

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Working Group Meeting

Via Zoom, 10.00 am 12th May 2021

Notes

In attendance:

Cllr Mick Richardson (Chairman)
Cllr Darren Aitchison
Cllr Seamus Bennett
Cllr Margaret Morris

Cllr Doreen Savage
Cllr Andy Smith
Ash Tadjrishi, Town Clerk
Debbie Frost, Deputy Town Clerk

Members had received the link to East Suffolk's website and noted the Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan template (PIIP) <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/developer-contributions/community-infrastructure-levy/parish-support/>. This plan template offers a framework to consider ideas, when completed this can be submitted to East Suffolk Council to record our community endorsed ideas. The form will help us to identify priorities. The PIIP can be published once completed but we will not need to consult upon completion as it is a collection of the ideas following consultation with the public. ESC recommend that the PIIP should be reviewed every 3 years, and it is just a guideline from which projects can be derived from original ideas, some moved forward and some not to be such a priority.

Ideas were noted as received from FTC members, members of the public (a request for ideas was published in the Spring 2021 magazine and an email sent to over 150 local community groups), ideas were also received from the BID as it was felt useful to know their priorities also.

An update will be published in the Summer Magazine and will talk about the kind of things we are looking at. CIL aside we would hope the public would feel that they can always come to FTC with any good ideas that they have.

Members noted that BID was in its infancy and looked at a map of the area covered by the BID which includes the Town centre and limited parts of the Seafront. The Triangle was discussed in detail, and was felt that this was just a small part of a larger project which involves consideration to the Taxi rank and Blue Badge parking. However, a brightening up of the triangle eg painting the seats bright colours or provision of a bandstand combined with public art may be a popular short term solution. The taxi rank could currently do with a 'No Idling please turn off your engines' sign. Members were also aware that in the past, complaints have been received about loud music in the Triangle.

The Clerk reminded members not to forget some of the projects that we were already planning for the future, one large project being the Cemetery Extension which would benefit all of Felixstowe. Work is underway with SCC regarding the piece of land opposite the cemetery and as FTC are currently landlords to the Scout Hut, this would need to be supported to enable relocation and if a lease is granted for the sports field opposite projects such as the building of a Sports Pavilion and parking would also be an option.

Members considered information circulated on a Pump Track, this would require little maintenance once built and can be used by anyone on a bicycle. It would be an asset to the Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood and a contrast to the skate park on the other side of Felixstowe. It would also have connection to the Women's Tour. Other funding could be available for a project such as this and

other locations could be considered such as Langer Park which is currently being considered for development, as it may be too long a wait to include in the FGN. Langer Park aims, it is believed, to increase biodiversity but with the woodland there it could be an ideal location for a Pump Track.

This raised a good point of using earlier consideration to request more open spaces in new developments, and building some of these project ideas into the planning stage may be more effective.

Play equipment for children with disabilities was a good consideration. The group were pleased with the outcome of previously using CIL on upgrading the 3 parks and agreed that it would be a useful exercise to work out where there was a lack of equipment for children with disabilities.

Members hoped that their consideration would be to cater for the widest possible range of the community, projects for the older generation, disabled and young as well as others. Although it won't be possible to cater for everybody, thought would be made into catering for the broadest number of the community as possible. Music and the Arts would be good for everyone's health and should not be ignored. If a bandstand could combine the two, and be innovative enough to give a photo opportunity that could be a good project. Although the Triangle in town is one option, the Beach Events area is currently very under utilised and this idea may be one that ESC would be interested in funding also. Another option for the Bandstand could be the Seafront Gardens either by the Long Shelter or the long grass area just past the Pram Walk.

Members also considered a request from a member of the public for a Kickabout area near Martello Park, members agreed that this was a low cost and easily achievable idea which could have major impacts into the life of youngsters living in that area and visiting. Of course permission would need to be obtained from ESC and possibly consultation with residents as the area near the Martello Tower is protected. As this area was often used by older children to kick a ball around already this may not be an issue.

It was noted that the new Wicker family still had a sign saying Suffolk Coastal, the Clerk would investigate obtaining a sign to say provided by FTC.

Members discussed ensuring that FTC gets credit for any project that they contribute to. The new Communications Apprentice will help with this and of course we can share credit on any joint projects also. Members also discussed ensuring that FTC are not contributing to projects where a third party should be responsible for paying for. However, it was also agreed that asking the party involved in that project, to have that conversation with FTC at the beginning of a project, may mean that we are able to improve on existing projects not just by having input but also if they can only afford x and FTC agrees we really want y, we may be able to make that project happen how we feel it should, by contributing.

Concerns were expressed about losing Felixstowe Forward, the BID is a good idea to have another incorporated body, however, the main concerns were about what is going to happen about Visit Felixstowe. It is not the Town Council's role to be the Tourist Information, we should support it but we are not funded to take on that remit. Cllr Nick Barber who is also currently a Director of BID will keep the group posted but confirmed that Visit Felixstowe is on the BID's agenda. Members felt that Visit Felixstowe could offer a lot for businesses and is a real asset to the Town.

It was agreed that the list of ideas should be filtered in a way similar to the Business Plan where ideas are ordered into what is achievable and prioritised. As part of the exercise we will require approximate costings.

The group agreed it would be good to see some progress, by going behind the scenes to calculate feasibility, before ideas go to Council.

The PIIP will be completed by the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk and circulated to members, an update will go to the next Finance & Governance meeting with a draft of the PIIP going to F&G.

The next meeting to be arranged.