in Article 7 of the Council's Constitution.
- 1.3 The Policy & Resources Committee were requested by the Finchley & Golders Green Area Committee in February and October 2020 to review and clarify the current CIL Funding Policy and Eligibility Guidelines.
- 1.4 On 8th February 2021, the Policy & Resources Committee discussed a report concerning the CIL funding process. It was agreed that each Area Committee should consider, develop and approve their own CIL funding priorities for each financial year starting in 2021/22. In addition, it was recommended that comprehensive guidance be developed for CIL Area Committee Budget and the Road Safety & Parking Fund to ensure that Members can make informed decisions when receiving applications for funding.

- 1.5 At its meeting on 24th May 2021, the Policy and Resources Committee agreed in respect of Area Committees:
- that each Area Committee be allocated £400,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding per financial year
 - to remove the funding limit for each individual Area Committee CIL funded project (which will operate within the approved annual budget)
 - the new CIL Funding Application Guidelines and Funding Application Form
- 1.6 The Area Committees have considered and agreed their priorities for CIL funding for 2021- 22 and these can be accessed via the links provided in section 6 under Background papers.
- 1.7 The priorities do not restrict the Area Committees from approving funding requests that are not agreed priorities. The Area Committee could choose to approve something that is not an identified priority providing it meets the legal definition of infrastructure.
- 1.8 The purpose of the priorities is to enable Area Committees to make informed decisions about the requests before them. This will allow each Area Committee to make appropriate decisions on how funding is allocated in line with the specific infrastructure needs of the area.
- 1.9 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a planning charge that was introduced by the Planning Act 2008 Part II to help deliver infrastructure to support the development in an area. CIL is a standard charge collected from developers on a rate per square metre basis and the funds raised are spent on infrastructure to support the development of an area. Part of CIL funding is allocated to the Neighbourhood Portion and managed by the three Area Committees for Finchley & Golders Green, Hendon and Chipping Barnet.
- 1.10 For schemes approved by Area Committee for funding above £50,000 these are recognised as more complex to deliver. The relevant Executive Director will ensure the appointment of a senior Council Officer to sponsor the scheme and the coordination of Council services, ensure the appropriate project methodology is adhered to, with the scheme set up for a successful delivery. It is recognised that these schemes may deliver outside of the financial year in which they are approved.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 2.1 Not applicable; Members of the Council are able to submit applications for Neighbourhood CIL funding to the Area Committee via Members' Items. As a result, the Committee are requested to consider and determine the applications submitted by Ward Members. Therefore, no other recommendation is provided from Officers.

3. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1 Post decision implementation depends on the decision taken by the Committee, and the assessing officer's recommendation.

4. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

4.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 4.1.1 The Community Infrastructure Levy funding supports the delivery of the Corporate Plan objectives: A pleasant, well maintained borough that we protect and invest in Getting the best out of our parks and improving air quality by looking after and investing in our greenspaces Investing in community facilities to support a growing population, such as schools and leisure centres.

4.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 4.2.1 Starting in 2021/22, the Area Committee has an allocated budget for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) of £400,00 per financial year. This enables the Area Committees to consider funding a larger number of projects with the opportunity to unlock greater community benefits.
- 4.2.2 The Policy & Resources Committee on 24th May 2021 agreed to remove the funding limit per scheme and that Area Committees operate within their annual budget. This enables Area Committees to consider using the increased CIL allocation to fund larger projects with the opportunity to unlock significant community benefits.

4.3 Social Value

- 4.3.1 Requests for Area Committee budget funding provides an avenue for Members to give consideration to funding requests which may have added social value.

4.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 4.4.1 Council Constitution, Article 7, Section 7.5 Responsibility for Functions details that the Area Committee is responsible for determining the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy funding within the constituency subject to sufficient of the budget being allocated to the Committee being unspent.

- 4.4.2 Council Constitution, Article 2 Members of the Council, Section 2.3 states that a Ward Member will be permitted to have one matter only (with no subitems) on the agenda for an Area Committee where the Member is submitting a request for CIL funding to an Area Committee Budget relating to their Ward.

Members' Items for CIL funding Budget must be submitted 10 clear working days before the meeting. Items received after that time will only be dealt with at the meeting if the Chairman agrees they are urgent.

4.5 Risk Management

- 4.5.1 None in the context of this report.

4.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 4.6.1 Requests for Funding allow Members of a Committee to bring a wide range of issues to the attention of a Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution. All of these issues must be considered for their equalities and diversity implications.

4.7 Corporate Parenting

- 4.7.1 None in the context of this report.

4.8 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.8.1 Members consult with Area Committee Lead Officers at an early stage on CIL Funding applications and where relevant with other departments and services. This will enable as much supporting information as possible to be included with applications to enable committees to make an informed decision. Applications where limited or no consultation has taken place are likely to be deferred or rejected by committees. This information will enable committees to make informed decisions. There is no prescribed format for supporting information, but it is recommended that it is sufficient for the committee to make an informed decision.

5 Insight

- 5.1 The Committee may wish to utilise the CIL funding priorities agreed by the Area Committee as a guide towards determining an application. Officers will work on collating key information to assist Members in reviewing priorities including infrastructure needs by constituency area and insight data.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Meeting of the Community Leadership Committee, 24 June 2015, Review of Area Committees – operations and delegated budgets:
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s24009/Area%20Committees%20%20Community%20Leadership%20Committee%2025%20June%202015%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

- 6.2 Policy & Resources Committee, 9 July 2015, 'Delegating a proportion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) income to the Council's Area Committees'
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=692&MId=8346&Ver=4>
- 6.3 Meeting of the Community Leadership Committee, 8 March 2016 - Area Committee Funding – Savings from non- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) budgets
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s38413/Area%20Committee%20Funding%20Savings%20from%20non-%20Community%20Infrastructure%20Levy%20CIL%20budgets.pdf>
- 6.4 Policy & Resources Committee, 8 February 2021, Review of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Eligibility Criteria and Guidance
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=692&MId=10200&Ver=4>
- 6.5 Policy & Resources Committee, 24 May 2021, Review of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Eligibility Criteria and Guidance
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=692&MId=10201&Ver=4>
- 6.6 Chipping Barnet Area Committee - CIL Funding Priorities – 21 April 2021 (item 12):
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=711&MId=10126&Ver=4>
- 6.7 Finchley & Golders Green Area Committee – CIL Funding Priorities, 8 April 2021 (item 12):
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=712&MId=10257&Ver=4>
- 6.8 Hendon Area Committee – CIL Funding Priorities, 16 March 2021 (item 14):
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=717&MId=10250&Ver=4>