



**Note of the meeting of the Neighbourhood CIL for Bath Working Group
held on Monday, 14th January, 2019
in Dome Room - Guildhall, Bath**

Meeting Attendance

In Attendance
Councillor Rob Appleyard
Councillor Colin Blackburn
David Dixon
Roger Driver
Mark Hayward
Robin Kerr
Councillor Lin Patterson
Councillor June Player

1. Update on previously recommended projects

Four projects were included in the submission today (14.01.19) for a single member decision. These are; Sydney Gardens, Student Community Partnership, Bathwick Road Safety and Moorland Road Library.

The Sydney Gardens project has reported that the Heritage Lottery Funding Application has now been agreed.

For projects that have been passed by the Bath City Forum as recommendations have not yet been passed for a single member decision as they are presently not cleared by the Councils Legal Team. These are; Bath City Farm, Widcombe Subway, Parade Gardens Bandstand and Bath Carnival.

The advice that has been given by the legal team has been interpreted differently to the guidance that has been used previously for the use of neighbourhood CIL receipts. A response is being prepared and will be submitted this week requesting further discussion around these issues.

The panel supported this approach and have asked that once an outcome has been finalised on the legal guidance to the panel, this will need to be clearly laid out for use on making future decisions.

2. Financial Summary Update

The next receipts for Neighbourhood CIL for Bath will be available from April 2019. The receipts are paid every six months in April and September.

The present balance table for Neighbourhood CIL for Bath receipts is set out below:

Projects that are cleared with a single member decision	£279,615
Projects that are awaiting a legal decision	£184,500
Projects that are awaiting a single member decision	£76,526
Total funding committed to all recommendations (November 2018)	£540,641
Total Bath CIL Receipts (September 18)	£717,413
Available funding for additional recommendations (January 2019)	£176,772

3. The Urban Garden BA060

The panel spent a considerable amount of time discussing this application from Genesis Trust requesting a contribution of £50,000 towards The Urban Garden project.

The finance arrangements were a concern as a shortfall of £15,000 from the Enterprise Development Grant will see the original plans altered.

The panel has concerns that funding of this project could be seen as an unfair disadvantage to other garden centres that already operates in the City. If funding were to be granted through the Council there could be criticism made on the allocation of the funds to a commercial venture. The panel also felt that they need to know what detail has been agreed with the Council for the project.

The partnership model that is set out was confusing. The panel felt that the relationship between the Council Parks Service and The Urban Garden Social Enterprise requires further explanation:

- It is unclear on what the level of expenditure will be required for the provision of the utilities such as electricity and water.
- It is unclear what arrangement will be in place for the expenditure for the renting of the nursery space and its upkeep and repairs.
- If the nursery is to become a retail opportunity does this require change of use from planning?
- It is unclear how closely B&NES parks employees will be involved with the venture.

The panel felt that the numbers of plant sells within the business plan did not show any background on how they were reached. There were additional concerns around the expectations around window box sells; this was due to the exclusions that are built into many new development agreements around not allowing planters to be placed on the properties.

The panel were not prepared to agree funding at this stage. The request was made by the panel to the B&NES Officers to arrange to meet with Genesis to investigate the points that need to be addressed. The application will need to be brought back to the next panel once with any additional information has been gathered.

4. Bathwick Towpath Improvement Project BA059

The panel reviewed that application that was submitted by the Canal and River Trust for a contribution of £34,500 funding towards the improvements of the Bathwick Towpath.

The panel felt that this application showed that the delivery of this scheme was would provide improved infrastructure to an area of footpath that already sees a high footfall. The new developments nearby will see a greater need for improved paths for commuters to and from the city and those who use the canal for leisure purposes. This stretch of the canal has footpath access along only one side; this puts extra demand on wear and tear of this route.

The panel all felt that this project should receive the contribution of £34,500. This funding would be conditional to the remainder is met as it has been set out in the application.

The Bath City Forum also asks that recognition of the contribution is made by some form of plaque at the site of the project.

5. Ki Active Health BA061

The panel felt that this application supports the increased need for residents to access public health programmes that provide active fitness benefits.

The project looks to target social housing residents at this trial stage. It is felt that by providing a funding contribution to enable an additional twenty-five people to participate in the trial of this scheme in Bath, it could also lead to evidence that could see a much bigger programme financed further down the line.

The panel agreed that it would recommend funding of £3,125 as a contribution that will enable this programme to move forward.

The panel did ask if the Active Lifestyles Team can provide a report on the outcomes that are being set for this project and where the finding will be reported.

6. Queen Square Benches BA062

This application was a request which asked for funding to enable a project to replace the benches in Queens Square, Bath. The project would include adding back in the benches that have been removed due to these being in disrepair. B&NES Parks would project manage the work and will also put in place a ten year agreement to carry out any necessary maintenance.

The project will look at any existing plaques on the benches and transfer these if they are still required. The benches will also carry a plaque which shows the funding has been provided by Bath City Forum.

A question was put by one panel member asking if a partial replacement option should be considered. The remaining panel members felt that this park is high profile and has historical significance; it was felt that the project as it has been set out will deliver a strong improvement to the infrastructure within the world heritage site.

A suggestion was made to see if the benches that are removed could be salvaged and reused in other locations in the city.

It was agreed by the panel to recommend an allocation of up to £19,000 for this project

7. Programme for future meetings

The panel agreed that following the local elections on 2nd May 2019 the membership of the panel will need to be reviewed. The membership should remain a mixture from the newly elected ward councillors and forum co-opted members.

The next meeting for looking at applications should be expected to take place in June 2019.