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## **POOLES LANE RECREATION GROUND – PROVISION OF ACOUSTIC FENCING TO BOUNDARY OF CAR PARK / CARAVAN PARK**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides Members with estimates for provision of acoustic fencing on the boundary of the Pooles Lane Recreation Ground Car Park and the adjacent caravan park.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Pooles Lane Recreation Ground has been provided, over recent years, with a skateboard facility adjacent to the car park and playspace and in 2001, with the new five-a-side pitch/basketball court.
- 2.2 Following the construction of the skateboard park in 2000, a series of noise complaints have been received relating particularly to the use of the skateboard facility. These complaints relate mainly to the noise made by a gathering of young people, i.e. music playing etc. and some noise generated by the use of the skate park equipment.

### **3 MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE NOISE**

- 3.1 A number of measures have been considered in relation to reducing noise generated and its effect on the residents of the caravan park but these have generally been considered either too expensive or unlikely to yield any positive results.
- 3.2 The most likely option was the installation of acoustic fencing between the Pooles Lane boundary and the Pavilion on the Recreation Ground. This would provide a more positive screen between the Recreation Ground Car Park and the caravan site. The fencing would be 2½ metres high by 50 metres in length, along the boundary of the car park. Appendix A shows the location for the proposed fencing.
- 3.3 Comments from Environmental Health Officers indicate that the best position for acoustic fencing would be adjacent to the skateboard area. However, this would reduce passive surveillance to the skateboard area and would therefore be unacceptable.

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**4 COST OF WORKS**

- 4.1 Initial quotations have been received to provide and install acoustic fencing at this location. These estimates vary between £8,000 and £12,000 depending upon the quality of the fencing to be used.

**5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The effectiveness of sound barriers depends on their proximity to either the source of the noise or the recipient of the noise. In this case the barrier is some 20 metres from the source of the noise and approximately 5 metres from the recipient. The effectiveness therefore of acoustic fencing is likely to be very slight and have little effect on the alleged noise.

**6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There is no budget allocation to cover the cost of this work . If Members are minded to support this proposal a bid for a special item of expenditure should be made to Council on the 28 January 2003.

**7 PARISH IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Hullbridge Parish Council could be approached to contribute to the cost of this work.

**8 RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 It is proposed that Members consider and **recommend** accordingly:-
- (1) whether or not to support the proposal for fencing works.
  - (2) if the proposal is supported a request for a special item of expenditure of £12,000 should be made to Council on 28 January 2003. (CD(F&ES))

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**Background Papers:**

None

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