

**APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) GRANT
FOR A PROJECT IN THE WOLVERCOTE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM AREA**

2021 Round 1

TITLE Short title by which the project will be known	A34 Traffic Sound survey
PROJECT APPLICANT(S) & CONTACT DETAILS Name of person (not organisation) who has initiated the project, with email & phone number	Rob Whitty
APPLICANT ORGANISATION Name and type of organisation and, if applicable, charity number	Wolvercote Community and users of Port Meadow
OUTLINE PROJECT DESCRIPTION Short description so others not associated with the project can understand its purpose and scope. Include aims & objectives, and expected beneficiaries (max 150 words)	<p>A professional and technical survey to measure noise levels generated by A34 traffic in several locations over a period of time.</p> <p>Surveyors to be approved by Highways England will measure traffic noise levels in residential areas as the A34 is raised and road / traffic noise travels further.</p> <p>Concept of a sound barrier approved by City and County Councils, supported by local residents, Councillors and MP, and covered historically by Flying Goose, Oxford Times and ITV Meridian news but land is owned by Highways England.</p> <p>Without a survey, Highways England and Defra have claimed it is not a priority noise area despite Defra's own desktop noise mapping suggesting it should be.</p> <p>The ultimate objective is to provide evidence that helps leads to the installation of a sound barrier on A34 past Wolvercote (from Peartree to past the Thames bridge) to protect the village and Port meadow from intrusive noise levels.</p>
MAIN TASKS A list of the main tasks and, if appropriate, an initial project plan with timescales	<p>As soon as funding is provided, a survey will be carried out by cheapest contractor and after several weeks of measurement (see quotations) findings turned into a report that the community can present to our MP.</p> <p>In turn, she has continued to ask for explanations (on inaction and prioritisation) by Defra and Highways England and would have the evidence to support the community concern.</p>

<p>STAKEHOLDERS & DETAILS OF CONSULTATION</p> <p>(e.g. Council, Highways, site owners or asset holders, community organisations, businesses, neighbours)</p>	<p>Highways England and Defra have no interest in doing a survey and adding to their workload. Scientific evidence or political pressure to date has led to installation of most artery road sound barriers (eg A34 Botley, M40 High Wycombe, M27 Southampton).</p> <p>Community petitions signed by hundreds of households and presented and approved by the Councils, articles in the local press and meetings with Councillors and MP's (past and present) as well as specialist contractors and Highways England have led to the need for such a survey.</p> <p>The local community have already crowdfunded over £2,900 (still live platform) for this survey so are putting their money where their concerns are.</p>
<p>RELEVANCE TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN</p> <p>How does the project enhance or develop our neighbourhood?</p>	<p>Quality of life, stress levels, sleep patterns and associated medical conditions are all linked to traffic noise levels.</p> <p>When the A34 was first built past Wolvercote, Councillors appealed to keep the sound barrier installed for the implementation phase, but it was not in the contract so was removed.</p> <p>Resurfacing the A34 to reduce noise levels costs millions and has to be repeatedly replaced (as has been done several times in recent years). A professionally installed sound barrier would cost a fraction of that and not have to be replaced for many decades, so would potentially save a fortune in costs, let alone the costs to the community in health and stress related illnesses linked to prolonged exposure to traffic noise.</p>
<p>CONSENTS REQUIRED</p> <p>Are any legal consents required before the project can go ahead (e.g. from a Council department such as Highways, Planning, Building Control, or other statutory organisation)?</p>	<p>No legal consents required as this is a private contracted survey and survey equipment would be placed in several residents gardens to monitor noise levels from the A34.</p> <p>Initial requests to several residents suggest there would be no shortage of willing locations to place the testing equipment.</p>
<p>FINANCE</p> <p>How much will this project cost in total? What proportion is being sought from CIL funding? What other sources of finance are being pursued? Are you seeking matched funding? What will the CIL grant be spent on?</p>	<p>Cheapest quotation (still held from 2020) was £6,925 exc VAT so total incl VAT would be £8,310.</p> <p>To date £2,934 has been raised by the community for the survey (but the fundraising platform deducts fees).</p>

<p>PLEASE INCLUDE COPIES OF COST ESTIMATES (Two quotes are needed for applications for more than £1000.)</p> <p><i>[WNF note: two quotes have been received but for reasons of commercial confidentiality are not attached.]</i></p>	<p>Remaining balance requested from CiL funding is £5,376 (and if additional funds are raised before a decision is made, this figure may change).</p> <p>The funds would be spent on the survey being carried out and the report it would generate that could thereafter be used by the community and MP to exert pressure on Highways England to install a sound barrier.</p>
<p>MAINTENANCE</p> <p>How will the outputs of the project be maintained and by whom? Please note that CIL grants cannot be used to cover ongoing costs.</p>	<p>There would be no ongoing costs as any subsequent installation would be carried out by Highways England.</p>
<p>RISK ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Are there any financial or other risks to the completion of this project?</p> <p>Are there any safety issues associated with the project?</p>	<p>There are no financial risks or safety issues. An independent and Highway England approved company (both quotes are from such a company) would install, move the testing equipment and compile a subsequent report.</p>
<p>MONITORING AND REPORTING</p> <p>How will the success of the project be monitored? Over what timescale?</p>	<p>The testing will take a few weeks and the report be written shortly after the testing period, so results would be evident (and we can hopefully publicise them) soon afterwards.</p>
<p>OTHER COMMENTS OR INFORMATION</p> <p>Please list anything else of relevance you wish the Committee to be aware of.</p>	<p>This local concern has been raised by many in the community for many years. There is increasing global evidence of the prolonged effect noise has on mental and physical health.</p> <p>We have followed due process in trying to get to the heart of what is needed for a sound barrier to be installed and it has taken years.</p> <p>The community has to show scientific evidence that there is exposure to traffic noise in levels that are increasingly shown to be unacceptable.</p> <p>Such a survey is the only way we can prove that. On behalf of the community we hope you can help make the survey happen as fast as possible.</p>
<p>Completed applications, WITH COPIES OF COST ESTIMATES/QUOTES WHERE APPLICABLE, should be sent with a covering email to wolvercotenf@gmail.com</p>	