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23 October 2020

Dear Ellie

### **KDBH Neighbourhood CIL 2020/21 Bids**

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the KDBH Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) project bids received by the Council.

This letter covers the following areas:

1. Project Bid compliance with KDBH Neighbourhood Plan (NP)
2. Feedback from KDBH Resident Vote
3. General comments

#### **1. Project Bid Compliance**

As requested, the Forum has considered whether the projects are identified in the NP. In Appendix 1, we cross-reference the bids against relevant NP sections. Whilst the NP does not highlight specific community projects, we are satisfied that all of the bids submitted are compliant with the NP policy goals, vision and objectives. The Forum therefore supports all the bids in respect of eligibility for NCIL funding.

With regards to the NP section in the Council's Scoring Matrix, the Forum is of the view that the six projects should be scored as Moderate (2), as the bid submissions are incorporated generically within the Plan and will provide benefit to the community. This year, an additional section has been included in the review document indicating the level of engagement and interaction (scored as High, Medium or Low) with the lead person identified for each project. It is considered important that organisations proposing to submit bids for community funding actively engage with the Forum, and specifically with Roger Cook as the lead person responsible for NCIL funding within the Forum. This was a specific point raised in my letter to you dated 27 October 2019, and I am pleased to note this has been recognised, emphasised and consistently applied by the Council when liaising with the respective project leads.



## 2. Feedback from KDBH Resident Vote

Due to the effects of the pandemic, it has not been possible to hold an Open Forum Meeting during this bidding round where a representative from each bid team could present their proposals. In the circumstances, for the first time this year, we used Microsoft Forms linked in to our website and Facebook page to enable, and evidence, community voting on the NCIL projects. This was particularly important given Covid restrictions and the very short turnaround time required to provide Forum comments back to the Council. The system and process worked well. We are once again inspired by, and thankful to, our community, 1,000 of whom responded in such a short timeframe. We will build on the learnings to further improve next year.

We felt it important to ensure, as far as possible, that voting came from KDBH residents and therefore undertook a summary assessment of responses. This confirmed the outcome in terms of overall voting distribution. We did identify some cases with a postcode either missing, incomplete or out of Area, as well as a few instances of duplicate voting; but the small numbers in total were not statistically significant (<5%) and in terms of distribution across projects did not alter the overall voting outcomes.

As well as the voting, the Forum also appreciates the level of comments received. These are always helpful in improving the Forum's understanding and thinking. We intend to also make the comments available for residents to view. They do highlight some interesting points regarding voting by, for example, parents of children visiting grandparents in the Area and regularly using the park; or members of a local church who live outside the Area.

A graphical summary of voting outcomes is shown in Appendix 2. Votes cast were supportive of all six projects with the ranking order as follows:

### Knowle Ward

1. Knowle Park Playground Refurbishment
2. Enhancements to Knowle Village
3. Extra Security for Knowle Allotments Society

### Dorridge/Bentley Heath Ward

1. A path for Bentley Heath Park
2. Dorridge Scout Hut Car Park Refurbishment
3. Toilets for New St Philips Church & Community Centre

## 3. General Comments

- The KDBH Forum has welcomed the opportunity to work closely with the Council on Neighbourhood CIL funding matters in the past year, notwithstanding the considerable effects of the pandemic.



## Knowle Dorridge and Bentley Heath

### Neighbourhood Forum CIO

- Whilst for this round of NCIL funding the Council considered and decided to maintain separate Ward pots for Knowle and Dorridge/Bentley Heath, we have continued to receive feedback from residents enquiring as to why, when we have a combined KDBH Forum and Neighbourhood Plan that covers the three villages, NCIL funds are retained in discrete Ward pots. Again, it is requested some flexibility is introduced whereby the NCIL funds could be combined across the two Wards in the KDBH Area which would enable funds to be utilised for the greatest community benefit. We are happy to discuss with the Council a way of continuing to identify from which Ward the NCIL funds originated from, whilst at the same introducing some flexibility into the process.
- In the Knowle Ward, it is noted that the three project bids totalled £55,500 and as such, if all approved, will exceed available funding by less than £400. Whilst the premise of not part-funding projects is understood in case they are not subsequently carried out, the Forum requests that a small degree of latitude be permitted in cases such as this to ensure that the maximum possible community benefit can be delivered.

Yours sincerely

Jane Aykroyd  
Chair  
Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum



## Knowle Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum CIO

### Appendix 1: NCIL Bids Cross-Referenced to KDBH Neighbourhood Plan

References Within Approved Neighbourhood Plan (NP)	A Path for Bentley Heath Park	Dorridge Scout Hut Car Park Refurbishment	New St Philips Church & Community Centre Toilets	Love Knowle Park Playground Refurbishment	Central Knowle Improvement Plan	Knowle Allotments Society Extra Security Fencing
<u>NP Section 5</u>	In the opinion of the Forum all the CIL bids either directly or indirectly assist to some degree, in addressing the items documented in Section 5.6.					
<u>NP Section 6</u>	In the opinion of the Forum all the CIL bids either directly or indirectly support the achievement in some way, of the stated objective in section 6.3 'Ensure community facilities and services (including healthcare, sport and recreation, and emergency services) meet the needs of the diverse and growing community....'.					
<u>Section 11 - Policy Goal</u>	Bid supports stated Policy Goal.	Bid supports stated Policy Goal.	Bid supports stated Policy Goal.	Bid supports stated Policy Goal.	Bid supports stated Policy Goal.	Bid supports stated Policy Goal.
<u>Section 11 - Documented Issues and Policy Drivers</u>	Will directly help to address issue 5.	Will directly help to address issue 3.	Will directly help to address issue 3.	Will directly help to address issue 5.	Will directly help to address issue 7.	Will directly help to address issue 5.
<u>Section 11 &amp; 12 - Other References</u> While these CIL Bids are not directly associated with planning applications, and so not technically within the scope of policies ECF3, ECF4, ECF5 & ECF6, these policies and the supporting text do reference facilities that the community has agreed as important as a consequence of the impact of new development.	Education and Community Facilities specifically mentioned in sections 11.1, 11.5 and 11.6 referencing the need for recreation and leisure facilities.	Community, Village, Places Worship/Church Halls are specifically mentioned in sections 11.4 and 11.5, with 11.6 referencing the need for recreation and leisure facilities.	Community, Village, Places Worship/Church Halls are specifically mentioned in sections 11.4 and 11.5, with 11.6 referencing the need for recreation and leisure facilities.	Education and Community Facilities specifically mentioned in sections 11.1, 11.5 and 11.6 referencing the need for recreation and leisure facilities	Employment, including Retail and other Commercial Uses, sections 12 and 12.1 – protect and enhance local employment uses and maintain a range of shops and services that meet the ongoing need of all sectors of the community.	Education and Community Facilities specifically mentioned in sections 11.1, 11.5 and 11.6 referencing the need for recreation and leisure facilities
<u>Appendix 4</u>	Covered under Green Spaces within Village Character and Natural Environment	Included within Education and Community Facilities – encourage establishment of a local base (s), for lifelong learning opportunities	Included within Education and Community Facilities – encourage establishment of a local base (s), for lifelong learning opportunities	Covered under Green Spaces within Village Character and Natural Environment	Included within Village Character and Natural Environment, section 1c, enhancement of conservation area and 1e, environment enhancement	Covered under Green Spaces within Village Character and Natural Environment
Level of engagement with KDBH Forum member responsible for NCIL bid process (High,Medium,Low)	High	Medium	Low	High	High	Low



# Vote on Funding for New Community Projects

1004

Responses

03:00

Average time to complete

Closed

Status

## 3. Select your Village (Ward)

- Knowle 503
- Dorridge / Bentley Heath 501

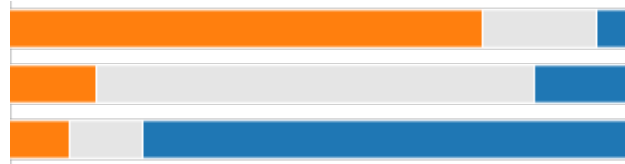


## 4. Click and Drag the Knowle bids below into your order of preference

**Rank Options**

- 1 Knowle Park Playground Refur...
- 2 Enhancements to Knowle Villa...
- 3 Extra Security for Knowle Allot...

First choice ■ ■ ■ Last choice



## 5. Add any comment you have on the Knowle bids

129

Responses

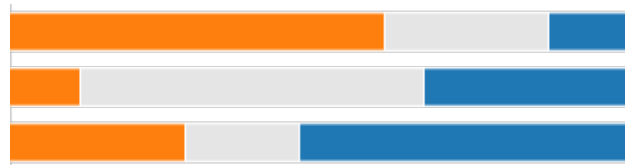
Latest Responses

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

**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





7. Add any comment you have on the Dorrige / Bentley Heath bids

152

Responses

Latest Responses

8. Add any overall comments on any of the six bids

105

Responses

Latest Responses

9. Are you a Forum Member?

● Yes

250

● No

737

