

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

3rd November 2010

Improvements to Charford Recreation Ground – Skate Park

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Michael Webb
Relevant Head of Service	John Godwin
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 This report requests Members to approve the enhancement of Charford Recreation Grounds play facilities funded from Section 106 Monies.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.2. Cabinet are requested to recommend to full Council that the above scheme be included to the Capital Programme for 2010/2011 funded from available S106 monies and request officers to undertake the work required before the “claw back” point is reached.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In recent years the Charford Recreation Ground has been enhanced using Capital Monies and external grant funding sources to create a large multi functioning recreation space for all age ranges. In 2007 £50,000 of Youth Capital funding was secured to install a MUGA to support the £100,000 BDC Capital Monies which was used to create a toddler/junior play area and linked footpath to a small concrete skate park.
- 3.2 The skate park is a small scale facility with a limited number of ramps that was procured in line with the available funding at the time.
- 3.3 In Section 7 of the PPG17 report, commissioned in 2007/8 and concluded early 2010, the need for increased provision for children and young people is highlighted across the District, with the Charford Ward showing a deficiency of provision for young people:-
- *Specific lack of facilities for children aged 10 years and over*
 - *85% of household survey respondents aged under 16 years indicated that they believe current provision of childrens play areas is insufficient*
 - *Limited opportunities for older children being highlighted as a common theme*
 - *In terms of new facilities the most popular request from young people was for provision of a skatepark (17%)*

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

3rd November 2010

This project would support our policy to provide larger, higher quality facilities in strategic locations and move away from low quality, small facilities which experience limited use.

3.4 Following the development of land at Villiers Road, Charford for social housing an offsite contribution provision for Adult/Youth play facilities and open space development for £11,684 has been paid to the Council.

3.5 Officers have been reviewing the current 106 budget allocations and available budgets in line with the up coming revisions to the County Play Strategy and PPG17 quality and qualitative assessment of the district facilities. During this review the monies outlined in section 3.4 has been identified as being unallocated and that a claw back period is in place that will see the monies returned to the developer should it not be used on or before the April 11th 2011.

3.6 Officers have sought a suitable local scheme in line with corporate priorities. The current provision at Charford Recreation Ground skate park is being adapted by local young people using soil/earth from the site to create more ramps. The new proposal is to increase and enhance ramps to the adapted design and increase the overall scheme to create a larger skate facility. This new scheme will prevent the adaption of the design by CYP and meet the demonstrated demand the adaption clearly shows is required. It will also address health and safety concerns the adaptation/vandalism creates and minimise the on going maintenance issues and call outs to repair damaged areas.

4. KEY ISSUES

The key issue with in this report as follows:

4.1 By including the enhancement scheme within the capital programme the potential for claw back of the 106 funding is removed.

4.2 Continual vandalism of site by young people using surrounding earth mound to re-create more ramps and potential health and safety risk.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct financial implications with in this report other than those highlighted above. The section 106 monies are in place and available for use and as the site is already with in council's portfolio of play areas there are no additional maintenance or inspections cost involved.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no legal implications contained with in this report.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

8.1 The scheme will support the following objectives:

- Objective Two – Improvement and Value for money reducing the ongoing impact on maintenance/response budgets, minimising a current health and safety risk and by responding to the qualitative aspects of PPG17 in relation to Young persons facilities.
- Objective Three - One community, by working with local young people and responding to their needs and requests and enhancing service based on resident feedback.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

9.1 The principal risk is continued modifications by local young people could heighten the risk to health and safety should the modifications increase in size and location

9.2 Advice sought from external play risk inspector to provide us with information of how the scheme could be adapted in line with regulations and local demand.

9.3 Risk assessments will be managed via project management of the scheme and external/independent risk inspection/assessment of the facility will be carried out and recorded as part of our normal assessments of new facilities

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no direct customer implications as this is an existing site and facility

11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The proposals will ensure all ages in the local area are provided for at this site

12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

12.1 The proposed scheme will reduce officer time for re-active works to monitor and replace soil taken from site for unauthorised modifications to ensure risk and safety of the site/facility is maintained

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

13.1 Concrete ramps will be added to an existing facility

14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

14.1 None

15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

15.1 None

16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

16.1 None

17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

17.1 None directly contained with in this report.

18. LESSONS LEARNT

18.1 Although limited budget available for the original scheme – the lessons learnt have been the need for a more substantial facility on a this large recreation ground in order to sustain and facilitate the local need of young people.

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CABINET

3rd November 2010

19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- 19.1 Liaison with local young people on site to discuss creation of informal mounds/ramps. Proposal is to re-create solid structure to support existing scheme in line with young people informal designs and modifications and in line with risk inspector advice and guidance.
- 19.2 Issues of the site have been addressed and reported by Local Ward Members Councillor Christine McDonald and Councillor Sean Shannon and liaison meeting has been held with Councillor Christine McDonald also involving the Community Safety Partnership.

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	Yes
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	Yes
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	Yes
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	No
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Resources	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

21. WARDS AFFECTED

Charford

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

3rd November 2010

22. APPENDICES

None

23. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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