

REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE 13 JULY 2011

PORTFOLIO: ENVIRONMENT

REPORT FROM HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

**SUBJECT: OPEN SPACES REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME
2011/12**

1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 That this year's budget allocation is used to match fund for skateboard facilities at Canewdon Recreation Ground and that the rest is used to improve facilities at Rayleigh Leisure Centre and Hockley Woods, to improve access at Sweyne Park and Grove Recreation ground and to improve the water quality at Rochford Reservoir.

2 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Each year the Capital budget provides £50,000 for ongoing improvement of open spaces. Last year's programme was utilized to address unauthorised access resulting in vandalism and to deal with flooding to a car park and a children's play facility. The following schemes are proposed for this year:-
- 2.2 Pump prime funding of £25,000 to assist the Parish Council and other residents in securing external funding for a Skateboard Park at Canewdon Recreation Ground.
- 2.2.1 There is considered to be reasonable demand and local support to provide these facilities from the youth of the village. The current facility is very basic and the nearest high specification facilities are in Rayleigh. The idea of providing only a proportion of the funding rather than covering all installation costs, enables a higher specification to be achieved for the benefit of the community.
- 2.2.2 The aim is that the Parish Council will use our commitment to encourage additional finances to provide a facility similar to the one in Rayleigh which was recently installed in King George V Playing Field by the Town Council at a cost in the order of £100,000. This scheme would be project managed by this Council.
- 2.2.3 There is the risk that the additional funding will not be obtained. In this eventuality the funding will be used to improve facilities at Hockley Woods. A separate report will be submitted to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment if the matching is not secured by February 2012.
- 2.3 The resurfacing of footpaths at Canewdon Recreation Ground.

- 2.3.1 These works have been proposed at the request of the Parish Council and will aid pedestrian access to the recreation ground. The estimated cost is £2,000.
- 2.4 The provision of pedestrian bridges at Grove Recreation Ground.
 - 2.4.1 These works will aid pedestrian access to the recreation grounds and minimise bank erosion. The estimated cost is £2,000.
- 2.5 The provision of seating and landscape improvements to the skateboard ramps adjacent to the Rayleigh Leisure Centre.
 - 2.5.1 These ramps were installed last year but the funding was not sufficient to complete the landscaping due to flood risks and measures necessary to prevent unauthorised access at other sites. The estimated cost of these works are £4,000.
- 2.6 The provision of new pedestrian and vehicular gates at Sweyne Park.
 - 2.6.1 A total of 7 gates are required to improve access and security arrangements. The estimated cost is £7,000.
- 2.7 The provision of a vehicle shelter at the lower compound in Hockley Woods.
 - 2.7.1 This will provide protection for plant and equipment at an estimated cost of £5,000.
- 2.8 Drainage arrangements Rochford Reservoir.
 - 2.8.1 The flooding experienced last year at the reservoir has caused considerable silting. Whilst urgent works were undertaken to repair damaged paths, works are now required to improve the drainage arrangements and improve the water quality. The estimated cost is £5,000.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 The works referred to within this report have been developed in consultation with our Legal, Estates & Member Services Division. An original proposal by Canewdon Parish Council and the Cricket Club to install high netting at Canewdon Recreation Ground to enable the children's play area to be used whilst cricket is being played is not to be implemented as it does not provide for effective use of resources.
- 3.2 If the external funding is not obtained to provide the skateboard park then the funds will be allocated to Hockley Woods to improve the facilities.

4 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report recommends capital investment that will improve safety and access arrangements. There is a possibility that the skateboard parks will not proceed if external funding is insufficient.

5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The provision the skate park in Canewdon will provide a facility for the youth of the village

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This report recommends expenditure in the order of £50,000 which can be contained within the annual budget. Revenue implications are minimal and can be contained within existing budgets.

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 Environmental Services

Background Papers:

None.

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