

Notes of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Working Group Meeting

Via Zoom, 9.00 am 22nd January 2021

In attendance:

Cllr Mick Richardson (Chairman)

Ash Tadjrishi, Town Clerk

Cllr Seamus Bennett

Debbie Frost, Deputy Town Clerk

Cllr Andy Smith

It was noted that the remit of this group was to report back to the Finance & Governance Committee on possible projects and improvements that could be enabled by CIL funding; identify potential partners and estimate costs. Members noted a number of ideas that had already been received from Councillors by email. Whilst this Working Group had been set up to consider ideas for which CIL funding could be used, the Group acknowledged that some projects may also be eligible for funding via other means, either directly by the Town Council or in partnership with others, depending on the project. It was also felt that contribution from Town Council CIL funding may encourage other partners to enable some of the projects to become a reality.

Though Members acknowledged the importance for CIL funding to benefit the widest number of people, it was also recognised that CIL could be used to enable projects to go ahead which would be otherwise unlikely to achieve funding from elsewhere.

Members considered public engagement and felt it was important to set the scene by listing the projects that were currently being considered, and to ask members of the public for their thoughts on those ideas as well as seeking ideas for other projects. It was agreed that feedback should be sought via the Town Council's spring magazine.

Some of the ideas which had received support so far were discussed. It was agreed that an enhancement project for the Town Centre could be good to help retailers recover from the pandemic. It was noted that the Felixstowe BID would commence on 1st April and would potentially want to lead on a project of this scope, with help from partners such as FTC, ESC and SCC. Improvements to parks and play area, including the proposed new active zone on the seafront would be ideal community infrastructure projects as well as helping to encourage a healthy lifestyle. Members requested that an update be sought on ESC's proposals for Langer Park so FTC could consider if there was any help on this project that could be provided. Other parks that require refurbishment were noted to be Seaton Road also known as "Harpers Field" and Recreation Lane. New walking and cycling facilities were discussed in depth and further information is to be sought on where FTC's CIL could help with these.

The Working Group would report back to Council's Finance and Governance Committee in March. Initial ideas, potential partners, estimated costs where possible, outcomes, challenges, and impact (who will benefit) would be discussed.

The list of projects can then be prioritised into what should be focussed on and especially what is achievable. Once decisions have been made to use either CIL funds or Council's Earmarked Reserves then authority would need to be requested from Full Council.

Members discussed the opportunity to create an ecologically-focused Neighbourhood Plan and agreed that, whilst this would be outside of the scope for the Group, Council's Planning and Environment Committee could be asked to consider this.