



Report of the Principal Area Manager South Parks & Countryside

South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 25th February 2008

Subject: Thorpe Recreation Ground

<p>Electoral Wards Affected:</p> <p>Ardsley & Robin Hood</p>	<p>Specific Implications For:</p> <p>Ethnic minorities <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Women <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Disabled people <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Council Function <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Executive Summary

To provide the Outer South Area Committee information relating to a request from the Thorpe Community Forum for funding to enable the progression of the design for the construction of a new playground and Multi Use Games Area at Thorpe Recreation Ground.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1. The purpose of this report is to request financial support from the Outer South Area Committee to facilitate the engagement of a landscape architect to help undertake community consultation in respect of producing a design for the new playground and sports facility at Thorpe Recreation Ground.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Thorpe Recreation Ground located on Station Road Thorpe is the major green space in the village, providing an area for both formal and informal play.
- 2.2 Some years ago the old playground was removed due many problems including complaints from residents about youths congregating at night and the fact that the equipment had reached the end of its economical life span.
- 2.3 Since its removal local residents have campaigned for a new playground to be built on site but away from houses, accommodating both pre-school and teenagers requirements.
- 2.4 The City council have fully supported the residents in their campaign to rebuild the playground, but funding sources have proven difficult to identify until recently.

2.5 Land along both Fall Lane and Station Road have recently been sold to two separate developers Bloor Homes and Miller Homes. As part of the planning permission two Section 106 legal agreements will generate sufficient funds to facilitate the works.

2.6 However, although some of the Section 106 money has been deposited with the Council, as both agreements are tied together we are unable to access any of the funds until both developments reach their respective trigger points. Which are currently some time off.

2.7 To help progress matters while waiting for the balance of money to come through the local residents have asked that funding for the delivery of the consultation, and design work up to tender stage be secured, this would mean that once both developments have attained their respective trigger points for depositing of the full and final Section 106 monies the scheme can be delivered without further delay.

2.8 The current situation is that the final sum of money is expected to be deposited within the next 12-18 months, i.e. mid to late 2009. If the group wait until then to commence consultation and design work, delivery of the scheme on site will be delayed until late 2010 or early 2011. To commission the design work and undertake the consultation now, would result in the scheme being delivered immediately upon receipt of the Section 106 monies thus potentially delivering the scheme as soon as Summer 2009.

3.0 Scheme proposals

- 3.1 The proposal is to engage a landscape architect to :-
- draw up sketch plans to enable public consultation.
 - undertake stage 1 checks
 - prepare and submit planning application
 - complete design and tender documentation in preparation for submission when all funds are in place.

4.0 Design

- 4.1 The final design is still to be agreed, with the residents' forum following the appointment of a landscape architect.

5.0 Costs

- 5.1 The costs for this work is £8,000. Subject to approval from the Area Committee it is anticipated that this money would be in addition to any sums received from the developer allowing the full Section 106 money to be spent on construction work thus allowing a far better scheme to be achieved.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1** Outer South Area Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and agree to allocate £8,000 to facilitate the design and consultation work outlined above.