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**REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE 9 DECEMBER 2009**

**PORTFOLIO: FINANCE AND RESOURCES**

**REPORT FROM HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES**

**SUBJECT: CAR PARK EXTENSION – RAWRETH RECREATION  
FIELD AND BRIDLE PATH EXTENSION – CLEMENTS HALL,  
HAWKWELL**

**1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED**

- 1.1 That the Rawreth recreation field car park extension be approved at a cost of £7,800 and that the Clements Hall bridle path extension be approved at a cost of £15,200.

**2 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.2 Funding for the above two projects was agreed by the Council as part of the 2009/10 capital programme subject to final Executive approval to the details of the schemes.
- 1.3 The schemes have been revised a number of times in order to improve their value for money and this has been reflected in the results of the recent tender. Both projects have been raised through and discussed at the relevant Area Committees. They have also been the subject of consultation with the respective Parish Councils and meet their requirements. These schemes have been competitively tendered and together show a saving against original budget of £ 35,000.

**3 DETAILS**

- 3.1 The schemes proposed are set out on the drawings referred to in the background papers which are on display in the Members' Lounge. The surface material in both projects is a plastic mesh grass protection system, in the case of the car park this is pinned to the surface and on the bridle way it is positioned under the turf which will allow the grass and turf to eventually grow through it. The material is used extensively to provide surfacing for car parks and light aircraft runways and is expected to have a maintenance free life of over ten years.
- 3.2 The car park will provide weekend overflow parking for 16-20 cars, when the overflow space is not needed it will be kept locked.
- 3.3 The car park extension surface is flat and smooth to enable disabled access; two bays will be marked with head posts to identify disabled parking spaces.

- 3.4 The bridle path extension will join up with the Hawkwell Parish bridle path through an existing gap in the hedge, after a very short stretch on the pathed roadway which forms part of the perimeter road around the leisure centre.
- 3.0 This bridle path extension will then complete the circular route around the outside of the Clements Hall grounds as a bridle way without the need to transit the public highway.

#### **4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 A number of alternatives have been considered including a hard surfaced and grasscrete car park together with a conventional hard surfaced bridle path which reflected the higher original estimates. Of the options considered the ones selected are considered to provide both an environmentally acceptable and best value solution.

#### **5 RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There is a risk that the selected solution on the bridle path may prove to not be hard enough wearing, however the decision to use the material was made following detailed discussions with the manufacturer and viewing the material in daily use at the East Beach car park Shoeburyness.

#### **6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The solutions recommended in both cases have been selected because they have a low environmental impact, in both cases the ground will revert quickly to a grassed appearance and the fencing has been selected to minimise any visual impact and to blend into the rural nature of the area.

#### **7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Budget provision was made in the 2009-10 capital programme to fund these two projects, the Rawreth Lane car park extension was budgeted at £30k and the Bridle way extension at £28k. By adapting the schemes to deliver the minimum environmental impact and the best value for money together with competitive tendering considerable savings have been achieved in both schemes.

I confirm that the above recommendation does not depart from Council policy and that appropriate consideration has been given to any budgetary and legal implications.

SMT Lead Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Head of Legal Services**

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**Background Papers:-**

Scheme drawings for contract 2857 and 2858.

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