



## **PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE**

### **INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT**

#### **TOPIC - STANMORE RECREATION GROUND, CROMWELL ROAD**

#### **PROCEDURAL INFORMATION**

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other relevant overview and scrutiny committee. In addition, all Members are notified.

If five or more Members from those informed so request, the Leader may require the matter to be referred to Cabinet for determination.

#### **Contact Officers:**

**Case Officer:** Susan Lord, Tel: 01962 848533, Email: slord@winchester.gov.uk

**Democratic Services Officer:** Nancy Graham, Tel: 01962 848 235, Email: ngraham@winchester.gov.uk

#### **SUMMARY**

- Winchester Town Area is in need of multi-use games areas (MUGAs) to replace facilities which have been removed at North Walls and Somers Close, due to the expansion of skateboarding and wheeled sports. There is now no MUGA within the Winchester Town boundary. This is a highly desirable feature as it enables football and basketball to be played throughout the year on an all-weather surface.
- When the previous facilities were removed, it was intended that these be replaced within the Town area when a suitable location could be found.
- Stanmore Recreation Ground is considered an ideal location for the following reasons
  1. It is a much used and valued open space but has a lack of facilities.
  2. It is close to the University and a high density housing area.
  3. There is ample room to install an appropriate MUGA.

- Whilst the play area was improved in 2004, the remainder of the site is grass. The Landscape and Open Spaces Team have made some improvements to the site by planting a central avenue of trees, providing football goals on a grass pitch, clearing debris from the perimeter and planting a native hedge. However there is scope for additional works which would benefit the local community and the wider area.
- The City Council already has multi-use goal ends in storage that could be installed at this site. Therefore it would only be necessary to fund the cost of the installation and the hard standing. The estimated cost of £25,000 is a solution which it is considered would provide good value for money.
- In addition to the MUGA area, the Landscape and Open Spaces Team would like to provide a youth shelter as a meeting place for the young people in the area where they can congregate in a safe environment and also participate in sports. There is a similar arrangement at the Somers Close Recreation Ground which works very well. The cost of the shelter would be £6,500.
- In 2004 when the play area was refurbished, the provision of a BMX track was also approved for this site and funding of £20,000 allocated for its provision. At the time, however, no contractor could be found to deliver the project. In 2015, the Informal Members Group for Play visited sites in Eastleigh and viewed a simple BMX track and agreed that the provision of something similar would be beneficial for the young people of Winchester. As a result of further investigation, it is proposed that a BMX track now be installed at Stanmore Recreation Ground as part of this series of improvements and that funding of £9,000 be allocated for this.
- A site plan showing the proposed locations of the equipment is attached at Appendix 1.

## **DECISION**

1. That authority be given to the Head of Landscape and Open Spaces to spend developer contributions (s106) monies from the Winchester Town Account Sport budget on a MUGA, youth shelter and BMX track for Stanmore Recreation Ground at a total cost of £40,500..

## **REASON FOR THE DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

When the North Walls Skate Park was built, the intention was to replace the MUGA elsewhere on North Walls Recreation Ground. However, concerns were raised locally following public consultation on the loss of open space so it was decided that the facility should be sited at a different location in Winchester. .

The basketball court at Somers Close was also another option considered because, although used, it was in poor condition and the surface was very abrasive. It therefore made sense for the area to be utilised as part of the ground works for the skate park. However, the Council received representations from the University of Winchester that they would like to see a MUGA provided elsewhere as these facilities are used regularly by them for training purposes.

No other suitable locations within the Town area have been identified where these facilities could be provided.

### **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

The Open Space Fund holds developer contributions provided under Section 106 agreements. The Fund is apportioned between play and sport, and the sport element had a balance of £516,844 as at 30 June 2017 for Winchester. £423,000 of this has been previously committed to the replacement and refurbishment of pavilions at King George V Playing Fields and North Walls Recreation Ground, leaving an unallocated balance of £93,844. There is therefore sufficient within the Fund to meet the required financial resources for these projects.

The Landscape and Open Spaces Team will undertake the project management, including the coordination of the installation within existing resources.

### **CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE DECISION**

The Portfolio Holder for Environment has been consulted and is in agreement with this project. Ward members have been involved in the development of these proposals and are supportive of them.

Consultation on the location, size and specification for the basketball aspect of the MUGA has been undertaken with the University who regularly use the Recreation Ground for sporting activities and training. Residents and other interest groups will be consulted on the details of the project such as the equipment to be installed, design of the shelter etc., once funding has been allocated to the project.

The local residents were consulted on the improvements made to the Recreation Ground in March 2017 by the Landscape and Open Spaces Team and informed that further changes and developments were proposed. They were involved in a community planting event for the native hedge around the perimeter of the field with partners from housing associations, the University and community groups. The event was very well attended and positive feedback received on the improvements made.

When funding has been allocated to this project, further consultation will take place with the local residents and school children on the choice of equipment.

**FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED  
FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION  
NOTICE**

*n/a*

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR  
OFFICER CONSULTED**

None

**DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

*n/a*

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision: 22.08.17

Councillor Jan Warwick – Portfolio Holder for Environment

**APPENDICES:**

Appendix 1 – site layout plan

PHD744  
Ward(s): St Luke

Stanmore Recreation Ground

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