

Bolsover District Council

Executive

1 February 2016

To seek a contribution towards the development of a new play area at Shirebrook Town Park and to seek approval for the development of business case for a five year district wide play area programme

Report of the Joint Assistant Director Leisure

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To seek a contribution of £25,000 towards the cost of developing a new toddler / junior play area at Shirebrook Town Park
- To seek support for the development of a district wide play area programme

1 Report Details

- 1.1 As members may recall Bolsover District Council was successful in securing £200,000 from the Big Lottery in 2007/8 through the Children's Play Programme. This saw a number of new and improved play areas across the district as part of a four year partnership (Bolsover Play Partnership) with SMP Playgrounds.
- 1.2 In addition to those play areas that were part or fully funded using Big Lottery monies, a number of additional play areas were upgraded using additional external funding secured through a partnership between SMP Playgrounds, Old Bolsover Town Council and Audiam Consulting, which secured in excess of £500,000 to improve five play areas in Bolsover (town)
- 1.3 As the Lottery funded programme finished in 2012, there are still a number of play areas that were not improved as part of the original Bolsover Play Programme. A number of these were either not put forward at the time or are within the vicinity of a development that has only recently provided a Section106 contribution for the enhancement and improvement of informal recreational space (i.e. play areas) within the vicinity of the development.
- 1.4 A list of play areas in need of enhancement or improvement is appended to this report.
- 1.5 Essentially this amounts to:
 - 18 schemes with a total estimated cost of £858,000
 - Over £250,000 of s106 funding already accounted for, with the potential for more from current and future developments, although there are areas within the district

where there is limited development (e.g. Glapwell) so there are unlikely to be any s106 contributions.

- £55,000 of confirmed other contributions (from Shirebrook Town Council so far), with the potential for additional funds from other parishes who buy into the programme and / or from BDC
- A (current) shortfall of £550,000, which is likely to be reduced through receipt of additional s106 funds and 'other' funding

- 1.6 However, as a precursor to a district wide programme, the need for a new play area at Shirebrook Town Park has been identified as an urgent priority following recent [community cohesion issues] within the town.
- 1.7 Agreement had been reached with the developer behind the proposed new Tesco supermarket in Shirebrook for a £150,000 contribution towards the cost of a new play area to be located at Shirebrook Town Park as a replacement for the existing play area at Portland Road Recreation Ground that would have been lost to the development.
- 1.8 However, as the development was one of the 49 projects that Tesco shelved in 2014, the financial contribution from the development is no longer available.
- 1.9 As Bolsover District Council is working as part of the **Shirebrook Forward** initiative to improve community cohesion, the investment in enhanced and improved play facilities is seen as an indicator of the Council's commitment to providing quality open space and improving the quality of life for local residents.
- 1.10 As Shirebrook Town Park is the largest open space within the town, is centrally located, easily accessible and adjoins Shirebrook Leisure Centre, investment in a new play area here would have the greatest impact as the site already has a large catchment area with a 2km / 1.25 mile radius.
- 1.11 It is suggested that Bolsover District Council contribute £25,000 towards the cost of developing a new play area at Shirebrook Town Park, subject to Shirebrook Town Council investing £50,000 of their own funds towards the play area as part of a longer term project to develop Shirebrook Town Park as a destination park for the residents of Shirebrook and surrounding areas.
- 1.12 As a number of other play area enhancement and improvement projects within Shirebrook have also been identified, Audiam Consulting were commissioned to undertake a funding appraisal for three sites within Shirebrook and a report outlining the potential sources of funding has been produced.
- 1.13 As outlined above (1.2) Audiam Consulting were successful in securing a funding package for the renewal of a number of play areas in Bolsover (town) between 2009 and 2011 as part of a framework agreement with SMP Playgrounds, who covered Audiam Consulting's costs.
- 1.14 The 'package' approach used successfully in Bolsover town to fund the enhancement and improvement of five play areas could be rolled out across the district as part of the proposed play area development programme.

- 1.15 As a first stage, Leisure Services would look to build a business case for the establishment of a five year programme to enhance and improve up to 20 children's play areas across the district using existing s106 contributions where available, external funding wherever possible and the Council's own funding as a last resort in certain circumstances where deemed necessary and appropriate and subject to member approval.
- 1.16 The play area programme would be established as a partnership between Bolsover District Council, parish councils and other owners / providers of children's play areas within the district.
- 1.17 It is envisaged that an existing framework agreement would be used for ease of procurement. Early discussions with the Shared Procurement Unit suggest that the existing ESPO Framework 115 (Outdoor Playground Equipment) is the most appropriate.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 Through a number of recent meetings and actions BDC, Shirebrook Town Council and other partners have shown a commitment toward improving community cohesion in the town under the collective of Shirebrook Forward. This group of partners has shown that it is committed to improving the current situation/perceptions within the town including the enhancement and improvement of facilities with the Shirebrook Town Park play area being amongst the priorities.
- 2.2 Subject to confirmation that Shirebrook Town Council is committed to investing £50,000 in a new play area at Shirebrook Town Park, a contribution from Bolsover District Council to the **Shirebrook Forward** initiative would enable a larger and more appropriate play area to be developed than could be with a £50,000 investment. As part of a programme of works to develop and enhance the town park, the play area would not just benefit Shirebrook residents.
- 2.3 By investing in the play area, the district council would also be able to offer its advice and support with design, procurement and project management.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 Consultation has been carried out with Shirebrook Town Council.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Not contributing to the proposed play area at Shirebrook Town Park has been considered. However, the benefits of contributing can be shown to outweigh the costs by working in partnership as **Shirebrook Forward** to improve community cohesion through the provision of new, enhanced or improved facilities.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

If approved, a contribution of £25,000 would be made towards the development of a new play area at Shirebrook Town Park.

Any risks associated with this contribution could be mitigated through the district council assuming responsibility for procurement and project management.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

None. Shirebrook Town Council is the owner of the land where the proposed play area is to be situated.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

None.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 To approve a contribution of £25,000 towards the **Shirebrook Forward** initiative and particular cost of developing a new play area at Shirebrook Town Park, subject to Shirebrook Town Council providing a contribution of £50,000 from its own funds.
- 6.2 To approve the development of a business case for the establishment of a five year district wide play area programme to be presented to a future Executive meeting by the JAD - Leisure.

7 Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? (A Key Decision is one which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
District Wards Affected	All district wards
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Bolsover Play Area Programme 2015-2020
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	

Report Author	Contact Number
Matthew Connley	01246 242359

Report Reference –