

Decisions of the Chipping Barnet Area Committee

9 March 2022

Members Present:-

Councillor Lisa Rutter (Chairman)

Councillor Felix Byers
Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb
Councillor Alison Cornelius

Councillor Paul Edwards
Councillor Wendy Prentice

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Thomas Smith

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chairman reiterated that in order for the Committee to make informed decisions, a better understanding of the definition of infrastructure was needed.

The Lead Officer offered to circulate an expanded definition of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to Members.

Members requested a progress update on approved NCIL items. It was noted that Officers would engage with Members on progress and report back to Committee.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS (IF ANY)

Apologies were received from Councillor Thomas Smith who was substituted for by Councillor Sachin Rajput.

3. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor Coakley Webb declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Trustee of the Friern Barnet Community Library in respect of the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) Member's Item.

4. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY)

None.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (IF ANY)

None.

6. MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE CHIPPING BARNET RESIDENTS FORUM

None.

7. PETITIONS (IF ANY)

None.

8. MEMBERS' ITEMS (IF ANY)

Cllr Lisa Rutter: Road Safety and Parking Request - Osidge Lane speeding

RESOLVED that the Committee:

- **Notes the Road Safety & Parking fund request submitted by Cllr Rutter under section 1 of the report for the additional activated sign.**
- **Refers the item to the Executive Director for Environment for consideration of the request.**

9. AREA COMMITTEE FUNDING NCIL AND RS&P UPDATE - CHIPPING BARNET

Graeme Clayton provided the budget and scheme updates for NCIL and Road Safety and Parking.

RESOLVED that the Committee notes:

- **the balance of £155,225 available for NCIL allocations during 2021/22.**
- **the reallocated underspends & overspends in paragraph 2.1.**
- **the balance of £42,000 available for Road Safety & Parking allocations during 2021/22.**

10. CHIPPING BARNET NCIL MEMBERS ITEMS - MAR 2022

Cllr Pauline Coakley Webb - Friern Barnet Community Library

Cllr Coakley Webb presented the item. The Committee noted that the library had been taken over by the Trust, responsible for internal works. One of three quotes for re-decoration was accepted and submitted for Committee's consideration.

The Chairman was in support of the application but noted that issues like damp are complex and difficult to identify. Invoices should make clear where the damp is coming from and any internal works guarantee to repair the damp.

Invoices did not provide information of required works to help Members make an informed decision. Members agreed that quotes from suppliers must be detailed, clear and up to date.

Further to a discussion, the Committee voted to defer the application as follows:

For	5
Against	0
Abstained	2

RESOLVED that the Committee:

- Considers the request as highlighted in section 1 of the report.**
- Defers the application for further information as outlined above.**

Cllr Laurie Williams - Oak Hill Park: Playground in the North of the Park

Cllr Byers who was in support of the application, queried whether the original scheme had been progressed. The Lead Officer explained that following initial approval, the scheme had been reviewed and required additional funding for viability.

Members asked for an itemised breakdown of the request for funding and supplementary information. The Lead Officer explained that Members are encouraged to liaise with Officers as early as possible and that there was no mandatory format to NCIL applications. However, further information may be provided at the Committee’s request.

Officers advised that if the item were to be deferred, it could be brought back to a future Committee once supplementary information was available.

Members requested that the item include Cllr Williams’ initial request and any subsequent information for Committee’s consideration.

Further to a discussion, the Committee voted to defer the application as follows:

For	7
Against	0

RESOLVED that the Committee:

- Considers the request as highlighted in section 1 of the report.**
- Defers the application for further information as outlined above.**

Cllr Paul Edwards – Barnet Museum Notice Board

Cllr Edwards presented the item.

Members were of the opinion that it was not within the Area Committee’s remit to grant funding for schemes managed by Trustees.

Officers reaffirmed that organisations run by Trustees would not preclude a request for NCIL funding with support from the ward Member.

The Chairman was in support of the application as it would benefit the wider community.

Further to a discussion, the Committee voted in favour of the application as follows:

For	7
Against	0

RESOLVED that the Committee:

- Considers the request as highlighted in section 1 of the report.
- Awards full funding and notes the implications to the Committee’s NCIL budget.

Cllr Coakley Webb - Community Focus: New IT infrastructure

Cllr Coakley Webb presented the item highlighting the valuable use of facilities. The organisation’s own contribution of £5,000 towards the new IT infrastructure had been noted.

The Chairman was in support of the application but noted that the chosen model may not be future proof. The Chairman said that Apple demonstrated its M Series of chips as future proof in comparison to intel core, which could also be obtained at a much lower cost.

Therefore, a better quote for the equipment was to be sought from Jigsaw for cost efficiency and sustainability.

Further to a discussion, the Committee voted to defer the application as follows:

For	7
Against	0

RESOLVED that the Committee:

- Considers the request as highlighted in section 1 of the report.
- Defers the application for further information as outlined above.

Cllr Alison Cornelius – Brook Farm Open Space: New Toddler & Junior Playground

Cllr Cornelius presented the item on behalf of the constituency. A site assessment had been carried out by Officers to identify a suitable location.

The Chairman was in support of the application and said that the play area would be well received by local residents. The Chairman also informed the committee that if they were inclined to support this application then this could be a Flagship project.

Members raised concerns on approving more NCIL funding than was available in the current budget. The Lead Officer explained that if the Committee were inclined to approve the request, funding could be split between two years.

The Chairman suggested that perhaps for the next financial year it would be a good idea to suspend any large items to allow smaller NCIL items to be prioritised over larger items. The Chair recommended that Committee consider past decisions and to focus on smaller projects to ensure fairness and proportionality.

Further to a discussion, the Committee voted in favour of the application as follows:

For	6
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Against	0
Abstained	1

RESOLVED that the Committee:

- Considers the request as highlighted in section 1 of the report.
- Awards partial funding of £100,000 from this year’s budget and the remaining £100,000 to be awarded next financial year for delivery of the project.
- Notes the implications to the Committee’s NCIL budget.

Cllr Sachin Rajput – Love Whetstone: Benches & Planters (Jubilee commemoration)

Cllr Rajput presented the item and the need for new benches in the area. The request was for at least one bench with a plaque and planters to commemorate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee event.

The Chairman was in support of the application but emphasised the need to ascertain the number of benches in the area and how many were needed for the amount of funding requested. The Chairman also queried if whether the benches needed to be replaced.

The Lead Officer said that new benches may be required in a few locations. The Council could operate within the current framework to procure the benches for better rates and recommend appropriate locations for the benches and planters.

Members said that it would be useful to know the distance between benches. It was therefore decided for one bench and a plaque and planters for now only.

Further to a discussion, the Committee voted in favour of the application as follows:

For	7
Against	0

RESOLVED that the Committee:

- Considers the request as highlighted in section 1 of the report.
- Awards partial funding of £3,000 (for 1 bench with plaque and 2 planters) to commemorate the Queen’s Jubilee.
- Notes the implications to the Committee’s NCIL budget.

Cllr Nicole Richer - New Barnet Scout Group Minibus

Cllr Richer presented the item highlighting the range of activities the minibus would be used for including learning and development for young people with social, emotional and mental health issues.

The Chairman invited Mr Michael Proctor to address the queries from the Committee. Mr Proctor spoke about the benefits of the project and its sustainability.

The Chairman was in support of the application especially as it would benefit the wider community.

Members pointed out that funding could have been sought from all Area Committees as the minibus would be used by other areas of the Borough. Mr Proctor clarified that whilst there are other scout groups, ownership and responsibility of the vehicle would lie with the Barnet Scouts Groups based in East Barnet.

Further to a discussion, the Committee voted in favour of the application as follows:

For	5
Against	0
Abstained	2

RESOLVED that the Committee:

- Considers the request as highlighted in section 1 of the report.
- Awards funding of £20,000 and notes the implications to the Committee's NCIL budget.

Cllr Barry Rawlings – Allotmentz: Primary School Food Education Infrastructure

Cllr Rawlings presented the item highlighting the educational benefits and sustainability of growing food.

The Chairman supported the idea of hydroponics but queried whether it was within the Area Committee's remit to approve funding. Schools had access to other grants for extracurricular activities. The Chairman felt that approving the application would set a precedence for other schools who would follow suit.

Cllr Rawlings clarified that funding was not going to be provided to the school but to the charity supporting the social enterprise. The organisation's details was unclear and the Chairman did not believe this was within the remit.

Officers provided a wider CIL definition which included the enabling and supporting of healthy lifestyles and access to healthy food.

Further to a discussion, the Committee voted to reject the application as follows:

For	5
Against	2

RESOLVED that the Committee:

- Considers the request as highlighted in section 1 of the report.
- Rejects the application due to lack of company information and due to the fact that schools have access to grants to fund such projects.

Cllr Laurie Williams – Allotmentz: Primary School Food Education Infrastructure

Members reached the same conclusion on this item as the previous item.

Therefore, the Committee voted to reject the application as follows:

For	4
Against	2
Abstained	1

RESOLVED that the Committee:

- Considers the request as highlighted in section 1 of the report.
- Rejects the application because of reasons outlined above.

Cllr Tim Roberts – Strength & Learning through Horses

Cllr Roberts presented the item. The Councillor talked about the life changing educational support the charity would provide to young people. The funding would also help acquire a classroom where young people would be able to learn and engage.

Members queried whether the classroom would require planning permission. Members also enquired about leaseholder information and photos of what the classroom would look like.

Therefore, the Committee voted to defer the application for further information subject to planning permission as follows:

For	5
Against	2

RESOLVED that the Committee:

- Considers the request as highlighted in section 1 of the report.**
- Defers the application to obtain a breakdown of funding and further information.**

The Chairman exercised her discretion to continue the meeting until 10:30pm. The Committee was in agreement.

Cllr Lisa Rutter - Extension of Double Yellow Lines

It was noted that this item had been to the Executive Director, Environment for consideration.

11. CHIPPING BARNET AREA COMMITTEE NCIL MARCH-2022

The Lead Officer confirmed the Committee's total expenditure of £126,500 from the remaining NCIL budget with a commitment to £100,000 from next year's budget.

RESOLVED that the Committee approves the CIL funding priorities for the financial year 2022/2023.

12. ANY ITEM(S) THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

None.

The meeting finished at 10.15pm.