

Council meeting:	16 th May 2024	Agenda item:	24/065
Agenda item:	CIL projects		

The Parish Council received £72,024.35 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on 21st April 2023 because of the development at Valerie Way.

The CIL Regulations state that a local council must use CIL receipts passed to it in accordance with Regulation 59A or 59B to support the development of the local council's area, or any part of that area, by funding:

- a) the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or
- b) anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.

In April and May 2023 the Council asked for suggestions about what the CIL should be used for. It received over 35 ideas which it has been expanding, in some cases combining, and sifting through.

In January 2024 a list of unprioritised projects was discussed at the Council Meeting (24/011.h).

In April the Council issued a first-cut prioritisation to seek feedback on which projects the community would like to see prioritised, with an emphasis on agreeing the projects which were unlikely to be consulted on (24/052).

As a result of that feedback and further discussion the projects have been sorted into the following categories:

1. Projects which have either been implemented or committed to.
2. Projects to be supported without consultation (if issues can be resolved).
3. Projects to be consulted on.
4. Projects which will not be consulted on.

Changes from the list circulated in April have been highlighted.

It is proposed to proceed to a public consultation on the projects categorised in the third grouping as soon as possible prior to agreeing which projects should be supported.

The consultation will be undertaken as widely as possible using both electronic and paper input and will be used to inform the Council's final decision; the Council reserves the right to take the final decision irrespective of the outcome of the consultation.

Project	Summary description	Indicative cost	Issues/reasons for not taking forward
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1. Projects which have either been implemented or are committed

a) Noticeboard outside Cedar	To meet council's statutory obligations to publicly display information. Improve village communication.	2,269	
b) Village gateway on The Common	Entry gates to be installed as part of the project to reduce the 50mph speed limit on The Common to 40mph in Q2 2024.	2,500	

2. Projects to be supported without consultation (if issues can be resolved)

a) Accessibility to open spaces (moved from projects requiring more information)	Enable access for people with restricted mobility to The Green and Spencer Holland	Un-scoped	Still has issues to be resolved but considered too important to need to be consulted on.
b) Brownies cupboard in Church Room	Replace door to improve ventilation, redesign storage.	700	Needs approval of PCC
c) Old Green entrance pathway	Remove tree roots and resurface to improve accessibility.	2,550	Needs approval of Rose Farm Cottage
d) Roadside traffic data recorder	Remove reliance on Highways to provide statistics of traffic volume and speed to inform requests for change.	1,000	May need Highways approval
e) The Green – protection of verges (moved from projects requiring more information)	Replace existing sleepers along the edge of The Green with posts with pudding stone at corner of The Green and Water End Rd. Protect Conservation Green verge along Hempstead Lane with pudding stones.		

3. Projects to be consulted on			
a) Burial ground improvements	Repair path, replace gates, add tree guards to cherry tree avenue	3,000	
b) Communal garden in Common Gardens (moved from projects requiring more information)	Create planted area to the right of Common Gardens by the footpath that runs behind Cedar		
c) Community website	A website focused primarily on the parish, listing activities and resources but including a Parish Council section	5,000	
d) Entry gates to Potten End and Nettleden	To be located on Hempstead Lane, Water End Rd and Nettleden Rd (see 2 above for The Common).	1,500	Will need sufficient space and almost certainly Highways support.
e) Old Green improvements	Create space which can be used by the school and pre-school – wildlife trail, outdoor classroom, etc. Actively improve ecology.	10,000	
f) Outdoor gym	Exercise equipment for older children/adults around Spencer Holland	10,000	
g) Scout hut replacement	Replacement of scout hut in Village Hall carpark.	c.200,000	Will need permission of Village Hall and Planning Permission. The Scouts have raised funds. Council contribution to be negotiated but will leave a significant shortfall which would need to be raised.
h) Spencer Holland fencing	Install 64m of post and rail fencing including two pedestrian gates along Plough Lane to protect children playing on Spencer Holland	4,000	
i) Village Hall caretakers accommodation (moved from projects unlikely to be taken forward)	Pressing need to replace windows with double glazed, soundproof the accommodation and refurbish the kitchen	48,000	Hall has funds to cover 50% of costs. Council contribution to be negotiated but will leave a significant shortfall which will need to be raised.

4. Projects which will not be consulted on

a) Automatic speed monitoring devices	Automate the manual DriveSafe initiative. Devices able to collect speeding data and initiate warning letters without involvement of volunteers. Improves road safety, reduce accidents and casualties. Improve air quality and reduce pollution. Locate on The Common and Water End Rd.	20,000	Very expensive. Requires approval of Police and Crimes Commissioner (PCC), Police and Highways. Examples fully funded by the PCC but elections in 2024. Lobby for installation with PCC grant but not a CIL priority.
b) Burial Ground water supply	Provide water supply to burial ground at the top of Pouchen End Lane	1,000	Limited need other than when large-scale planting is undertaken. Requirement can be met by short-term measures.
c) Conservation Green scrub	Clear back scrub on land between Hempstead Lane, Bullbeggars Lane and The Common	800	Debatable whether it meets the requirement of CIL expenditure. Manage from precept.
d) Electric vehicle charging points	Install electric vehicle charging points		Parish Council doesn't have power to trade and doesn't have land with suitable power supply.
e) Flooding and sewerage spills	Subsidise installation of water butts to reduce storm surges and minimise sewerage spills and flooding onto Highways		No traction from Thames Water which is required to validate concept.
f) Footpath along The Green	Meandering path from bus stop/car park opposite Village Hall round the pond and seating areas so that residents can better enjoy the environment by the pond. Safer for residents and more accessible for those with mobility needs to southern end of The Green.	34,000	Would require permission of the Planning Inspectorate because of The Green's status as Common Land. Concern about 'urbanisation'.
g) Golf course footpath	Improve surface of footpath from The Common onto the golf course		Not Parish Council land or responsibility. Materials now being

			sourced by Dacorum, work being undertaken by the Golf Course.
h) Hedges around car parks on The Green	Plant hedges around one or both of the car parks to screen them from The Green.		Can't plant trees or shrubs that cause a continuous barrier on Common Land.
i) Parking enforcement (moved from projects requiring more information)	Pay for more frequent attendance of enforcement officers.		Not clear whether PC has power for this expenditure. No traction from Dacorum.
j) Picnic benches	Install benches in Common Gardens, near play equipment on Spencer Holland, on the Old Green and near the pond.	4,500	Expensive, there are a number of benches around the village already, creates problem for maintenance. Consider as part of individual projects (for e.g. garden in Common Gardens)
k) Pond wildlife information board	Provide information about the flora and fauna in the pond.		Fully funded by donation.
l) Potten End in flower	Planting at entrances to the villages/hamlets to create an environment of pride – a place to visit and enjoy with opportunity to enter national village competitions		Nearly always involves Highways land which is problematic. Best handled alongside gateways (see 1.b and 3.c above).
m) Speed Indicator Devices (SID)	Move one SID socket further along Hempstead Lane	500	Would need Highways and Police agreement. Best handled via grant from Police and Crimes Commissioner rather than using CIL.
n) Sports field car park	Install all-weather surface for car park to reduce pressure on Homefield.	15,000	Difficult to justify the level of expenditure against local use. Unlikely to qualify for grants.
o) Sports field drainage	Improve sports field drainage, particularly around football pitch closes to beech hedge.		75% grants are available but no information has been provided about whether the sports field would qualify.
p) Sports field – extension of safety net for cricket balls	Extend existing netting along the Vicarage Rd boundary by 13m at the existing height	3,240	Doesn't meet CIL criteria of benefitting the community.

q) Tennis court	Install all-weather tennis court that could also be used for other sports.	25,000 – 60,000	The Parish Council doesn't own any suitable land unless it were to stop existing sporting activities.
r) The Green – bus stop	Repairs to hardstanding around the bus stop		The hardstanding is not perfect but it doesn't appear to require immediate attention. Might be covered as a side issue to accessibility (see 4.a) if that is taken forward.