

REPORT

Date: 13th September 2023
Councillor: David Cooper
Meeting: Full Council – Tuesday 19th September 2023

Place Plan

Introduction

For the purpose of infrastructure planning, Shropshire is divided into 18 Place Plan areas. These generally comprise a population and service centre (such as a market town or some of the larger villages) and its catchment area. They usually comprise several parish council areas; the Bridgnorth Place Plan area covers 15 parishes extending from the County boundary in the East to Wenlock Edge in the West, and from the Southern edge of Telford to the Worcestershire border South of Alveley. There are separate Place Plans for the neighbouring Shifnal, Broseley, Much Wenlock and Highley areas.

The Place Plan document lists desired infrastructure improvements across the area, in the context of the growth and development anticipated in the Local Plan. Infrastructure comprises a broad range of facilities such as transport, public utilities, drainage, health care, education, leisure facilities etc. Identified projects are prioritised on the basis of the extent to which they will support the sustainable development of the area. Projects which will help mitigate the effects of development, as well as those which are needed to enable development to take place, may be included. Projects can be put forward by a wide range of bodies (e.g. public utilities, the NHS, etc) as well as by the local Town and parish councils and Shropshire Council itself.

Place Plan projects may be eligible for funding from resources which Shropshire Council controls (e.g. Community Infrastructure Levy receipts) or through external bodies. Town and parish councils should also include projects they intend to fund from their Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund receipts in the Place Plan."

CIL funding potentially available

The last figure I have for the amount of unspent CIL Local Fund for the Bridgnorth Place Plan area was as at March 2021, when it was around £835,000. We received Neighbourhood Fund amounts of £29,906 in April 2022 and £11,987 this year, total since 2021 £41,893. The corresponding Local Fund amount (just under 5 times as much) would be around £200,000 so depending on whether anything has actually been spent from the Local Fund over the last couple of years there may be around £1m available that we could be bidding for. £90,000 has been awarded for Cemetery Land but not yet spent.

Going forward, the 1,800 homes earmarked for the area under the current draft and previous Local Plan, but not yet built, would generate about £6m in CIL Local Fund.

Community Infrastructure Levey - Projects

There are a number of projects which have already been identified by the Town Council and which are included in the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Technical Check

Form for Applicants – 2019/20. (Project Information is provided within report number BTC/17b/2324)

Projects to be considered / investigated by Bridgnorth Town Council

There are a number of projects which have been suggested, reviewing and agreeing by Bridgnorth Town Council, which could be included within the Place Plan.

- Retaining Wall
- High Street Project
- Speeding – 20MPH area
- Town Hall Project
- HGV Traffic diversion from Low Town Bridge via by-pass
- General Traffic diversion from Low Town Bridge via by-pass
- Electric Buses / Bridgnorth Connectivity
- Expanding the Cemetery (use of the DLF Compound)
- Foundry Lane
- Additional Allotments
- Additional Parking for Disabled

Other Information

Work will also need to be completed with the Health Service providers to look into health care needs and projected needs in the community of Bridgnorth.