

Explanation of Foxton Parish Council S106 funding

Over the past year, Foxton Parish Council has been investigating possible uses for S106 funding. We are taking this opportunity to update you on what these funds are, how they can be used and the reasons why applications made have been given or refused funds to date.

What is S106 funding?

Section 106 Agreements are legal agreements between Local Authorities and developers. These agreements are a way of delivering or addressing matters that are necessary to make a development acceptable in planning terms. They can be used to support the provision of services and infrastructure, such as highways, recreational facilities, education, health and affordable housing.

South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) give guidance based on policies in the current Local Plan, on what the S106 money can and cannot be spent on, but leave the details and decision making to the Parish Council.

We have been given S106 funds for 4 different criteria:

- a) **Indoor community facilities** – currently the Village Hall. S106 funds can be used for improving facilities both inside and around the hall to meet the growing needs of the community.
- b) **Outdoor community facilities** – The acquisition of land or facilities, the laying out and construction of land including sport pitches, facilities and equipment for play and / or sport and informal open space and the improvement or upgrading of land including sports pitches, facilities and / or equipment for play or sport and informal open space.
- c) **Public Art provision**
- d) **Foxton Dovecot and Dovecot field**

Further details on these categories can be found on the Parish Council website at www.foxtonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Over the past 11 years, we have received approximately £140,000, of which £17,000 is allocated for a), £111,000 for b), £7500 for c) and £5000 for d).). All funds must be spent within 10 years of receipt.

Last year we asked clubs, organisations and other interested parties in the village for applications and ideas for spending these funds. This was in addition to ideas and plans that we had ourselves. In the first instance, all these were passed to the S106 officer at SCDC to assess eligibility and suitability against the funding criteria.

Below is a list of ALL applications and a short description of their status plus reasons for our decisions.

1. Cambridge & District Amateur Radio Club – radio antenna/flagpole on recreation ground -£4900. Ineligible.
2. St Laurence Church – Surveying churchyard extension -£10,000. Ineligible.
3. Foxton Football Club –irrigation system - £11,000 –Declined by Foxton Parish Council as not being compatible with Environmental policies on the recreation ground.
4. Catherine Cairns –more wildflowers in Dovecot meadow -£600 – Proposed for S106 funds but now a Zero Carbon grant from SCDC for £800 will be used.
5. Parish Council – new hedge on churchyard side of recreation ground plus new tree, picnic tables and seating. Approx. £6000 –**part approved but half the costs to be funded from Recreation Ground Trust.** £900 worth of free hedge plants came from the Woodland Trust. The mixed native hedge will provide a better visual and ecological friendly boundary.
6. Foxton Cricket Club – permanent cricket nets –Approx. £32000: Under consideration.
7. Foxton Parish Council – ecological and habitat improvement on Illingworth Way side of the recreation ground – not costed: Under consideration.
8. Foxton Parish Council – new play equipment on the recreation ground – Approx. £84000: Under consideration.
9. Foxton Parish Council – Bike trails on the old basketball court –Approx. £5000: Under consideration.
10. Friends of the Dovecot meadow – new interpretive display panel - £1995 – **Approved and installed.**
11. Foxton Parish Council – repairs to the Dovecot thatch –Approx. £2500 – **Approved and completed.**
12. Future Foxton residents group – relocation of recreation ground play area, multipurpose shelter and seating area plus village hall serving hatch. Approx. £128500: Under consideration.
13. Foxton Village Hall Trust – extension to the storage facilities in the Village Hall –Approx. £25000: Under consideration pending review of village hall storage facilities.

14. Foxton Bowls Club – New clubhouse – Approx. £32700: Under consideration.
15. Foxton Tennis Club – resurfacing of 2 courts, new fencing and paving – Approx. £43000. **Approved £15000 of S106 funds. Tennis Club have £17,000 to put to this project and will have to fund raise the balance.**
16. Foxton Parish Council -Verti-draining area on recreation ground **-£125 – Approved.**
17. Foxton Parish Council – Grass re-seeding of the whole recreation ground in Spring 2021 –**Approx. £2600 –To be considered at the Parish Council meeting on 1st March 2021 as this one off seeding will benefit the whole environmental balance of the ground for all users.**

A number of these projects are overlapping and are dependent on a holistic review of the recreation ground. As part of this review we have, and will continue to engage with applicants and other interested parties. Once the review is complete we propose to present ideas and proposals to the village for comment and feedback.

We clearly haven't got sufficient funds to fully fund all the projects so where the cost of any project is over £5000, a proportion of the cost will have to be met through other sources e.g. fund-raising, grant funding.

A key consideration in allocating S106 funds is to ensure that they will benefit as many Foxton residents as possible.

Further information can be found on the Parish Council website including a tracker document that tracks the progress of these projects which is updated on a regular basis.