

Warbleton Parish Council Community Fund Consultation and Survey Summary

Report by Cllr Celia Davies, Chairman of
Community Infrastructure Fund

17 February 2021

Survey open 8 December 2020 to 31 Jan 2021

Why did we Consult with community over how to prioritise our future CIL spend?

To meet our obligation under our schemes of delegation:

- To liaise with residents to identify projects that can be funded by CIL
- To prioritise projects and provide a timeline for completion
- To consider the use of Section 106/CIL monies to meet the transport and environmental needs of the villages
- To monitor the CIL budget

How did we do do this? CIL committee put forward suggestions for CIL spend

- 500 flyers printed by local printer promoting online survey
- Distributed throughout Warbleton in partnership with Rushlake Green Village Stores
- Social media inclusion on local platforms as well as WPC website
- Councillor's encouraged to share through their own networks
- Posters in local shop and village noticeboards
- Opportunity for people to also respond via post – all respondents responded digitally

Consultation

Who did it go to?

- Flyer distributed to Warbleton Parish area – approximately 500 households
- Digital content on local digital networks

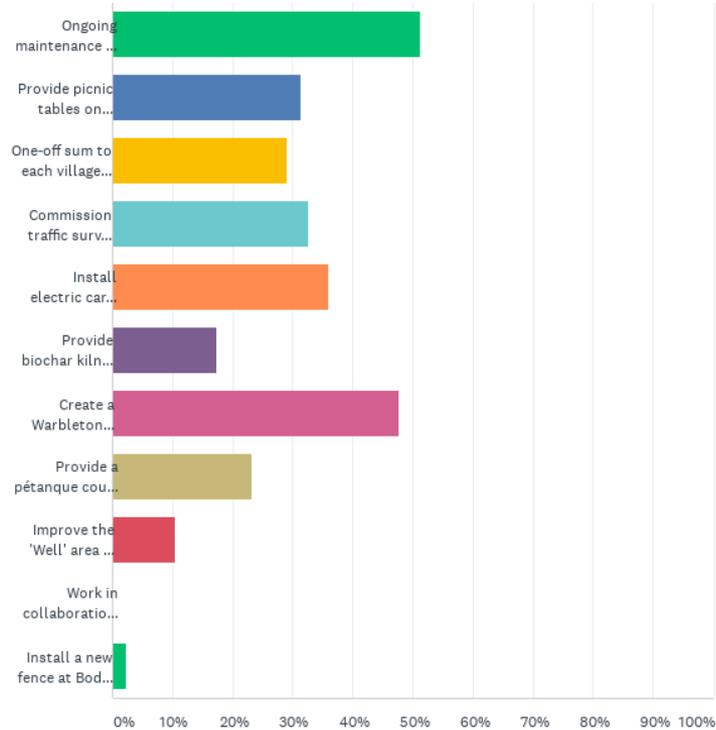
What did we ask?

- Ask people to indicate their top three choices
- Ask people if they had any other ideas
- Flyer also encouraged visits to WPC website
- Encouraged sign ups to WPC newsletter

Total Responses

- 86 respondents – a 17.2% response based on 500 flyers
- In standard surveys, the widely accepted confidence interval is 5%.
- Survey completed within 3 minutes by respondents

Responses to the top three ideas people people would most like to see happen.



Answered: 86 Skipped: 0

Respondents Top Three Choices

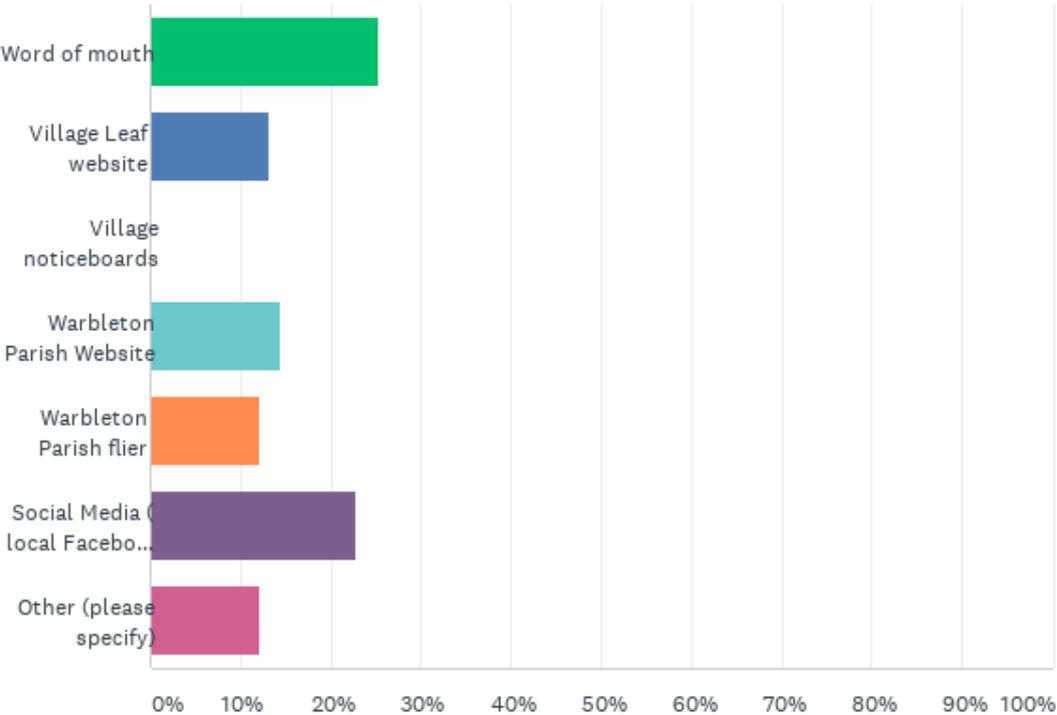
- 1.Maintenance of notice boards, finger posts and benches - 51.16%
- 2.Create a new Warbleton cycling and walking routes map in partnership with local community organisations and local council to promote health and well-being - 47.67%
- 3.Install Electric car charging points in locations across the parish to encourage greener energy use - 36.05%

The long-list of ideas that Warbleton Parish Council are considering allocating CIL funds towards. Respondents asked to select THREE ideas they would most like to see happen.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Ongoing maintenance and purchase of essential parish noticeboards, fingerposts and benches in the Parish	51.16%	44
Provide picnic tables on Rushlake Green for residents and visitors across the Parish to enjoy, promoting well-being and supporting local businesses	31.40%	27
One-off sum to each village hall to boost wifi provision and support hall hirers needs	29.07%	25
Commission traffic surveys in the Parish to assess the ongoing impact of local development	32.56%	28
Install electric car charging points at strategic locations in the Parish to support greener energy use	36.05%	31
Provide biochar kilns for community use (see further information on website to find out more) to support greener communities and reduce our carbon footprint	17.44%	15
Create a Warbleton Parish Walking & Cycling routes map in partnership with local community organisations and local council to promote health and well-being	47.67%	41
Provide a pétanque court on Rushlake Green to promote health, well-being and reduce social isolation the area	23.26%	20
Improve the 'Well' area at Punnett's Town to enhance the village scene e.g. bench, low wall	10.47%	9
Work in collaboration with Heathfield Parish Council to improve a safer crossing area for children and families outside Punnett's Town School, where children from across the Parish attend	0.00%	0
Install a new fence at Bodle Street Green to improve safety on the green for pedestrians	2.33%	2
Total Respondents: 86		

Answered: 86 Skipped: 0

How did people first hear about this opportunity to feedback on Warbleton Parish Council and CIL fund allocation?



Answered: 83 Skipped: 3

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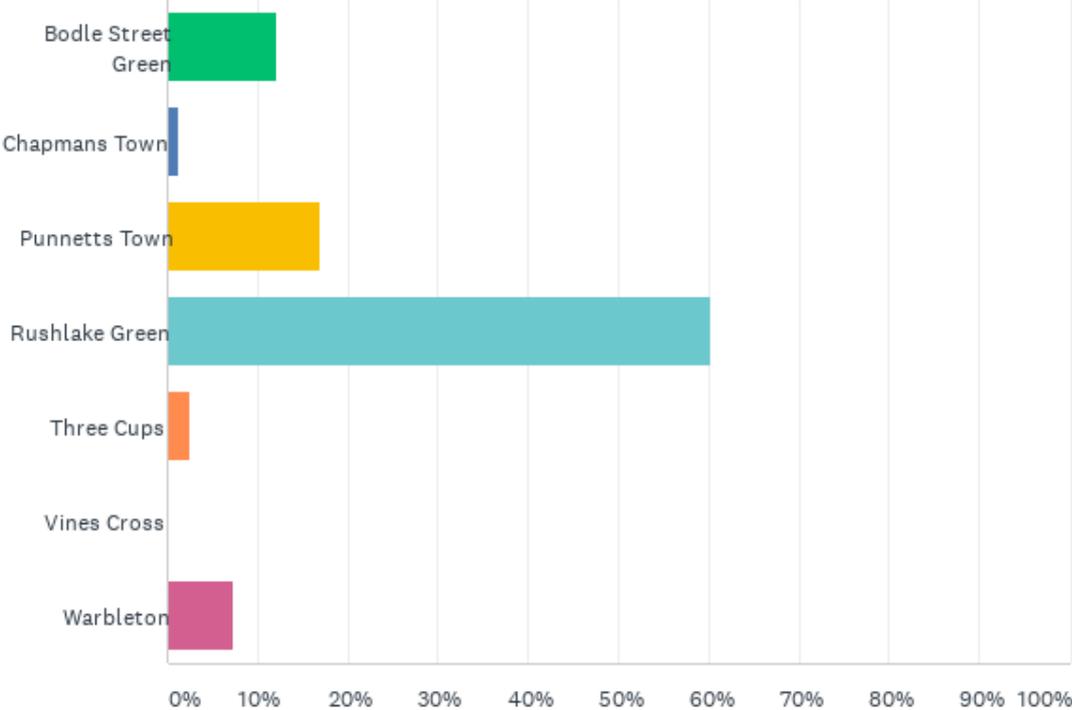
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Word of mouth	25.30%	21
Village Leaf website	13.25%	11
Village noticeboards	0.00%	0
Warbleton Parish Website	14.46%	12
Warbleton Parish flier	12.05%	10
Social Media (local Facebook Groups)	22.89%	19
Other (please specify)	12.05%	10
TOTAL		83

Answered: 83 Skipped: 3

Warbleton Parish Website

159 new users on website in December 2020 and January 2021 – representing 71.9% of all users

Which area of Warbleton Parish Council do you live in?



Answered: 83 Skipped: 3

Which area of Warbleton Parish Council do you live in?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bodle Street Green	12.05%	10
Chapmans Town	1.20%	1
Punnetts Town	16.87%	14
Rushlake Green	60.24%	50
Three Cups	2.41%	2
Vines Cross	0.00%	0
Warbleton	7.23%	6
TOTAL		83

Answered: 83 Skipped: 3

Do you have more ideas you would like to share that you think CIL funds could be used towards that would benefit our local community in the Warbleton Parish area in future years?

45 responses (*Responses 1-9*)

Anything that promotes increased biodiversity across the parish	Maintain the unique green in RG to repair the damage caused by vehicles at the edges.	Repair potholes. Maintain green and dig out old pond at Turners Green
Anti litter signs, on all village entry signs and possibly some local road and lane signs. This is a growing problem in the Parish.	Any traffic slowing/reducing measures.	Anything involving speed calming measures, especially at the South of the Rushlake Green village, to increase safety for residents and visitors, if this is within the CIL remit. This could be something tangible like signage, or an in-depth survey of traffic volume and speeds over a longer time (day/week/month).
Anything to stop speeding traffic through the village	A traffic speed warning sign.	Youth services promoted at local level for parish rooms/village halls. Toddler and early teenage groups

Do you have more ideas you would like to share that you think CIL funds could be used towards that would benefit our local community in the Warbleton Parish area in future years? (Responses 10-18)

<p>Protecting bridle paths e.g. one from Furnace Lane to Hope Farm. Completely impossible to access from horseback, gates impossible to keep open whilst riding through, v deep gully forged by rain over the years. Many complaints to no avail. Keeping footpaths open and safe, eg one across large field south Battle Road next to Hope Farm. Styes falling over insecure.</p>	<p>Funding to maintain footpaths around Rushlake Green, particularly improving access by providing boardwalks over areas that become almost impassable in wet weather. DVH to Kingsley Hill path is particularly bad.</p>	<p>Expert advice sessions in village halls on greening our homes in the next ten years. e.g. the options for replacing oil tanks as fuel source, And consideration of individual/community options for energy generation e.g. could the Green provide space for a community ground source heat pump, is there scope for a community bank of photo voltaic, could wind turbines help? etc.</p>
<p>Improvement of footpaths with clearly defined paths</p>	<p>Do we need traffic surveys when, hopefully, Community Speedwatch will re-start soon and will be able to meet this need - so no cost to Parish CIL funds</p>	<p>Better maintenance of footpaths and stiles including dog crossing places at fences.</p>
<p>I like the idea of improving signage for footpath / bridle paths but before that is done they need to be maintained.</p>	<p>Rushlake Green village clock, which is situated at Osbourne House, to be made electric which would benefit the whole community</p>	<p>Move the start of the 30 speed limit sign currently on NW end of the village back to the Rushlake Green sign</p>

Do you have more ideas you would like to share that you think CIL funds could be used towards that would benefit our local community in the Warbleton Parish area in future years? (Responses 19-27)

<p>Maintenance of footpaths/stiles</p>	<p>Start building a fund to create a lease-based electric micro-car (Citroen Ami or similar) sharing scheme which residents can use for short/quick trips to local towns, reducing the Parish carbon footprint and getting more people used to the convenience of electric vehicles.</p>	<p>Coffee and Company should be given support. If it folds finance to make sure a similar event happens on a regular basis. Obviously once Covid situation has been solved.</p>
<p>My priority above the others would be funding towards projects that support biodiversity like Wild About Warbleton</p>	<p>Family walk routes with learning resources like a activities and things to look for</p>	<p>Group project on behalf of Wild About Warbleton e g Bio diversity within each village.</p>
<p>Invest in ecologically sound initiatives that promote good management of natural resources and nature</p>	<p>To support the Wild about Warbleton group to protect wild flowers in the area.</p>	<p>Please fund a new biodiverse wildflower promoting and protecting mowing regime</p>

Do you have more ideas you would like to share that you think CIL funds could be used towards that would benefit our local community in the Warbleton Parish area in future years? (Responses 28-36)

<p>Wildflower verges, accompanied by informative 'plaques'. WaW are happy to help !</p>	<p>I would like to see it used equally between the parishes for their benefit and not just to one community whatever the need.</p>	<p>A direct footpath and cycle path to Heathfield school</p>
<p>White Gates at entrance to Rushlake Green to indicate 30mph through the Village</p>	<p>Create a walking path around the perimeter of the green at the Punnetts Town Village Hall</p>	<p>A wooden pagoda or 'bandstand' at Bodle Street Green for future outdoor events.</p>
<p>Lots of people in our small villages care about the environment we live in. It is impossible for multiple locals to have safe, convenient charging for electric or hybrid vehicles without driveways. Lots of us here don't have them. Therefore, people don't make the necessary switch to use of EV's, something we should be a pioneer of, rather than being late and possibly missing the mark which will be essential by 2030. (As long as the gov't reaches it's target of no more fuel powered car sales)</p>	<p>Preserve our beautiful countryside, wildlife and footpaths. Improve signposts, repair, bridges, stiles, gates and footpaths. So many lovely countryside walks in our area that can't be used during winter as you can barely stand up in the deep mud!</p>	<p>consider identifying the most high risk roads in the parish for walkers, horse riders and cyclists and consider what improvements and signage could be instigated to improve safety and liaise with Highways to make these improvements happen.</p>

Do you have more ideas you would like to share that you think CIL funds could be used towards that would benefit our local community in the Warbleton Parish area in future years? (Responses 37-42)

Support for the Wild about Warbleton group and their initiatives.	More litter bins	road safety measures especially to slow speeding traffic
Support local biodiversity groups to enable verges and churchyards to flourish with wildflowers and pollinators. Support the ESCC trial to not mow in spring and early summer.	To support changes to the management of Rushlake Green to promote biodiversity, in line with the environmental survey commissioned by Wild About Warbleton. To support renewable energy projects across the parish.	Have attractive map of footpaths and places of interest produced for a village notice board. Also include history of village/area e.g. ironworking, chicken rearing, the 19th century non-ordained bigamist curate who was transported to Australia

Do you have more ideas you would like to share that you think CIL funds could be used towards that would benefit our local community in the Warbleton Parish area in future years?

(Responses 43-45)

Rubbish bins on all the lay-bys as the litter is appalling and as one of those who collect bags and bags of litter each year. At the Top of Marklye Lane, Bodle Street lane, white birch lane where people park up and leave their litter. Also a board walk on the footpath that runs from the Dunn Village Hall to Kingsley Hill. Totally un walkable for many years due to the many natural springs and run off from fields and of course our wetter weather. Boardwalks will protect the erosion of soil and damage and most importantly allow many more to use this for important exercise and well being. Those living in Osborne house who are still reasonably fit would benefit also and it would be nice to be able to walk somewhere without have to wear walking boots or gum boots even wearing these you get stuck in the mud. The field in between gets very boggy too as it has natural springs so a boardwalk across there would protect that field and flora and fauna. It will be expensive so perhaps we could crowd fund over 5/10 years to help towards the cost...run some events and tombolas, donations towards it encouraged also to raise money. I would happily donate towards.

Restore the severely eroded corner at the left turn off Marklye Lane (50°56'34.9"N 0°18'51.8"E 50.943019, 0.314398) and protect against further erosion. This is a safety issue for the village in that mud spread is a slipping hazard and it encourages faster cornering. Heavy rainfall spreads the eroded mud and blocks adjacent gulleys. The patch should also be sown with appropriate wild flowers

Other villages in East Sussex (Hartfield & Maresfield for example) & other counties I'm sure, have pinch points in place to slow traffic down. I have only been in Rushlake Green for 18 months, but have seen the amount of traffic increase enormously. The speed which some of it goes through the village amazes me & I myself have been overtaken on the straight in the 30mph area. We very often have people recording speeds, but nothing seems to come of it. One of the reasons I came here was the quietness of the area & now it's like living on a major road.

What's next?

Short term

Pursue the top three choices for CIL spend, cost them in the first instance and seek partnership finding where possible:

1. Maintenance of notice boards, finger posts and benches
2. Create a new Warbleton cycling and walking routes map in partnership with local community organisations and local council to promote health and well-being
3. Install Electric car charging points in locations across the parish to encourage greener energy use

Communicate this back to the community – we're acting on what they've told us

Mid-term

As we receive further CIL funds, - see if we can investigate more on the respondent's list

Long term

- Take into account other comments from respondents for future CIL spend planning
- Share findings with ESCC and WDC where items under their jurisdiction

Wider Recommendations for WPC:

- WPC now has its first consultation benchmark to build on in the future
- WPC now has a logo it can use should it want to adopt it
- Continue to evolve our communication channels e.g., monitor targets for newsletter sign ups, more content on website etc.
- Work in partnership with local businesses/organisations to engage wider community – online comms, joint projects etc. We gain more engagement through these channels
- Carry out another consultation after 3-5 years

Thank You

Cllr Celia Davies, Chair CIL Committee, February 2021

www.warbletonparishcouncil.co.uk