

As we have not had a talk in July, it being the start of our normal summer break, this will be a shorter piece than normal.

However - and isn't there always an 'however' - there is one important subject to talk about and that is the wish by the Society to be supportive of the Parish Council in their desire to get the community involved in the subject of the spending of CIL money (Community Infrastructure Levy). This will gradually (up to 2024) accrue to the Parish from the developers, as the current housing developments progress and should amount to over £2.5m, a not insignificant sum.

The PC is currently working on a modus operandi that will allow the public to have a say in what projects should be considered and their priority. CIL money is a one off levy, and becomes available as the developments progress and the spending of it is time limited.

The Society wrote to the PC asking them to answer the following questions (see below) relating to how and when the community can get involved, to reply to the letter and to publish the answers widely. The full letter can be seen under LATEST NEWS on our website <https://www.bensington-society.com/>

- What is the Council's estimate of the total amount of CIL money expected to come to Benson?
- What type of project can the money be spent on and are there any key constraints?
- Does the Council already have a list of projects and, if so, what are they?
- Is the list still open for suggestions and is there a closing date?
- Has any CIL money already been spent or 'ring fenced' – if so, how much on what?
- How can a person or organisation make a suggestion(s)?
- How will any finalised list be prioritised?
- Are there plans for any public meeting(s) to discuss the proposals prior to the BPC determining the outcome?

The Council has now replied to all our questions and their reply can also be seen on our website under LATEST NEWS. So those of you who want to express an opinion or to get involved in other ways can now do so but please keep an eye on the Benson Bulletin and on the Council's website for more details and the 'how and when' regarding their intended Autumn open meeting.

This move by the Council to get people involved is a great idea and will help us all to support them in their cause to “.....*forge a Benson fit for the future.*”

David McGill