

Sevenoaks District Council

Community Infrastructure Levy Spending Board

Bid for Funding Pro-forma

Infrastructure Only

Scheme name:	Heart of the Valley - Enhancing the Darent Valley Path through the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme
Description of Scheme:	<p>To improve the standard of the Darent Valley Path (DVP) to create an integrated sustainable transport corridor through the Darent Valley providing a viable alternative to the car for residents and visitors. This project will raise the quality of the DVP so that it is befitting of a county promoted route. Where possible it will make provision for cyclists to either use the path or an alternative parallel route, and enhance links to train stations along the route (including the provision of bike storage) to encourage sustainable travel.</p> <p>Waymarking and interpretation along the route will be improved and updated to provide a better understanding of the heritage features of the valley. The path will also be extended from Chipstead to Westerham to provide a 'complete' Darent Valley experience.</p> <p>Enhancement, signing and interpretation on associated circular routes will be undertaken.</p>
Is this scheme promoted by your organisation in partnership with another organisation (s)?	<p>Yes/No</p> <p>The Darent Valley Landscape Partnership is led by the Kent Downs AONB Unit (KCC is the host authority) with several partner organisations representing the public sector, private sector, local communities and charitable organisations. The partners that sit on the DVLPS Partnership Board are listed below</p> <p>Who is involved in the Partnership. Organisation Name (s): Heritage Lottery Fund (Simon Shaw) Ashmolean Museum (Colin Harrison); Connect Plus/Highways England (Will Salvetti); Darent Valley Parish Councils (Rod Shelton, John Evans, Geoff Kirby), Environment Agency (Tom Cook), Kent County Council - Country Parks and Countryside Partnerships (Isabel Shaw); Kent County Council Heritage (Lis Dyson);</p>

	<p>Explore Kent (Stephen Law); Kent Wildlife Trust (Dave Hutton); National Farmers Union (William Alexander); Southeastern Trains (Nina Peak); Sevenoaks District Council (Helen French); Wide Horizons (Liam Mills). Dartford Borough Council (Tony Phillips) also sit on the Partnership Board representing interests in the Dartford section of the Darent Valley.</p> <p>Responsible individuals (s): See above</p> <p>Signature (s) on behalf of other supporting organisations (s): DVLPS Partnership Agreement with signatures attached.</p> <p>Please provide details of the Agreements you have in place with your partners. Including the % of money guaranteed for the scheme from each organisation.</p> <p>The Heritage Lottery Fund provides much of the funding for the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme as a whole (£2.1m out of a total of £4m for the scheme as a total). Grant notification letter to be forwarded.</p>
<p>Is planning permission required for the scheme?</p>	<p>Yes / No</p> <p>If yes, has it been applied for? No</p> <p>If no - please explain why? The Heart of the Valley project is a package of several works within the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme. Permission to start has only just been provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and the scheme will run over a five-year period until 2022. Specifications are being finalised and will form the basis for applying for planning permission (should it be required).</p>
<p>Details of any other consent required (if appropriate (e.g. conservation, Listed Buildings, other Govt Bodies):</p>	<p>Consent required: Land Drainage Consent (Environment Agency); SSSI consent (possibly)</p> <p>Date applied for / granted: Not yet applied for.</p>

Need for the Scheme

<p>List of projects or development that result in the need for this scheme:</p>	<p>The need for the 'Heart of the Valley' project has been generated by the increased population within the northern half of the district and the consequential increase in demand for recreational and leisure transport. The Darent Valley Path is an opportunity to cater for this growth in the population created by the significant recent developments and future housing provision in Sevenoaks, Swanley and the villages along the valley from Westerham to Horton Kirby.</p> <p>The development at Fort Halstead is located close to the Darent Valley Path and is likely to contribute to increased demand on the use of the Darent Valley as a leisure and recreation resource due to its proximity. In addition, the greater demand placed on the transport network because of these developments requires a viable alternative to car use for shorter journeys to stations, between villages and to stations.</p>
<p>How is the scheme related to these developments (additional information, such as usage forecasts and existing and alternative capacity assessments, can be attached as an appendix):</p>	<p>Due to the nature of this project which will be delivered over a distance of 21km in the northern half of the district, it relates to most developments within Sevenoaks, Westerham, Brasted, Sundridge, Chipstead, Dunton Green, Otford, Shoreham, Eynsford, Farningham, Horton Kirby and South Darenth. The enhanced and extended DVP will provide transport opportunities for existing and new residents.</p> <p>In addition, there is additional pressure from outside the district with additional housing in Dartford and Gravesham boroughs that places greater visitor pressure on the Darent Valley as the closest and most accessible (by car) area of attractive countryside. This is most acute due to the proximity of Ebbsfleet Garden City with its 15,000 new homes over the next fifteen years.</p>

<p><u>Please provide an explanation of the 'public benefit' of the scheme proposed for residents in Sevenoaks District:</u></p>	
<p>Economic</p>	<p>This project will enhance the rural tourism potential of the Darent Valley to facilitate sustainable access, benefit the local rural economy and develop the opportunity for an increased number of paying visitors to reach it from nearby urban areas. It will improve accessibility to tourist destinations and rural businesses by means other than cars, increase use of rural public transport, increase the numbers of visitors reaching the valley in a sustainable manner, and open new rural business opportunities. It will be integrated with work delivered elsewhere by the DVLPS that will provide training for local communities and business to participate and contribute to promoting the valley as a tourist destination.</p> <p>In its management plan, the Kent Downs AONB recognises the role that sustainable tourism plays in supporting a strong rural economy</p>

	<p>and supporting vibrant communities. Its role is to support local businesses and communities to achieve this. An audience development consultation undertaken by the AONB in 2016 (attached) to support the development of the DVLPS, demonstrated that whilst the Darent Valley landscape is highly appreciated, the main barriers to visiting are not knowing where to go and transport issues. With central London only 15 miles away, and a population of 3.2m people within 10 miles, the potential is considerable.</p> <p>However, the valley is largely seen as close to capacity for visitors travelling by car, and there is a need to provide sustainable forms of travel that don't detract from the quality and value of the landscape.</p>
Social	<p>Congestion and increased traffic remain constant issues for communities in the Darent Valley, and there is genuine concern that the proximity of London, a growing population and increased numbers of visitors will affect the quality of life and damage the area's landscape character. This project will help to mitigate these issues by providing a convenient, integrated, attractive and more usable modes of transport to explore and move through the valley.</p> <p>An enhanced Darent Valley Path will provide a traffic-free linear route for walkers and cyclists that will connect the main urban centres in the northern half of the district, as well as the villages and towns in the valley bottoms. In addition, linking routes will be provided to stations within the valley to improve integration with other transport modes. This will not only provide safe connecting routes for commuters and school trips, but also for visitors to explore the valley at a more leisurely pace.</p> <p>The Heart of the Valley project is a constituent component of the wider DVLPS scheme which will enhance and conserve the heritage and landscape of the Darent Valley. The Darent Valley Path will facilitate access to the work that the DVLPS will undertake at many of the key natural and heritage sites in the valley. Consequently, this will enhance knowledge and awareness of these sites and support their future protection.</p> <p>The health benefits of walking and cycling are well known and documented in strategies such as the Sevenoaks District Strategy for Transport, Sevenoaks District Community Plan, Sevenoaks District Cycling Strategy, and Kent Active Travel Strategy. There is considerable demand for safe traffic-free routes that can be used by communities and visitors, and the provision of this through the DVP will make a significant step towards providing for this.</p>

<p>Environmental</p>	<p>With the lead for the DVLPS being the Kent Downs AONB Unit, there is recognition that the DVP in Sevenoaks District falls almost entirely within this internationally protected landscape. In its management plan 2014-2019, its vision for 'Access, enjoyment and understanding' of the AONB is:</p> <p>"In 2034... the Kent Downs AONB is a place of natural beauty with opportunity and access for all people; they feel welcome to participate in quiet recreation for health, relaxation, enjoyment and for cultural and artistic expression. Improved management ensures that the Public Rights of Way and much of the highway network is safe, quiet and convenient for walkers, cyclists and horse riders and public transport is an attractive option to reach and enjoy the landscape. Maintenance of the Public Rights of Way and highway network is sympathetic to biodiversity and landscape character."</p> <p>In addition, it has a specific policy that states:</p> <p>"AEU7 - Improvements to the Rights of Way Network to provide and improve countryside access, health and well-being opportunities, including way-marking, signposting and maintenance, new routes and establishment of higher rights which conforms with AONB policies and design guidance, will be supported."</p> <p>The Heart of the Valley project will deliver these aims and will provide improved environmental enhancements such as reduced air pollution, greater awareness of landscape character, important biodiversity, and heritage features within the valley.</p> <p>In addition, it will be integrated into the wider DVLPS suite of projects that will conserve important habitats such as the chalk river and riparian land, chalk grassland, woodland and historic parkland.</p>
<p>Is the need for the scheme identified in any adopted strategy/plan? E.g. Neighbourhood Plan, Work programme of a Statutory Body, Infrastructure Plan (Reg 1,2,3 list). If so, which?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sevenoaks District Council Local Plan • Kent Downs AONB Management Plan 2014 - 2019 • Local Transport Plan 4: Delivering Growth without Gridlock 2016-2031 • Sevenoaks District Strategy for Transport 2010 - 2026 • Sevenoaks District Community Plan • Sevenoaks District Cycling Strategy • Kent Active Travel Strategy • Kent Countryside Access Improvement Plan • Kent Downs AONB Unit (Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme) Landscape Conservation Action Plan
<p>Funding</p>	
<p>Total project cost:</p>	<p>£405,460</p>

Funding required from CIL:	£255,230
Identify other funding sources for this project, what contribution they are making and why these can not be used to fund the scheme in its entirety	1) Heritage Lottery Fund - £112,130. HLF fund landscape partnerships at a percentage rate and require recipients to find match funding to make up the scheme's pot. This has been agreed and signed up to. The grant rate cannot be increased.
	2) Kent Wildlife Trust - Member donations £38,100. This donation cannot be increased and was part of a legacy payment to the Trust.
	3)
	4)
	5)
	6)
Is this bid for staged payments?	Yes/ No
Will staged payments be accepted?	Yes/ No Details of anticipated funding requirements and timetable: The funding timetable is currently being reviewed and will be provided upon completion.


Has a bid(s) for CIL funding been made to relevant town and parish councils?	<p>Bid made: Yes / No</p> <p>Details of bid:</p> <p>Decision made: Yes / No</p> <p>Details of decision:</p>
Would the scheme be fully funded if the CIL contribution is agreed:	Yes / No
Has this scheme benefited from CIL funding previously:	<p>Yes / No</p> <p>If Yes; Please provide further justification as to why further CIL funding is required for this project.</p>
<u>Deliverability</u>	
Does your organisation have the legal right to carry out the proposed scheme?	<p>Yes / No</p> <p>If not, you must attach documentation showing that the statutory provider of this service supports this scheme.</p>
Anticipated start date for delivery of the scheme:	February 2018
Anticipated finish date for the delivery of the scheme:	July 2022
Anticipated date when CIL funding will need to be made available:	Yearly from 2018/19
Does land need to be purchased to facilitate the scheme:	<p>Yes / No</p> <p>Details:</p>
Please provide a consultation plan to let SDC know when they can expect progress reports on the project.	Audience Development/Consultation attached.

Please provide details of the management and timescales of the project.	
Has consultation been carried out on the scheme or is any planned?	<p>Carried out / Planned / No Consultation planned</p> <p>Details: An Audience Development Plan was undertaken in the preparation for the DVLPS as a whole</p> <p>(Note: Results can be attached separately if necessary.)</p>
Is a relevant SDC ward member(s) supportive of the scheme?	<p>Yes / No</p> <p>Signature of at least one SDC ward member: Email from Cllr Philip McGarvey being sent directly by email.</p> <p>Note - An e-mail from them to cil@sevenoaks.gov.uk would also be sufficient.</p>
Is the relevant town/parish council supportive of the scheme?	<p>Yes / No</p> <p>Signature of at town/parish council chairman, clerk or chief executive:</p> <p>Letters of support for the DVLPS to be forwarded.</p> <p>Note - An e-mail from them to cil@sevenoaks.gov.uk would also be sufficient.</p>
Maintenance	
Which organisation will be responsible for ongoing maintenance:	Kent County Council
Are funding arrangements in place for maintenance:	<p>Yes / No</p> <p>Details:</p>
Any further comments:	Further detailed information can be found in the DVLPS Landscape Conservation Action Plan, notably projects 3A, 3B.1, 3C, 3D and 4D.4. Please note that these also include references to work in Dartford Borough, and these have been omitted from the funding

	<p>requirement.</p> <p>Supporting documents can downloaded using the links below:</p> <p>DVLPS Landscape Conservation Action Plan Parts 1 & 2 (see background papers)</p> <p>DVLPS Landscape Conservation Action Plan Part 3 (see background papers)</p> <p>DVLPS Public Survey Results</p> <p>DVLPS Audience Development Plan</p> <p>DVLPS Strategic Landscape Enhancement Plan</p> <p>DVLPS Partnership Agreement (signed)</p> <p>Sustrans report for Darent Valley Path (available on request)</p>
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Declaration

I am authorised to submit this bid for funding on behalf of the organisation that I represent. At the time of writing, the information contained in this submission (including appendices) is correct and true to the best of my knowledge. If CIL funding is committed and circumstances change prior to the completion of the scheme, the organisation that I represent will notify Sevenoaks District Council. The Council will reserve the right to reconsider the allocation of funding. If CIL funding is committed to the above project then the organisation that I represent commits to providing Sevenoaks District Council with sufficient information to enable it to undertake its reporting requirements under the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended), or any subsequent relevant regulations.

Signature	
Name	Rick Bayne
Position	Landscape Partnerships Manager
Organisation	Kent Downs AONB Unit

<p>Name, role and contact details of the person that will be attending SDC's CIL Spending Board to support this bid:</p>	<p>As above. rick.bayne@kentdowns.org.uk 01634 242826</p> <p>Kent Downs AONB Unit, The Cedars, Holborough Road, Snodland, ME6 5PL.</p> <p>Please note that as of 21 December 2017, the new address will be: Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme, The Tea Barn, Castle Farm, Redmans Lane, Shoreham, Sevenoaks, TN14 7UB</p>
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