

## **SWEYNE PARK OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT (Minute. 303/01)**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with proposals regarding the maintenance and improvement of Sweyne Park Open Space.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 At the meeting of Extraordinary Council on 4 September 2001, Members, in considering the way forward on Blatches Farm and the former Park School site, agreed that consideration should be given to the improvement of conditions in Sweyne Park and in particular, the drainage problems at this site (minute.303/01).

### **3 PROPOSALS**

- 3.1 Officers have now had opportunity to draw up some proposals for Members to consider, together with provisional costings. These proposals are shown on [Appendix 1](#) and concentrate on the following:
- maintenance of the existing bridle paths;
  - drainage around the playspace;
  - formalising of additional pathways.
- 3.2 The bridle path that runs around the Sweyne Park Open Space is approximately two kilometres in length and in certain areas, dependent on weather conditions, can become extremely waterlogged.
- 3.3 It is proposed to utilise this year's bridle path maintenance budget of £5,000 in addition to next year's budget of the same amount (subject to approval) to undertake resurfacing works of the worst sections of bridle path.
- 3.4 This would involve supply and "rolling-in" of a crushed limestone type material and would be applied to those worst affected areas.
- 3.5 The length of bridle path that could be resurfaced in this way within the available budget detailed in 3.3 would be approximately one kilometre.

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- 3.6 In terms of other drainage works, the other area that is badly affected by the weather is the grassed area around the playspace adjacent to the Car Park marked as (E) on Appendix 1, which becomes extremely wet.
- 3.7 In order to improve this situation, land drainage would need to be installed around the playspace, taking the water into two catch pits and then discharged into surface water sewers.
- 3.8 The cost for the works would be approximately £20,000.
- 3.9 In order to develop the Sweyne Park Open Space further, it is also suggested that the “unofficial” paths that are currently mown-out by the Council’s Parks Officer, are formalised.
- 3.10 This would be done by installing a more permanent path construction, using a 50mm thick type 1 material, with the pathways being one metre wide.
- 3.11 The proposed paths are shown on Appendix 1 marked A, B, C, & D, for which the total cost would be approximately £35 per metre.
- 3.12
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|---------------|----------------|
| Path A:       | £ 5,250        |
| Path B:       | £16,800        |
| Path C:       | £11,200        |
| Path D:       | £ 5,600        |
| <b>Total:</b> | <b>£38,850</b> |

#### **4 INTEGRATION WITH FORMER PARK SCHOOL SITE**

- 4.1 The area marked (F) on Appendix 1 is also part of the Sweyne Park Open Space but taking into account its positioning, there may be some benefit in considering its use as part of the proposals for the former Park School site.
- 4.2 This particular square of land does not have any specific use at present. Therefore pending discussions with the National Playing Fields Association (to whom the park was transferred in October 1997) if Members wish, could be included in negotiations with the new leisure contractor for the development of the new Park Sports Centre / Open Space.

**5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The maintenance and development of Sweyne Park Open Space would improve the quality of this facility and therefore increase the benefit to the local community.

**6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The maintenance of the existing bridle paths can be achieved through utilising the current bridle path maintenance budget.
- 6.2 The installing of land drainage around the playspace would cost approximately £20,000 and the construction of additional paths would cost approximately £39,000. These items will be presented as additional bids to the Capital Programme for the Council meeting on 7 February 2002.

**7 RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That Members consider the items proposed in this report and decide which of them they wish to be undertaken.

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