



NEIGHBOURHOOD CIL APPLICATION FORM 2020

What's Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)?

Neighbourhood CIL is intended to help address the demands of a new development on the local area. This neighbourhood proportion is up to 25% of CIL receipts in areas with an adopted Neighbourhood Plan and up to 15% (capped at £100 per existing council tax dwelling) in areas without a Neighbourhood Plan. Therefore, if development occurs in an area, funds will be collected for the community to use to mitigate any impacts they have identified

At Solihull, a bidding system is open to communities to attempt to secure funding for projects that will benefit the local area. The fund total will be released annually, in April, and these funds will be open to bids until 1st September 2020. Solihull MBC aim to fund the most appropriate projects (for an area), to ensure this, a screening application form will enable officers to best allocate funding. The funding will be become available once the ward allocation pot reaches £10,000.

Completing this form:

A set of guidance notes on our website www.solihull.gov.uk/cil is available to assist with the completion of this application form, together with guidance around how we make decisions on how funding is distributed and what is expected following the completion of a successful bid. If you need any further advice, please contact the CIL team on 0121 704 8008 or cil@solihull.gov.uk

IMPORTANT: THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA IS MANDATORY IN ORDER TO BID FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD CIL

- Project should be classed as Infrastructure/meets the demands development places on an area
- Projects should not require on-going maintenance
- The body applying should be:
 - o Formally constituted
 - o Has a bank account requiring two unrelated signatories
 - o Has at least two unrelated management committee members if they are an unincorporated organisation or voluntary group
 - o Demonstrates good financial management procedures including records of income and expenditure (or to be partnering with a delivery body who has these structures in place

N.B you may be asked to provide evidence of the above when submitting an application.

PART 1: ABOUT YOU/YOUR ORGANISATION

Name of organisation applying:	Dorridge & District Residents' Association (DDRA)
Address:	[REDACTED]
Contact Phone Number:	[REDACTED]
Contact Email Address:	[REDACTED]

Which Neighbourhood fund would you like to bid from?

Dorridge & Hockley Heath <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shirley East <input type="checkbox"/>
Knowle <input type="checkbox"/>	Shirley West <input type="checkbox"/>
Olton <input type="checkbox"/>	Shirley South <input type="checkbox"/>
Silhill <input type="checkbox"/>	St Alphege <input type="checkbox"/>

Location of the Proposed Project:
<i>Full Address and please attach site plan/map showing the location of the project.</i> Bentley Heath Recreation Ground, Widney Road, Bentley Heath, Solihull B93 9BQ (<i>site plan attached</i>)
If your project is located outside of the ward you wish to bid from, please explain why you believe that funding should be used for your project in a different ward: (optional)



Who will be responsible for delivering the project?

Community Group Please go to Part 2

Other Group/Organisation Please go to Part 2

Solihull MBC Please go to Part 3

PART 2: COMMUNITY GROUPS/OTHER GROUPS ORGANISATIONS

Please provide the details of the organisation responsible for the project delivery

Organisation Name	
Project Contact/Person Completing this form:	
Organisation Address (If different from above)	
Phone Number (If different from above)	
Email Address (If different from above)	

What is the legal status of the organisation?

Registered Charity Charity Registration Number:

Company limited by guarantee: Company Registration number:

An unregistered organisation

Part of regional/national organisation

PART 3 – SOLIHULL MBC APPLICATIONS

Name of Service Area	Public Realm Team
Project Manager	Emma Sibbing, Parks & Open Spaces Officer
Extension Number	████████████████████
Email Address	████████████████████

PART 4: ABOUT THE PROJECT

Project Name:
A Path for Bentley Heath Park

Total amount CIL amount requested: (Please see www.solihull.gov.uk/cil for information regarding current funding availability)

£12,865

Project Summary:

Bentley Heath Park is a lovely green, open space at the heart of this suburban community, available to all, with some great amenities, surrounded by houses on all sides, adjacent to Bentley Heath Community Centre and opposite the primary school. However, one disappointing feature is that the footpath only runs 2/3rds of the way round, meaning you can walk partway but then have to turn and retrace steps, which is both frustrating & limiting. At present it's possible to walk on mown tracks through some wild grasses and a newly planted copse of saplings, but this is impossible for any wheels (buggies, scooters, wheelchairs, wheeled walking aids), dangerous for unsteady walkers due to its uneven nature, too muddy in wet weather, and from autumn to late spring impossible for all but the wellie-booted! Our project is to extend the existing hard paths to make a complete circuit (making a half-mile round). The proposed (and agreed) route will wind through the new saplings and wild grasses, skirting the remaining edges of the park, thereby opening up all kinds of opportunities for all who use the park. A complete circuit means that people of all ages and abilities can walk/jog/scoot/be pushed round multiple times, whether for simple leisure/pleasure or dedicated exercise, and consequently spend longer in the fresh air, with all kinds of physical, mental, emotional and general health/well-being benefits. The route would lead people through an area of the park which has a 'set-aside' feel, a more biodiverse area – a place to 'let go', unwind & breathe – an antidote to the pressures of the workplace or family life, or the stress of Covid-related hardships. (*Route map attached. Photos available on request.*) The favoured (by SMBC, Ian Courts & DDRA) material for the path would be bonded Breedon gravel, already used for an existing path extension to the new Four Ashes Road development, which would be sympathetic to this ecologically-friendly and 'natural' end of the park, suitable for wheels, and can be constructed to safely negotiate any tree roots without damage to trees. Finally, we would like to add a park bench at one point along the route from which to enjoy the view of the park, and rest en route (*see attached example*).

Project Outcomes and Benefits:

Please explain how your project outcomes will benefit communities and how this will be shown after the project is completed.

Project output	Project benefits	Evidence
<i>Outputs should be tangible deliverables from your project</i>	<i>How will you know the project has been a success? E.G. Increased use of the</i>	<i>How can you provide evidence to show this has been a success?</i>

<i>. E.G. New Playground Equipment</i>	<i>park</i>	<i>E.G. Survey of numbers of people using the park</i>
<i>A hard-surface path to link the ends of existing paths to create a complete circuit for the benefit of all.</i>	<i>More people of all ages walking & jogging one full circuit (1/2 mile) or multiple circuits</i>	<i>Survey of numbers & range of people using the complete circuit route, and of how many go round multiple times. (Such a survey will also be done prior to the path's creation for comparison.)</i>
	<i>Wheelchair users & disabled enabled to take this route</i>	<i>Survey to also note how many wheelchair users use the new path/route</i>
	<i>Children on scooters/bikes and buggy-pushers now enabled to use the route</i>	<i>Survey to note how many children on scooters/bikes or parents pushing buggies use the new path/route</i>
	<i>Increased footfall in the park</i>	<i>Survey to note numbers and range of people in the park at certain times</i>
	<i>Increased social interaction between different age groups & backgrounds due to longer times spent there</i>	<i>Observe during survey times.</i>
		<i>Write a report on above findings and compare with first survey. Write a report for the DDRA website.</i>
<i>Bench to be placed partway along the path route for rest, enjoyment of view & social interaction.</i>	<i>People sitting on it, enjoying the view, resting en route, chatting to passers-by or to bench-sharers.</i>	<i>Observations and reports as above.</i>

Mitigating the impact of Development:

Please explain how your project will support development in the Neighbourhood, this could address a Social or a Physical need.

The impact of development is felt in the community of Bentley Heath in various ways. Bentley Heath Park has seen 2 recent large housing areas and a retirement home built on green land adjacent to the park on the west side (all with easy access to the park). These, together with smaller new developments dotted around the neighbourhood, have increased the population of Bentley Heath both numerically and in density, increased the traffic on our local road network, created increased demands for its local amenities and produced a sense of increased 'busy-ness'/pressure in the community. All these aspects need to be offset by improved ways of counteracting such developmental effects. Improving the park in the way that our project will, is a key factor. The park is now surrounded by a variety of types of dwellings including owned, rented and a small amount of social housing, representing residents from a wide range of social and economic backgrounds. The completed circuit will encourage residents from all backgrounds to

spend longer in the park, therefore facilitate increased social interaction across the range, and encourage cohesion within the community. Even before the pandemic, due to the impact of development, this project would have met an increasing need for improved outdoor exercise and leisure facility to be on hand locally, but much more so now. We observed how the community turned to Bentley Heath Park as its 'go to' place during and after lockdown, being accessible on foot from 5 entries to the park. We saw increased numbers of people of all ages from both older and newer developments looking to find solace and refreshment here like never before. This mindset has continued even with the relaxation of Covid-related rules and guidance. The view, expressed by so many people we have chatted to, is that a complete circuit will transform the way they use the park, encourage them to walk or run several circuits, and greatly enhance their experience of it, thus, as stated above, enable people to be healthier (physically, mentally, emotionally) and generally happier. To note also: more people are working from home now due to the Covid factor and will continue to do so, having discovered it is possible, so the park will be even more essential for breaks for home-office workers. We conclude that whether they be strollers, dog-walkers, exercisers, buggy-pushing parents, wheelchair-users and the disabled, children scooting or biking, or 'home office' workers, this project will mitigate the impact of, and support, development in the neighbourhood, and address the physical & social needs of the residents of this neighbourhood in a positive, life-enhancing (if not life-changing) way for many years to come.

Community Support

Please provide evidence of local support or backing for this project. Additional documentation should be submitted to support this. Please evidence any support from Local Ward Councillors. Evidence can include letters, emails, petitions or fundraising efforts.

Bentley Heath Park path project has been enthusiastically embraced by the community, as evidenced by:

1. Over 500 signatures, majority local, on a change.org petition, & positive comments (*attached*) advertised on B93 Facebook community pages and local community WhatsApp groups (e.g. road groups, or local school-parent year groups). Includes much support from parents of local school children, in particular those at B.H. Primary School opposite, who go to the park after picking up children, and also includes older people within the community.
2. A recent crowdfunding page via JustGiving (*can supply link if required*) – now standing at £1, 910, plus some comments (*attached*), advertised on B93 Facebook community pages and local community WhatsApp groups
3. One of our ward councillors, Ian Courts, met us in the park to discuss the project and was enthusiastic about it and helpful (*letter of support attached*)
4. Emma Sibbing, Parks & Open Spaces Officer, Solihull MBC, met us in the park, discussed the route with us, and has been very helpful as we researched this project. All the Public Realm Team and Love Solihull support the project (*letter of support attached*).
5. Letter from a local resident of many years, a walker, & retired GP, Jane Holt (*attached*).
6. We, members of the DDRA committee, fully support this project, hence this application. (The DDRA is a long-standing community group that meets all the criteria listed by you above, and seeks to protect and further the interests of Dorridge & District residents, and preserve & improve the community's amenities, facilities & environment). (*DDRA constitution & rules, and bank account details can be submitted if required.*)

Council Plan

Does the Project align with any of the priorities set out within the Solihull Council Plan which can be found at

http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/Ourvisionandpriorities/Council_plan_on_a_page.pdf

The project aligns with several of the priorities in the council's 9 point plan:

- 1. Enables communities to thrive:** this project will enhance conditions for our community to thrive in the following ways: a) the important life-enhancing physical, mental & emotional health-giving benefits that this project will facilitate, described above, are absolutely key aspects, helping also to mitigate the mental and emotional impact of Covid-related challenges for both working and retired population (outlined in SMBC 2019 Health & Well-Being addendum b) also noted above are the potential opportunities for more social interaction between all ages and backgrounds due to the complete circuit drawing more people to the park or encouraging them to be there for longer c) the provision of a bench for people to sit on while enjoying the view will also provide the possibility of striking up conversations with passers-by on this circuit, or with someone else sharing the bench, particularly important for our ageing population. In these ways, the project will, both immediately and over time, foster a healthier, stronger, more connected & cohesive community.
- 2. Take action to improve life chances amongst the disadvantaged/provide for those with complex needs** i.e.(in our case) provide for the disabled: there is at present no way that those with physical disabilities can walk/wheel/be pushed round the whole park, and enjoy the park from all angles. This footpath project will provide a way.
- 3. Enhance Solihull's Natural Environment:** the creation of a sympathetically-chosen hard-surfaced path winding through the long grasses and newly planted copse of trees will enhance this ecologically-friendly space, and also heighten people's awareness & appreciation of it. In every way this project will enhance the natural environmental aspects of Bentley Heath Park overall.
- 4. Revitalise our local centre:** obviously our project does not revitalise the shopping centre (which we understand is the main thrust of this priority) but it has the possibility of contributing to its life as a by-product. Bentley Heath Park is a very short step from the shops. Once a full circuit of hard path is available, local jogging groups, strider & stroller groups and other groups – even from further afield than the immediate community (a good car park & easy disabled access make this more likely) – will have more reason to come to our park to use this facility, and in turn can easily end their sessions at the local shops where takeaway coffee and lunches are available, so increasing custom there. An additional relevant point is that the path project will have the effect of increasing and enhancing an existing community asset, of which the park is one.



Is your project supported by policies or priorities of a neighbourhood plan?	YES (details below)	
<p>The Neighbourhood Plan (Knowle, Dorridge & Bentley Heath – KDBH) supports our project in several significant ways:</p> <p>1. Appendix 4: Local Green Spaces: Bentley Heath Park is a designated Local Green Space</p> <p>2. Appendix 4: Community Actions. Section 1. Village Character and Natural Environment. Point 4: this project supports a Green Spaces Plan by managing the needs of, and improving, existing green spaces and recreational facilities.</p> <p>3. Point 11.6: Policy ECF5: Recreation, Leisure and Sport states that the KDBH community will support applications for the provision and extension of outdoor venues for recreation, leisure and sport provided that they would: 1.widen the range of leisure, sport & recreational activity 2. Allow use by all groups, community sectors and individuals within KDBH 3. Be conveniently located relative to sustainable forms of transport 4. Cause no material harm to residential amenity 5. Satisfy other plan policies in the KDBH Neighbourhood Plan and Solihull Local Plan.</p> <p>NB the project satisfies all these points and fulfils the aims of the Plan by meeting a need for enhanced provision of a facility for leisure, exercise, and general health benefits to ALL members of the community, from young to old.</p> <p>Point 10.5 Policy T3: Walking Infrastructure: our project provides for safe and free flowing movement by pedestrians and wheeled users, and the new footpath links to existing ones both within and outside the park.</p>		

How will this project be delivered and who will deliver it?
<p><i>Who will be involved in running the project? Who will carry out the work? Do they have any previous experience of this work? What kind of skills/resources will be needed? Are there any risks?</i></p> <p>Solihull MBC will deliver the project, specifically The Public Realm Team. Emma Sibbing, the Parks and Open Spaces Officer, Public Realm Team, will run the project. We anticipate that there may be some further liaison between Emma and us, though the two parties concerned (i.e. DDRA and the Public Realm Team) are in full agreement about the route and nature of it. Emma will be responsible for obtaining new quotations from contractors. The work will be carried out by an approved contractor. In her position, Emma has had many years of experience of this kind of work and, together with the team, has all the skills and resources necessary for the fulfilment of this project. There are no associated risks. <i>(landowner letter of consent attached)</i></p>
<p>Ongoing Maintenance– see guidance criteria</p>
<p><i>Will there be any on-going maintenance? How would this be funded?</i></p> <p>Any ongoing maintenance, such as repair of wear and tear, which one might expect periodically, will be funded by Solihull MBC, as with other paths in the park.</p>

TIMESCALES

Please outline a proposed timeline for the project

Proposed Date	Key Milestones
January 4 th 2021	Arrange updated quotations from contractors
Before the end of January 2021	Choose contractor and schedule work with them
March 1 st 2021 <i>latest</i>	Contractors begin construction of the path
March 31 st 2021	Construction and making good of the area completed, and path available to use (after hardening period).

COSTS

Please outline the predicted costs for the project and outline if any other funding has been raised for the proposal:

Please attach evidence of quotes that have been sought as confirmation of the cost breakdown.

Cost	£	Funded from?
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Excavation of site 2. Laying of foundation & wooden edging 198 x 1.5 m 3. Splayed ends to above path (strongly advised) 4. Laying of bonded Breedon gravel 5. Making good the surrounding area 6. All material & labour costs 7. Maximum 5% inflation for 2021 to quotations (advised) <p>NB All contractors supplied <i>non-itemised</i> breakdowns of costs, please see attached quotations and comparison summary. 3 quotations were competitive, and we have taken the lower two for our cost estimations.</p> <p>NOTE: VAT not included, see note 1 below</p>	15,500 (incl. 500 for splayed edges) 775	£900 DDRA
		£1,300 donations to DDRA for the purpose, from community members
		£1,910 from community crowdfunding via JustGiving
Solihull MBC standard park bench, mounted on slabs, all materials and costs included (see attachment)	700	As above
	TOTAL 16,975	TOTAL £4,110 - Ctd -

<p>1. VAT has NOT been included in our request. It is unnecessary because Solihull MBC is carrying out the work and will not have to pay VAT as confirmed by Emma Sibbing.</p> <p>2. Applications for varying amounts have been made to a number of other trusts & charities, but (apart from 2 declined) decisions have not come in time to quote them (<i>can supply list if required</i>). We will reduce our funding request accordingly if we have a positive result from any of them before your decision-making takes place (agreed with the CIL team).</p> <p>3. Tarmac quotations were obtained for comparison and because at the outset the choice of material had not been decided.</p> <p>4. The first quotation was obtained March 2020, hence advised inflation added for new quotes in Jan 2021 (e.g. B.A.T. advise 2.5% Moody advise 5%)</p>		
<p><i>Attached: 1. Summary of quotations 2. Quotations from 4 contractors 3. Cross-section of Breedon gravel path as per existing path extension</i></p>		

RISKS

Are there any risks associated with the project?

What is the risk if work does not take place? Is there any reason why the work would not be fully completed if funding were to be granted?

If the work does not take place, the existing grass-mown routes, impossibly muddy in wet weather and winter generally, will become even more of a quagmire, and anyone attempting to walk on them, even in wellies, will run the risk of slipping. In addition, if the project does not take place, community members will not be able to avail themselves of the increased health-giving and well-being opportunities made possible by the circuit described above, and the community as a whole will have lost an opportunity to tackle underlying and determinant factors of ill health.

If funding is granted, there is no reason why the path should not happen and be completed, and, as far as we can foresee, it will happen at the stated time and be in place for use by the end of March 2021. Especially so since Solihull MBC Public Realm Team/Parks and Open Spaces Department are enthusiastic about the path, as are we (the DDRA), as well as the local community.



(Please see separately attached sheet for certification and signature)

Certification:

I confirm the information supplied is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand and accept that providing deliberate false information could result in Legal action being taken against me and withdrawal of funds awarded

I confirm I have read and understood Solihull MBC Policy and Engagement Privacy Notice

<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/About-the-Council/Data-protection-FOI/Solihull-Council-Statement/Economy-and-Infrastructure/Policy-Engagement>

SIGNED:

[Redacted Signature]

ON BEHALF OF: Dorridge & District Residents' Association