

## **DONATION OF REDUNDANT TEEN SHELTER TO STAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report seeks Members agreement to the donation of the redundant teen shelter removed from Sutton Court Drive Playspace to Stambridge Community Centre.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The teen shelter used in Sutton Court Drive Playspace was recently removed and put into storage, following public consultation at the Playspace Sub-Committee in July 2005.

### **3 REASONS FOR REMOVAL**

- 3.1 Teen shelters were seen in the early 1990's as a way of attracting youths to gather in a predetermined location, where they could be subject to passive surveillance. However, the location at Sutton Court Drive has proved problematic in recent years, due to complaints about noise from the shelter, which is made from steel, and its proximity to the neighbours.
- 3.2 At the meeting of the Playspace Sub Committee on 6 July 2005, discussion took place on whether to retain the teen shelter as the youth present indicated that it was not suitable for their use, as it was not weatherproof.

### **4 REUSE OF THE TEEN SHELTER**

- 4.1 A letter has been received from Stambridge Community Centre (Appendix A), requesting that should the teen shelter become available, they would appreciate the opportunity to reuse the shelter rather than see Rochford dispose of it.
- 4.2 Normally old equipment is taken out as it has reached the end of its useful life. However the teen shelter has been removed due to other circumstances and could be reused. There are no other locations on Rochford Play areas considered as suitable for its reuse.
- 4.3 The donation would require the Community Association to arrange for collection and re-erection at no cost to the District Council.
- 4.4 The Community Association would also need to ensure any planning or other requirements are clarified and met.

**5 RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The teen shelter would need to be given with no warranty or guarantee and with an undertaking that Stambridge Community Centre accept the shelter and all its components on these grounds. This would remove the potential risk of Rochford District Council being responsible for any issues that may arise.

**6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Teen shelters were originally installed on Police recommendation, to encourage youths to gather in predetermined locations to reduce nuisance. Sutton Court Drive is no longer considered suitable for this installation.
- 6.2 Rochford District Council would need to be reassured that the Stambridge Community Centre has carried out sufficient consultation that local youths actually want this shelter and that it will be placed in such a location so as not to repeat the issues that have been encountered at Sutton Court Drive.

**7 PARISH IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 This gesture would enable one of the smaller Communities to provide a facility it would otherwise be difficult to finance.

**8 RECOMMENDATION**

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

To consider disposal of the redundant teen shelter from Sutton Court Drive and its donation to Stambridge Community Centre, on the understanding that they:-

- (1) take full responsibility for the equipment, collection and any planning requirement.
- (2) have consulted the local youth on the suitability of the shelter.
- (3) have confirmed that the location is suitable for such a shelter.

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**Background Papers:-**

None

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## APPENDIX A

