

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Response to consultation by Vale of White Horse District Council

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule

- 1 The Parish Council responded to an earlier consultation on this document and made the following points:
 - We are one of more than 30 small communities that is ever likely to benefit from CIL funding but which nevertheless can be expected to feel the effect of planned development nearby in some way;
 - A common impact of planned development on communities such as ours arises from increased traffic volumes on roads not designed for such purpose, the safety of pedestrians and other non-motorised road users and increased noise, disturbance, fumes etc;
 - The District's CIL Strategy ignores communities such as ours and concentrates funding exclusively to areas where development takes place;
 - A small percentage of the CIL fund (we suggested 3%) should be held back for bids from communities unlikely to benefit from CIL funding (i.e. below 'village' status in the Local Plan) for use to mitigate the impact of new development nearby;
 - Alternatively (we said), the intended Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on CIL allocation between the District and County Councils should increase the amount of funding available to the County and require that it makes that increased proportion available for bids from communities like ours (as per the point above).

- 2 We don't appear to have ever received a response from the Vale, although the officer report to the Vale Cabinet on 5th April 2019 did provide the following:

"Feedback in general to date suggests that there is an overriding request from councillors and town and parish councils that funds should be spent in the areas where they are generated. For example, please see Radley Council above, and Kennington and Faringdon below.

To match any increased transport needs generated by new housing close to Charney Bassett, it is suggested that they contact OCC directly. Please note that the CIL funding contributes only a small proportion of the OCC budget and although it would appear unlikely that CIL funds would be used to meet your increased needs, separate funding within OCC may be able to do so.

The proposal to withdraw biodiversity and public art money is a question of preference, and the suggestion put forward would detract from other community needs beyond road traffic. The suggested solution to ask OCC to ring fence a small percentage of the CIL funding for areas affected by CIL generating areas might be possible, however, the amount of funding involved would remain small and unlikely to meet expected needs".

- 3 On the basis of this response, we sought to engage with the County Council, as suggested, were passed from pillar to post and never received a substantive reply.
- 4 At a meeting of the Parish Council on 13th January it was agreed that despite the previous disappointing response we should re-iterate our concerns to the current strategy. That most responses to the previous consultation were from the larger parishes facing the bulk of new development is surely only to be expected and is a poor reason to not consider the position of the few smaller ones.
- 5 In addition to our re-iterating our suggestions (above) we would ask what happened to the intended MoU between County and District on CIL funding? Was it ever signed and if so where is it? Did it consider the points we raised as the officer response (above) indicated might at least be possible? Or did the speculative *“however, the amount of funding involved would remain small and unlikely to meet expected needs”* put paid to it?
- 6 The response to this has to be ‘What budget was ever large enough to meet expected needs’? Those ‘in need’ are always grateful for anything they can get, even if they feel it to be inadequate. The officer comment comes across as a throw away, with no evidence to support it and we would ask for our suggestion to be at least heard again. It did at least seem to be recognised that communities like ours had some ‘need’ but to be told it wouldn’t be met because it couldn’t be met in full is really not good enough. Our main priority is for spending on road safety. We recognise this is a County function but the only way we can raise it is with the authority charged with collecting the CIL funds – the District.

Trevor Brown
(Clerk) Charney Bassett Parish Council

5th February 2021