

Appendix 1

Note of the meeting of the Advisory Board for Bath Neighbourhood CIL held on Monday, 29th July, 2024 in St Andrew's Community Centre - Hawthorn Grove, Foxhill, Bath BA2 5QA

Meeting Attendance

In Attendance
Councillor Deborah Collins
Councillor Joel Hirst
Councillor Lucy Hodge
Councillor Ruth Malloy
Councillor Onkar Saini
Councillor George Tomlin
Councillor Joanna Wright
Dave Dixon
Mark Hayward

Apologies Received from
Councillor Jess David

1. Welcome and Introduction

Apologies were recorded for Councillor Jess David.

The Chair reminded the Advisory Board how members should raise any conflicts of interest. It was agreed that members of the Advisory Board need to self-declare any project where they have local links. It was felt that it would be necessary for members to remove themselves from a decision only if they are directly involved with a project application.

A discussion was held around the approach that the Advisory Board would be taking on prioritising the applications they choose to recommend, and several points were agreed upon.

- The Board will favour projects that are applying for capital infrastructure funding.
- Applications that are looking applying for revenue are less likely to succeed.
- The Board will not recommend future applications that a repeat applications for revenue to fill ongoing funding gaps.
- The terms of reference will be updated to reflect the above points.

2. Bath CIL Financial Update

The Advisory Board was asked to consider two updates regarding the situation with funding that was awarded to two projects in the last round of recommendations.

Bath City Football Club was awarded £75,000, which was subject to the other funding applied for being successful. The club has failed to raise the agreed matched funding as a substantive

bid has not been successful. There is currently a willingness at the club to continue with the project, but no plan has yet been set out as to when the gap in funding will be raised. The Board was unanimous in agreeing that the funding will need to be returned, and the club can reapply when they are in a stronger position to do so.

Love Weston Library was awarded £20,000 for rental costs to cover a ten-year period. Since the award, the landlord has only agreed to a five-year period at the cost of £10,000. Despite attempts to negotiate, the library cannot agree to the full ten years. The Board was unanimous in agreeing that the funding will need to be returned, and the library can reapply when they are in a position to pay for a longer period.

The Chair provided an explanation of the finances that are currently available, and the applications that the Advisory Board is being asked to consider have a total value of £476,112. The return of £85,000 will increase the amount of finance that is currently available from £255,314 to £340,314.

3. Bath CIL Consultation - May 2024

The Advisory Board recognized that a total of 990 responses were received from the consultation held on the council's website and via email. These submissions were made between 7 May 2024, and 28 May 2024.

The Advisory Board would like to thank everybody who contributed to this consultation process as it acts as a useful guide on opinions to the Advisory Board.

4. Youth Connect Application

Youth Connect South West is requesting £50,312.50 to support two open-access youth work sessions in Odd Down and Weston, along with a targeted group at Southside in Twerton.

- Concerns were expressed about the difficulty Bath youth services face in securing adequate funding for their desired programs.
- While the Bath CIL fund has provided assistance in the past, it is not a sustainable solution for the existing funding shortfall.
- A long-term strategy is necessary to address the increasing demand for youth services.
- The outreach efforts are essential and are unlikely to be replicated by other organizations, with the East of Bath currently excluded from funding applications.

The Advisory Board has recommended funding for this initiative due to the critical nature of the outreach services, noting that no additional revenue funding will be considered after this request.

5. WERN Village Agents Application

West of England Rural Network (WERN) requested £90,000 over two years to sustain the Village Agents service in Bath, which is not part of the core sub-contract with HCRG.

- The Advisory Board acknowledged the value of the Village Agents' work.
- The Board noted that the core contract is scheduled for review in March 2025.
- The challenges faced by Village Agents are increasing and significant.

Following thorough evaluation, the Advisory Board unanimously decided against funding this application.

6. Voices Application

Voices is pursuing £28,000 in funding to assist with expenses for 'The Villa - A Trauma Recovery Centre' in Bath.

- The Advisory Board discussed several aspects of the project.
- There is consensus on the significance of the work conducted by Voices.
- The funding gap for essential operational costs addressed by this application would only be temporarily resolved. Continuity of funding is not clearly established and cannot be consistently provided by CIL.

A unanimous decision was reached to recommend against funding this application.

7. The Tumps BMX Berms Application

Bath BMX Club is actively pursuing £20,000 in funding to enhance The Tumps BMX track located in Odd Down, Bath.

- The Advisory Board recognised the club's successful project implementation, demonstrating its commitment to community service.
- The facility's open access fosters inclusivity for all residents in the surrounding area.
- This financial support aims to further improve the BMX track and benefit the local community.

A unanimous decision was made to recommend an additional £20,000 in funding.

8. Shaftesbury Road Memorial Gardens Handrail Application

Shaftesbury Road Memorial Gardens is currently seeking £1,219 to fund the purchase and installation of a handrail on the steps leading to the formal wreath laying area and memorial plaque in Shaftesbury Road Memorial Gardens.

- The board believes the local ward councillor should contribute to the funding

A recommendation was made to award £600 towards the project.

9. Percy Youth Project Application

Percy Community Centre in Kingsmead, Bath is in need of £31,900 for youth service provision.

- CIL has supported the Centre before, but there is no clear plan for future funding
- The application requested short-term funding for a service previously funded
- Asking CIL to cover the shortfall is not seen as a sustainable solution

The Advisory Board unanimously recommended against awarding the funding.

10. Larkhall United Reformed Church Application

Larkhall United Reformed Church is requesting £6,556.32 for repairs and enhancements to its youth hub facilities in Larkhall, Bath.

- The funding application is endorsed due to the potential for increased sustainability and reduced energy expenses.
- The proposed improvements aim to create a more efficient and functional space for the community.
- Approval of the funding will support the long-term viability of the youth hub.

The Board recommends granting the requested amount of £6,556.32.

11. Julian Road Crossing Application

Lansdown Ward is requesting £95,000 to enhance Julian Road, including the installation of a new pedestrian crossing.

- The Board extensively discussed the necessity of prioritising and funding pedestrian crossings.
- Funding for this crossing location was previously allocated in 2018 as part of junction improvements.
- The area has experienced a fatality involving a cyclist and several serious accidents.

Councillor Lucy Hodge removed herself from the final discussions and vote to prevent a conflict of interest, leading to a unanimous recommendation for the funding allocation.

It was agreed that Cllr Joel Hirst would look to see if there was funding from CRSTS as the site of this crossing is in a Liveable Neighbourhood location and/or funding through TIP. In the meantime, it was agreed to progress, but we hoped funding would come from other sources.

12. Henrietta Park Pond Application

Friends of Henrietta Park is actively pursuing £20,000 to finance the relining of the ornamental pond located in the Memorial Garden of Henrietta Park.

- The Advisory Board acknowledged the strong backing from the community for this initiative.
- Disbursement of the funds will occur only after the remaining financial resources are confirmed.
- Community support plays a crucial role in advancing this project.

A unanimous recommendation was made to allocate the £20,000 for the project.

13. Alice Park Playpark Application

Alice Park is currently seeking £75,000 in funding to support the playpark improvements in Lambridge, Bath.

- The Advisory Board acknowledges the significance of Alice Park as a popular destination for local residents and recognises the unique funding structure it operates under compared to other parks supported by the council.

- The initial phase of improvements, funded by the £75,000 investment, will involve the installation of new play equipment to replace the outdated equipment that has been removed over the years without replacement.
- This investment is expected to create opportunities for the park to seek additional funding in the future, allowing for further enhancements and developments.

Councillors Joanna Wright and Deborah Collins, who are both members of the Alice Park Committee, abstained from participating in the final discussions and vote to avoid any potential conflicts of interest. The remaining members of the Advisory Board unanimously voted in favour of awarding the £75,000 funding to support the playpark improvements in Lambridge, Bath.

14. Active Weston Application

Active Weston is currently seeking £58,125 £58,125 to finance the installation of a basketball hoop, benches, a playing surface, and a park notice board at Weston Recreation Ground.

- The project is expected to have a positive impact on the residents of Weston and Newbridge Wards.
- The basketball hoop will be available for open access, promoting inclusivity among individuals interested in utilising the facility.
- The applicant has been requested to provide details on how the maintenance contract for the facilities will be managed.

It is recommended that the full amount of £58,125 be designated for this specific project.