

Saxmundham Town Council

Public consultation on priority purposes for spending Community Infrastructure Levy on local projects

November 2021

Saxmundham Town Council is seeking the views of residents and local businesses on its priorities for spending the parish's share of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), currently £78,000. This paper sets out the priority purposes proposed by the Town Council, which however wants to know your views. Do you agree? Do you want to change or add to the list of 'purposes' below? Which (if any) of them are your highest priorities?

Views can be sent by email to townclerk@saxmundham-tc.gov.uk or by post to Town Clerk, Town House, Station Approach, Saxmundham, IP17 1BW. By 13th December.

Or you can give us your ideas in person at our Town Council meeting on Monday 13th December at 7 p.m., Market Hall, High Street.

About the Community Infrastructure Levy

1. The Community Infrastructure Levy – known generally as CIL - is a charge on developers, and administered by the district council in relation to new developments. The purpose of CIL is to pay for infrastructure necessitated by new development. A number of public authorities e.g. education, health, housing may benefit from CIL payments. A proportion of CIL also goes to parish and town councils; this is normally 15% of the total in relation to development in that town or parish, but rises to 25% for those towns/parishes with an approved Neighbourhood Plan.

2. CIL monies for town councils can be used to support the development of the local area to fund:

- (a) the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or
- (b) anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.

At present, Saxmundham Town Council has around £78,000 CIL in its CIL reserve. CIL monies must normally be spent within 5 years of receipt.

The Town Council's provisional priority purposes

The Town Council has recently discussed the purposes for which it considers CIL could most beneficially be spent. The following lists those purposes, together with more specific possible projects under each head.

Purpose 1: improving access from new housing areas to town centre for pedestrians and cyclists

To consider: improvements to paths from Hopkins Estate to centre; routes from other estates (e.g. to west of town) to town centre

Purpose 2: enhancing children & young people's recreational facilities

To consider: improvements to Seaman Avenue and Memorial Field facilities

Purpose 3: a more attractive & successful town centre to meet needs of growing population

To consider: environmental improvements such as urban trees; improvements to Fromus Square; improvements to parking facilities/infrastructure

Purpose 4 – improving community, entertainment and cultural facilities in town

To consider: capital contribution for improvements to Market Hall, Gannon Institute etc.

Purpose 5 – improving facilities for non-fossil fuel transport modes

To consider: create new bicycle storage facilities; electric charging points

Purpose 6 – developing new or improving existing open or green spaces for the community

To consider: environmental improvements to Memorial Field

9. An alternative approach to CIL would be to dedicate all or much of the existing CIL reserve towards a single project, such as a contribution to a future new indoor sports centre in town. At this stage, however, the location for such a new facility has not been established, so there is no realistic likelihood of this being developed in the next few years. Subject to residents' feedback, this approach is therefore not proposed by the Town Council, in relation to the current CIL resources.