

Fordingbridge Town Council Community Infrastructure Levy Policy

BACKGROUND

The **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** is a charge that Local Authorities can make on new developments in their area. It was introduced by the Government in April 2010 under the CIL Regulations 2010. The CIL is essentially a pre-set charge that can be applied to new developments and collected by each local authority. CIL is intended to be used to help towards funding a range of infrastructure that is needed as a result of new development, for example road schemes, schools and community facilities.

New Forest District Council began charging CIL from 6/4/2015 on all new development. The CIL will contribute towards providing the necessary infrastructure that the District Council, Town Council and neighbourhood want – for example new or safer road schemes, park improvements or new community facilities. This will also ensure that more development contributes to the infrastructure needed to mitigate and reduce the impact on the communities in which the new development is taking place. The CIL gives councils greater control and flexibility over where and on what developer contributions are spent, to benefit local communities.

A proportion of CIL income will go directly to the Town Council, where new development is built to spend as they wish on their local infrastructure needs. Each year, the Town Council will be entitled to up to 15 per cent of the CIL collected from liable developments within their Parish/Town.

See the following for further details-

<https://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/2806/Infrastructure>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/community-infrastructure-levy>

The Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Infrastructure Funding Statements for our district may also be found on these webpages and details schemes highlighted for consideration by New Forest District Council (with their proportion of CIL).

In October 2023 NFDC agreed the mechanism to release additional funds from the CIL funds which they hold, enabling the Town Council to recommend projects up to £75000 for consideration.

WHAT CAN CIL MONIES BE SPENT ON?

CIL monies can be spent on the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or anything else that is concerned with addressing demands that development places on an area. This gives communities freedom and power to spend the money on a wide range of things, in consultation with the community.

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The wider definition means that the neighbourhood funding pot can be spent on things other than infrastructure (as defined in the Community Infrastructure Levy regulations). For example, the pot could be used to fund affordable housing where it would support the development of the area by addressing the demands that development places on the area.

Where community priorities for infrastructure are the same as those of the local authority, for example if they are agreed a new school or road is needed, the community can agree that the local authority will keep all or part of the 15% funding element to ensure maximum funding is enabled.

Other community groups can apply to the Town Council for consideration of funding of an infrastructure project (in a similar way to a S137 grant application) at anytime. Such an application will be considered by the whole council but it must be an 'infrastructure' project and for the good of the whole community. An application from a Community Group would need to demonstrate sound financial management and a proportion of match funding. For amounts over £500 a presentation of the application will need to be made to Council for consideration.

What is infrastructure?

'Infrastructure' is broadly defined in the Town and Country Planning Act 2008.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/216>

There are typically 3 broad categories of infrastructure: -

- *Physical infrastructure: e.g. highways, transport links, cycleways, energy supply, water, flood alleviation, waste management*
- *Social infrastructure: e.g. education, health, social care, emergency services, art and culture, sports halls, community halls*
- *Green infrastructure: e.g. parks, woodlands, play areas, public open space*

CONSULTATION

Each year, at the Annual Town Assembly, the Town Council will present identified infrastructure projects for priority CIL funding (Appendix 1). Members of the public are able to propose areas of need to the Council, via the website www.fordingbridge.gov.uk, or in writing to the Town Clerk at the Town Hall (town.clerk@fordingbridge.gov.uk).

Applications for CIL funding will be considered at the Finance and Policy Meetings in April and October.

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SPENDING CIL

The Town Council should spend their local CIL monies within 5 years of receipt. Where money is not used to support development of the area within five years of receipt, or is used for other purposes, the regulations give charging authorities the power to recover those funds. This is to ensure that money is spent, and spent effectively, to benefit the local community.

MONITORING

The Town Council will produce a publicly available annual report on the use of their share of the CIL receipts. This will include the total receipts for the reported year, the projects CIL has been applied to, and the amount of expenditure on each item. This report will be publicly available and published on the Town Council website (Appendix 2).

RECEIPT OF MONIES

Monies will be transferred to the Town Council by New Forest District Council. Upon receipt, these monies will be 'ringfenced' by the Town Council and only spent on projects already identified in the council's 'infrastructure projects list' (see appendix 1), subject to full council approval and in accordance with council Financial Regulations, i.e following process for quotations etc.

Signed..... Date.....

Chairman, Fordingbridge Town Council **(To be reviewed: March 2024 (at the latest))**

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Appendix 2 (October 2023)

Monitoring Report

YEAR	Amount Received	Amount Spent	Date Spent	Allocated	Unallocated
2016/17	£1404.00	£1404.00	April 2019	Skate park	Spent
2017/18	£4175.04	£4175.04	April 2019	Skate park	Spent
2018/19	£2087.84	£2087.84	April 2019	Skate park	Spent
2018/19	£56624.98	£2514.00 £54110.98	Sept 19 & 20 To Jun 2021	Security barriers Changing Rooms	Spent
2019/20	£60861.13	£1950.00 £47714.73 £10000.00 £1196.40	May 2021 August 2021 August 2021 Sept 2021	Picnic benches (more) Changing Rooms (total spent £101825.71) Avonway roof Gym Equipment	Spent
2019/20	£73972.85	£2528.70	Sept 2021	Gym Equipment	£71444.15
2019/20	£6567.21				£6567.21
2020/21	£286.19				£286.19
2021/22	£1408.98				£1408.98
2021/22	£1361.69				£1361.69
2021/22	£2561.88				£2561.88
2022/23	£1361.69				£1361.69
2022/23	£25956.10				£25956.10
2023/24	£27714.99				£27714.99
2023/24	£94383.19				£94383.19
Totals	£264622.88	£127681.69			£233046.07

Current Allocation of remaining CIL by Members (December 2023):

CIL Allocation	£ 231,324.38
Mens Shed	£ 10,000.00
Circular Path	£ 70,000.00
Enhance play area/river	£ 10,000.00
Play equipment	£ 120,000.00
Allotment boreholes	£ 6,000.00
Bandstand/covered area	£ 20,000.00
Unallocated Balance	-£ 4,675.62