

Update Report on CIL Neighbourhood Fund 2023 into 2024



WORTHING BOROUGH
COUNCIL

Overview

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Neighbourhood Fund

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2022 / 2023

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and projects

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council-owned assets

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redesign

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Learnings

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Continue governance
and refine process.

Approve 2024 timetable

Decision by Cabinet
member at public
meeting.

Scoping for 2025 review
to begins early in 2024.

Timely identification and
resolution of any funded
projects at risk.

1.0. Overview of the 2023 CIL Neighbourhood Fund Programme

1.1. About the CIL Neighbourhood Fund

In 2023, more than £577,000 from the re-designed CIL Neighbourhood Fund was awarded to 45 applicants from the community and voluntary sectors.

CIL stands for 'Community Infrastructure Levy'. It is a charge on developers such as housebuilders paid to councils as a way of paying for improvements to local neighbourhoods.

Worthing Borough Council started collecting this money in 2015 and since then, 15% has been put into the 'CIL Neighbourhood Fund'.

The CIL Neighbourhood Fund gives communities freedom and power to spend the money on a wide range of things that will benefit the neighbourhood, in consultation with local residents.

Between the first funding round in 2021 and the second in 2023, the fund was revised to expand the scope of projects which could be funded and change the application and assessment process.

In 2023, funds were used to support the delivery of projects focused on improving the lives of residents in the town including revamping green spaces, providing resources for young people, helping with the cost of living and launching new cultural activities.

1.1.1 Map of developments in Worthing paying CIL (up to and including 2022/23)



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1.2. The fund redesign

In 2022-2023 the application, communication and assessment process was re-designed with the aim of widening participation and involving ward councillors and community representatives in decision making.

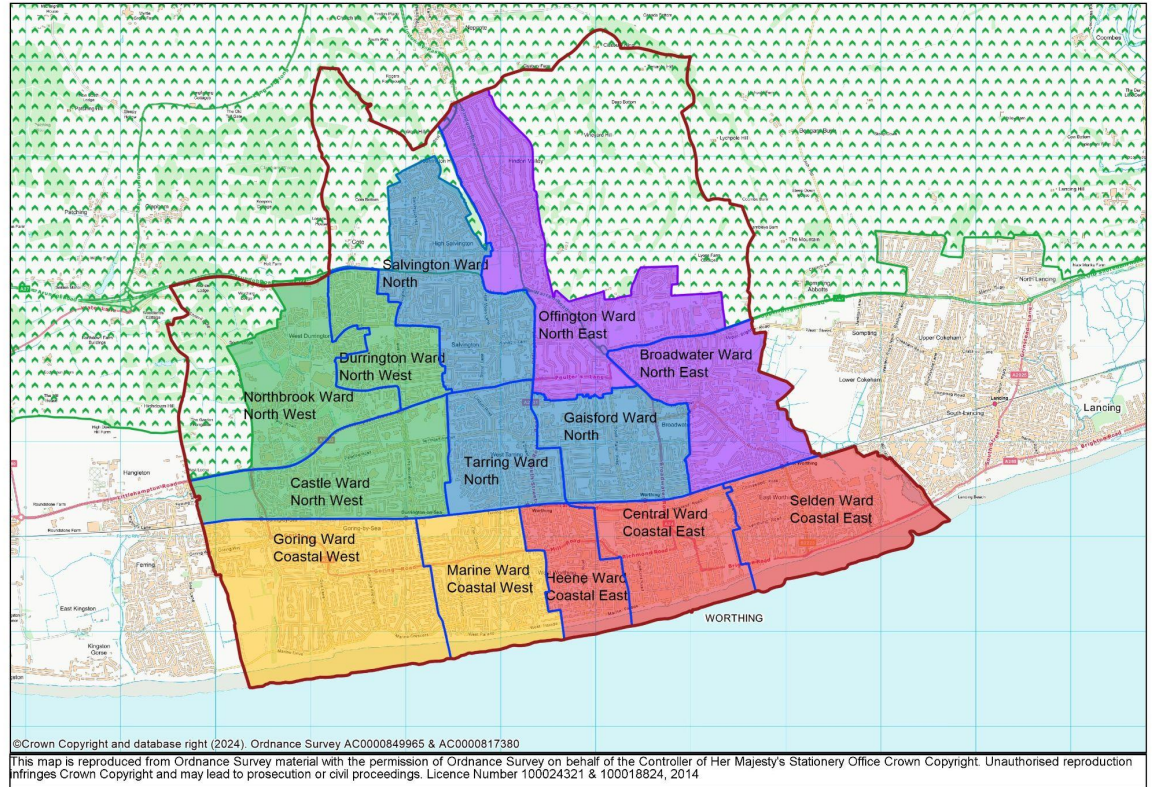
Expressions of interest 3 April - 12 May 2023		Applications open 22 May - 30 June		Assessment Panel 17 July - 28 July 2023		Delivery		Agreement September 2023
Groups given opportunities to connect with each other, officers and Councillors	Signpost groups to support to get set up to receive funding (Community Works)	Simple application form	WBC officers check applications	Assessment panel: Councillors, Community Works and previously successful applicants	Transparent assessment by panel and recommendation to Cabinet Member	Member for Communities and Young People signs off final decision	Outcome of application shared , with feedback and suggestions	CIL fund agreement ready to be signed for successful groups

1.2.1. CIL Neighbourhood Fund Areas were created



In 2023, wards were grouped together to form CIL Neighbourhood Fund areas as shown in this map.

- North West
- North
- North East
- Coastal East
- Coastal West



1.3. Participation: we introduced community engagements to promote the fund and connect with our community groups.



1.3.1. Community engagement

Council held a series of networking events in each of the four CIL areas which had funding available.

Held during the 'Expression of Interest' stage this was a chance for potential applicants to meet with Officers and Community Works to discuss the fund

Around 75 attendees representing nearly 50 community groups/organisations participated in these sessions.

Positive feedback from these sessions included the potential for members of the community to network with each other

For the 2024 funding round, it is hoped that these sessions can be run earlier in the process to give groups longer to plan their project before the application process opens

The sessions were tweaked after each event based on feedback received from those who attended, in order to make the best use of the time available at the sessions

1.3.2. How we hosted engagements in our neighbourhoods.

In community spaces.
Human to human.
In a circle.
In 'plain English'.
As hosts and facilitators.
Listening / turn-taking.
Relationship-building.
Knowledge exchange.
Reflection on shared learning.



1.3.3. Community engagements - feedback

“Community aimed, interactive, listened to groups, sharing of community work useful and making new connections.”

“We need to partner with a cic”

“A very informative session”

“Loved the focus on networking”

“There are lots of groups that can collaborate with us and they each bring people/volunteers”

“Much broader opportunities than I thought”

“The process to apply for funding seems straightforward”

“More time (if only we had some!) for more Q&As but very welcoming, informative, participatory”

“Just wish we’d had longer to explore relationships and potential collaboration”

1.3.4. In July, neighbourhood assessment panels were chaired by Community Works and included ward councillors from across parties and community representatives

Coastal East Panel

Venue: Freedom Works, Stoke Abbott Rd

Jess Estcourt (chair)
Lisa Attwell,
Community Rep,
Community Works
Cllr Odul Bozkurt,
Labour, Central ward
Cllr Helen Abrahams,
Labour, Heene ward
Cllr Dan Hermitage,
Labour, Selden ward

North West Panel

Venue: Durrington Community Centre

Jess Estcourt (chair)
Ted Thorpe,
Community Rep, 2nd
Durrington Sea Scouts
Cllr Ibsha Choudhury,
Labour, Castle ward
Cllr Mike Barrett,
Labour, Northbrook
ward

Coastal West Panel

Venue: Goring-by-Sea Cricket and Football Club

Jess Estcourt (Chair)
Sue Brown,
Community Rep,
Community Works
Cllr Claire Hunt,
Green, Goring ward
Cllr Andy Whight,
Labour, Marine ward

North Panel

Venue: Worthing Football Club

Jess Estcourt (chair)
Sue Brown,
Community
Rep, Community Works
Cllr Dale Overton,
Labour, Gaisford ward
Cllr Hilary Schan,
Labour, Tarring ward
Cllr Hazel Thorpe,
Liberal Democrats,
Tarring ward

1.3.5. July Assessment Panels & Decision-making

Assessment Panels reviewed, scored and made recommendations for funding of applications to their CIL Area

The panel members consisted of ward councillors and community representatives (including Community Works)

The panels were held in a community space in the relevant CIL Area

The panels were able to attach 'conditions' to the allocation of CIL funding, where needed (e.g. must secure planning permission)

It was agreed that some 'town-wide' projects from the Coastal East CIL Area would be partially funded from the Coastal West and North West remaining CIL funds (as a one-off)

The recommendations for funding were then signed off by the Worthing Deputy Leader

1.3.6. In November we held a celebration event at Town Hall to showcase funded projects and recognise the great contribution of the voluntary and community sector.



We welcomed over 70 people attendees, including community groups and ward councillors

Representatives from Dad La Soul, Humber Avenue Community Allotments, Sight Support Worthing and West Tarring Young People's Hub spoke about their projects

1.3.7. November Celebration Event



Soul and gospel choir 'Spring into Soul' gave a brilliant performance

22/25 participants who completed feedback forms reported feeling more connected to Cllrs and the community and voluntary sector following this event and everyone reported meeting new people and learning new things!

Here are a few of the comments:

"inspiring to hear about other people's projects"

"There feels like a really rounded approach to this funding programme and the celebration event is a great culmination of the programme - thank you!"

"We have met many amazing people and hope to see again"

"Worthing matters and Worthing cares"

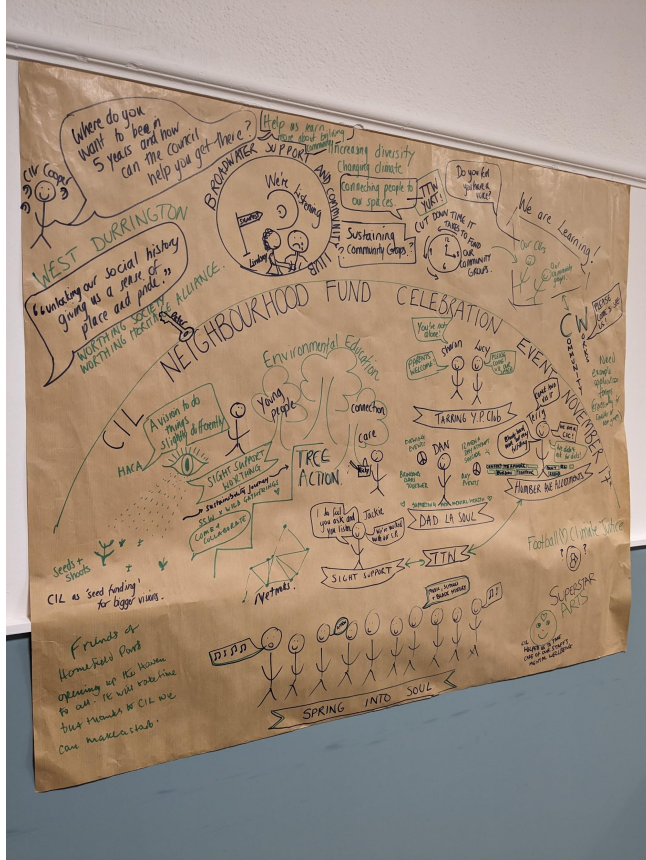
"A great deal to think about"

"Very well run and everybody had the chance to mingle and meet others in similar situations"

"Exciting"

"We are tremendously grateful for this fund and for the dedication of the team leading this work"

1.3.8. November Celebration Event



The key themes coming out of discussions between groups were recorded during the event and included:

The CIL Neighbourhood Fund can be 'seed funding' for bigger visions and projects

Groups' desire to collaborate by sharing resources, partnering on projects and even helping each other apply for other funding opportunities

Groups' awareness of diversity and a passion for learning how to grow welcoming, inclusive communities.

The environment and climate change is high up the list of priorities for a wide range of groups

2.0. Overview of the funded organisations and types of projects

2.1. Allocation of funds 2023: headlines

45 successful applications (out of 57 applications)

A total of £577k CIL funding allocated

Almost £360k allocated to 'physical infrastructure' projects

£272k allocated to 'social infrastructure' projects

Almost £117k allocated to 'green infrastructure' projects

£187k of CIL funding was allocated to 'green groups'

Two-thirds of the projects designed for impact on children and/or young people

Over £405k allocated to projects which impact children and/or young people

7 projects have an impact on adults

Over £288k allocated to projects which tackle inclusivity / isolation issues in the community

Over £116k allocated to projects which impact people with disabilities of all ages

14 projects related to assets owned by Worthing BC

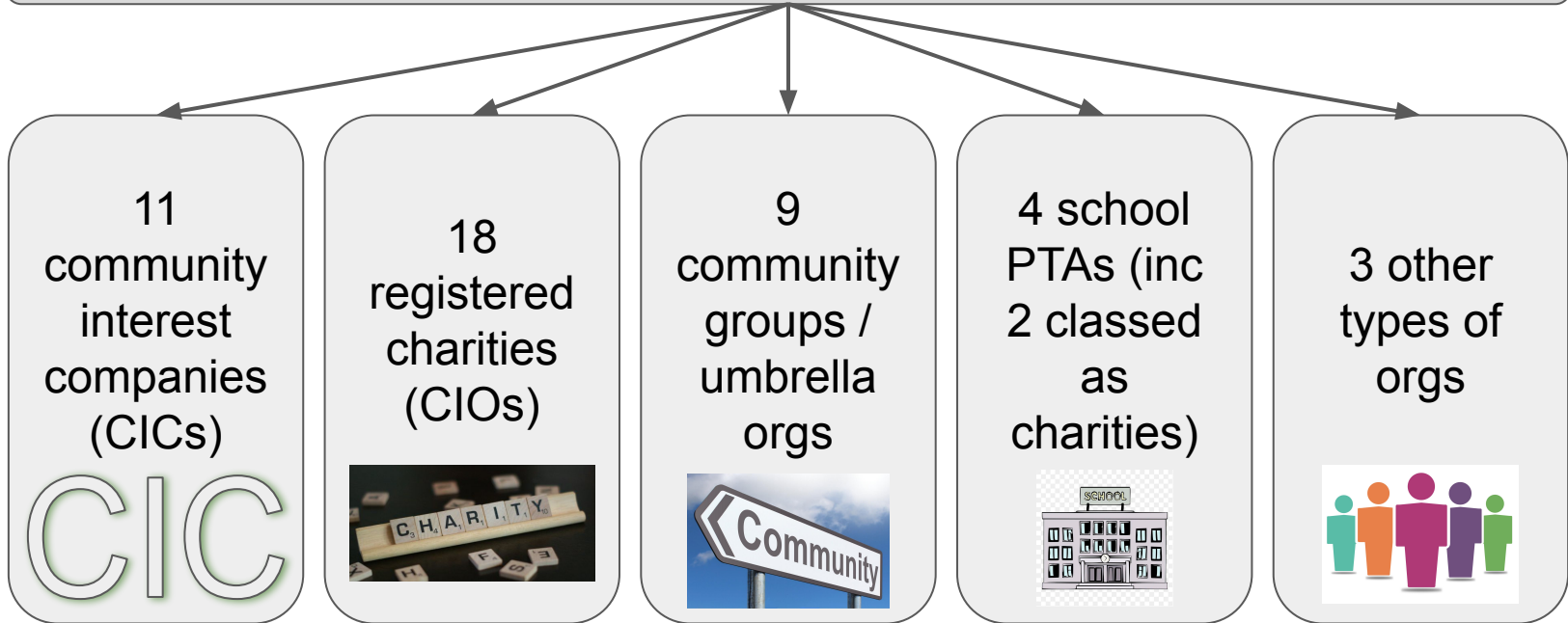
Almost £186k allocated to projects related to Council-owned assets

6 projects related to school owned assets

17 projects mention other sources of funding, alongside CIL

2.2. What types of organisations are we funding?

45 successful applications in 2023 (out of 57 applications)



2.3. Geographical split of applications

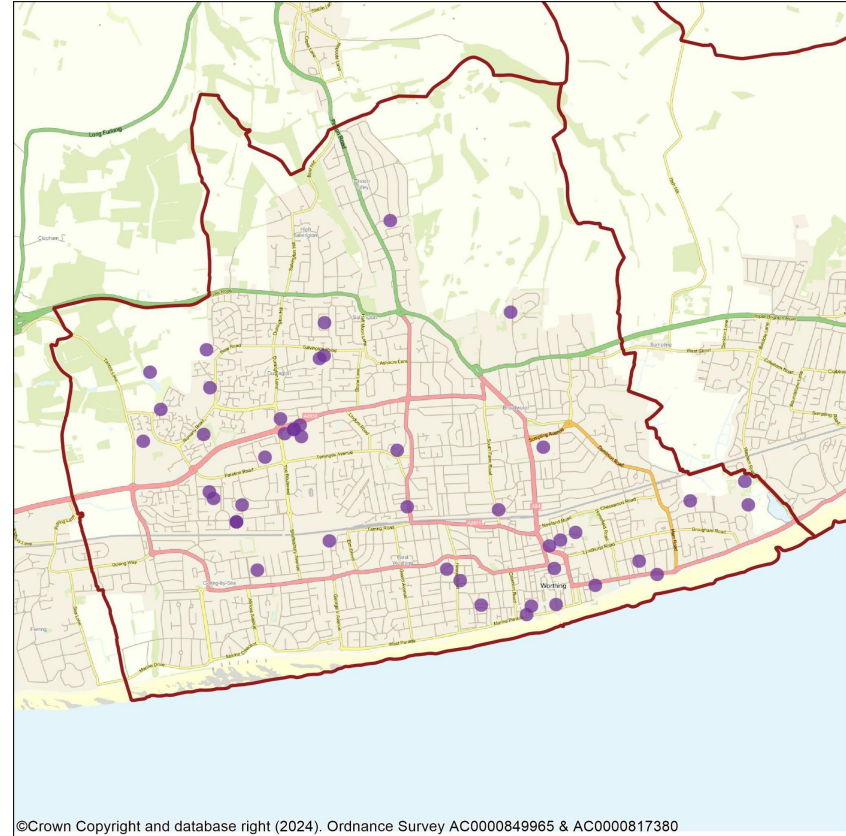
There were differing number of applications funded from each 'CIL Area' pot:

16 in Coastal
East

3 in Coastal
West

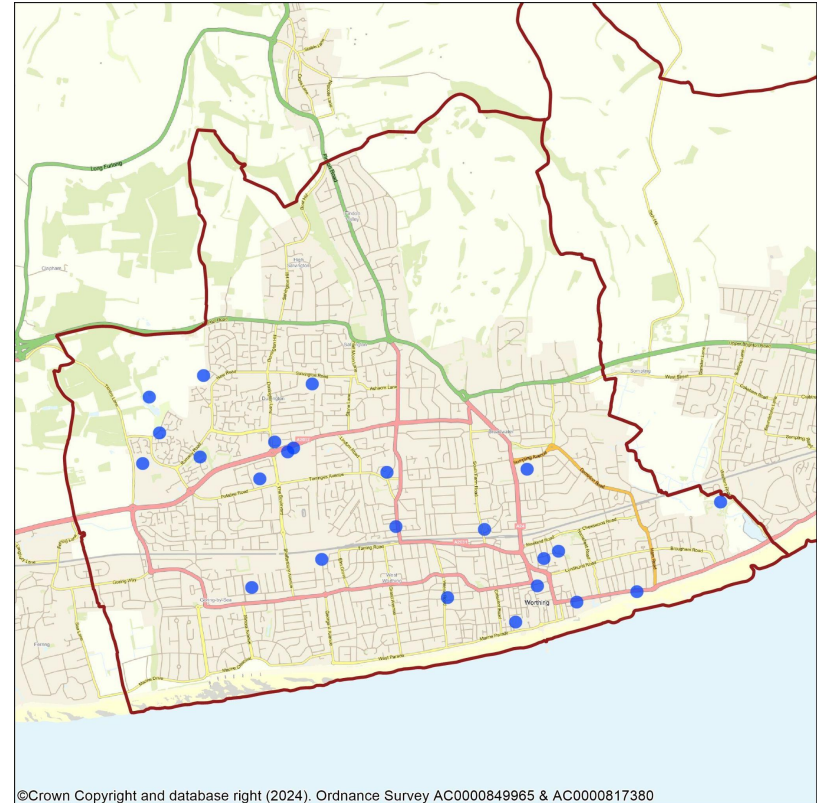
4 in North

22 in North
West



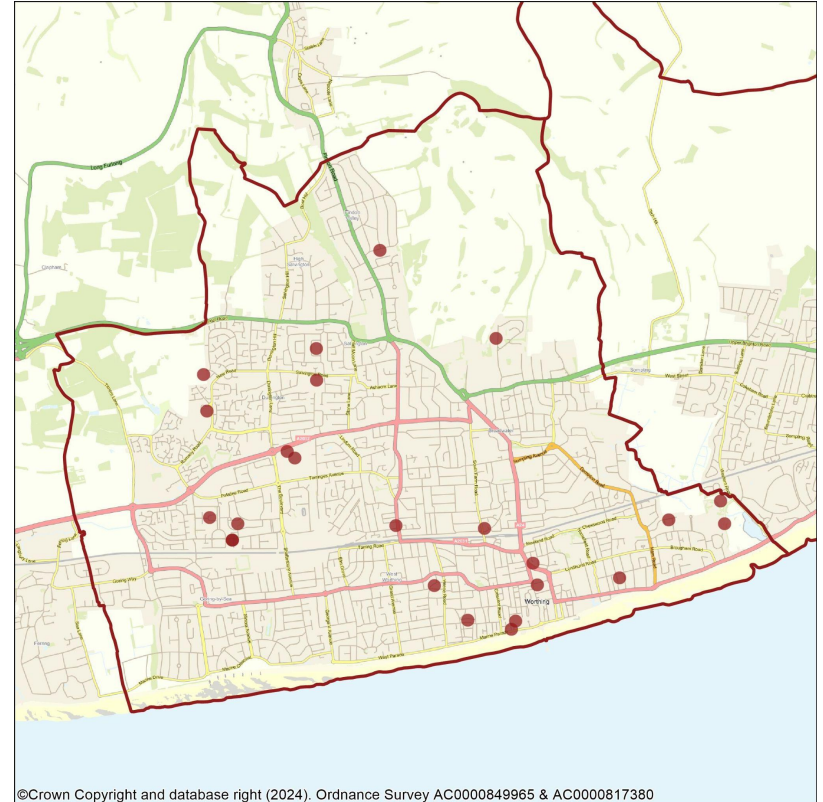
2.3.1. What kind of projects are we funding?

- 24 projects related to **physical infrastructure** (e.g. playground equipment and building upgrades)
- Of these:
 - 11 were funded from North West CIL Area
 - 6 are also providing social infrastructure
 - 13 relate to council-owned assets
 - Almost **£360k** of CIL funding was allocated



2.3.2. What kind of projects are we funding?

- 24 projects related to **social infrastructure** (e.g. workshops and activities)
- Of these:
 - 11 were funded from North West CIL Area
 - 4 are also providing green infrastructure
 - 13 target children & young people
 - **£272k** of CIL funding was allocated



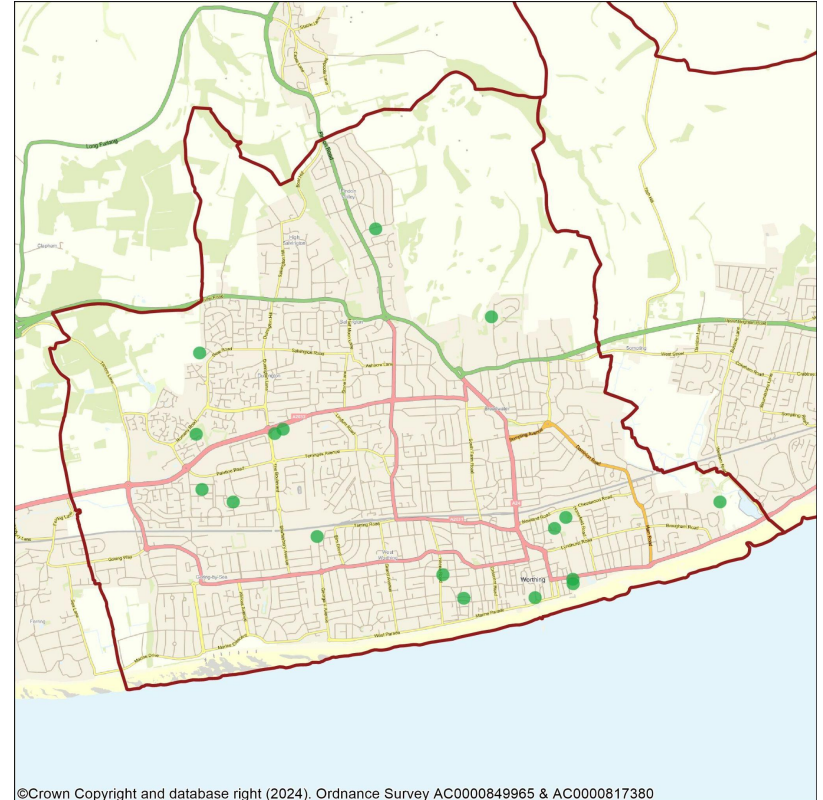
2.3.3. What kind of projects are we funding?

- 8 projects related to **green infrastructure** (e.g. projects focused nature recovery / climate change mitigation)
- Of these:
 - 4 were funded from North West CIL Area and 4 from Coastal East CIL Area
 - 2 relate to Council owned Parks
 - Almost **£117k** of CIL funding was allocated



2.3.4. Successful 'Green Groups'

- 15 groups could be classed as a '**Green Group**'
- A total of **£187k** of CIL funding was granted to these groups in 2023
- These projects are providing a range of infrastructure for a range of demographics
- They have secured additional grant funding from a number of other sources



2.4. Who are the intended beneficiaries of the projects?

45 successful application in 2023 (out of 57 applications)

23 projects
have an
impact on
children



22 projects
have an
impact on
young
people



Two-thirds
of the
projects
designed
for impact
on children
and/or
young
people

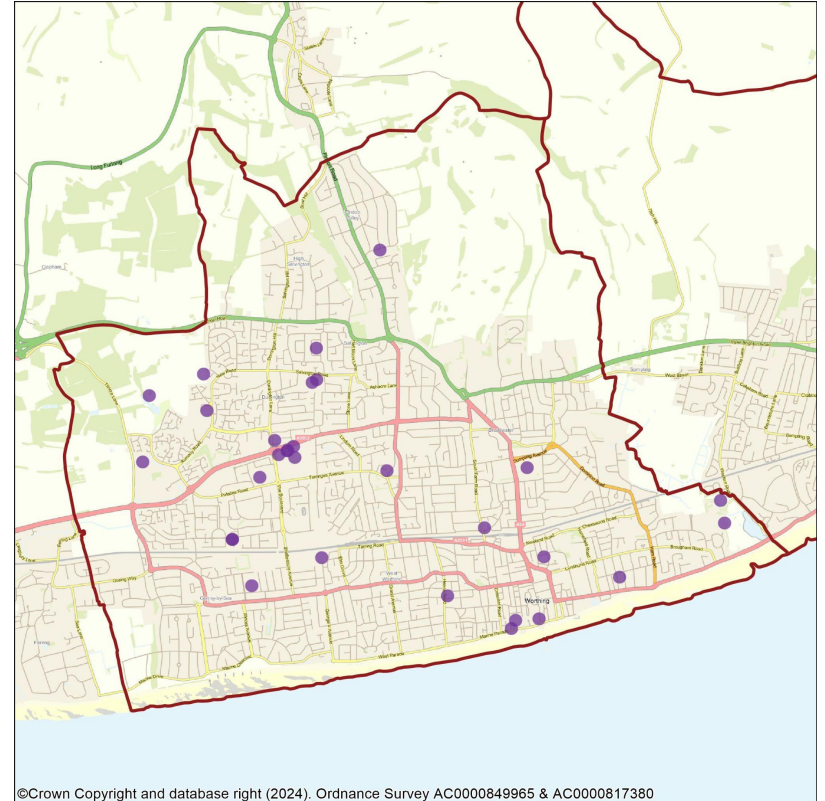
17 projects
have an
impact on
adults



Other
projects
impacted
either
Adult Men,
Families,
or Older
People

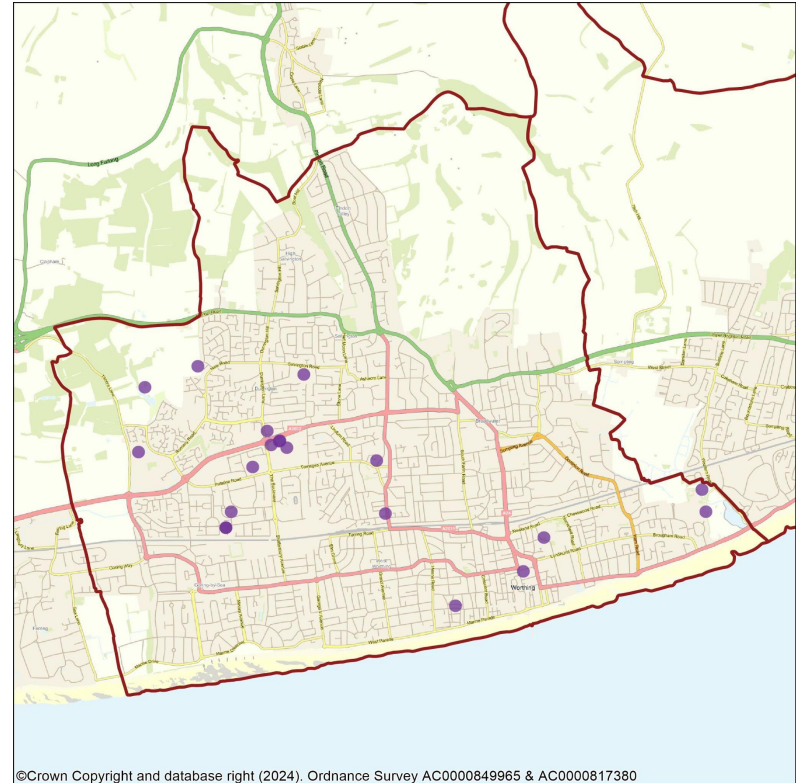
2.4.1. Which projects designed for impact on children & young people?

- Of the 30 projects which have an impact on **children and/or young people**:
 - 17 were funded from the North West CIL Area
 - 15 tackled inclusion/isolation
 - 6 related to school-owned assets
 - Over **£405k** of CIL funding has been allocated



2.4.2. How inclusive are the projects which are being funded?

- A number of the projects deal with tackling **inclusivity/isolation** issues in the community
- These include:
 - Inclusivity in sport
 - Children with SEN
 - Mental Health Issues
 - Refugees
 - Loneliness
 - Families who need support
 - Financial hardship
 - Disabilities
- Over **£288k** CIL has been allocated to these projects



2.4.3. Which projects designed for impact on people with disabilities?

- There were 8 projects which had an impact on **people with disabilities** of all ages
- Over **£116k** of CIL funding has been allocated to these projects
- 5 were funded from the Coastal East CIL Area
- Examples of the projects include:
 - Accessible allotments
 - Playground enhancements
 - Hearing loops
 - Educational Workshops



2.5. Who owns the asset which is to be provided / upgraded?

45 successful application in 2023 (out of 57 applications)

14 related
to assets
owned by
Worthing
BC



6 related
to school
owned
assets



2 related
to church
owned
buildings



2 related
to
community
group
owned
assets

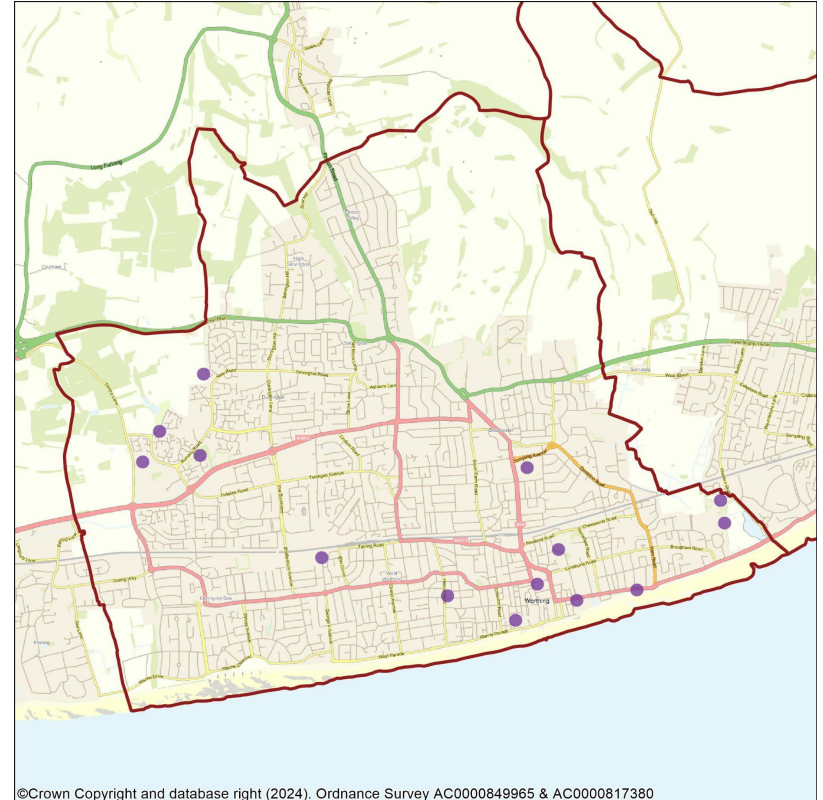


2 related
to privately
owned
assets



2.5.1 Council-owned assets

- The 14 projects included:
 - 7 of our parks & open spaces
 - Shelter
 - Allotments
 - Theatres & Museums
 - Two Community Centres
 - Commercial buildings
- 8 were funded from Coastal East CIL Area



2.5.2 Funded projects in Council-owned assets

Brooklands Park

Rotunda Beach
Shelter

Humber Avenue
Allotments

Worthing
Theatres and
Museum

Homefield Park

Northbrook
Recreation
Ground

Whitebeam
Woods /
Longcroft Park

Heene
Community
Centre

Northbrook Barn
Community
Centre

The Manor
Sports Ground

West Park

Denton Gardens

85-87 Montague
Street (Audio
Active)

The total CIL allocation to
these projects was almost
£186,000.

2.5.3. School-owned assets

- Of the 6 projects which related to school-owned assets:
 - 5 related to physical infrastructure projects - e.g. outdoor play equipment
 - 4 had an impact on children & young people with special educational needs (SEN)
 - Over **£82k of CIL** funding has been allocated
 - How did these groups hear about the fund? 1 heard from Cllr, 1 heard through word of mouth, 1 through a parent who works for the Council, 2 heard through WBC Officer



2.5.4. Clarity for Schools and Parent Teacher Associations

- PTAs are eligible to apply for the fund as they meet the criteria
- However, schools themselves are not eligible to apply on their own
- Communicating this information is vital for future funding rounds
- There is an opportunity for schools to establish (or re-establish) a PTA (or similar) at their school, in order to successfully apply for CIL Neighbourhood Funds

2.6. Which other sources of funding are groups using to match fund their projects?

National Lottery
Community Fund
(£7,500)

MMO Fisheries
and Seafood
Scheme (for
80% of funding)

Rampion
Community Fund
(for 50% of
funding)

Arts Council
(£16,000)

Private Donor
(up to £24,000)

A number of applicants were using the CIL funding as 'match funding' to apply for other grant funding.

What this usually means for many grant funding pots, is that funds will be only paid to a group on the condition that a certain amount of funding is contributed by them (or other sources).

2.6.1. Which other sources of funding are groups applying to in order to fund their projects?

Postcode Lottery

Lawson Trust

Worthing
Community
Chest

Rampion
Community Fund

Woodward Trust

Corporate
Funding

Benefact Trust

Comic Relief

Asda Community
Foundation

National Lottery
Community Fund

2.7. Reasons why applicants were unsuccessful in their bid for CIL funding

The size of the fund in 2023 meant that the majority of projects that met the funding criteria were funded this year. For those that weren't these were key reasons:

The application was not clear on the direct benefit to the community

Short term impact

Lack of evidence as to how the project met the CIL Neighbourhood Fund criteria

Lack of clarity around costs and other funding

Not enough evidence of community benefit

Low value for money

Issues around the project being exclusive as to who may benefit

Income generating for the group

Not clear on how deliverable the project is

Applicant doesn't meet eligibility criteria

3.0. Evaluation and learnings

3.1. What were the objectives of the redesign?

1. Widen and increase participation in the CIL fund across our communities

2. Democratised decision-making around the allocation of funds

3. Provide greater transparency and visibility around the funding opportunity and process

3.2.1. Evaluation of the 2023 programme

1. We widened and increased participation significantly

An increase in the number of applications received (57, up from 12 in 2021) from a wider geographical area

A wider range of applications were received - not just physical, capital projects

The projects funded are designed to impact a wider audience and encouraged inclusivity (see 2.6.2)

Networking and celebration events strengthened connections between the voluntary and community sector and the council

Members were involved in the process through sitting on the Assessment Panels

3.2.2. Evaluation of the 2023 programme

2. Decision-making was shared with ward councillors and local community representatives

Ward councillors from across parties were invited to sit on assessment panels in their neighbourhoods

Assessment panels were chaired by Community Works, our voluntary and community sector infrastructure provider

Councillors from all political parties accepted the invitation to sit on panels

The panel made recommendations to the Deputy Leader, who made the final decision

3.2.3. Evaluation of the 2023 programme

3. We achieved greater understanding, visibility and transparency of the fund by improving our communications and working collaboratively.

Comms strategy with clear objectives for policy team and comms team, as well as set timeframes

Ward Councillors and Community Works circulated the funding and networking opportunities

External comms explained changes and kept people up to date with deadlines. Internal comms to involved staff

Applicants were kept informed of the progress of their application at each stage of the process

Post-application comms on celebration event and case studies on successful applicants to help with content for next round too

3.3.1. Key learnings about our voluntary and community sector

Worthing has a diverse, generous and dynamic **voluntary and community sector**.

Community Works has a unique set of knowledge, skills and networks to share and **we're stronger when we work together**.

Community spaces / buildings are a key issue for groups. This funding has been vital to improving accessibility and supporting ongoing maintenance and improvement to buildings and outdoor areas.

Community assets (i.e. community owned resources and knowledge) are abundant: there is role for digital in making these assets more visible.

3.3.2. Key learnings about the council's role in supporting the voluntary and community sector

The Council has an important role as a **convener** of the community and voluntary sector

Ward councillors are valuable **community connectors / champions**

Facilitation skills are essential for officers and can be learnt through practice.

Communication can still be a challenge between community groups, residents and the council.

3.4. What are the opportunities for 2024 and beyond?

Continued networking amongst the voluntary sector organisations in Worthing

Increased awareness amongst community groups of the role of Ward Councillors

Increase the diversity of applications received to the CIL Neighbourhood Fund

Continue to enable the brilliant work undertaken by the voluntary sector in Worthing

Increase the ability for groups/organisations to apply for match funding toward their project

Improve the accessibility of the application process for applicants

4.0. Recommendations for 2024

4.1.1. The council continue with the same process and governance structure used in 2023 but invites a participatory review of the programme and process with officers, ward members and community stakeholders in March, with a focus on developing the following:

- Design of guidance and support for applicants in developing their project ideas and applications
- Design of communication and engagement strategy (to ensure groups from across areas are aware of the funding opportunities)
- Design of networking events
- Design of the application and assessment forms (informed by user experience)
- Capabilities of officers to act as hosts and facilitators
- The level of scrutiny of each application received, prior to the assessment panel
- Expectations around project commencement and completion including deadlines around any funding conditions
- Guidance on impact reporting for applicants

4.1.2. The council approves the 2024 funding programme timeline:

Date	Stage
14th March 2024	Take report to Worthing Joint Strategic Committee (JSC) to discuss 2023 funding round and improvements for 2024
Mid-late March 2024	Hold workshops with both Officers and Ward Councillors to invite feedback on the update report with a focus on refining funding criteria further and making improvements to the scrutiny of applications and the experience of the panellists.
March 2024	Comms around the confirmed timetable for applications in 2024 and how much CIL funding is available in each 'CIL Area'
April 2024	Open up the 'Expressions of Interest' Stage - for 6 weeks
April 2024	Hold a series of 'Networking Events' early during the Expressions of Interest stage
May 2024	Open up the 'Application' Stage - for 6 weeks / Member briefing
June 2024	Application form closes
July 2024	Assessment Panels held in each CIL Area
August 2024	Draft notification letters sent to all applicants informing them of recommendations made by the assessment panel
September 2024	Report signed off by Deputy Leader regarding which applications are to be funded
September 2024	Send out formal confirmation letter to groups along with copy of the CIL fund agreement for them to sign

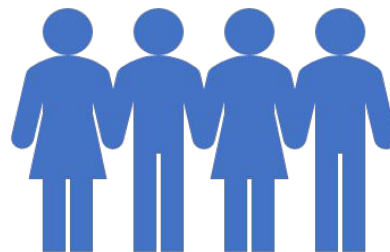
4.1.3. The Cabinet Member for Communities and Young People makes their decision at a public meeting - a report would still need to be published 5 days in advance and the decision would still be subject to the 5 day call-in period but it would be very visible with the applicants in attendance.



4.1.4. For future funding rounds i.e. 2025 onwards, council begins scoping on potential changes (for example participatory budgeting) in spring 2024, taking into account the other corporate grant-giving / commissioning work that supports the local voluntary and community sector and as part of the wider Council for Community offer.



4.1.5. Funded projects which are identified as at risk of not being delivered are to be reviewed by officers with applicants in a timely and supportive manner that manages expectations and safeguards funds.



4.2. Future funding available through CIL - projections for 2024- 2027

- For the 2024 funding round, it is estimated that around **£200k** will be available to groups - which is less than one-third of the amount available in 2023
- This is likely to be only available in 3 'CIL Areas', with two areas having larger amounts of funding - which may result in groups altering their project to meet the CIL criteria
- The forecast CIL receipts over the next few years (up to March 2027) are for a further £680k of funding to be available in the CIL Neighbourhood Fund - dependent on which developments come forward and contribute CIL

CIL Area	Amount of CIL Neighbourhood Funds (15%) available (as at 17/01/24) - rounded to nearest £1k
Coastal East: Heene, Central and Selden	£11,000
Coastal West: Marine and Goring	£86,000
North East: Broadwater and Offington	£0
North: Tarring, Gaisford and Salvington	£0
North West: Northbrook, Castle and Durrington	£101,000