

*Please reply to:*

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Date: 03 March 2023

## **Notice of meeting**

### **Environment and Sustainability Committee**

**Date:** Tuesday, 14 March 2023

**Time:** 7.00 pm

**Place:** Council Chamber, Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames TW18 1XB

#### **To the members of the Environment and Sustainability Committee**

Councillors:

I.J. Beardsmore (Chairman)	A. Brar	V.J. Leighton
R.J. Noble (Vice-Chairman)	T. Fidler	S.C. Mooney
R.O. Barratt	N.J. Gething	L. E. Nichols
M. Beecher	K.M. Grant	O. Rybinski
J. Button	K. Howkins	J.R. Sexton

Substitute Members: Councillors M.M. Attewell, J.T.F. Doran, C. Bateson, S. Buttar, M. Gibson, H. Harvey, I.T.E. Harvey, N. Islam, T. Lagden, D. Saliagopoulos and S.J Whitmore

*Councillors are reminded that the Gifts and Hospitality Declaration book will be available outside the meeting room for you to record any gifts or hospitality offered to you since the last Committee meeting.*

**Spelthorne Borough Council, Council Offices, Knowle Green**

**Staines-upon-Thames TW18 1XB**

[www.spelthorne.gov.uk](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk) [customer.services@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@spelthorne.gov.uk) Telephone 01784 451499

# Agenda

## Page nos.

### 1. **Apologies and Substitutes**

To receive any apologies for absence and notification of substitutions.

### 2. **Minutes**

5 - 14

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting held on 10 January 2023 and the extraordinary meeting held on 31 January 2023.

### 3. **Disclosures of Interest**

To receive any disclosures of interest from councillors in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct for members.

### 4. **Questions from members of the Public**

The Chair, or his nominee, to answer any questions raised by members of the public in accordance with Standing Order 40.

At the time of publication of this agenda no questions had been received.

### 5. **Ward Issues**

To consider any issues raised by ward councillors in accordance with Standing Order 34.2

At the time of publication of this agenda no ward issues had been received.

### 6. **Green Initiatives Fund Bid - Solar for Laleham Nursery**

15 - 22

To consider approval for a request for funding from the Green Initiatives Fund.

### 7. **Green Initiatives Fund Bid - Sweeps Ditch Works in Staines Park**

23 - 34

To consider approval for a request for funding from the Green Initiatives Fund.

### 8. **Update on Climate Change Strategy**

Verbal Report

To receive a verbal update on the Climate Change Strategy from the Climate Change Officer.

### 9. **Updates from Task and Finish and/or Working Groups**

35 - 36

To receive written or verbal updates on the following Task and Finish/Working Groups:

Community Infrastructure Levy Task Group – written update

Climate Change Working Group – verbal update from Councillor Noble

**10. Forward Plan**

**37 - 40**

A copy of the Environment & Sustainability Committee Forward Plan is attached.

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**Minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee  
10 January 2023**

**Present:**

Councillor I.J. Beardsmore (Chairman)  
Councillor R.J. Noble (Vice-Chairman)

**Councillors:**

R.O. Barratt	N.J. Gething	L. E. Nichols
M. Beecher	K.M. Grant	O. Rybinski
J. Button	K. Howkins	J.R. Sexton
A. Brar	V.J. Leighton	
T. Fidler	S.C. Mooney	

**In Attendance:** Councillors C. Bateson

**1/23 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

**2/23 Disclosures of Interest**

There were none.

**3/23 Questions from members of the Public**

There were none.

**4/23 Ward Issues**

There were none.

**5/23 Green Initiatives Fund Bid - Greenfield Recreation Ground**

The Committee considered a request for funding from the Green Initiatives Fund to purchase and sow wildflower seeds through Greenfield Recreation Ground. Seeds would be purchased from a UK grower to support biodiversity and improve grassy areas of the recreation ground. The project would be monitored with the intention to improve other parks in future.

The Committee noted areas in the borough where similar projects had been completed and feedback received from residents. The Committee felt the project would improve the area and requested an update be given on its progress at a future meeting. This was agreed.

The Committee **resolved** to approve funding of £7,400 from the Green Initiatives Fund to purchase and sow wildflower seeds through Greenfield Recreation Ground.

## **6/23      23/24 Budget**

The Chief Accountant presented the draft budget, fees and charges, growth bids, and savings bids for the committee's areas of responsibility.

The Chief Accountant apologised with regards to the late issuing of two updated documents due to an error with cost codes.

The Chief Accountant highlighted areas in the Net Expenditure Budget where there were differences between the current and previous year. The Committee noted the rise in water costs and that budget managers were exploring what could be done to mitigate costs.

The Chief Accountant introduced the growth bids to the committee's areas of responsibility. The Committee debated whether the bid for Conservation Area Appraisals was required in full for the financial year or if the cost and work could be spread across a number of years in an effort to make savings. The Committee recommended that the bid proceed as requested but that further detail on the proposed growth bids should be provided to members ahead of the budget being reviewed by the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee. The Committee noted the costs related to the emergency planning budget were largely a statutory cost.

The Chief Accountant presented the savings bids.

The Chief Accountant presented the Fees and Charges. Following instruction by the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee, fees had been increased by at least 5% with some increased to a higher level.

The Committee **resolved** to recommend the draft 23/24 budget to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

## **7/23      Feedback on 23/24 Budget Setting Process**

The Committee were asked to provide feedback on the changes to the budget setting process.

The Chief Accountant identified changes that had been implemented following feedback on the budget process the previous municipal year.

The Committee suggested that more information could be provided whether fees were discretionary or statutory. The Committee also felt that further information could be provided on some items and clarity that budget requests were linked to area service plans. The Committee also requested that budget books be tidied for future presentation.

### **8/23      Updates from Task and Finish and/or Working Groups**

The Committee received updates on the work of the CIL Task Group and the Climate Change Working Group.

Councillor Noble provided a summary of items considered by the Climate Change Working Group.

The Committee **resolved** to note the updates from the CIL Task Group and the Climate Change Working Group.

### **9/23      Forward Plan**

The Committee noted a recommendation from the Economic Development Committee to receive a presentation from Heathrow Airport Limited.

The Committee **resolved** to note the forward plan with the inclusion of the additional items agreed at the meeting:

- 1) A presentation from Heathrow Airport Limited
- 2) A Review of Car Parking in Staines from Strategic Planning
- 3) A Review of the Green Initiatives Fund

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**Minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee  
31 January 2023**

**Present:**

Councillor I.J. Beardsmore (Chairman)  
Councillor R.J. Noble (Vice-Chairman)

**Councillors:**

R.O. Barratt	T. Fidler	V.J. Leighton
M. Beecher	N.J. Gething	L. E. Nichols
J. Button	K.M. Grant	O. Rybinski
A. Brar	K. Howkins	J.R. Sexton

**Substitutions:** Councillors S. Buttar (In place of S.C. Mooney)

**In Attendance:** Councillors C. Bateson

**10/23 Disclosures of Interest**

There were none.

**11/23 Ward Issues**

There were none.

**12/23 Questions from members of the Public**

There were two questions from members of the public. These were raised under the relevant agenda item.

**13/23 Local Plan Update and Implications of Revised National Planning Policy Framework**

**19:06** – Councillor Brar and Councillor Buttar arrived at the meeting

The Committee considered a report and presentation outlining the implications of proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework on the submitted Local Plan.

Two questions were received from members of the public in connection with this agenda item:

**Question One from Lynda Fuller:**

**“Preamble:** The NPPF stresses the need for Local Plans to be community led. The Council’s own constitution requires it “to work in partnership with residents to make Spelthorne a place where people are fully engaged, and to encourage the active involvement of the community in the decisions that affect them”. The well-supported and independently conducted survey of Staines residents in the autumn last year revealed that less than 2% of those who had participated in earlier consultations on the Local Plan felt their views had been listened to, and of the whole sample only 2.74% felt the plan for Staines was ‘fair’, 1.61% ‘desirable’, and 0.97% ‘sustainable’.

**Question:** Does the Council (or E&S Committee if it is not authorised to speak for the Council) accept these findings from our independently conducted survey, and if not why not and (if the Council decides to make change to its Local Plan or is instructed to do so by the Planning Inspector) will it endeavour to meet the obligations of its constitution and the demands of the NPPF in relation to community engagement in any consultation on revisions to its Local Plan?”

**Response from the Chair:**

“Community engagement and consultation are integral to the preparation of Local Plans and supplementary guidance documents. Whilst we have fulfilled these obligations and all responses are taken into account, including the survey referred to, this does not mean we can necessarily do everything our communities have asked for. Especially where those communities have competing demands. As we have explained many times, including as part of this evening’s items for discussion, we are bound by national planning policy and this affects what we can and this affects what we can reasonably achieve in sustainable town centres. We have listened to our residents by including the zoning proposals in Staines, where development can come forward with or without an up-to-date Local Plan.

In respect of making changes instructed by an Inspector, an Inspector cannot instruct. They will recommend changes necessary in order to make the plan sound, Spelthorne then chooses whether to do this or not, but if they don’t then it is obviously unlikely the Plan will be found ‘sound’.

I think your comment about listening to constituents goes to the heart of this matter. Spelthorne’s level of public engagement far surpasses the guidelines and goes well beyond the engagement carried out by any other authority I know. All of Spelthorne’s major Residents groups representing many thousands of our residents support the plan. Most of these groups have been

in existence for decades and have a wide knowledge base among their members. Most have been involved in these consultations since 2018. They recognise the big picture that Spelthorne's proposed plan is a sound compromise under very difficult circumstances. Equally as important they recognise the serious threat from predatory development and lost opportunity from not having a plan. These groups in terms of numbers far outweigh any recent input from new groups who at the last minute have decided they are not happy with the plan.

The same principles apply to individual response to the plan where responses supporting the Plan outweigh those not, by nearly 4:1. We are listening to those residents. Their voices have repeatedly been drowned out and they need to be heard since they are overwhelmingly the majority. Listening to our residents? That is exactly what we are doing."

**Question Two from John de Pear:**

**"Preamble:** Planned revisions to the NPPF, published before Christmas and now the subject of consultation until March, set a very clear direction of travel for government housing policy. They have a particular and material weight because they are based on and are an extension of a Written Ministerial Statement. There is a complete and unacceptable disconnect and contradiction between a) the NPPF's insistence that local authorities will not be expected to build developments at densities that would be wholly out of character with existing buildings and b) what is currently in store for Staines in Spelthorne's Local Plan that the Council (in its Foreword to the Local Plan) insists is one that "pleases no-one, (and) will damage our environment and ruin the character of our small and highly constrained borough". The two-page Foreword to Spelthorne's Local Plan that was subject to public consultation is essentially a begging letter for a lower housing target.

**Question:** Does the Council (and/or E&S Committee) accept the conflict between a) the planned revisions to the NPPF that insist local authorities will not be expected to build developments at densities that would be wholly out of character with existing buildings and b) what is currently in store for Staines in Spelthorne's Local Plan that the Council has insisted (in its Foreword) "pleases no-one (and) will damage our environment and ruin the character of our small and highly constrained borough" and will the Council attempt to address this conflict in revisions to its Local Plan?"

**Chairman's Response:**

"The presentation this evening clearly sets out the proposed changes to the NPPF which the Government are consulting on until 2 March 2023. The proposed amendment to paragraph 11 states "strategic policies should, as a minimum, provide for objectively assessed needs for housing and other uses, unless: any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, such adverse impacts may include situations where meeting need in full would mean building at densities significantly out of character with the existing area".

However, paragraph one of the same document proposes adding that local plans are frameworks that 'can provide for sufficient [housing] whilst at paragraph 15 a plan is no longer about 'addressing' housing need but 'meeting' housing need. Explain how this is anything other tightening the pressure on local authorities to meet housing need, especially given the greater emphasis on maximising the use of brownfield sites, something Spelthorne, so far, has not done.

Staines has a lot of taller buildings, and Inland Homes has the go ahead. I cannot believe for one minute you could sustain a planning case against any proposal in Staines just on the grounds of its height. I do not understand your claim of the NPPF's 'insistence' about reviewing the Green Belt. A Green Belt review is still optional just as it always has been. Indeed most of the proposed additions to paragraph 11 are simple repetition of what has always been there. What is new are the contradictory proposals at paragraphs one and fifteen.

This sums up the whole situation. HCWS415 and the review of the NPPF is not about planning but politics. They are full of contradictions and I am sure we could play quote ping pong all night. There is an election coming up and with selective reading people can read whatever they want into the proposals as has already been amply demonstrated. Crucially they are all just that – proposals. It should be noted that the results will not be known until after the May elections.

Spelthorne is a responsible authority, the delusion of selective reading is not open to us as it would be utterly irresponsible to go down that route. Looking at the statement and the proposals as a whole they are a mass of conflicting elements and in the end nothing has really changed."

The Committee received a presentation from the Strategic Planning Manager setting out the proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework that the government was consulting on. Legal advice had been sought on the analysis of the proposed changes and the presented interpretation was found to be sound. None of the proposed changes required Spelthorne to amend its Local Plan as it was still sound against the proposed changes. Most of the changes clarified existing policy provisions, but the only possible implication was that authorities would not have to release green belt to meet their housing need. The Committee could consider proceeding with the Local Plan as planned and noting the proposed changes, or recommending that Council withdraw the Local Plan to review.

The Committee debated the benefits and disadvantages of the options. Some members felt that the amount of green belt proposed for release was appropriate, and would be used to provide affordable family homes, higher levels of affordable housing as well as other community amenities. The Local Plan Task Group had met numerous times to review green belt allocations carefully and felt that the green belt sites proposed in the Local Plan were appropriate. It was noted that removal of green belt sites may intensify the development of brownfield sites in the borough. Members noted the financial

costs that had already been spent on the Local Plan, and that recommending withdrawal would increase those costs. Some members raised that it may be appropriate to recommend withdrawal to review documentation that had been received during Regulation 19 consultation, and noted that other local authorities had withdrawn their local plans from submission. Some members felt that the housing target numbers could be re-evaluated in response to the government's consultation and communications sent from government officials, and alternative approaches should be considered.

Members noted the amount of responses received during the consultation on the Local Plan in relation to the population of the borough. Some members of the Committee acknowledged that large planning applications in the borough had been allowed on appeal as the Council could not demonstrate a five year housing land supply, and proceeding with the Local Plan may protect against speculative development.

The committee voted on the recommendation to note the contents of the report setting out the potential implications of the proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework on Spelthorne's submitted local plan. A recorded vote was requested and the results are as follows:

For (14):	R. Barratt, I. Beardsmore, S. Buttar, J. Button, A. Brar, T. Fidler, N. Gething, K. Grant, K. Howkins, V. Leighton, L. Nichols, R. Noble, O. Rybinski, J. Sexton
Against (1):	M. Beecher
Abstain (0):	

The Committee **resolved** to note the contents of the report setting out the potential implications of the proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework on Spelthorne's submitted local plan.

#### **14/23      Spelthorne Borough Council's Proposed Response to Government Consultation on Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework**

The Committee considered a draft response from Spelthorne Borough Council to the Government's Consultation on proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. The Planning Officer provided a summary of the responses and the points they addressed in the consultation.

The Committee agreed with the draft response to Chapter 6 in relation to beauty which noted that beauty was subjective. The Committee noted the tone of the responses and felt they could be more robust, particularly when addressing the concern of the Council. They recommended that the language in the responses be strengthened, and also address the disparity between communications from government officials and legislation. Some members felt that affordable housing should be at the forefront of the response.

It was proposed by Councillor Fidler, seconded by Councillor Beecher and **resolved** to suspend standing orders so the meeting could continue until 10.30pm.

Members requested that the amended response be circulated to the Committee for review ahead of submission, and this was agreed.

The Committee **resolved** to agree the draft consultation response subject to the proposed changes being incorporated into the final draft.

## Spelthorne Borough Council

### Requests for Funding from the Green Initiatives Fund



Prior to making this application, please consider carefully the criteria below to the make sure you meet and evidence meeting the criteria below. If you do not meet the criteria your application will not progress to the Climate Change Working Group and Environment Sustainability Committee for consideration. If you require any further assistance with completing this form or would like to receive the form and guidance in an alternative format, please ask.

Your project must meet at least one of the following criteria:

The project ...

- a) Contributes to meeting the Council's climate change targets of meeting net zero in the Council estate or the wider Spelthorne community.
- b) Provides opportunities to create and support carbon sink initiatives within the Borough, including landscaping and more tree planting.
- c) Contributes towards reducing the carbon footprint of the Council's estate and the Borough as a whole.
- d) Develops opportunities to improve facilities for walking and cycling in the Borough to help reduce car use.
- e) Encourages more sustainable travel.
- f) Improves and encourages waste prevention and recycling.
- g) Meets Spelthorne Borough Council's objectives for the Environment in the Corporate Plan and complies with at least one of our key objectives.
- h) Contributes to developing opportunities for larger projects which address 'green' priorities within the Corporate Plan.

Applicants must ...

- i) Belong to an organisation that can prove financial stability over a period of time and not have any existing large balances not allocated.
- j) Not apply for multiple elements of financial support for the same objective. (Unless you are specifically requesting match funding.)
- k) Have clearly defined outcomes and deliverables for the funding requested.
- l) Address how they will monitor key performance indicators towards their goals and demonstrate how they have been successful in achieving them.

**Contact details**

Name and position	Francesca Lunn – Service Monitor Dennis Codd – Parks and Open Spaces Manager
Organisation	Spelthorne Borough Council
Charity CIO number (if applicable)	N/A
Address of organisation	
Location services will be provided or project will take place	Laleham Nursery
Contact phone	
Contact email	

**Your Project**

Please provide information to clearly demonstrate what you wish to achieve with the funding you are applying for and how you will measure success.

Please provide as much detail as possible here including who are your stakeholders, where and how the funding will be spent. Please detail the importance of this and why you believe this funding will contribute positively to mitigating or adapting to climate change. Please refer to our Corporate Plan and aims and detail which one/s your proposal supports.

You can also submit additional information to support your application by email.

<b>Considerations</b>	<b>Response</b>
Aims and Project Objectives  Corporate Priority Alignment	The design, procurement, and execution of a solar PV array extension of the nursery's existing solar PV installation to encompass the entire usable area on the roof. The array will extend the maximum generation potential of renewable energy which will be used on site by the Nursery.  This project falls in line with the corporate priority for the Environment, as outlined within the corporate plan.
Business justification provided and options considered including. - Benefits, Deliverables & Objectives	The development will require further design work to include the undeveloped half of the nursery building roof. Therefore, a new supplier must be sourced to provide the array.



<p>- High Level Financials &amp; ROI in terms of carbon savings, wellbeing benefits, reduction in pollution, seed corn funding</p>	<p>Based on an original design survey there is the potential for suitable roof space for a solar array of up to 12kWp. This could generate around 10,400kWh per annum, and supply 25% of the sites electricity demand and make carbon savings of 7.5tonnes of CO2.</p> <p>In 2019 the Council committed to reducing its carbon emissions to net zero by 2050. In 2020, the Council declared a Climate Emergency and in 2022, the climate change strategy was adopted.</p> <p>One key action relevant to this strategy within this proposal is key task 4: <i>“Incorporate energy efficiency measures and renewables into conversions, refurbishments, and maintenance of Council buildings and housing developments.”</i></p> <p>Therefore, through the extension of the solar array, the council will continue to meet the actions outlined within task 4 of the climate change strategy.</p> <p>The original survey was carried out in early 2020 on the suitability of the Laleham Nursery Office &amp; outbuildings for a Solar PV array. The survey concluded there was roof space and suitable roof angle for an array of up to 12kWp. This would have the potential to generate 10,400kWh annually contributing to 25% of the electricity currently used on the site. Given the usable space on the west wing of the building is the same as the east, we can estimate that the values will remain the same through extending the solar array.</p> <p>In the original design, the carbon savings for year one, were estimated to be 7.5tonnes of CO2 and the financial savings would be up to £1,469, increasing year on year with the rising price of grid electricity. The payback period from costs saved from the reduction in grid bought electricity is still expected to be under 8 years. Considering the recent huge increase in the price of electricity, the potential for solar installations to represent significant cost savings has increased dramatically. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that any further extension to the solar array will have a favourable return on investment.</p>
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	The original solar array was awarded £15,000. However, due to the increase in prices brought about by recent increases in inflation we would need to ensure £20,000 for this project, due to the volatility of the market.
How will you measure success?	The array would be considered a success as the initial objectives have been met. Additionally, if the solar array can provide an additional 25% of the current electricity demand to the site, the nursery would receive 50% of its electricity from onsite renewables.
Indicative Timeframes	Given the approval of GIF then quotes will be sourced. The project would be completed by the end of financial year 2023/2024.
Risks	<p>Scaffolding will be required to access roofs, which could restrict vehicle movement and access to outbuildings at the Nursery.</p> <p>If the project is not approved, we risk losing the ability to produce a further 25% saving on electricity, as this would not be made up with renewables.</p> <p>If this project doesn't go ahead, we fail to meet the Council's climate change targets of meeting net zero emissions in the Council estate.</p>
Stakeholder Identification	Responsive Maintenance / Asset Officer Procurement Officer Legal Officer Sustainability Officer Neighbourhood Services Parks and Open Space Manager
Roles & Responsibilities	Project Sponsor, Jackie Taylor Project Manager, Francesca Lunn Project Support, Tim Snook Project Support, John Harris
Communication Plan	Communicate with councillors at the Climate Change Working Group, upon recommendation from MAT.
Amount of funding applied for from Spelthorne	£20,000
Funding agreed from elsewhere	N/A
Please identify where services will be delivered	Continued service delivery at the Laleham Nursery.

How have you identified the need for carbon reduction or environmental improvements?	Through the direction given in task 4 of the climate change strategy, adopted 2022.  Spelthorne Borough Council plans to be Net Zero emissions by 2050 with offsetting through renewable schemes such as this.
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## **Reviewing the application**

Once applications have been received, they will be reviewed to ensure that they meet the criteria.

Where applicants do not meet the criteria, they will be told that their application cannot be taken further and signposted to other potential financial support available for what you are trying to achieve.

If it is obvious that an error has been made and crucial information has mistakenly been omitted, and where we are able, we will endeavour to contact you to give you the opportunity to provide the missing information.

It is important to note that unfortunately meeting the criteria does not guarantee you will receive funding from the Green Initiatives Fund. Applications received and those evidencing that they meet our criteria will be considered by the Climate Change Working Group who will then recommend those to go to the Environment and Sustainability Committee for formal approval.

In exceptional cases we may ask you for further information or clarification during the Climate Change Working Group's consideration of your application. The Environment and Sustainability Committee has the final say. We are required to follow this process as we are using public money and need to follow due process.

## **The final decision and payment**

The Climate Change Working Group may decide to recommend to the Environment and Sustainability Committee:

- a) That your organisation gets awarded the full amount applied for.
- b) That your organisations receive an award for a lower amount than applied for.
- c) That your organisation has been unsuccessful for the current year.

Contact details S.Muirhead [s.muirhead@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:s.muirhead@spelthorne.gov.uk)

**Appendix 1 For Non-Council Organisations the following will also be required**

**Financial status:**

Please provide your last set of audited accounts and preferably, where possible, for the previous year. Please note that these will be treated in the **strictest confidence**, but we need to be reassured that your organisation is financially able to deliver what you are applying for. If you are unable to provide audited accounts, please contact us as a matter of urgency to discuss what you can provide and when. They can be sent securely by email or attached to the electronic application form.

Please provide details of all funding that you have applied for, for the year 2022-2023. Please include any applications you have made for funding that remain pending, along with those refused, agreed, or agreed in part. In addition, if you have been advised that an offer of match funding has been made please include that in the table below.

Other grant or applications for financial assistance for the year 2022-2023

Organisation applied for, for funding	Reason for application to Green Initiatives Fund	Application amount	Current status of application

**The Aims of your organisation:**

It is extremely helpful for the Committee to know about your organisation. How, why and when it was set up and for what purpose. What are your key objectives and how have these changed?

When was your organisation set up?	
If you have charity status when was it awarded?	
Why was your organisation created?	
What are you aiming to achieve?	
How do you measure success generally?	

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## Spelthorne Borough Council

### Requests for Funding from the Green Initiatives Fund



Prior to making this application, please consider carefully the criteria below to the make sure you meet and evidence meeting the criteria below. If you do not meet the criteria your application will not progress to the Climate Change Working Group and Environment Sustainability Committee for consideration. If you require any further assistance with completing this form or would like to receive the form and guidance in an alternative format, please ask.

Your project must meet at least one of the following criteria:

The project ...

- a) Contributes to meeting the Council's climate change targets of meeting net zero in the Council estate or the wider Spelthorne community.
- b) Provides opportunities to create and support carbon sink initiatives within the Borough, including landscaping and more tree planting.
- c) Contributes towards reducing the carbon footprint of the Council's estate and the Borough as a whole.
- d) Develops opportunities to improve facilities for walking and cycling in the Borough to help reduce car use.
- e) Encourages more sustainable travel.
- f) Improves and encourages waste prevention and recycling.
- g) Meets Spelthorne Borough Council's objectives for the Environment in the Corporate Plan and complies with at least one of our key objectives.
- h) Contributes to developing opportunities for larger projects which address 'green' priorities within the Corporate Plan.

Applicants must ...

- i) Belong to an organisation that can prove financial stability over a period of time and not have any existing large balances not allocated.
- j) Not apply for multiple elements of financial support for the same objective. (Unless you are specifically requesting match funding.)
- k) Have clearly defined outcomes and deliverables for the funding requested.
- l) Address how they will monitor key performance indicators towards their goals and demonstrate how they have been successful in achieving them.

## Contact details

Name and position	<b>Tim Snook</b>
Organisation	<b>Spelthorne Borough Council</b>
Charity CIO number (if applicable)	
Address of organisation	
Location services will be provided or project will take place	<b>Staines Park</b>
Contact phone	
Contact email	

## Your Project

Please provide information to clearly demonstrate what you wish to achieve with the funding you are applying for and how you will measure success.

Please provide as much detail as possible here including who are your stakeholders, where and how the funding will be spent. Please detail the importance of this and why you believe this funding will contribute positively to mitigating or adapting to climate change. Please refer to our Corporate Plan and aims and detail which one/s your proposal supports.

You can also submit additional information to support your application by email.

<b>Considerations</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p>Aims and Project Objectives</p> <p>Corporate Priority Alignment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To increase the resilience of Sweeps Ditch from flooding and water loss.</b></li> <li>• <b>To increase the level of biodiversity in the Sweeps Ditch and safeguard against biodiversity decline.</b></li> <li>• <b>To maintain our responsibility as riparian owners in managing and maintaining the Ditch.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Alignment to the corporate priority for the environment, and climate change strategy key action 'Adaptation', key task 71.</b></p>
Business justification provided and options considered including.	<p><b>The works will encompass the creation a pond within the Staines Park section of the Sweeps Ditch, and the installation of 2 underwater sills designed to retain water at times of low water flow.</b></p>



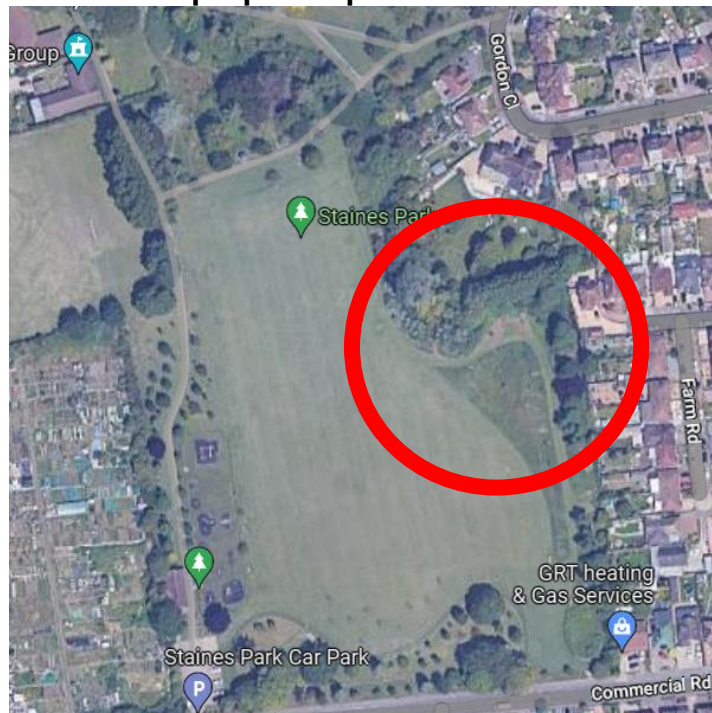
- Benefits, Deliverables & Objectives  
- High Level Financials & ROI in terms of carbon savings, wellbeing benefits, reduction in pollution, seed corn funding


**The proposed pond will be located on the east side of the park, where Sweeps Ditch meanders south (see red circle in below maps).**

**Staines Park Location:**



**Location of proposed pond within Staines Park:**



	<p><b>Further detailed outline of proposed pond:</b></p>  <p>The proposed pond will act as both a flood alleviation mechanism and drought resilience mechanism. Additionally, it will be designed with the target of increasing biodiversity and aiding nature recovery within the area whilst also acting as a carbon sink.</p> <p>Further proposed works include the addition of two sills within Sweeps Ditch in Staines Park. One is proposed to be located on the north-western side of the park, the other in the south-eastern section. They will act as “dams” so that when water levels drop below certain levels in the event of pump failure, catastrophic water loss will be prevented so providing a refuge for fish etc.</p> <p>Staines Park is categorised as a ‘priority flood area’. Therefore, flood management is of high importance given the location of Staines Park relative to the surrounding urban areas. Any works that can be conducted to aid in alleviating flooding risk to residents is necessary. This view is supported by Surrey County Council’s flooding team.</p> <p>Spelthorne Borough Council have a riparian responsibility for this section of Sweeps Ditch as Staines Park is council-owned. Therefore, from a legal and maintenance standpoint, SBC have a duty to act in managing Sweeps Ditch.</p>
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	<p><b>Additionally, the Sweeps Ditch is classified by the Environment Agency as being ‘Main River’. Therefore, as part of the greater associated project works in collaboration with Surrey County Council, a flood risk activity permit will need to be obtained.</b></p> <p><b>With the ever-increasing intensity and frequency of adverse weather events brought about by climate change, any management that can alleviate the worst of these impacts must be taken to reduce climate change-related losses. Additionally, the financial investment in conducting the works will outweigh the potential financial implications associated with increasing flood risk.</b></p> <p><b>Further to adaptation measures, ponds such as the proposed development are known to sequester significant amounts of carbon relative to other carbon sinks such as forests or grasslands.</b></p> <p><b>Following the catastrophic loss of flow in Sweeps Ditch in June 2022, it became apparent that there was a thriving ecosystem within the watercourse, including European Eels. There have also been incidental reports of Great Crested Newts within the existing pond in Staines Park, although the population size or continuing occupation have not been confirmed by follow-up surveys. For this reason, any proposed flood alleviation measures will have to take account of the potential impacts and benefits for biodiversity in their design.</b></p> <p><b>It can be expected that wildlife from Sweeps Ditch will colonise the new pond and use it as a refuge in the case of low water levels in the watercourse itself. Alongside the flood alleviation potential of a new waterbody, the creation of a new pond will expand habitat with the associated benefits to wildlife and therefore contribute towards meeting the Council’s enhanced duty under the Environment Act to take specific, reportable measures to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the areas under our control.</b></p> <p><b>Maintenance of the sills and pond will be undertaken through the use of the sustainability and flooding budget, monitored by the Sustainability Officer. Additionally, any ongoing maintenance surrounding the planned biodiversity features will be included as part of the biodiversity budget and monitored by the Biodiversity Officer.</b></p>
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How will you measure success?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To assess biodiversity gain, a percentage plant cover calculation for the length of the ditch will be conducted before the works commence and during the growing season in the year following completion of the works. Additionally, a similar assessment can be made of water plants and species within the pond.</li> <li>- A renewed flood risk assessment, conducted by Surrey CC</li> <li>- If the pump were to fail again, and if water is retained in sections where work is completed, it can be judged a success.</li> </ul>
Indicative Timeframes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ground works expected to be conducted in autumn/winter 2023, so do not disrupt spawning cycles or habitats at critical stages for biodiversity conservation</li> <li>- Planting will take place at the first opportunity following completion of the ground works, likely in April 2024.</li> </ul>
Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Disruption of great crested newt habitat (to be mitigated by surveying for GCN presence and, if confirmed, the work programme to be designed to avoid disturbance)</li> <li>- Failure of plants to thrive. In this case, an investigation will be carried out by a qualified ecologist to identify the cause and their recommendations followed when replanting is attempted.</li> <li>- As there will be an increased body of water, the risk accident involving water increases. To mitigate this, a warning sign will be placed at the location, and a life ring will be considered.</li> </ul>
Stakeholder Identification	<p><b>Already consulted, and supportive:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spelthorne Borough Council</li> <li>- Surrey County Council</li> <li>- Environment Agency</li> <li>- Staines Park residents' association</li> </ul> <p><b>To be consulted after approval:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Riparian owners surrounding Staines Park</li> </ul> <p><b>Awaiting response, will provide update at E&amp;S:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fields in trust</li> </ul>

<p><b>Roles &amp; Responsibilities</b></p>	<p><b>Both the Sustainability Officer and the Biodiversity Officer will oversee the project through both the planning and implementation stage. They will work with Surrey County Council's flooding team to ensure success as a flood alleviation measure.</b></p> <p><b>The biodiversity officer will be responsible for ensuring local biodiversity is minimally impacted.</b></p> <p><b>The Sustainability Officer will be responsible for liaising with key stakeholders and communication. To work with the Staines Park volunteers to help with the scheme and long-term monitoring as they have shown keen interest in looking after current wildflower areas and the existing pond.</b></p>
<p><b>Communication Plan</b></p>	<p><b>The communications strategy will be as follows:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>• To send letters explaining the proposed works to all associated residents that have houses which back onto Staines Park, particularly within the proposed section of the works and to ask for feedback on the proposals. Then to inform them of the proposed work at least one month in advance. The work has already been outlined to the Staines Park Residents Association.</b></li> <li><b>• A meeting will be held to explain the plans which will be open to all residents to attend.</b></li> <li><b>• Planting will be advertised as a community event to encourage residents/groups/schools to get involved.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Amount of funding applied for from Spelthorne</b></p>	<p><b>£8,000.</b></p> <p><b>This will fund the purchase of pond, stream and marginal plants of UK provenance from a reputable supplier for the new pond and also for stretches of the ditch as it runs through the park. This has been requested by SPRA previously.</b></p>
<p><b>Funding agreed from elsewhere</b></p>	<p><b>£20,000 (Final amount TBC)</b></p> <p><b>Surrey County Council have agreed to fund the majority of the works given it is a flood alleviation project and will provide further biodiversity value to the area. These funds have been provisionally agreed at ~£20,000 but are dependent upon quotes to guide the actual amount. The first initial quote received is £17,000.</b></p>

Please identify where services will be delivered	<b>Staines Park, Staines</b>
How have you identified the need for carbon reduction or environmental improvements?	<b>The need for works has been based on the recent event of catastrophic failure of the Sweeps Ditch pump that led to water loss throughout the ditch for a number of days. The requirement therefore is to ensure key habitat in ditch is retained in the event of a catastrophic pump failure. Additionally, the ongoing need to respond to potential food risk, biodiversity decline and climate change (mitigation and adaptation).</b>

### **Reviewing the application**

Once applications have been received, they will be reviewed to ensure that they meet the criteria.

Where applicants do not meet the criteria, they will be told that their application cannot be taken further and signposted to other potential financial support available for what you are trying to achieve.

If it is obvious that an error has been made and crucial information has mistakenly been omitted, and where we are able, we will endeavour to contact you to give you the opportunity to provide the missing information.

It is important to note that unfortunately meeting the criteria does not guarantee you will receive funding from the Green Initiatives Fund. Applications received and those evidencing that they meet our criteria will be considered by the Climate Change Working Group who will then recommend those to go to the Environment and Sustainability Committee for formal approval.

In exceptional cases we may ask you for further information or clarification during the Climate Change Working Group's consideration of your application. The Environment and Sustainability Committee has the final say. We are required to follow this process as we are using public money and need to follow due process.

### **The final decision and payment**

The Climate Change Working Group may decide to recommend to the Environment and Sustainability Committee:

- a) That your organisation gets awarded the full amount applied for.
- b) That your organisations receive an award for a lower amount than applied for.
- c) That your organisation has been unsuccessful for the current year.

## Appendix 1

Contact details S.Muirhead [s.muirhead@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:s.muirhead@spelthorne.gov.uk)

## Appendix 1 For Non-Council Organisations the following will also be required

### Financial status:

Please provide your last set of audited accounts and preferably, where possible, for the previous year. Please note that these will be treated in the **strictest confidence**, but we need to be reassured that your organisation is financially able to deliver what you are applying for. If you are unable to provide audited accounts, please contact us as a matter of urgency to discuss what you can provide and when. They can be sent securely by email or attached to the electronic application form.

Please provide details of all funding that you have applied for, for the year 2022-2023. Please include any applications you have made for funding that remain pending, along with those refused, agreed, or agreed in part. In addition, if you have been advised that an offer of match funding has been made please include that in the table below.

Other grant or applications for financial assistance for the year 2022-2023

Organisation applied for, for funding	Reason for application to Green Initiatives Fund	Application amount	Current status of application



**The Aims of your organisation:**

It is extremely helpful for the Committee to know about your organisation. How, why and when it was set up and for what purpose. What are your key objectives and how have these changed?

When was your organisation set up?	
If you have charity status when was it awarded?	
Why was your organisation created?	
What are you aiming to achieve?	
How do you measure success generally?	

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### Strategic CIL Update

A decision was made at the December Joint Committee to award CIL funding toward the improvements at Sunbury Health Centre subject to confirmation on resourcing by the NHS. This confirmation has now been received from the NHS in order to proceed with the CIL award.

Due to the dissolution of the Joint Committee, amended governance for Strategic CIL has been drafted. The amendments will make E&S the final decision-maker for Strategic CIL funding. There will be the option to take Strategic CIL bids to CPRC where it is felt appropriate. The amendments also include a shift to a structured annual bidding round. This will make bidding for CIL funding more accessible to bidders, and will allow the Council to align CIL spending with identified infrastructure priorities.

These amendments will be presented to the E&S Committee in April for approval.

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## **Spelthorne Borough Council**

### **Services Committees Forward Plan and Key Decisions**

This Forward Plan sets out the decisions which the Service Committees expect to take over the forthcoming months, and identifies those which are **Key Decisions**.

A **Key Decision** is a decision to be taken by the Service Committee, which is either likely to result in significant expenditure or savings or to have significant effects on those living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the Borough.

Please direct any enquiries about this Plan to [CommitteeServices@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:CommitteeServices@spelthorne.gov.uk).

## Spelthorne Borough Council

### Service Committees Forward Plan and Key Decisions for 1 March 2023 to 30 June 2023

Anticipated earliest (or next) date of decision and decision maker	Matter for consideration	Key or non-Key Decision	Decision to be taken in Public or Private	Lead Officer
Environment and Sustainability Committee 14 03 2023	GIF Bid - Solar for Laleham Nursery	Non-Key Decision	Public	Francesca Lunn, Energy Reduction Officer
Environment and Sustainability Committee 14 03 2023	GIF Bid - Sweeps Ditch Works in Staines Park	Non-Key Decision	Public	Timothy Snook, Sustainability Officer
Environment and Sustainability Committee 14 03 2023	Update on Climate Change Strategy	Non-Key Decision	Public	Jilly Mowbray, Climate Change Officer
Environment and Sustainability Committee 25 04 2023	Establishment of the Community Infrastructure Levy Task Group	Non-Key Decision	Public	Joanna Ghazaleh, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Officer
Environment and Sustainability Committee 25 04 2023	GIF Bid - Tree Nursery and Laleham Nursery	Non-Key Decision	Public	Francesca Lunn, Energy Reduction Officer
Environment and Sustainability Committee 25 04 2023	Presentation from Heathrow Airport Limited	Non-Key Decision	Public	Heather Morgan, Group Head - Place, Protection and Prosperity

Date of decision and decision maker	Matter for consideration	Key or non-Key Decision	Decision to be taken in Public or Private	Lead Officer
Environment and Sustainability Committee 25 04 2023	Q3 Capital Monitoring Report (October-December)	Non-Key Decision	Public	Paul Taylor, Chief Accountant
Environment and Sustainability Committee 25 04 2023	Q3 Revenue Monitoring Report (October-December)	Non-Key Decision	Public	Paul Taylor, Chief Accountant
Environment and Sustainability Committee 25 04 2023	Update on Green Initiatives Fund	Non-Key Decision	Public	Sandy Muirhead, Group Head - Commissioning and Transformation
Environment and Sustainability Committee 27 06 2023	Review of Wildflower Planting	Non-Key Decision	Public	Andi Roy, Bio-Diversity Officer
Environment and Sustainability Committee 27 06 2023	Update on Climate Change Strategy	Non-Key Decision	Public	Jilly Mowbray, Climate Change Officer
Environment and Sustainability Committee	Strategic Planning - Car Parks in Staines	Non-Key Decision	Public	Ann Biggs, Strategic Planning Manager
Environment and Sustainability Committee	240m Boardwalk down the Eastern Bank of the River Ash Improvement Site	Non-Key Decision	Public	Andi Roy, Bio-Diversity Officer

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