

### **New Winchester Town Improvement Fund launched**

I'm writing to you on behalf of Winchester Town Forum – the consultative and advisory body on issues affecting the 5 Winchester Town district wards.

The Town Forum has recently set up a Town Improvement Fund (TIF) to support community-led improvement of the environment and infrastructure in the Town area and is drawing up a long list of potential projects to fund. We are now inviting project proposals from community organisations and local groups in the Winchester Town area.

The TIF is funded by the neighbourhood portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) raised from developments in the Town area. By creating this improvement fund, the Town Forum wishes to ensure that this portion of the CIL is used most effectively for Community benefit.

The Fund is aimed at one-off capital projects which address individual neighbourhood or multi-neighbourhood issues in Winchester Town. Priority will be given to proposals that support the aims of the Vision for Winchester Town, local community plans, and any other strategies relevant to the Town area.

It is envisaged that proposals will generally have an estimated cost to the Fund of between £1,000 and £50,000. There may be higher value projects where CIL funding is considered appropriate but, in such cases, it is likely that the Town Forum's contribution to the total would be no more than £50,000.

Groups who are considering a scheme for funding are recommended to discuss their idea with relevant ward councillors before submitting a proposal. Detailed information on how to submit a proposal to the Town Improvement Fund can be found on the City Council web site <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/CIL>. Proposals can be submitted between February and September each year.

This is an exciting opportunity for our communities to shape improvements in their area in ways that will really meet the needs of local people. I very much hope your organisation will get involved and work with your local councillors to bring forward strong project proposals for funding.

Kind regards,

Cllr Anne Weir  
Chair, Winchester Town Forum  
Winchester City Council