



Report of the Chief Recreation Officer

Outer West Area Committee

Date: 8th December 2006

Subject: Pudsey Park improvements using the Parks Renaissance Fund

Electoral Wards Affected:
Pudsey

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities
Women
Disabled people

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

Executive Summary

A sum of £470,600 from the Parks Renaissance Fund is to be used to refurbish the playground (£185,600) and merge Pets Corner with the Aviary Aquarium Complex (£190,000). The structures associated with the former Pets Corner to be demolished, removed and the exposed land landscaped £20,000. The improvements also include £15,000 to improve the park entrance from the bus station and car park area besides £50,000 to supply and erect a bandstand. Works are to start on site in March 2007 beginning with the erection of the bandstand. Consultations are ongoing regards the playground and the rationalisation of the Pudsey Zoo complex.

1.0 Purpose of This Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the West Area Committee of the forthcoming expenditure of £470,600 to refurbish the playground, merge the Pets Corner with the Aviary Aquarium Complex and landscape the former Pets Corner site following its demolition. The works also include improving the northern entrance to the Park from the bus station and erecting a new bandstand.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 Of the 14 pieces of play equipment present in the playground there is only one piece of equipment that has a low risk rating as assessed using the nationally recognized Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents methodology. Eight pieces of play equipment were rated as medium risk, two of high risk and three of unacceptable risk. In addition, the safety surfacing is old and the equipment provides limited play value.

- 2.2 On health and safety grounds there is also a need to separate the play facilities used by children and toddlers
- 2.3 The Pudsey Zoo exists as two separate facilities, the Aviary Aquarium Complex (AAC) and Pets Corner. This arrangement is problematical, as it has caused security problems requiring considerable funding in terms of CCTV surveillance and suitable security fencing. By enlarging the AAC to accommodate the animals from Pets Corner, a greater rationalization on energy, security and maintenance costs can be achieved.
- 2.4 To maintain the Zoo License there is now a requirement to establish strong educational and conservational themes with emphasis on our indigenous wildlife and habitats. The refurbishment and expansion of the AAC gives the necessary opportunities to develop the facility to meet the above demand.
- 2.5 The presence of suitable food preparation areas and a veterinary examination room is also a prerequisite of the Zoo License. The proposed changes to the ACC would enable these requirements to be met appropriately.
- 2.6 The demolition of the Pets Corner facility and removal of the waste building material will leave a patch of open ground requiring landscaping to improve the aesthetics of the site and an opportunity to provide a stronger link between the main part of the Park with the playground area.
- 2.7 The landscaping of the northern entrance to the Park complements the improvements to the bus station and car park that is funded through the Town & District Regeneration Scheme. Parks & Countryside Service are liaising closely with West Outer Area Management to ensure the schemes complement and support each other.
- 2.8 By providing a bandstand on the hardstanding area used by bands playing in the Park ensures that performances can be carried out in all weathers thereby encouraging greater use besides increased attendances by visitors and local communities. At present approximately six bands play in the summer on the existing hardstanding and they are at the mercy of the weather.
- 2.9 The playground and Pudsey Zoo projects mentioned above are also key action plans in the Pudsey Park Management Plan. These action plans were determined from customer surveys and internal Parks & Countryside staff assessments.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 To refurbish the playground (See appendix 1, to be tabled at the meeting) and split into two sections to cater for children and toddlers. This will require the removal of the old equipment and safety surfacing followed by fresh tarmac, fencing, recommended safety surfacing and new equipment meeting current health and safety standards (Appendix 3, to be tabled at the meeting).
- 3.2 Introducing the following new equipment: -

- SMP 6m space net
 - 2 new 4 bay flat swings
 - Galaxy multi play unit
 - 1 SMP roundabout
 - See saw
- } For children

- One 4 bay cradle swing
 - 2 new springies
 - 1 toddler roundabout
 - Galaxy toddler multi play unit
- } For toddlers

- 3.3 Additional benches and the introduction of maintenance gates to be included in the playground facility.
- 3.4 Demolition of the Pets Corner facility (See Appendix 1, to be tabled at the meeting) with the resultant bare area landscaped with grass, shrubs and trees to create a green avenue linking the main part of the Park with the playground area.
- 3.5 Construct new zoo facilities between the Conservatory and the ACC (Appendix 1, to be tabled at the meeting). The construction work will entail the new facilities merging with the ACC and the latter receiving internal reorganization to incorporate purpose built food preparation areas and a veterinary examination room. The facilities will be designed to meet the habitat requirements of the proposed zoo specimens
- 3.6 Removal of the existing hardstanding area of concrete flags (Appendix 1, to be tabled at the meeting) to make way for the 6.2m diameter Okehampton Bandstand (Appendix 2, to be tabled at the meeting). The facility will provide a sheltered recital area suitable for the various brass bands that attend and other performances as they arise.
- 3.7 Refurbish the northern entrance to the Park (Appendix 1, to be tabled at the meeting) with suitable signage, soft & hard landscaping and garden furniture to improve the aesthetics and blend in with the proposed modernization of the nearby car park and bus station

4.0 Consultations

- 4.1 Face to Face public consultation in 2001 has revealed that using the zoo to contribute to the recovery of endangered species, providing educational and conservational themes and merging the two units of the Zoo were considered excellent ideas from 81%, 82% and 79% respectively of the 141 respondents approached.
- 4.2 Both the Face to Face public consultation in 2001 (141 respondents) and the Household Survey 2005 (271 adult and 103 children) revealed: -
- 32.5% children coming to the park used the playground (2005 survey).
 - 28.9% (2001 survey) and 14.1% (2005 survey) of adults visiting the park accompanied their children to the playground.
 - 12.6% (2005 survey) and 23% (2001 Survey) of adults visited the park go to the zoo.
- 4.3 A number of open public consultation events in partnership with the Youth Service have been arranged to find out what type of play equipment children and their parents would like to see in the playground area of Pudsey Park. These consultation sessions are still ongoing. A copy of the poster used to inform the public of the consultation sessions can be seen in appendix 4, to be tabled at the meeting.

- 4.4 Children attending the consultation will be shown a picture of the area earmarked for refurbishment and also be shown different types of play equipment that could be selected. In addition they will be asked what their preferred piece of play equipment is and which playground met their expectations.
- 4.5 The Youth Service have arranged consultation sessions with school children at Greenside Primary School and Pudsey Primrose Hill Primary School.
- 4.6 Meetings with the Friends of Pudsey Park and attending Ward Members have been kept informed about the proposed developments at Pudsey Park.

5.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 5.1 The refurbishment of the playground, rationalization of Pudsey Zoo and the landscaping of the Pets Corner site fulfils the aims and objectives of the following Council Policies: -
- Parks & Countryside Service Planning Portfolio key aim for Parks & Open Spaces of providing and promoting these sites for recreation, increased pride and social well-being in the local community.
 - Parks & Countryside Service Planning Portfolio key aim for Outdoor Play of providing safe facilities, creating enjoyment, promoting a sense of community well-being and confidence in the outdoor environment
 - Departmental Plan aim of creating better neighbourhoods and confident communities - Through enhanced community safety measures, cleaner areas, community involvement and management plans for Parks.
 - Departmental Plan aim of making the most of people – Life long learning opportunities for all ages in the parks and green spaces. Health promoting activities and voluntary involvement.
 - Corporate Plan strategic outcome of all neighbourhoods are safe, clean, green and well maintained – Enhancement and protection of the environment.
 - Corporate Plan strategic outcome of all our children and young people are healthy, safe and successful – Environmental education and life long learning opportunities.
 - Corporate Plan strategic outcome of each stage of life, people are able to live healthy, fulfilling lives – Suitable provision of quality greenspaces for improving well-being and physical recreation.
 - Vision of Leeds objective on health and wellbeing – Through environmental conditions that promote a healthy and positive society and supporting people to stay healthy and promote equal chances of good health.
 - Vision of Leeds objective on learning – Promoting lifelong learning.
 - Vision of Leeds objective on thriving places – Regeneration and restoring confidence in every part of the city and by actively involving the community.

6.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 6.1 Costings for the various projects in Pudsey Park: -

| REQUIREMENT | ESTIMATE OF COSTINGS | COMMENCEMENT OF WORKS |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Refurbish the playground | £185,600 | March 2008 |
| Merge Pets Corner with the Aviary Aquarium Complex | £190,000 | March 2008 |
| Demolish former Pets Corner and landscape the area | £20,000 | March 2008 |

| | | |
|---|-----------------|------------|
| Improve the northern entrance to the Park | £15,000 | March 2008 |
| Install a bandstand | £50,000 | March 2007 |
| Total | £470,600 | |

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 The refurbishment of the playground and the merging of the Pets Corner with the Aviary Aquarium Complex fulfils outstanding action plans in the Pudsey Park Management Plan.
- 7.2 The demolition of the former Pets Corner site and landscaping the site to create a green corridor will provide a stronger link between the playground area and the rest of the Park.
- 7.3 Merging the Pets Corner with the Aviary Aquarium Complex will allow rationalization of security energy and maintenance issues for the Pudsey Zoo.
- 7.4 Refurbishing the playground and splitting the facility into two units to cater for toddlers and children will enable Health & Safety measures to be met in full and allow more creative play equipment to be installed.
- 7.5 Improvements to the northern entrance of the Park will enhance the works earmarked for the adjacent bus station and car park and enhance visits to the Park
- 7.6 The erection of the bandstand will enable performances to take place in all weathers and encourage more musical events and public attendances.

8.0 Recommendations

- 8.1 Outer West Area Committee notes the proposal to spend £470,600 of Parks Renaissance money to fund improvements at Pudsey Park.