

**NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY 2021/22:  
KDBH BIDS ASSESSMENT / FUNDING**

[Council email response to Forum letter dated 7 October 2021](#)

15 October 2021

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the Neighbourhood CIL bids for Knowle Dorridge and Bentley Heath and for raising your concerns with us.

However, in order to ensure a transparent, fair and consistent process, the Council would not want to exclude or screen out any bids without first considering them fully, sharing them with relevant stakeholders and working through the established assessment process. Opinions on whether a bid meets the relevant criteria may differ and it is therefore important that all views are garnered.

Notwithstanding this, we note your points on the validity of two of bids put forward. The Council will also come to a decision on this through the assessment process. Nevertheless, it is important that the Forum have sight of all bids before they go to Cabinet Member and have the opportunity to comment. It would therefore still be helpful to understand if bids are supported by the community or not, whether they would meet priorities in the Neighbourhood Plan or not, as well as establish a level of prioritisation.

We also acknowledge your disappointment that no prior engagement / communication with the Forum was undertaken regarding the bids put forward by the Council. We appreciate the value of working with communities and in this instance, it appears that an opportunity has been missed. With this in mind, and as you suggest, we will be reviewing how we manage this process going forward, particularly where bids are coming from Council Service teams. Obviously, the Council cannot require other bidders to engage with the Forum if they choose not to.

Neighbourhood CIL will be considered by the Stronger Communities and Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board, before being considered by the Cabinet Member for Stronger and Safer Communities. We can certainly ensure your concerns are highlighted through this process.

I hope this provides some assistance.

Kind regards,