



Three Rivers District Council

**SOUTH OXHEY PLAYING FIELDS
GREEN FLAG FACILITATION WORKS
PHASE 1**

**PROJECT INITIATION DOCUMENT
(P.I.D. Lite)**

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Name	Position	Date approved

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the document

- 1.1.1 TRDC currently has three key sites which have attained Green Flag recognition; those being Rickmansworth Aquadrome, Leavesden Country Park and Chorleywood House Estate.
- 1.1.2 We currently have one key woodland open space site in South Oxhey known as Oxhey Woods which is maintained to UKWAS accreditation standard. There is currently however a significant community based in South Oxhey who do not have access to a Green Flag accredited site.
- 1.1.3 South Oxhey Playing Fields is the most significant sized site for public recreation in South Oxhey after Oxhey Woods Local Nature Reserve. It is situated in an area of deprivation.
- 1.1.4 TRDC have produced a briefing document for the site Green Space Action Plan 2019-2024 which is currently out to public consultation (closing on 12 October 2018).
- 1.1.5 Until the Green Space Action Plan for the site is completed and adopted it will not be possible to identify the full scope of works necessary to protect and enhance the semi-natural habitat on site, in particular promoting healthy woodland and diverse grassland habitat, and maintain the site as a safe and enjoyable place to visit for all members of the local community.
- 1.1.6 The following themes will form a part of the management objectives of the site for the life of the management plan:
- (i) A welcoming place
 - (ii) Healthy, safe and secure
 - (iii) Well maintained and clean
 - (iv) Sustainability
 - (v) Conservation and heritage
 - (vi) Community involvement
 - (vii) Marketing
- 1.1.7 Phase one of the project will provide scope for some enabling works. These will be quick wins and may include some of the suggestions coming from the public consultation exercise. This phase will be undertaken during 2019-20 and will be followed by a properly worked up long term management projects covering the period to 2024. It is envisaged that a further capital bid will be made in 2020 in order to fully achieve the wider project.

1.2 Executive Summary

- 1.2.1 TRDC currently has three key sites which have attained Green Flag recognition; those being Rickmansworth Aquadrome, Leavesden Country Park and Chorleywood House Estate.
- 1.2.2 South Oxhey Playing Fields is a significant sized open space which does not currently have a site management plan.
- 1.2.3 We are currently out to public consultation on the briefing document for Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) for the site. Any resulting comments will inform the development of the GAP which will inform management of the site following its approval by Members in March 2019.
- 1.2.4 Once the GAP is approved the plan will be implemented during the plan period 2019-2024. It is anticipated that this will support both a further capital project associated with implementation of the management plan for the site and the application for a Green Flag Award in 2020/21.

1.3 Project Objectives

- 1.3.1 To facilitate the drafting and implementation of a site Management Plan for South Oxhey Playing Fields, a significant open space within South Oxhey. TRDC is currently out to public consultation with a briefing document for the emerging Greenspace Action Plan.
- 1.3.2 The site has been identified as the fourth TRDC Green Flag site for 2020/21 and as a result the management plan and subsequent implementation of the management plan is necessary to support this.
- 1.3.3 Phase one of this project will support 'quick wins' coming out of the public consultation and will fit within the seven themes above and will provide enabling works to provide a basis for the wider project which will include the implementation of the management plan from 2019 to 2024.

1.4 Current issues and priorities

- 1.4.1 TRDC currently have three sites which have been recognised with Green Flag Awards. None of these are within the area which serves South Oxhey and area of deprivation and as such TRDC are seeking to attain a fourth Green Flag at this site.
- 1.4.2 The site will provide an outdoor based facility for local residents to promote healthy lifestyles that are affordable and engage with local communities in a positive way.

1.5 Implications of project not being complete

- 1.5.1 If the project does not go ahead this could have a detrimental impact on community cohesion and healthy lifestyles of local residents.
- 1.5.2 There would be an identified gap in provision for a sector of the community previously identified as of deprivation. This may be seen as discriminatory.

2 Business Case

How will project success be measured?

- Successful approval of Management Plan following public consultation and by Members in March 2019.
- Successful implementation of management plan over 5 years.
- Site being managed to Green Flag standard and an application made for Green Flag Award in 2020/21

2.1 Project Definition

2.1.1 This project will support strategic objectives that will provide an open space facility for the well-being of the local community. It will ensure that open space provision is balanced across the District and will reduce health inequalities, promote healthy lifestyles, support learning and community organisations.

2.2 Outputs and Outcomes

2.2.1 Outputs

- Successful approval of the site management plan following public consultation and by Members in March 2019.
- Successful implementation of management plan over the next 5 years.
- Site being managed to Green Flag standard
- Application made for Green Flag award in 2020/21
- To maintain and enhance the number of Green Flag accredited open spaces to four.
- Reduce health inequalities, promote healthy lifestyles, support learning and community organisations
- Improve and facilitate access to leisure and recreational activities for adults
- Contribute to partnership working to reduce health inequalities: CP number of adults achieving at least 30 minutes of physical activity per week.
- Provide a range of supervised leisure activities and facilities for young people (Play Rangers).

2.2.2 Outcomes

- Creating a better and more healthy environment for residents of South Oxhey
- To improve public satisfaction with parks and open spaces
- Engaging with local communities
- Providing positive volunteering activities.

2.3 Benefits

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- 2.3.1 The positive management of South Oxhey Playing Fields will assist in reducing health inequalities in the District. It will ensure that the site is managed to improve biodiversity and will engage with local communities.
- 2.3.2 Implementation of the management plan will enable the local community to feel engaged and will provide opportunities for volunteering.
- 2.3.3 We will make a Green Flag application for the site in 2020-2021 and this if successful will result in the achievement of a fourth Green Flag award for TRDC.

3 Project Costs

3.1 One off project costs

3.1.1 This PID is an enabling project to facilitate public engagement in the first phase of the implementation of a comprehensive management plan for the site in order to comply with all of the Green Flag identified criteria.

3.1.2 The following themes will form a part of the management objectives of the site for the life of the management plan:

- (i) A welcoming place
- (ii) Healthy, safe and secure
- (iii) Well maintained and clean
- (iv) Sustainability
- (v) Conservation and heritage
- (vi) Community involvement
- (vii) Marketing

3.1.3 It is anticipated that this project will provide some 'quick wins' and implementation of some viable suggestions coming from the public and will include some of the following ideas:

- (i) Improvement of visibility of entrance points and installation of welcome posts/signage
- (ii) Interpretation to highlight heritage value of ancient woodland features on site
- (iii) Design and promote walking routes through the site
- (iv) Raise visitor numbers and discourage anti-social behaviour
- (v) Tree and landscape management to improve safety
- (vi) Improve biodiversity including the reinstatement of coppicing across a proportion of over-stood hornbeam
- (vii) Develop grassland management plan beneficial for invertebrate diversity (in particular meadow ants)
- (viii) Encourage local community involvement with the implementation of the management plan.
- (ix) To develop and implement a marketing plan for the site.

3.1.4 This phase of the project costs will comprise a capital amount of £20,000. If possible match funding will be sought in order to maximise the amount of work that can be achieved with this budget.

3.1.5 A phase two PID will be developed over the course of the next twelve months together with the submission of any comprehensive funding applications to support the remainder of the works forming part of the management plan once it has been completed. The phase two PID will cover years 2020-2024 of the Management Plan.

3.1.6 All project management costs will be covered by the existing arrangements that TRDC has in place with CMS (Countryside Management Services) project officers. The development of the Management Plan and full public consultation has already been written into the work programme with CMS for 2018/19 and

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2019/20 and their support of any arising Friends of Group activities on an ongoing basis.

- 3.1.7 The TRDC Park Ranger will work in partnership with CMS Project and Community Support Officers to fully implement the Management Plan once it has been agreed.

3.2 Financial viability

3.2.1 This phase one project will enable a subsequent and much more comprehensive project for which it is anticipated that match funding will be sought. It will enable the Community to get involved at the outset of the project and start to see improvements to the site and for them to have an input into the management of the site from its inception.

3.2.2 It is anticipated that they will then be much more willing to have an input to the longer-term elements of the project and support the project with volunteer hours.

3.3 Resources and skills

3.3.1 CMS project and community support officers have a wealth of experience in working successfully on public consultation exercises and supporting community groups in implementing site management plans alongside Council officers. Their time is already accounted for in current budgets and their time allocated in the work programme for this year and future years as appropriate.

3.3.2 CMS officers together with the TRDC Park Ranger are also well placed to deliver on biodiversity improvements at the site.

3.3.3 TRDC have already undertaken a Phase 1 Habitat Survey as a baseline survey and this will inform any possible improvements.

Has the project been agreed by the Head of ICT?

Yes	
No	X

3.4 Equalities

Is this project responding to an Equality Impact Assessment?

Yes	
No	X

If yes, please provide brief details of the EIA...

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Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken for this project?

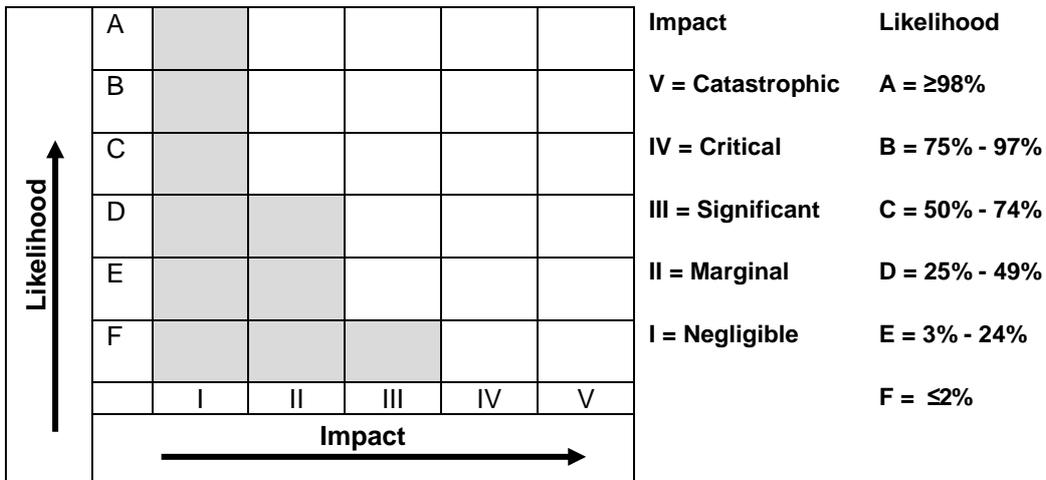
Yes	
No	X

If yes, what are the outcomes and how do these link to the project?

3.5 Risks

Initial Risk Log

Likelihood and Probability Key



Risk	Level of Risk		Required actions	Owner
	Impact	Likelihood		