
REPORT TO:	COMMUNITY SCRUTINY	AGENDA ITEM:	9
DATE OF MEETING:	24 TH MARCH 2003	CATEGORY:	DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN	
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	CHRIS MASON 5794	DOC:	
SUBJECT:	PLAY EQUIPMENT PROVISION – PROGRESS REPORT	REF:	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:	CS10

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Members note the progress made with Community Scrutiny Committee's recommendations on the above subject

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To outline the progress made in addressing the recommendations from Community Scrutiny Committee's investigation into play equipment provision.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 Good progress has been made with both of the recommendations made by this Committee to Community Services Committee at their meeting on 29th August 2002

4.0 Detail

Background

- 4.1 At their meetings on 17th June & 21st July 2002 Members discussed issues relating to play equipment and provision of BMX/skateboarding facilities.
- 4.2 At these meetings contributions were received from a number of officers including Maureen Evans, Youth Team Leader, Derbyshire County Council.

Recommendations

While the Committee considered a number of wide ranging issues their specific recommendations concentrated on the following issues

– “Dialogue be undertaken and agreements documented with Parish Councils to determine the ownership and maintenance responsibility of all play equipment”

- “investigation be carried out regarding the potential of the Woodhouse Sports Ground Car Park site for the provision of a BMX/Skateboarding facility including its

design and funding in consultation with the Youth Forum and Crime & Disorder Partnership”

Progress – Play Equipment

- 4.3 Following the allocation of the necessary finance ROSPA were commissioned to undertake detailed risk assessments of all of the District's public play areas in late summer 2002. A copy of the report relating to their site(s) was also made available to parish councils.
- 4.4 At this time an attempt was made to clarify where responsibility lay for site management and the maintenance and inspection of play equipment. Parish councils were asked to respond, in writing, whether or not they accepted our understanding of arrangements. A copy of the letter sent to parish councils is attached at Annexe A
- 4.5 This was sent to 26 parish councils. 10 have responded that they accept our definition, 2 have indicated that they do not agree with our understanding. Reminders have been sent to parish councils who have yet to respond. Officers, are currently in discussion with those parish councils who have indicated that they do not accept our understanding to try and agree a way forward.

Progress – BMX/Skateboarding

- 4.6 Good progress is being made on this issue. Under the auspices of the Crime & Disorder Partnership a sub-group has been established comprising representatives from the Police, Youth Service and this Council. All partners are of the understanding, that the only way to deliver the project successfully and to develop the site further in the future is through the partnership that has been established.
- 4.7 Confirmation has been received that the site can be used for a BMX/skateboarding facility and equally importantly Members have allocated £60,000 as part of this year's budget process towards the project. £10,000 from the Crime & Disorder Partnership makes up the initial £70,000 funding available to deliver the project.
- 4.8 A key element in its successful delivery is to identify clearly what young people want from the facility. Consultation has been fairly extensive and has involved organised visits to other sites and culminated with a number of 'focus' group at a recent Youth Forum. Notes from this forum are attached at Annexe B to give Members a 'flavour' of the issues raised. These notes will form the basis of the project brief.
- 4.9 This Council have the responsibility to undertake actual physical delivery of the project. Unfortunately, we have resource and a capacity problems at present that means we have to procure external assistance to enable us to manage the project successfully. Funding this assistance will be via the capital already allocated for the project.
- 4.10 A draft timetable is available at Annexe C to give Members an understanding of the timescale involved in delivering the project. At this stage all that can be said is that we are on timetable.
- 4.11 For the partnership, future management of the site is a key issue. While definite conclusions have not yet been reached we are currently progressing on the following basis:

- that young people have a say and involvement in the future management of the site.

– that the partner organisations will play a continuing and active role in the future management and development of the site

- that inspections of the equipment will be incorporated into the Council's existing play equipment monitoring regime.

– that the Wardens, based at Swadlincote Woodland Forest Park, will be utilised to visit the site on a daily basis.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 In terms of play equipment provision there are no specific financial implications arising from delivering the Committee's recommendation. All of the necessary capital finance is also in place to deliver the core of the BMX/skateboarding project. In this area, additional funding opportunities will be explored to hopefully give the project further added value.

6.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 None

7.0 Community Implications

7.1 Both issues have fairly important implications in terms of trying to address community needs

9.0 Background Papers

9.1 Community Scrutiny Committee 17th June & 29th July 2002, Community Services Committee 29th August 2002.

