

Findon Parish Council – Summary of Public Consultation on Potential Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Projects

Cllr Kelly Dean – 19 January 2026

1. Purpose of the Report

This report summarises the feedback received from residents and community groups regarding potential Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) projects for Findon Village. The consultation sought to understand community priorities, concerns, and suggestions to inform future Parish Council decision-making.

Community Groups Contacted

To ensure broad engagement, the following groups and representatives were contacted:

- Lighting Up The Square (Sue Parton)
- Findon Wild Flower Group
- Findon Village Shop
- Findon Village Hall
- St John the Baptist CE Primary School
- St John's PTA
- Findon Rectory
- Crochet/Poppies Group (Gill Gostick)
- Findon Ladies Group

Responses received:

Feedback was received from the Wild Flower Group, Sue Parton (Lighting Up The Square), one member of the Findon Ladies Group, and individual residents.

3. Feedback by Project

3.1 Roundhouse Proposal

General Sentiment

The design was generally considered attractive and in keeping with the village aesthetic. However, several concerns were raised.

Concerns

- **Scale and Visual Impact:**
Some felt a 4-metre diameter structure would be too large and visually dominant on Pond Green.
- **Maintenance:**
Questions were raised about who would maintain the structure, with a preference that this not fall to volunteers.

- **Potential for Anti-Social Behaviour:**

Concerns were expressed that a covered structure could attract youths or be used for concealed activity.

One comment referenced individuals associated with drug-related behaviour in Findon Valley potentially using the structure.

Mitigations Suggested

- **Open-sided design** to improve visibility and reduce opportunities for concealed behaviour.
- **Reduced diameter** (3 metres) to lessen visual impact.

Event-Related Feedback

Sue Parton (Lighting Up The Square) noted:

- The Roundhouse would **not be large enough** for the choir, so a gazebo would still be required.
- The structure could still be useful for:
 - Serving mulled wine
 - Providing covered seating for residents with mobility issues

3.2 Tractor / Wooden Imaginative Play Equipment

General Sentiment

The idea of wooden imaginative play equipment was well received and considered fitting with Findon's rural character.

Concerns

- **Impact on Pond Green's quiet character:**

Some felt it would encourage active play in an area valued for peace and reflection.

- **Precedent:**

Concern that installing one piece of equipment could lead to pressure for more.

- **Risk of theft:**

A wooden tractor could be vulnerable if not securely fixed.

Alternative Location

- Suggested relocation to the **Homewood playground**, keeping active play within an existing designated area.

3.3 Village Wrought Iron Sign

Concerns

- **Maintenance:**

Wrought iron requires periodic upkeep to prevent rust and weathering.

- **Planting and ongoing costs:**

If planting troughs or decorative features were included, these would require regular maintenance and funding.

There was a preference that this not fall to volunteers.

4. Additional Suggestions

4.1 Village Signage / Planting Troughs

A suggestion was made to consider **flower-trough style village signs**, similar to those used in Angmering. These would be positioned at **each of the three main entrances to the village**, providing a consistent and welcoming visual identity.

However, it was noted that:

- Three troughs would require **year-round planting and maintenance**
- FPC would need to confirm it could support the **ongoing costs** before progressing

4.2 Interpretation Board – “Horsey” Heritage

A suggestion was made for an interpretation board on Pond Green celebrating Findon’s equestrian heritage.

This aligns with an existing project already in design, with installation expected **March 2026**.

4.3 Centralised Community Information Board

Residents noted that posters attached to lamp posts create clutter and litter.

A request was made for a **large, centralised community information board** to advertise events and activities in a tidy, coordinated way.

4.4 Village Honesty Library / Book Swap

A proposal was made for a **purpose-built, weatherproof honesty library** for adult and children’s books.

The resident who suggested it has volunteered to manage and maintain the installation.

4.5 Heritage Plaques for Village Wells

A request was made for **heritage plaques** on the two village wells to celebrate their history.

Sian and Fiona (Wild Flower Group), who already maintain both sites, expressed strong support for this.

5. Suggestions for Pond Green

5.1 Entrance Improvements

The main entrance becomes muddy and slippery.

A **plastic grid pathway with stones** was suggested to improve safety while allowing drainage.

5.2 Additional Seating

Requests included:

- More seating using **low-maintenance, environmentally friendly materials** (e.g., similar to Monica & Bob's bench on Nepcote)
- A **picnic bench on the left** to keep the centre open

5.3 Flat Resin Maze

A flat resin maze in the centre was suggested to:

- Provide low-impact play
- Offer hard standing for Christmas events
- Add interest without bulky equipment

Mowing implications would need consideration.

5.4 Bicycle Stands

Bike stands at Pond Green were suggested to reduce bikes being left around the shops and post office.

5.5 Road Markings

A request was made for the **white lines at the bottom of Stable Lane** to be repainted, as cyclists reportedly do not stop.

5.6 Replacement of the Sycamore Tree

A suggestion was made to replace the removed Sycamore with a "**Christmas Tree**" (e.g., conifer, spruce, or pine) that would remain appropriately sized and could be decorated each December. Strong support was shown for this.

6. Evidence for Consideration: Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

To assess concerns about potential anti-social behaviour linked to covered seating on Pond Green, contact was made with **PCSO Bastable** to discuss any increased risk associated with the Roundhouse shelter.

Crime data for **Clapham and Findon (November 2025)** shows very low levels of reported crime:

- 5 Violent/Sexual offences
- 2 Burglaries
- 2 Public Order offences
- 2 Other offences

This indicates no current pattern of significant or escalating issues, though any new structure should still be designed with visibility and natural surveillance in mind.

7. Themes Emerging from the Consultation

- Strong desire to **preserve the peaceful character** of Pond Green
- Concern about **ongoing maintenance** and avoiding burdens on volunteers
- Support for projects that offer **clear community benefit**
- Preference for **low-impact, well-designed** enhancements
- Interest in **heritage, interpretation, and community-focused** features

8. Recommendations

The Parish Council may wish to:

- 1) Consider extending the consultation to residents for a wider, more diverse response from those who use the green day-to-day
- 2) Review Roundhouse design options (size reduction, open sides)
- 3) Consider whether Pond Green is appropriate for play equipment, including position and type
- 4) Re-evaluate design and long-term maintenance implications of village entryway signage and planting
- 5) Progress the Horsey Heritage interpretation board as planned
- 6) Explore feasibility and costs of a centralised information board
- 7) Assess practical improvements to Pond Green (entrance, seating, bike stands)
- 8) Consider heritage plaques and the honesty library proposal
- 9) Communicate next steps clearly to residents
- 10) Explore funding, grants, fundraising, or donations towards the cost of heritage plaques and the honesty library