

	<h2>Hendon Area Committee</h2> <h3>30 March 2016</h3>
<p><b>Title</b></p>	<p><b>Brookside Walk – Play Area</b></p>
<p><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Interim Director for Street Scene</p>
<p><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>Hendon</p>
<p><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Key Decision</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>Appendix A: Brookside Walk Play Area – Existing Layout                  Appendix B: Brookside Walk Play Area – Proposed Layout                  Appendix C: Product Information - Four Seat Swing Frame                  Appendix D: Decision Notice Granting Planning Permission</p>
<p><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Matthew Gunyon, Acting Head of Greenspaces,                  020 8359 7403, <a href="mailto:Matthew.Gunyon@Barnet.gov.uk">Matthew.Gunyon@Barnet.gov.uk</a></p>

<h3>Summary</h3>
<p>At the Hendon Area Committee held on 13 January 2016, the Committee resolved to instruct Greenspaces to present a proposal to the committee at a subsequent meeting and provide a breakdown of costs for new play equipment at Brookside Walk.</p> <p>This report outlines the costs associated with the purchase and installation of the additional play equipment, and seeks approval for the award of funding to help meet these costs.</p> <p>The costs for the works amount to £7,607.00. Following their fundraising activities, the local residents raised £1,400. On behalf of the residents, the Ward Councillor for Hendon has requested assistance to meet the funding shortfall of £6,207.00.</p>

<h3>Recommendations</h3>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>That the Committee approve allocation of £6,207.00 from the Hendon Area Committee budget towards the costs for the purchase and installation of new play equipment (see section 1.4)</b></li> </ol>

## 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Brookside Walk in Hendon forms part of the Dollis Valley Greenwalk, which links areas of public open space along the Dollis Valley in a green chain through the heart of Barnet.
- 1.2 Over the last few years the Council's Greenspaces Team has worked closely with local residents to make improvements to the open space at Brookside Walk. This includes a successful planning application, submitted in 2010, to place a fenced play area there. The play area was installed and proved very popular and in 2013 there was a subsequent request by residents to install additional play equipment. Planning approval was granted for the additional play equipment, but the project went dormant as the required funding was not available.
- 1.3 In July 2015, local residents re-engaged with the Council and requested an amendment to the play equipment they wanted to be installed. As a result, the Council submitted a variation to the existing planning permission to seek approval for the installation of a four seat swing frame. It was proposed that the installation of this equipment would be jointly funded by the Council and the local residents.
- 1.4 The Council estimates that the cost for purchasing and installing the new play equipment will be £6,207.00. This includes:

<b>Cost Description</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>
Purchase and installation of the swing frame and seats, including installation of a suitable safety surface around the base of the frame.	7,607.00
<b>Project Costs</b>	<b>7,607.00</b>
<b>Contribution from Community fundraising</b>	<b>(1,400.00)</b>
<b>Fund requested from Area Committee</b>	<b>6,207.00</b>

- 1.5 The table above includes a breakdown of the costs associated with the installation of the new play equipment. The figure for the supply and installation of the swing frame was taken from a quote obtained by the local residents. The quote was obtained from a company that has subsequently been awarded a contract to supply and install play equipment in the borough, there is therefore a pre-existing and accessible relationship between the Council and the supplier without the need for further procurement activity.
- 1.6 Appendices A and B give further information relating to the location of the new equipment. Appendix C gives some specific product details for the swings. Appendix D is a copy of the formal decision notice granting planning permission (dated 2 March 2016).

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 On 13 January 2016, the Hendon Area Committee considered a Members' Item submitted by Councillor Maureen Braun regarding a request for funding for play equipment in Brookside Walk Play Area, Hendon.
- 2.2 The Council originally agreed to fund the new play equipment on a 50/50 basis with the local community. Local residents had undertaken their own fundraising and raised approximately £1,400 but this was not enough to cover the cost of the equipment. As a result the project had stalled.
- 2.3 If this bridge funding is granted, the local community will benefit from additional equipment in this popular play area.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 Not applicable.

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 Once the bridge funding is secured the Council will raise an invoice to the local resident group in order to transfer the agreed contribution (£1,400) to the Council's bank account. Once the contribution is received an order will then be placed to install the swings.
- 4.2 The Council recently awarded a three year contract to a company to supply and install play equipment across the borough. This means that once the planning permission and funding is secured, an order can be placed promptly.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that there will be a six-eight week lead in time to allow for the swing frame to be procured and installed. Therefore it is anticipated the installation will be completed by the end of May 2016 (subject to the transfer of funds).

## **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 This project support the Council's Vision as set out in the Corporate Plan 2015-2020 in the following areas:

***Barnet's parks and greenspaces will be amongst the best in London***

- This project will enhance an already popular play area

***Barnet's residents will be some of the most active and healthy in London, benefitting from improved leisure facilities and making use of the Borough's parks and open spaces***

- This project will enhance an already popular play area and hopefully encourage increased usage by local residents who have called for the additional play equipment and have part-funded its installation.

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

- 5.2.1 The Council will place an order for the installation of the new equipment through the new play contract as mentioned above. The £6,207 will be funded through the £100,000 budget provided to the area committee for non-infrastructure related work.
- 5.2.2 The local resident group will be invoiced for its contribution of £1,400, which is not subject to VAT, prior to commencement of work.
- 5.2.3 Once the new equipment is installed it will be regularly inspected and maintained along with the other equipment in the play area.
- 5.2.4 The costs associated with this maintenance regime come out of the Greenspaces annual revenue budget.
- 5.2.5 The new equipment will be covered by the Council's insurance policy.

## 5.3 **Social Value**

- 5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

## 5.4 **Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.4.1 The Council Constitution outlines the Responsibility for the Area Committee functions as follows:
  - (1) Consider matters raised at Residents Forums and determine how they are to be taken forward, including whether to request a report for a future meeting, refer to an Officer and/or ward councillors.
  - (2) Discharge any functions, within the budget and policy framework agreed by Policy and Resources, of the theme committees that they agree are more properly delegated to a more local level. These include but are not limited to:
    - Town Centre Regeneration and Management
    - Sewers, drainage, public conveniences, water courses
    - Refuse collection, litter, cleansing, waste and recycling
    - Parks, open spaces, nature reserves, allotments, recreation and leisure facilities
    - Libraries and Culture
    - Cemeteries and Crematoria
    - Day to day environmental issues

## 5.5 **Risk Management**

- 5.5.1 Once the equipment is installed it will be regularly inspected and maintained as per the rest of the equipment in the play area. There is a risk that Hendon Area

Committee does not approve the funds. It may be necessary for a funding shortfall to be filled by the local community (if they are able to continue fundraising).

## 5.6 **Equalities and Diversity**

5.6.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 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 who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it

5.6.2 The "protected characteristic" are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

5.6.3 In preparing this report officers have had regard to section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and consider that the action proposed complies with the Council's equality duty.

5.6.4 Many of the play area users are part of the Orthodox Jewish community, and as such cannot be driven on Saturdays to any other amusement. This play area is well used and would benefit from further equipment.

## 5.7 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.7.1 There has been extensive historical engagement with the local community which resulted in the successful installation of the original play area. Local residents have also undertaken independent fundraising within the community. More recently, as part of the process to vary the existing planning permission, local residents have had the opportunity to submit online comments on the proposal to install new play equipment. At the time of writing, two responses have been received which declare their support for the project.

## 5.8 **Insight**

5.8.1 Not applicable.

## 6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 At the [Hendon Area Committee, dated 13 January 2016](#) the committee resolved to receive a presentation from the Greenspaces Team (this report) with regards to the proposal to contribute towards the costs associated with the installation of new play equipment at Brookside Walk.