



Environment Committee

4 June 2019

Title Childs Hill Park - Improvement Plan

Report of Chairman of Environment Committee

Wards All

Status Public

Urgent No

Key No

Enclosures Appendix 1 - Recommendations on allocation of S106 funding in Childs Hill Park

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Summary

The Granville Road Estates development provides a Section 106 contribution of £210,000 for Childs Hill Park as such the Friends of Childs Hill Park undertook a consultation with its membership and other park users about their preferences for the allocation of S106 funding to improve the capacity and facilities in the Park.

Officers Recommendations

1. That the Environment Committee notes the results of the consultation completed by the Friends of Childs Hill Park and accepts the recommendations for the areas of investment set out in this report using a S106 contribution of £210,000 from planning permission F/04474/14.
2. That the Environment Committee agrees to delegate authority to the Executive Director, Environment to procure external design consultants and construction contractors for the Improvement Plan set out in this report, in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 The Granville Road Estate development (F/04474/14) was refused for a number of reasons including that it would create a loss of green space. At the resulting public inquiry, the planning inspector agreed that the scheme would reduce the amount of outdoor leisure and play space available to existing and new residents of Granville Road. It would also increase the pressure on the already heavily used Childs Hill Park, the nearest green space to the proposed development.
- 1.1.2 The inspector made his approval of the development scheme dependent on a S106 agreement whereby the Developer would contribute £210,000 to improve the capacity and facilities of Childs Hill Park. The inspector said that an example of an improvement would be bringing the disused bowling green back into use.
- 1.1.3 Following this decision there was a meeting between council officers, Childs Hill ward councillors, representatives from the Granville Road Residents Association and the Friends of Childs Hill Park. At the meeting, officers asked the Friends of Childs Hill Park to undertake a consultation with their members and other local park users to establish preferences for the allocation of the S106 funding. This is in line with the Adopt a Place agreement between Greenspaces and the Friends of Childs Hill Park which states the Friends will from time to time carry out such consultation exercises. Barnet would have regard to the results of the consultation in reaching a conclusion on how to spend the S106 money to improve Childs Hill Park.

1.2 Improvement Plan

- 1.2.1 The committee of The Friends considered how to improve the capacity and facilities of the park so that it could serve a larger population. They also considered the long-term maintenance cost of any improvements. The Friends' committee put forward proposals which were discussed at the Friends A.G.M. in 2017. They were refined and submitted to the 2018 A.G.M where three main proposals were supported;
 - 1.2.1.1 To bring the disused bowling green back into use as a family friendly, dog free picnic area;
 - 1.2.1.2 To upgrade the Nant Road bed to provide an accessible and attractive amenity with additional seating capacity.
 - 1.2.1.3 To upgrade the children's playground surface to make it more usable year-round.
- 1.2.2 Each of the three proposals were put forward for public consultation, a summary of the responses can be found in Appendix 1. The Friends of Childs Hill Park concluded that the three proposals for the use of the S106 funds to improve the capacity and facilities of the park were all well supported, with approval ratings of between 56% and 80%.
- 1.2.3 The strongest support was for bringing the bowling green back into use as a dog free picnic area as such it is proposed that this workstream be prioritised with the others coming forward should sufficient budget or if other future funding becomes available in the future.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The recommendations are set to approve the proposed Improvement Plan and to allow for its delivery and implementation. By delegating authority to the Strategic Director for Environment the Greenspaces Team can work collaboratively with the Friends of Childs Hill Park to deliver the scheme for the benefits for the local residents.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 It is not recommended that further consultations are completed as the consultation completed to date has been led by the local community and so is considered to represent the interests of local residents.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 If the committee is minded to agree and approve the recommendations in this report then the council will work with the Friends of Childs Hill Park and procure external expertise to aid in the design and development of the proposals.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The Corporate Plan 2015-2020 is based on the core principles of fairness, responsibility and opportunity to make sure Barnet is a place:
- of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
 - where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
 - where responsibility is shared, fairly
 - where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the tax payer.
- 5.1.2 The Corporate Plan 2015-2020 and the 2018/19 Addendum includes the following:
- Barnet's parks and green spaces will be amongst the best in London;
 - Resident feedback consistently shows that Barnet's Park and Greenspaces are amongst its biggest assets and a strong influence for people deciding to live here;
 - The Council recognises this and will continue to ensure that the Borough's Parks and Greenspaces are looked after;
 - The Council will develop more innovative ways of maintaining its Parks and Greenspaces; including through greater partnerships with community groups and focus on using parks to achieve wider public health priorities for the Borough.
 - Investing in parks and open spaces for a greener borough.
- 5.1.3 The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2020 states: -
- Barnet is now the largest Borough in London by population (367,265 at the end of 2015) and is continuing to grow
 - Barnet Sport and Physical Activity Needs Assessment (2012) highlighted that whilst health behaviours and outcomes are more favourable in Barnet than in England as a whole, sport and physical activity rates and the use of outdoor spaces are below the

national average

- A breadth of evidence demonstrates that a more active lifestyle is essential for physical and mental wellbeing. Regular physical activity helps reduce the risk of stroke, type II diabetes, development of dementia, incidences of heart disease, cancers and high blood pressure. Physical activity supports the prevention and management of long term conditions as well as being a component of achieving and maintaining a healthy weight
- Physical inactivity currently costs the UK economy £7.2 billion. Additional costs are incurred via the wider economy through increased sickness absence, premature death of productive individuals and increased costs for individuals and their carers
- Within Barnet the health costs of physical inactivity currently cost £6.7 million. This is approximately £1.9 million per 100,000 of the Borough's population. However, as measured by the Sport England Active People Survey Data (APS9 Quarter 2) 43.8% of the Borough are currently inactive and would like to do more
- The number of people with mental health conditions is predicted to increase as the population grows. In November 2014, the Health and Wellbeing Board identified prevention of and early intervention in mental health problems as a priority

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 Finance and Value for Money – If the Improvement Plan is approved then the relevant process will be followed for the £210,000 Section 106 monies to be added to the Capital Programme subject to approval by the Policy and Resources Committee.

5.2.2 Staffing – At this time there are no implications. The implementation of the Improvement Plan will be led and managed by the council's Greenspaces Team.

5.2.3 IT – At this time there are no implications.

5.2.4 Property – At this time there are no implications

5.2.5 Sustainability – The initiatives detailed in this report seek to maintain a high quality park for everyone, whilst considering the maintenance costs in the short and long term in the position of declining resources.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. The key themes within the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy are:-

- Social outcomes and benefits;
- Environmental Outcomes and Benefits;
- Economic Outcomes and Benefits.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 Local authorities have a number of different statutory powers in relation to: parks and open spaces, the purchase and maintenance of public walks or pleasure grounds under

the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, including wide powers to provide recreational facilities. The Open Spaces Act 1906 provides that local authorities shall hold and administer open space in trust to allow the enjoyment of it by the public and shall maintain and keep the open space in a good and decent state.

5.4.2 The use of the S106 contribution relation to the Granville Road Estate development is as set out in this report is in accordance with this planning obligation.

5.4.3 Council Constitution, Article 7 (Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships) – the terms of reference of the Environment Committee includes “Responsibility for all borough-wide or cross-constituency matters relating to the street scene including...parks.”

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 All risks are managed using the risk management procedure, as set out in the Corporate Risk Management Framework. High level risks are reported as part of the Council’s quarterly performance regime.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups.

5.6.2 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services. The protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation.

5.6.3 The Corporate Plan 2015 – 2020 sets the Strategic Equalities Objective, which is: that citizens will be treated equally, with understanding and respect, and will have equal access to quality services which provide value to the tax payer. Changes to policies and services are analysed in order to assess the potential equalities impacts and risks and identify any mitigating action possible, through an equalities impact assessment, before final decisions are made. Consideration will also be made to the equalities and data cohesion summary.

5.7 **Corporate Parenting**

5.7.1 Not applicable.

5.8 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.8.1 The consultation was completed by the Friends of Childs Hill Park in line with their Adopt a Place agreement.

5.8 **Insight**

5.8.1 No insight information has been used to produce this report.

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 None