

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	10.
Date:	13 th July 2009	Status	Open
Category	Decision within the functions of Executive		
Subject:	Old Bolsover Town Council Playground Enhancement programme		
Report by:	Leisure Operations Manager		
Other Officers Involved	Special Projects Officer		
Director	Strategy		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Social Inclusion		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The provision of local play facilities addresses a number of the authority's and partner's corporate aims:

Community Safety – Ensuring that communities are safe and secure by designing good quality, free to use and safe play spaces that effectively engage children and young people and provide a positive diversion from boredom and anti-social behaviour.

Customer Focused Services – Providing excellent customer focused services by developing a multi-agency approach to the delivery of improved local play opportunities for customers.

Environment – Promoting and enhancing a clean and sustainable environment as evidence shows that contact with the outdoors, and especially with the natural environment, is an important component of children's play. The worse a local environment looks, the less children are able to play freely.

Regeneration – Developing healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities as play is crucial to health, social and emotional development throughout childhood. The physical activity involved in energetic play provides children and young people with a significant amount of their daily amount of regular exercise.

Social Inclusion – Promoting fairness, equality and lifelong learning through play by enabling children and young people to learn from the way others and the environment reacts to their play and their actions. This includes the development of problem solving, language and literacy skills as well as development of children's imagination, creative interests and abilities.

Strategic Organisational Development – Continually improving our organisation by championing children’s play and leading on the development of a strategic partnership approach to children’s play opportunities

TARGETS

The support of this project will contribute directly to the delivery of Community Safety, Environment, Regeneration and Social Inclusion priorities and targets within the Council’s Corporate Plan.

VALUE FOR MONEY

Working collaboratively is a guiding principle running through many of our strategies. This approach will enable partners to deliver economies of scale by pooling resources and enable partners to work more efficiently together by avoiding duplication and waste as well as improving overall effectiveness by working to shared aims and adding value to each others work.

THE REPORT

Old Bolsover Town Council have taken the decision to pursue the refurbishment and upgrade of its play equipment and play area stock over the coming years. It was envisaged that this would be funded via a capital programme financed mainly by land sales, however, considering the current economic climate and the downturn in land values etc. other means of funding the programme are now being investigated.

One of the sites identified for improvement and the first in this report is OBTC owned Shuttlewood Recreation Ground. 2 ½ years ago Bolsover District Council used section 106 monies to secure the site from 2 busy roads by installing a fencing scheme that would contain the users who were undertaking leisure activities on the site. The site contains a football pitch, play area and the recent installation of a teenage focused recreation activity facility (multi use games area).

Old Bolsover Town Council are looking to invest further in the site by replacing the infant/junior play facilities – a project which in total will cost £40,000. To fund this project the Town Council have sought funding from the Landfill Communities Fund.

The second site identified for improvement as part of the programme is Hornscroft Park which is widely considered to be the flagship of Bolsover’s parks. Some improvements were undertaken in 2008 which included a new infant/junior play facility in the corner of the park, the opportunity to invest further in the site will include a teenage focused recreation activity facility (multi use games area), a teen focused play/socialising area and general upgrading of the site – a project which in total will cost £150,560. To fund this project the Town Council have sought funding from the Landfill Communities Fund.

Although the participation of Landfill Operators in the Landfill Communities Fund is voluntary, a contributing Landfill Operator does not receive 100% tax relief on contributions given to Environmental Bodies. For every £100 given to the Scheme, the Landfill Operator receives a £90 tax credit, therefore each contribution made to the Landfill Communities Fund costs the Landfill Operator 10% of the amount given. To offset the 'shortfall' and encourage Landfill Operators to contribute to the Landfill Communities Fund, H.M. Revenue & Customs has stated that a contribution amounting to 10% of the total grant awarded can be paid to Landfill Operators by a Third Party, independent from the organisation receiving the grant.

Old Bolsover Town Council have approached Bolsover District Council to become a Third Party Contributor to the two projects. This contribution could be funded from section 106 monies held by BDC for formal/informal recreation generated through planning gain which are to be used for the purpose of benefitting the people of Bolsover and the surrounding communities. The Old Bolsover Town Council 'Playground Enhancement' programme fits the criteria to access the monies held.

ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Old Bolsover Town Council is a signed up member of the Bolsover District Council led '***Bolsover District play Partnership***', it is envisaged that all of their playground upgrade programme works/supply shall be undertaken by the partnerships commercial play provider SMP and as a result shall enjoy the discounts that they bring to the partnership.

The partnership objectives and functions are to work collaboratively to:

- provide a strategic overview of all play activity within Bolsover district and advise the Bolsover Local Strategic Partnership and Derbyshire Partnership Forum on how best to develop play opportunities for the benefit of the whole community.
- To ensure that play successfully integrates into the headline policy areas of the local Sustainable Community Strategy and in Local Area Agreements and that key local decision makers are made aware of the impact that play can make in delivering wider social, environmental and economic outcomes.
- increase physical activity levels in Bolsover district by extending access to a range of community based play opportunities.
- help recruit, train and support local volunteers to get involved in local play schemes.
- participate in the establishment and operation of workforce training & development schemes that increase specialist knowledge provide skills development and employment opportunities in the play sector.
- help raise awareness of the benefits of play and change perceptions of the risk associated with play by undertaking targeted marketing and promotional campaigns to parents & carers.

- coordinate & develop a network of good quality, affordable and accessible play facilities across Bolsover district.
- enable the community and other local stakeholders involved in the development and coordination of play to help set the vision and priorities for Bolsover district.
- work with the national and regional play agencies to ensure that play services within the Bolsover district are adequately supported and resourced to deliver national, regional and local play priorities
- develop & deliver play focused community safety diversionary activities.
- develop & deliver play focused healthy living initiatives.
- develop and test new and innovative approaches to the provision of play across Bolsover district which are capable of being mainstreamed beyond the life of any grant funding received.
- prioritise, agree and implement a rolling programme of work for the Partnership in accordance with the above.
- deliver better value for money through Members pooling resources and skills, sharing knowledge, ideas and good practice, avoiding duplication and reducing waste.
- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of play programmes undertaken by the Partnership by conducting research and by developing relevant local performance indicators.
- Manage any projects which result from successful funding bids.

IMPLICATONS

Financial: With a combined third party contribution of £19,056, Old Bolsover Town Council could lever in a further £171,504 from the Landfill Communities Fund.

The amount requested is 10% of the project cost of the £40,000 Shuttlewood Road Project = £4,000. This would be funded from the Section 106 **neighbourhood open space fund** (informal recreation) which at the moment holds monies generated via the Horsehead Lane Development (£7,855) and the Ridgedale Road Development (£3,942) which are to be used for the purpose of benefitting the people of Bolsover and the surrounding communities.

Also 10% of the project cost of the £150,056 Hornscroft Park Project = £15,056. This would be funded from the Section 106 **outdoor sport fund** (formal recreation) which at the moment holds monies generated via the Station Road Development (£8800) and the remainder funded from the **neighbourhood open space fund** as detailed above (£6,256) which are to be

used for the purpose of benefitting the people of Bolsover and the surrounding communities.

If approved this would leave a balance of £1,540 in the **neighbourhood open space fund** to be used for the purpose of benefitting the people of Bolsover and the surrounding communities.

Legal: None

Human Resources: None

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Executive approve the use of the section 106 monies held for formal/informal recreation for the benefit of the people of Bolsover and the surrounding communities, to support the Old Bolsover Town Council 'Playground Enhancement' programme.

REASON FOR DECISION TO BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION

To consider support for this particular programme and others in the future from monies secured and held by this Authority through section 106 contributions.

ATTACHMENTS: None

FILE REFERENCE: None

SOURCE DOCUMENT: Background papers held by the Leisure Operations Manager.