

Findon Parish Council Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Policy

1. Purpose of the Policy

This policy sets out how Findon Parish Council (FPC) identifies, assesses, prioritises, and allocates Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds.

It ensures that all decisions are transparent, evidence-based, and aligned with the needs and priorities of the village.

CIL is collected by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) and distributed to support infrastructure that benefits local communities.

FPC receives a proportion of CIL directly (allocated) and may also apply to SDNPA for larger Strategic CIL awards.

2. What CIL Can Support

CIL may be used for infrastructure that provides clear public benefit, including:

- Community buildings and shared spaces
- Heritage assets and conservation projects
- Recreation, sport, and wellbeing facilities
- Public realm improvements
- Accessibility improvements
- Sustainable transport and active travel
- Biodiversity and landscape projects
- Equipment or infrastructure that supports community resilience

CIL cannot be used for routine maintenance, staffing costs, or projects without demonstrable public benefit.

3. SDNPA Assessment Criteria

When applying for SDNPA CIL funding, projects must demonstrate:

- Strategic Fit – alignment with SDNPA priorities, the Findon Neighbourhood Plan, and local evidence of need
- Community Benefit – clear, measurable outcomes for residents
- Deliverability – realistic planning, permissions, costings, and timescales

- Value for Money – proportionate costs and sustainable long-term impact
- Community Support – evidence of engagement, consultation, or partnership
- Sustainability – long-term viability and responsible stewardship

PROPOSAL

4. Findon Parish Council Annual CIL Cycle (Call for Projects)

FPC follows a *proactive* annual cycle to ensure projects are well-developed before SDNPA's March submission window.

August

- Annual strategic review of village needs
- Call for ideas from councillors, residents, and partners
- Review of Neighbourhood Plan priorities

September – December

- Feasibility work
- Early design and cost exploration
- Evidence gathering (usage data, surveys, photos, risk assessments, heritage notes)
- Engagement with partners (SDNPA, WSCC, community groups, landowners)

January

- Shortlisting of viable projects
- Identification of matched funding if required

February

- Drafting Expressions of Interest or full applications
- Final checks on permissions, quotes, and deliverability

March

- Council approval of submissions
- Submission to SDNPA

March / April

- Review of Parish CIL receipts

- Allocation decisions for parish-level CIL spending

5. Use of Parish CIL Receipts

FPC may allocate its own CIL receipts to:

- Small and medium-scale infrastructure projects
- Matched funding for SDNPA/Heritage Fund bids
- Urgent infrastructure needs supported by evidence
- Heritage, recreation, and wellbeing improvements
- Accessibility and safety enhancements

All spending must be:

- **Evidence-based and Community backed**
- **Transparent**
- **Published annually in the Parish CIL Report**
- **Compliant with CIL Regulations**

6. Community Engagement

FPC is committed to involving the community in identifying infrastructure needs and this should be a rolling engagement to keep on top of ever-changing social/community needs.

Engagement may include:

- Public meetings
- Surveys
- Consultation events
- Collaboration with local groups, schools, and organisations
- Targeted engagement with under-represented groups

Community input informs the annual review and helps shape project priorities.

7. Monitoring and Reporting

FPC will:

- Publish an Annual CIL Report
- Monitor project delivery and outcomes

- Ensure funds are spent within the required timeframe
- Maintain clear audit trails for all decisions

8. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed every two years or sooner if required by changes in legislation or SDNPA guidance.