

AFM/07/09

Forum: Mid Essex Area Forum

Date: 23 July 2009

ESSEX COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND 2009/10

Report by: Councillor Joe Pike, Chairman, Mid Essex Area Forum

Contact: **John Symonds**, Area Co-ordinator Mid Essex -
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1. Purpose of Report

To inform members of the Forum about the implementation of the Community Initiatives Fund in 2009/10.

2. Background

The CIF makes available small to medium sized capital grants to local communities for projects which will improve the quality of life of local residents - improvements to village halls, new play equipment, open spaces and other community facilities. Over the four years from 2005 to 2009 the various streams of the CIF have allocated £9 million to almost 1,000 projects across Essex.

3. The Community Initiatives Fund in 2009/10

There will be £100,000 available for each district this year for 'traditional' CIF projects. The scheme was launched at the beginning of July and the closing date for applications for all districts will be 6 November 2009.

Judging panels will be held from the beginning of February 2010 and the dates of the panels for the Mid Essex districts will be as follows:-

BRAINTREE	3 February 2010
CHELMSFORD	16 February 2010
MALDON	2 March 2010

The local judging panels are made up of representatives from the local communities which are eligible to apply for CIF grants. In this way, decisions

are taken by local people representing their local communities rather than by the County Council, district council or other statutory partners. This year, we will be re-offering the opportunity to sit on the panels to all potential candidates, so that they are seen to be fair and representative.

Application forms, guidance for writing bids and details of all previous grants listed by district and borough council area are on the CIF website:

www.communityinitiativesfund.co.uk

Alternatively, for further advice, you can contact:

NAME/JOB TITLE	CONTACT NO.	EMAIL
Beverly Davies – CIF Co-ordinator	07929 543523	info@communityinitiativesfund.co.uk
John Symonds – Area Co-ordinator for Mid Essex	01245 430097	john.symonds@essex.gov.uk

4. Larger Projects

From this year, Essex County Council will introduce a new element of the Community Initiatives Fund – a scheme to deliver larger ‘flagship’ projects across the County.

Each year £100,000 will be made available in each of three districts to go towards one larger community based project. All twelve districts will be covered over the four year County Council administration from 2009 to 2013. The scheme will be based on the Braintree Community Investment Project (run in conjunction with BBC Radio 5 Live) in 2007. Project ideas will be canvassed from local residents and communities and the successful project will be selected by a ballot of local people.

The detailed arrangements for this are being developed now and the project will be launched, probably, in September 2009.