

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE CABINET

5th September 2007

BARNSELEY HALL CAPITAL FOOTBALL PROJECT

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor June Griffiths
Responsible Head of Service	Culture & Community Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an update relating to the above project and requests Members to agree to the proposed booking/management arrangements for the site.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Executive Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1.1 Acknowledge the current position with regard to the Barnsley Hall Football Project.
- 2.1.2 Agree that the provision of the site should be managed as facility for the community as a whole and operated in line with the existing playing pitch stock.
- 2.1.3 Request officer to inform Bromsgrove Town Juniors that a lease agreement can not be drawn up between the parties for the exclusive use of the site.
- 2.1.4 Allow officers to investigate the potential for additional funding streams and delegate the decision for any such proposal/application to the Portfolio Holder for Culture & Community Services, the Head of Culture & Community Services and the Head of Financial Services.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In March 2004 a report was presented to Members regarding Livability Funding for Green Spaces in Bromsgrove, which included a project to create a new park at the former Barnsley Hall site. This was included in the forward capital programme approved by Executive Cabinet in July 2005 and ratified at Council in September 2005.
- 3.2 The nature of the Barnsley Hall project was to establish new football pitch provision and associated changing rooms. Members may be aware that in the 2002 document "A Playing Pitch Strategy for Worcestershire" it was identified that Bromsgrove had a short fall of 11.3 football pitches in Bromsgrove. Although the short fall is mainly around junior pitches, it is proposed to include at least one adult pitch with in the project to allow the rest/recovery of our current pitches (this does no currently happened due to demand) and to give greater flexibility in the future to remark adult pitches as junior ones where greater space is available.

- 3.3 At present the project that is proposed includes the provision of 1 adult pitch, 2 junior pitches, a small sided game pitch, car parking for up to 40 cars, access route and changing accommodation for up to four teams. However this proposal has not been fully priced and due to increased building costs since the original proposal was formulated, may be subject to alterations in order to bring the project in on budget.
- 3.4 In order to meet the ongoing revenue costs of the project a £25,000 ring fenced budget was created as part of the liveability funding application. This money has now been drawn down and a budget code established with in the medium term financial plan. However members should be aware that this budget will eventually need to be included in the medium term financial plan as a pressure when the funding ceases, at present this is thought to be in 2014/15.
- 3.5 Since the original proposal was placed with in the Council's forward capital programme, there has been a great deal of interest from local football clubs regarding the development of the new pitches. As part of this interest the Council was approached by local junior football club with the backing of the Worcestershire County FA with regard to an exclusivity arrangement for the site in order to enhance the development of the site and the club. The nature of this agreement would mean that the Council could apply for additional funds from the Football Foundation. However in view of the current shortfall in football pitches across the district and the exclusive nature of the proposal, officers do not feel that such an option should be considered any further as it will not allow the flexibility required to manage the playing pitch stock effectively for the benefit of the whole community.
- 3.6 Although Officers do not feel that the above approach best suits the needs of the whole community, the possibility of additional funding from the Football Foundation should be further investigated, as it may allow enhanced facilities to be provided for local residents. It is predicted that the need for additional playing pitches in Worcestershire will continue to grow, it should further be recognised that the current playing pitch stock does not meet the local need in term so of quality or quantity and external funding should be sought to meet this requirement where ever possible.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no current financial implications with this report at present. However members are advised of the comments in section 3.4 relating to the medium term financial plan.
- 4.2 Members are further advised that the on going revenue costs for this project have been based on £5,000 per annum, however it is believed that the true cost will be lower than this. Should this be the case the medium term financial plan will be revised to reflect the true cost of the provision and the point where the external funding provision ceases.
- 4.3 Based on a 75% uptake level of available space it is predicted that the new pitches will generate up to £4,500 per annum. This figure excludes any additional usage/income that may be generated for example school games, cup finals etc.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications from this report.

6. CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

6.1 The project will contribute to the Council's Objectives CO2 Improvement and CO03 Sense of Community and Well being by addressing the priorities of Customer Service, Reputation and Community Influence.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 The principal risk with regard to this project is that of project management and the need to ensure the development meets the objectives of the Playing Pitch Strategy and has effective budget controls in place.

7.2 In order to secure the land from English Partnerships, the Council had to give assurances with regard to the development of the project and proposed. Should the project not been completed we would be required to continue to maintain or return the land. Both of these options have cost implications, however the greater risk would be that English Partnerships refuse to take responsibility back for the land we will be left with an on going maintenance issue and associated cost. Members should also be advised that in such circumstances we will be required to repay the livability funding including any interest generated.

7.3 A further risk is the negative impact upon the Council's reputation once the football club who have been discussing the possibility of a joint bid to the Football Foundation for some time are made aware of the Council's decision. Members are advised that the football club have held extensive discussions with Council Officers and have received positive feedback from those officers in the past with regard to the viability of the project.

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The project will deliver improvements to the Council playing pitch stock and begin to address the recommendations of the 2002 Worcestershire Playing Pitch Strategy. This will in turn enhance the Council's reputation and increase customer satisfaction as covered in section 6.1.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues: None
Personnel Implications: None
Governance/Performance Management: None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998: None
Policy Implementing Section 106 policies associated with Executive Cabinet decision in July 2005

Environmental: None
Equalities and Diversity: The proposal will ensure that all ages group/all clubs in the local area will have greater access to playing pitches and increase the quality/number of pitches available for community use.

10. **OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Acting Chief Executive	Yes
Corporate Director (Services)	Yes
Assistant Chief Executive	Yes
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	Yes
Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	Yes
Corporate Procurement Team	No

11. **APPENDICES**

No appendices

12. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Worcestershire Playing Pitch Strategy 2002

Executive Cabinet Report 31st March 2004 Inc forward capital programme

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