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Report of the Principal Area Manger South

South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 25th February 2008

Subject: Churwell Park Provision of CCTV

<p>Electoral Wards Affected: Morley North</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 the proposed purchase and installation of CCTV in Churwell Park Morley, to help deter acts of vandalism which are causing substantial damage to the park and its facilities.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Outer Area Committee with background information in respect of a request for financial support by the Churwell Action Group from Area Committee Well being funds for the installation CCTV in Churwell Park.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Churwell Park is located in the heart of Churwell consisting of a bowling green, play areas, Multi Use Games Area's (MUGA) and formal gardens.
- 2.2 Over the last few years the Action Group, in partnership with the Ward Members and Parks and Countryside have undertaken a series of improvement works which have helped enormously in improving the park and providing local residents with new facilities.
- 2.3 However, despite the efforts of everyone involved, a small minority of people are persistent in damaging various items such as the bowling green, the pavilion, the mosaic, along with much of the vegetation, shrubberies and annual bedding display which help brighten the park, as well as providing habitat for wildlife.

- 2.4 Given that a significant amount of the improvements are as a direct result of effort from local residents and the Churwell Action Group, the group want to pursue the possibility of erecting CCTV cameras within the park to try and deter further acts of destruction and so allow the park to develop and grow for the benefit of everyone.

3.0 Current Initiatives

- 3.1 Gildersome Parish Council erected a single camera in Guildersome Park upon the completion of the works on the play area, resulting in very little damage to the equipment.
- 3.2 Drighlington Parish Council are considering the installation of CCTV at Drighlington, on the common, following the completion of the new MUGA and Skateboard Park, because feedback from local residents have clearly indicated that parents and young people feel the cameras will make the facilities safer, deterring deliberate acts of vandalism, bullying and general bad behaviour, thus ensuring the long term future of the facilities for the benefit of every one.

4.0 Design

- 4.1 The proposal is for 3 cameras to be installed in the park. The first camera to be mounted on the bowls pavilion providing coverage of the MUGA/Tennis Courts and bowling green. The second camera will be mounted to cover both play areas and part of the MUGA. Whereas the third camera being installed to cover the formal gardens in particular the wishing well/central feature.
- 4.2 The recording equipment will be located in a locked room within the bowls pavilion. In addition to serving as a visual deterrent, the equipment will be checked once a day by members of the Action Group.

5.0 Costs

- 5.1 Four quotes have been sought with only two companies submitting costs for the work. The cheaper of the two quotes received is £5,378. Although there are no revenue costs associated with this scheme, other than the daily running costs of the recording equipments and cameras, the group are aware that in the event of any future capital costs for the replacement of broken lens/cameras, recording equipment etc that they will be responsible for funding for these items. It is proposed that for the time being that the running expenses are absorbed by Parks & Countryside. Should there be any changes to the running/control of the bowls pavilion, then this arrangement may need to be reviewed.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report.
- 6.2 Members are asked to approve the allocation of £5,378 from the Well Being capital allocation.