

## **SWEYNE PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This reports provides Members with the opportunity to input into the improvements that are being developed for Sweyne Park.
- 1.2 The main improvements relate to construction of some new footpaths within the park area and land drainage works to the Clover Leaf Playspace and surrounding area, which currently suffers some flooding in adverse weather conditions.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1. At Community Services Committee on 5 February 2002 a budget of £60,000 was set aside for the financial year 2002/2003 to carry out the above mentioned improvements. (min.41/02)
- 2.2 A walk-about through Sweyne Park has identified some initial routes for new footpaths which are being offered for Members to consider. A plan of these routes will follow.

### **3. LAND DRAINAGE**

- 3.1 The area around the Clover Leaf Playspace has suffered a degree of flooding in times of adverse weather since its initial construction. To overcome this, a land drainage company experienced in the area and in working with Rochford District Council is now working on a design / construction package to alleviate the problem. Initial indications suggest that these works will cost in the region of £20,000 to £30,000. At the time of writing this report, their scheme design proposals have not yet been received.

### **4. NEW FOOTPATHS**

- 4.1 In constructing new footpaths within Sweyne Park, it is essential that the Council takes into consideration the needs of all the people who may want to use this facility, especially those with disabilities and other mobility impairments.

- 4.2 At this stage, the routes (as indicated in the plan) may need to be all or part only to this level of construction. Near to the Clover Leaf Playspace is one of the car parks for Swayne Park, which does have designated disabled parking bays, with suitable surfacing.
- 4.3 The options for constructing new footpaths will vary in terms of their designated use. It would be preferable of course, that all parts of the park are accessible for people with mobility impairments and to this end, all footpaths should provide a smooth, even running surface. This does not necessarily mean that the surface needs to be asphalt or some allied material but that they should provide this degree of comfort in their use.
- 4.4 There are a number of options available for surfacing footpaths, some of which will provide a more natural surface than asphalt and will therefore be more aesthetically pleasing.
- 4.5 Members will therefore need to consider whether the new footpaths should be more formally constructed with an asphalt surface or whether they should be surfaced with a softer more natural material, which may require a higher level of maintenance
- 4.6 The options for these more natural surfaces are either stone, wood chippings or other suitable materials. Illustrations will be provided on the night.

## **5. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Environmental improvements to the area could result in increased usage, thus helping to reduce youth nuisance and anti social behaviour.

## **6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Introduction of a proper land drainage scheme will improve access and availability to the Clover Leaf Playspace throughout the year.
- 6.2 The use of the options for surfacing the footpath will have an effect on whether the park has a more “natural” or formal appearance.

## **7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 A budget of £60,000 is already allocated in 2002/2003 for this work.

- 7.2 Design works and contract management will be carried out within existing resources. A full prioritisation of the Capital Programme is still to be carried out, which needs to reflect the current staffing situation within the Engineer Division. The timetable for the works will be reported as part of the quarterly Capital Programme monitoring report.

**7. RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 It is proposed that Members note the options and take a view as to the type of materials and footpaths they wish to see in Sweyne Park

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