



Sturminster Newton Town Council

Agenda Item 26/27/181

Section 106 Funding Application for Water Infrastructure Improvements at Filbridge Rise Allotments

Purpose

To seek Council approval to support a joint application with the Sturminster Newton Allotment Association (SNAA) for Section 106 funding to upgrade the water infrastructure at Filbridge Rise Allotments.

Background

A Section 106 contribution arising from the development at Land at E 377825 N 113305 A357 Access to Woodlands Farm to Glue Hill is currently available for allotment projects. The contribution totals £17,033.59 and is restricted for:

"Towards the provision of new allotments and/or the enhancement of existing allotments (including subsequent maintenance and management) within the Council Area."

The proposed project would improve the water infrastructure serving Filbridge Rise Allotments and is considered to fall within the enhancement of existing allotments permitted by the agreement.

Project Development

The proposal has been developed jointly by the Town Council and the SNAA. Particular recognition should be given to the Chair of the Association, who has undertaken a significant amount of work in developing the project and exploring options to improve the allotment site.

This work builds on the considerable time and effort invested in the previous allotment extension project. The knowledge and research undertaken have informed the development of the current proposal and helped identify a practical alternative solution for improving allotment provision.

As a result, a substantial amount of preparatory work has already been completed, placing the Council and Association in a strong position to submit a funding application and progress the project if funding is secured.

Other Section 106 Funding

Members should note that this funding is separate from the £45,401.91 Section 106 contribution associated with the Corallian Heights development. That contribution is restricted to the provision of new allotments and is therefore not currently available for improvement works at the existing Filbridge Rise site.

Urgency

There is some urgency to progress the application. If approved, the works should ideally be completed ahead of the 2027 growing season to maximise the benefit to allotment tenants and avoid delaying the improvements for a further year.

Financial Implications

The project would be funded through the Section 106 contribution, subject to Dorset Council approval. No direct financial contribution from the Town Council is currently proposed.

Recommendation

That the Town Council:

1. Supports a joint application with the Sturminster Newton Allotment Association for Section 106 funding from the Land at E 377825 N 113305 A357 Access to Woodlands Farm to Glue Hill contribution.
2. Notes that the available contribution totals £17,033.59 and may be used for the enhancement of existing allotments.
3. Authorises the Town Clerk to submit the application and supporting documentation.
4. Records its appreciation of the significant work undertaken by the Chair of the Sturminster Newton Allotment Association in developing the proposal.