

Saxondown Funding – Proposals for Shortlisting

1. Background

The Council has received £170,000 capital receipt for granting an easement over land at Saxondown and would like to spend this money for the benefit of residents in Kingston. It has therefore asked the community to provide suggestions for consideration.

2. Assessment of Proposals

The Council is only able to spend the Saxondown money on capital projects, for example improving the Council's assets, or buying new items, as the money received by the Council was capital. The Council is not able to provide any ongoing revenue to support the projects from this funding.

The Council can also only spend money on things which it has the legal power or duty to do, otherwise any spend would be unlawful.

All proposals have been checked to make sure that the Council has the legal power, and that they are capital projects. The attached Table 1 sets out the capital projects which the Council has the legal power to do.

3. Other proposals

Table 2 sets out the proposals which the Council is unable to carry out, either because they are not capital projects, or the Council has no legal powers. However, the Council may be able to find alternative ways of support, for example by using Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money to support the school, and extending its website for others to use.

(a) Projects undertaken by others

There were some projects suggested which are already underway or being undertaken by others: -

Signs at Kingstonridge/Juggs Lane/C324 junction – South Downs National Park Authority have agreed to undertake this work.

Speed sensors – these have already been agreed.

Additional picnic benches – these have been donated.

(b) No land identified or within the Council's control

There were some proposals suggested where no land was identified, or land was not within the Council's control and therefore the Council would not be able to implement the proposal, as below: -

Provide a community pool
Provide a school drop off/pick up facility
Wind turbine and solar panels

A community garden, orchard or vegetable garden have all been suggested. Whilst the Council can purchase open space and lay it out for community purposes, it is not able to use St. Pancras Green for this purpose, and no other land was identified by the supporters.

4. Next Steps

The proposals will be published in the Kingston News in September, on the Village Notice Board and Parish Council website, and residents will be encouraged to provide their comments on the proposals, including whether they support them, as well as any benefit or disbenefit to the community.

The Council will also work with proposers to try and get costed proposals. Proposals will need to be compliant with the following criteria:-

- (a) Be compliant with Kingston Parish Council policies
- (b) Demonstrate community benefit
- (c) Have proposals for how any ongoing costs will be funded
- (d) Be capable of being implemented

The Parish Council will look to make a final decision on the proposals at its meeting on 12 January 2022.

5. Recommendations

1. That the Council consult with residents on the proposals set out in Table 1
2. Note that the Council is not able to spend the Saxondown funds on the projects set out in Table 2, but look to support them in alternative ways
3. That proposals be judged on the criteria set out in paragraph 4 above