**Purpose of CIL**

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge on development that was introduced in 2010. Its primary purpose is to fund infrastructure to support local development. The levy is collected by the Local Planning Authority, known as the "Charging Authority" (CA).

**How CIL funds should be spent**

1. Eligible expenses

 CIL monies can be used to support the development of the local area in two main ways:

1. The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure.
2. Anything else that addresses the demands that development places on an area.

 "Infrastructure" in this context includes physical, social, and green infrastructure, such as:

 - Highways

 - Cycleways

 - Education facilities

 - Sports and community halls

 - Parks and play areas

2. Restrictions on spending

* CIL funds cannot be used for everyday Parish Council expenditure.
* They cannot be spent on items or services outside the Council's remit (by statute or Power of Competence)

3. Community consultation

Consultation ensures the funds are spent in the best interest of the community.

* Consult with your local community to create a list of local priorities.
* Ensure the consultation is inclusive and reaches all members of the community,

particularly those who are less vocal or more vulnerable.

* Use newsletters, websites, social media platforms, and community engagement events to gather input

4. Coordination with the Charging Authority

* Engage early with your CA to coordinate spending and maximize the impact of your CIL monies.
* Consider contributing to larger infrastructure projects undertaken by the City or County Council that will benefit your area in the long-term.

5. Infrastructure Investment/Delivery Plan

* Develop an Infrastructure Investment/Delivery Plan (IP) listing the priorities
* This plan will provide an evidence base for spending decisions, ensure transparency, and help the CA understand your community priorities

6. Spending deadline and reporting

* CIL monies should be spent within 5 years of receipt
* Prepare an annual report detailing CIL receipts, expenditure, and how the funds were used
* Publish this report on your website or the CA's website
* Submit the report to the CA by December 31st following the relevant financial year

To ensure the funds are spent in the best interest of the community:

1. Prioritise projects that address the most pressing infrastructure needs in your area.

2. Focus on initiatives that will benefit the largest number of residents.

3. Consider long-term impact and sustainability of the projects.

4. Balance between different types of infrastructure (physical, social, and green).

5. Look for opportunities to leverage CIL funds with other funding sources or partnerships.

6. Ensure transparency in decision-making and keep the community informed about how funds are being used.