

From: The Clerk of SMPC
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2026 4:55 PM
To: Cally Morris; The Clerk of SMPC
Cc: Ian Macfarlane
Subject: Fw: RE: Request for financial contribution towards Phase C of the Mortimer to Burghfield Cycleway project

Dear Cally,

Thank you for your email.

Before I turn to the further information sought, I hope that it is useful to give an overview and a timescale of recent actions.

Project overview

The Mortimer to Burghfield Footpath and Cycleway is a strategic active travel project designed to provide a safe off-road walking, cycling and equestrian route, principally linking the communities of Mortimer and Burghfield, but also providing accessibility to both villages by the adjacent parishes.

The scheme has been developed over a number of years and, most recently, has resulted in a significant investment in design work, planning approvals, environmental surveys, legal agreements and construction. This parish council has committed in excess of £345,000 towards the development - to date the project has been funded entirely from our CIL receipts.

The completed route will provide a safer and sustainable travel option for residents of all the local parishes, improving opportunities for walking, cycling and access to local facilities.

Recent project milestones

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>
Planning application submitted	June 2023
Planning permission granted	December 2023
Planning conditions discharged	2024 –2026
Phase A completed and opened	May 2026
Phase B currently underway	June 2026
Phase C is due to follow the completion of Phase B	

The request for further information

There is a deal of overlap between the responses to be given to each of your four bullet points, and I trust that this overarching response answers the questions being raised.

Matched funding

You refer to matched funding and a Members ' Bid. As you will know, the deadline for submission of projects for consideration by Ward Members has passed, so this is no longer an option.

However, we are currently making an application to the Good Exchange and hope to be able to maximise contributions from other funders (see below) via this route.

Project costs to date

The project costs to date can be broadly split into two distinct areas – (a) pre-construction design and planning, and (b) construction of Phases A (College Piece to Longmoor Lane) and B (Five Oaken Cottage to the double roundabouts).

Design work, the planning application, the pre-commencement discharge of planning conditions, and legals has cost a total (rounded) of £105,000.

Phases A and B have/will cost (some elements have been committed to, but not yet paid for) a total (again rounded) of £241,000.

Future costs

The road crossing at the northern end of the route (between the double roundabouts at the end of Goring Lane) will be funded and constructed by West Berkshire Council.

We anticipate that Phase C (Longmoor Lane to Five Oaken Cottage) will cost in the region of £75,000.

Phase D (improvements to the footpath bordering College Piece) will be considered once Phase C is complete (but the route can operate without it).

Future timescales

We have not yet sought formal costings for Phase C (the figure above is indicative), but are due to do so shortly. We currently anticipate that completion of Phase C would take six to eight weeks (subject to contractor availability), once a contract is agreed.

Contributions Received

As well as approaching Burghfield Parish Council, we approached Sulhamstead and Wokefield Parish Councils, and they have committed to significant contributions (by reference to their precepts) of 25% and 10% respectively.

This council is extremely grateful for the support shown by these neighbouring parishes in recognising the wider benefits of the scheme.

Current Funding Position

This council has no illusions about CIL funding opportunities, or the general financial pressures faced by parishes. However, our members consider that this project is an extremely important one to complete, in order to give a safe route between the villages which currently doesn 't exist.

Conclusion

This council therefore hopes that Burghfield Parish Council will wish to contribute towards Phase C, reflecting the importance of the scheme to both communities.

I hope the above information is helpful. Should your members require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kind regards,

Danielle Davis
Parish Clerk
Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
07436807543

From: Cally Morris <clerk@burghfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk >
Sent: 29 May 2026 12:39
To: The Clerk of SMPC <the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk >
Cc: Ian Macfarlane <i.macfarlane@burghfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk >
Subject: RE: Request for financial contribution towards Phase C of the Mortimer to Burghfield Cycleway project

Dear Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council,

Further to the recent request from Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council regarding a financial contribution towards Phase C of the Mortimer to Burghfield Cycleway project, I can confirm the matter was considered by members at the recent meeting of Burghfield Parish Council.

Members appreciated the attendance of the representative from Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council and the opportunity to discuss the proposal further.

During discussion, members noted that the original request did not include detailed supporting information relating to the project, funding arrangements or overall scheme costs. Members therefore felt that some further context and clarification would be helpful before the Council is able to give the request further consideration.

In particular, members requested further information regarding:

- * The proposed funding arrangements and any associated match funding requirements in relation to the Members Bid.
- * A general funding overview for the wider project and its phases;
- * Indicative timescales for the scheme;

- * Clarification regarding the current funding position for the project overall.

It was also noted during discussion that neighbouring parishes may not yet have been approached regarding the proposal and that some aspects of the wider scheme are still evolving.

Members also discussed the wider financial pressures currently facing parish councils, particularly in relation to future Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding opportunities and therefore considered it appropriate to seek further information before reaching any decision.

Accordingly, members resolved unanimously to defer the matter pending receipt of the additional information requested, at which stage it can be considered again by Council.

We would be grateful if the above information could be provided when convenient.

Kind regards

Cally Morris

BA (Hons) Community Governance

Clerk to Burghfield Parish Council

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