

Chalvington with Ripe



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REPORT TO	Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council meeting on 10 th January 2022
REPORT BY	Parish Clerk, Paul Richards
REPORT SUBJECT	Approval to spend Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds
RECOMMENDATION	To approve the use of the remaining CIL budget to fund the refurbishment of the traffic Island adjacent to the Ripe Village Stores

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. This report refers to the previous decision made by Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council (CWRPC) to proceed with CIL projects following public consultation in 2020.

2. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND.

2.1. The Community Infrastructure Fund (CIL) is a charge that can be levied by local authorities on new developments in their area. It is an important tool for local authorities to use to help them deliver the infrastructure needed to support development in their area.

2.2. CWRPC has been able to secure CIL funding via Wealden District Council (WDC) for the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure. WDC has allocated a total of £33,136 (up to 31st March 2021) to CWRPC. As at 31st December 2021, £29,164 remains to be allocated by CWRPC.

3. PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED USE OF CIL FUNDS

3.1. Following public consultation in 2020, two projects in Ripe have been approved by the Parish Council namely the installation of bike posts and the refurbishment of two islands. Details of the consultation and the Minutes confirming the lawful decisions made by the Parish Council are listed on the CWRPC website. Of those residents who commented, the majority supported the proposed projects. It should be noted that certain residents in Ripe remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the consultation and disagree with the lawful decisions made by CRWPC.

4. CIL ISLANDS

4.1. In 2020, CWRPC agreed an indicative budget of £22,000 (excluding VAT) to fund the island projects. Two islands were considered namely (a) Island One adjacent to Ripe Stores and (b) Island Two in The Street adjacent to "Pepperham".

4.2. Drawings were prepared and shared with East Sussex County Council's (ESCC) Highways and Safety teams. In October 2021, following suggested amendments by ESCC, tenders were prepared by CWRPC's architect for issue to contractors listed on ESCC's approved contractor list. These suppliers met the very high requirements set by the County Council for working on the highway. In addition. They provided the required level of public liability insurance.

4.3. Nine tenders were issued but only two responses were received. Prices were requested for each Island and a combined discounted price for both Islands. The full quote analysis and options are attached at Appendix A.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1. Given the remaining CIL budget for the Islands project is £19,255, either option One or Two are affordable but not both. Island One does, however, afford additional community benefit compared to Island Two in that it would provide an electrical connection to the Ripe Village Stores. This connection would be useful for community events such as the Christmas tree. In addition, the seating (to be provided by a local contractor at an additional cost) on the island would prevent the unsightly parking of bicycles on the Island (previous CIL funding has provided bike post just a few yards away).
- 5.2. The most competitive quote received for either option is from Contractor A - Coppards, a local contractor based in Crowborough.
- 5.3. **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Members note the VAT impact on accepting any quote. The CIL funds provided via WDC exclude VAT as parish councils can reclaim VAT costs. Whereas the recommended quote is within the CIL budget, VAT would still need to be paid once the works are completed. The VAT amount would be reclaimed and then repaid to the remaining CWRPC CIL funds.
- 5.4. **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that CWRPC approve CIL Island Option One (on the basis that it adds additional community benefit) and appoint Coppards to undertake the work. Their quote (excluding VAT) for the work is £14,060. This would leave an additional £5,195 to be allocated to other CIL projects e.g., the Community Space proposal (circa £12,360 in total).
- 5.5. **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that, should 4.4 be approved, CWRPC commission a local contractor to supply and build a circular timber bench to fit around the new base.

Paul Richards, Parish Clerk
4th January 2022

