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## **PLAYSPACE ROLLING PROGRAMME 2000/01 PUBLIC CONSULTATION (Minute 435/99)**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report updates Members on the Consultation Process that has been undertaken in respect of the play areas at Elsenham Court, Rayleigh and at Rowan Way, Canewdon, and further updates the consultation work carried out on the Glebe / Morrins Close playspaces. In the light of information provided, it outlines the way forward.
- 1.2 The provision of play spaces is not statutory, but once provided they are subject to regulatory control especially for Health and Safety.

### **2 THE CONSULTATION PROCESS**

- 2.1 The Rochford District Council consultation took place in two stages, an initial letter to the Parish and Town Councils, Ward Members, Police, the Youth Service, and Rochford District Council's Crime and Disorder officer. Secondly and following the first stage, to residents of the areas around the playspaces.
- 2.2 In Canewdon the second stage letter was sent to 420 addresses. The streets to which the letter was sent included Anchor Lane, Ducketts Mead, Birch Close, Cedar Walk, Ash Green, High Street, Lambourne Hall Road, Village Green, Russell Row, Rowan Way, Willow Walk, Chestnut Path, Canewdon Hall Close, Butts Paddock, Sycamore Way, Gays Lane, Canute Close, Althorne Way and Church Green.
- 2.3 In Rayleigh the second stage letter was sent to 480 addresses in Bardfield way, Tendring Avenue, Hatfield Road, Kingfisher Court, Kestrel Grove, Elsenham Court, Heron Gardens, Kelvedon Close, Rettendon Close, Peregrine Gardens, Swallow Close, Falcon Close, and Sheering Court.
- 2.4 The consultation process was considered to be in line with the requests of Members regarding consultation over play spaces and with the Best Value requirements.

#### **Responses from the Initial Consultees ( First Stage)**

- 2.5 There was no written response from Rayleigh Town Council to Elsenham Court playspace prior to the Public Consultation letter being sent out.

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- 2.6 There was a strong objection from Canewdon Parish Council in relation to the proposal to move the Rowan way play space onto the Village Green. The Parish Council wished this objection to be included in the letter sent to residents. Officers in discussion with the Parish Council stated that they considered that the letter to residents should not include any views either for or against the proposal. The Parish Council views were therefore not included in the public consultation letter. It was agreed that the views of Canewdon Parish Council would be included in this report as one of the parties who were initially consulted.
- 2.7 Since the Parish Council views were not included in the letter to residents, Canewdon Parish Council sent out their own letter to all the residents around the play space stating their objections to the proposal to use the village green for the re-sited play space.

### **Responses from the residents**

- 2.8 The level of response has been extremely good and should be viewed as a successful result to the exercise.

### **Elsenham Court**

- 2.9 To the Elsenham Court Playspace proposals there were 64 replies from the 480 letters sent out. This amounts to a 13.3% return, which is considered to be a satisfactory response. Of the returns 90.6% (58) were in favour of the proposal and 9.4% (6) against. Approximately half the return slips contained comments about the playspace.
- 2.10 Of the addresses immediately adjacent to the playspace 23 were in favour and 3 were against the proposal.

### **Rowan Way**

- 2.11 In the response to the Rowan Way proposal to move the site to the Village Green there were 194 replies from the 420 letters sent out. This amounts to a 46 % response which is considered to be extremely high. Of the returns 62.8% ( 122) were against and 37.2% (72) were in favour. This high return could be partially attributed to the letter sent out with the views of the Parish Council.
- 2.12 Of the addresses immediately adjacent to the Village Green 33 were against and only 1 in favour.

## **3 OPTIONS FOR CANEWDON**

- 3.1 It is clear that one of the main issues to emerge from the Canewdon consultation exercise is that of Skateboarding in various public areas especially the "Patio" area adjacent to Rowan Way. There are

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possibilities to upgrade play facilities in Canewdon which would respond to the issues identified in the responses. A minor upgrading of the existing play space in Rowan Way replacing the existing swing, adding toddler equipment, a bench and upgrading the safety surface would provide a small toddler facility more centrally in the village than Althorne Way currently does.

- 3.2 Skateboarding facilities in Althorne Way recreation ground may provide a way forward but there would be limited resources at this stage.

#### **Further Canewdon Parish Council Consultation**

- 3.3 A further consultation has now been undertaken by Canewdon Parish Council. This was aimed at the youth of the Parish and was distributed at the Youth Club in Canewdon and also on School Buses. A total of 34 questionnaires were returned. A number of requests for equipment have arisen from this consultation which cannot all be financed from the current budget. These include minor upgrading to the existing Rowan Way Playspace, refurbishing the playspace at Althorne Way and providing a "Half pipe" skateboard ramp at the Althorne Way Recreation Ground. Officers will now discuss these and the other minor issues with the Parish Council and proceed with the programme on the basis of this consultation. The various budget estimates for consideration of these proposals are contained in the resources section of this report.

#### **4. GLEBE CLOSE / MORRINS CLOSE**

- 4.1 Members will be aware that provision for these play areas has been made in the capital programme this year. Glebe Close site is bounded on three sides by houses, and is intended as an infant playspace only. Morrins Close is more remote and is intended as a senior sport playing area. Final ownership of the Ministry of Defence land has not been obtained due to problems with the land registry. It is anticipated that this problem will be overcome to allow this site to progress this financial year.
- 4.2 A public consultation for the provision of two playspaces in the area was carried out during the summer of 1999 and results reported to Members at the meeting of this Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1999.
- 4.3 Out of 35 properties visited, only 3 residents objected to the proposals on the basis of the proximity of their homes to the proposed play areas.
- 4.4 As a year has passed since the original consultation, all of the properties visited were sent a letter, informing them of the consultation results and inviting any further comments. Ward Councillors and the Parish Council have also been included. To date, only one letter has been received from a resident objecting, again due to the proximity of

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their home to the teenage play area and because they feel the area is unsuitable for girls.

- 4.5 The two residents who volunteered to act as keyholders for the toddlers play area are still willing to carry out this service.

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

- 5.1 Provision of a skateboarding facility in the Althorne Way recreation ground would help attract skateboarders away from the streets to a purpose built facility.

## **6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 A Capital sum of £50,000 has been provided for the refurbishment of the next two play spaces in play space rolling programme 2000/01. The sum of £8,000 has been set aside to relocate the Aerial Runway at Doggetts Close.
- 6.2 Two facilities at Canewdon cannot be met in full from the existing budget with Elsenham Court play space, some of this work may need to be funded from the 2001/02 play space rolling programme budget. The breakdown of estimated costs is as follows:

Elsenham Court .....	£25,000
Rowan Way.....	£ 8,000
Phase ONE skating.....	£ 9,000 ( Half pipe as requested in the consultation.)
Doggetts Runway.....	£ 8,000
Total .....	£50,000

This would require a Phase 2 budget for the skating facility of £23,000 in 2001/02 if a full skating facility were to be provided in Canewdon

A sum of £50,000 has been provided for the Glebe Close / Morrins Close play spaces in the 2000/01 Capital Budget.

Glebe .....	£10,000
Morrins .....	£45,000
Total.....	£55,000 ( Includes £5,000 contribution from Great Wakering Parish Council)

## **7. PARISH IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Both Canewdon Parish Council and Rayleigh Town Council have been consulted on these proposals.

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- 7.2 Canewdon Parish Council strongly opposed the move of Rowan way playspace to the Village Green, and this has been borne out by the Public Consultation.

**8. RECOMMENDATION**

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

1. That Members agree not to proceed with the proposal to relocate the Rowan Way play space on the village green in Canewdon.
2. That Members agree to proceed with the proposed play space refurbishment in Elsenham Court, Rayleigh and that officers be authorised to proceed with this scheme.
3. That Members accept the results of the second consultation conducted by Canewdon Parish Council and that the revised proposal of minor upgrading works at Rowan Way and a skating facility at Althorne Recreation Ground Phase one be agreed, and that officers be authorised to proceed with these schemes.
4. That Members accept the results of the Glebe Close/Morrins Close consultation and that Officers are authorised to proceed with Glebe Close immediately and Morrins Close once the land is acquired.  
(CD(FES))

Roger Crofts

Corporate Director (F&ES)

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**Background Papers:**

Consultation papers and returns

For further information please contact David Timson on (01702) 546366

