



Application for funding from the Silverlake section 106 (part G)

Conservation & Community Fund



1. INTRODUCTION

The 2014 s.106 Agreement between the former authority of West Dorset District Council (WDDC) and Habitat First Group the developer of Silverlake (the Developer) sets out in Part G, a payment from the Developer of "an annual grant of £50 (RPI linked) per annum for each holiday unit to the council in order to fund nature conservation projects and community projects in the locality that have a direct relationship to the development of the site."

Through consequential orders agreed by Parliament, the provisions of the s.106 agreement were carried forward to Dorset Council on the 1st April 2019.

2. CRITERIA

A set of criteria has been developed to guide the allocation of the monies, known as the Conservation & Community Fund (CCF). These are:

- Applications must relate to projects from the parishes of Warmwell, Crossways, Knightsford, Owermoigne, Puddletown, Moreton, Broadmayne, and Winfrith Newburgh
- Projects related to the SANG and/or species typical of the European Site; or European Interest Features within those parts of the Warmwell Heath SSSI which lie within or close to the property will be given priority with regards funding
- Projects related to local wildlife sites (Sites of Nature Conservation Interest) will be given next priority as these sites form part of the functioning network of habitat which supports the heathland SSSI and European sites
- Other nature conservation projects and community nature projects in the locality will then be considered, as set out in the s106 wording
- Funding will not be given to support activity that is considered to be a statutory responsibility (even if there are no statutory funds available) nor will awards be made to cover costs already incurred or committed
- Applications must show match funding in monies or 'time in kind' (e.g. volunteer hours)
- Funding will not be given for on-going maintenance for infrastructure projects (e.g. bike & walking routes) so any such projects must demonstrate that sufficient funds are in place or can be raised to cover these costs
- Any person or organisation with an application for review may not be on the review committee
- Applications will be reviewed and responses provided to applicants within 56 days of the closing dates (April and October)
- Applicants need to be "grant ready" which means having appropriate policies and procedures in place to ensure their good governance and accountability
- All recipients of funds will be required to submit monitoring reports during and/or after the end of their project, as agreed at the time of project approval
- Recipients of funds will be encouraged to promote their projects through a variety of media and social media outlets
- Silverlake and Dorset Council to be acknowledged on all publicly available information during and after the project
- There is sufficient monies within the relevant budget held by Dorset Council

- The proposal is considered by the CCF working group, and a recommendation made. The final decision will rest with the Strategic Director/Corporate Manager (Dorset Council)
- Proposals that will also lever in additional funds will be welcomed

3. FUNDING AVAILABLE

- Applicants can apply for up to £5,000 per annum from the fund. This limit may be subject to review as the number of housing units (and therefore CCF funding available) increases
- Initial funds in the CCF are set at £10,000 but will increase as the number of housing units within Silverlake increases

4. EXAMPLE PROJECTS

- Projects to benefit habitats and wildlife found in Silverlake and the local region - priority given to species/habitats of conservation concern
- Environmental improvement projects, e.g. improving Tadnoll Brook and River Frome to benefit spawning salmon
- Projects to reduce vehicle use in the local area through promoting the natural environment – bike paths, walking routes
- Increase access into the countryside for people in wheelchairs and with limited mobility, and those from local urban areas
- Increase the connection children and local residents have with the natural habitat - school allotments/wildlife pond creation/woodland planting
- Increasing public awareness of the value of nature

5. APPROVAL PROCESS

Bids are formally approved by the Strategic Director or the Corporate Manager – (Planning Community & Policy Development) following a recommendation from the CCF working group (LPA officer, Habitat First, NET and any other individual or organisation that Dorset Council deem appropriate). Dorset Council will arrange the CCF working group meeting on a 6 monthly basis, and Habitat First will co-ordinate the consultation process with the local Ward Members 21 days prior to the CCF working group meeting. To avoid any conflict of interest, Parish Councils (Crossways Parish Council, Knightsford Parish Council, Warmwell Parish Council, Owermoigne Parish Council, Puddletown Parish Council and Moreton Parish Council, Broadmayne Parish Council, Winfrith Newburgh Parish Councils) will be informed separately.

Dorset Council retains the right to refuse to fund a project or to only provide part of the funding requested.

Retrospective applications will not normally be considered.

6. TIMETABLE

- Applications that meet the determined criteria will be considered by the Committee twice a year (April and October).

- Applications will usually be considered within 56 days of each closing deadline
- Projects will have to be completed by the completion date given in the submitted application form, unless agreed in writing by Dorset Council following consultation with the CCF working group

7. MONITORING

All recipients of funds will be required to submit monitoring reports during and/or at the end of their project, as agreed at the time of project approval.

Details of CCF payments and how the CCF money is spent will be published twice yearly by the Dorset Council Implementation Team through the Community Infrastructure Levy/S106 Monitoring Report.

8. DETAILS OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Those wishing to apply for funding should submit a completed application form, which should be submitted with any additional information to the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (DAONB) and copied for the attention of the Implementation Team Leader at Dorset Council

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Applications submitted by the last working day of April/October respectively, will be considered within the next 56 days following the below process:

- Within 7 days of the submission deadline 21 day consultation with Ward Members shall take place (to be coordinated by Habitat First) and meeting to be arranged for the working group to meet following consultation period (to be coordinated by LPA Officer).
- Working group to review applications and make recommendation to Strategic Director/ Corporate Manager. Decision to be issued by Dorset Council within 56 days of receipt of applications in the form of a decision letter, including any conditions. Decision letters to be cc'd to NET and Habitats First.
- All relevant Parish councils will be informed of the submitted and approved bids separately to reduce any conflict of interest.
- Interim and final project reports should be submitted to DNET for review and discussion at subsequent CCF meetings.

Please note – Dorset Council has a duty to protect public funds and the information provided on this application form and any information contained within the accompanying documentation is a matter of public record and may be made available to the general public.

For more information please visit: dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
(01305) 251010