

Dear All,

UPAVON PARISH COUNCIL – CIL/S106 PROJECTS – UPDATE

You will recall that in July 2020 I wrote a short ‘open letter’, briefing the Parish on the status of funding being made available to the Parish Council as a result of the developments at both Whistledown Farm and on the site of the old petrol station and garage.

It is confirmed that the following sums will be made available to the Parish Council for specified expenditure over the **next ten years**:

- **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** funding amounting to [about] £30,000. These funds may be used to *‘improve or replace existing amenities, facilities and services, or any other requirements arising from the demands resulting from the new developments’*.
- **Section 106 (s106)** funding amounting to [about] £60,000. These funds may be used *‘for the provision of outdoor activities, children’s play areas, formal sports areas and leisure facilities’*. It is envisaged that the majority of this funding will be used for the enhancement of both children’s play areas in the Village – The Beeches and Andover Road facilities.

Whilst the Parish Council had already drawn up a list of desired projects – see below for further details – it was decided to engage our Parishioners, and to encourage individuals and groups to put forward ideas for consideration. We received a significant number of ideas and suggestions, all with merit, and all to be considered in detail by the Parish Council before engaging further with the Community.

It had been our intent to hold a Public Meeting in the Village Hall before the end of 2020, in order to continue our consultation. The ongoing pandemic has rather put the brakes on this, I’m afraid; hence the reason for this update.

Progress to date:

1. Parish Council Projects. The availability of CIL and s106 funding has allowed the Parish Council to press on with a number of pre-planned projects. These include:

a. **Speed Indicator Devices.** The purchase and deployment of three new Speed Indicator Devices (SID) for sole use within our Village: we currently share a single SID with five other local Parishes, which has not been an ideal situation.

b. **Village Hall Improvements.** CIL funding has allowed us to make a further contribution towards significant improvements to our Village Hall. Under new management, the Village Hall is continuing to thrive and is proving to be a most excellent facility for all of our Community.

c. **Play Area Safety.** The recent Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Inspection of our play areas has concluded that a significant amount of work needs to be carried out in order to meet safety standards. The availability of s106 funding will allow us to do a thorough job this year. As well as many minor issues to remedy, it is clear that we will have to replace four major pieces of equipment: Fortress/Slide and Junior Swings at the Beeches Play Area; Multiplay/Fortress and Toddler Swings at the Andover Road Play Area. We will endeavour to replace these equipments in short time.

2. Projects and Ideas Forwarded by Parishioners. We have received a significant number of suggestions from individuals and groups within the Village, all with merit, well thought through, and well presented. I sincerely thank all those who got involved. The Parish Council is continuing to study the various submissions and will hopefully soon be in a position for further public engagement and discussion.

We have some ten years to spend our CIL and s106 funds, so time is still on our side. I therefore propose that we put our Public Meeting on-hold, and hope to re-schedule it for the early part of 2021. The Parish Council will continue to study and discuss the various submissions received, and we will update you as we make progress with our decisions.

Once again, I offer you my sincere thanks for your excellent submissions, and I ask that you remain patient as we work towards a satisfactory conclusion.

Kind Regards,

John

John Tighe
Chairman
Upavon Parish Council