

Dear Councillor Rolf

I am writing as Chair of the Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum to highlight a concern regarding the allocation of NCIL funds in our Neighbourhood Area and to request that this matter be discussed at tomorrow's Decision Board.

We commend the Council Officers on the detailed work undertaken, the good progress made honing the process in this second year of operation, and the high level of engagement with us. The one significant anomaly that has come to light this year affects allocation of funds in the Dorridge Ward - see 1) below for summary details.

All three Dorridge bids met the necessary criteria and achieved good scores. The highest rated bid has been approved. The second-rated bid, from St Philip's Church, was ruled out as it exceeds the remaining funds available in the Dorridge 'pot'. This is understandable. However, what seems neither logical nor fair is that, on this basis alone, we are advised that the process must then stop and no other bids be considered - even if they have scored well and ARE within the funds available. Effectively, what this means is that one organisation's very large bid is kicking another's into touch - something that risks causing a sense of acrimony in the community.

We also flag a query regarding the scoring of the Scout's bid with regard to 'Public Support'. Per extract 2) below, this has been scored as 0. However, the Forum provided the Council with the results of a residents' survey (1,004 responses in a week) that we undertook to assess the relative level of support for each of the bids - see extract 3) below. This demonstrates a high level of resident support for the Scout Group bid - in fact putting their bid into second place overall. It is vital to the credibility of the process, and to promote continued future community engagement, to acknowledge this resident feedback in the 'Public Support' assessment which carries a weighting of 3.

Action Requested: Given the above, the Forum believes that: a) the process requires modification; and b) the Dorridge Scout Group's bid should be re-assessed in terms of both scoring and whether it should be approved as part of this year's NCIL allocation.

We will watch the discussions with interest.

Kind regards
Jane

Jane Aykroyd
Chair
Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum

1) Minimum score to pass is 18; Dorridge Scout Group received 25.

Dorridge and Hockley Heath

Funds available: 41,959.54

Funds to be awarded: £12,865

Funds to be rolled forward to 2020/21: £29,094.54

Reference	Group	Project	Cost	Score ¹	Ranking	Project to be funded	CIL monies remaining after project funded
NCIL/20/0011/DHH	Dorridge & District Residents' Association (DDRA)	A Path for Bentley Heath Park	£12,865	37	1	Yes	£29,094.54
NCIL/20/0021/DHH	St Phillip's Church	The New St Philips Church & Community Centre	£37,000	34	2	No	
NCIL/20/0005/DHH	Dorridge Scout Group	Dorridge Scout Hut Car Park	£7500	25	3	No	

2)

Public Support:

Level of public support for the project.

- 0 – None
- 1 – Limited (one of: Member, Community Group, demonstration of wider community)
- 2 – Moderate (two of above)
- 3 – High (all three of above)



3)

6. Click and Drag the Dorridge / Bentley Heath bids below into your order of preference

Rank Options

- | Rank | Options |
|------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | A Path for Bentley Heath Park |
| 2 | Dorridge Scout Hut Car Park R... |
| 3 | Toilets for New St Philips Chur... |

First choice ■ ■ ■ Last choice

