



Report of the Principal Area Manager South Parks & Countryside

South (Outer) Leeds Area Committee

Date: Monday 14th April 2008

Subject: Smithy Lane Recreation Ground

<p>Electoral Wards Affected: 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 Eastleigh's Farleigh's Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP) for finance to enable the progression of the community's desire to improve Smithy Lane recreation ground.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

The purpose of this report is to request financial support from the Outer South Area Committee to facilitate work on progressing the community's desire to both improve Smithy Lane recreation ground and provide facilities which can be enjoyed by all ages of the community but in particular young people who have little access to recreational facilities.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Smithy Lane Recreation Ground located on Smithy Lane, Tingley forms one of the main green spaces in the village, providing an area for both formal and informal play.
- 2.2 The site has suffered from various anti social issues including traveller encampments, joy riding and fly tipping.
- 2.3 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.

- 2.4 Since its removal local residents have complained about the lack of facilities for young people in the area, but as of yet no decision has been reached in respect of what should be provided, if anything or where on the site would be the best site for any facility/equipment.
- 2.5 In recent years the NIP have discussed proposals to install facilities on Smith Lane, some of these ideas have received a mixed response from local residents. The NIP does support the residents in their desire to develop the open space to encourage better use of the site and hopefully reduce anti social problems in the area.
- 2.6 This request for funding is proposed to help progress matters and to develop a scheme with the NIP and local residents which will involve consultation, and design work up to tender stage.

3.0 Scheme Proposals & Timescales

- 3.1 The proposal is for the NIP to engage with the local community through the formation of a small working group dedicated to looking at all the issues surrounding the recreation ground.
- 3.2 It is proposed that this group which would comprise representatives from Park & Countryside, Youth Services, Area Management, Ward Members and the Neighbourhood Policing Team, along with a landscape architect to help where appropriate draw up plans and provide costing's for the work proposed, along with undertaking the following elements of the project :-

- Draw up sketch plans to enable public consultation.
- undertake stage 1 checks
- prepare and submit planning application, when appropriate
- complete outline design work following completion of consultation to enable funding bids to be made

- 3.3 The proposed timescale for delivery of this project is:-

- May - first meeting of the steering group
- June - development of consultation material
- July - Residents consultation carried out
- August - results of consultation analysed
- August – results to NIP
- September - results feed back to Area Committee with outline plans and costings

4.0 Design

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

5.0 Costs

- 5.1 The costs for this design and consultation work are £6,500.

6.0 Implications For Council Policy and Governance

- 6.1 There are no direct implications for the above as a result of this report.

7.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 7.1 Legal implications as a result of this report will be reflected in any subsequent Funding Agreements and Contracts to Tender that arise from the project being funded by the Well being Budget.
- 7.2 Resource implications will be that the remaining balance of the Well being Budget for revenue will be reduced. When the scheme is developed request for a capital funding will be made to Area Committee.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 Community development led by the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan has been a success. The residents association is now well organised and motivated. Through the NIP they have expressed a desire to see Smithy Lane Recreation Ground develop to provide activities for the local residents.
- 8.2 A Steering Group would be formed to assist in the development of the scheme and the residents association would be a key partner in consultation and the decision making process.

9.0 Recommendations

- 9.1 Outer South Area Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and agree to allocate £6,500 to facilitate the design and consultation work outlined above.