

## LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE - 13 MARCH 2019

### PART I - DELEGATED

#### 7. RICKMANSWORTH PARK PLAY AREA (DCES)

##### 1 Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to assess whether or not Rickmansworth Park would be a suitable location for a play area. In addition the report considers use of Section 106 funds for additional play facilities within Rickmansworth Aquadrome.

##### 2 Details - Rickmansworth Park Play Area

- 2.1 At the Leisure, Environment and Community Committee on 11 July 2018, Members requested officers investigate the viability of an additional play area at Rickmansworth Park (LEC 07/18).
- 2.2 Officers subsequently arranged to meet with the Design Out Crime Officer, from the Crime Prevention Design Service at Herts Constabulary as well as the Grounds Maintenance team on site to explore this option.
- 2.3 The full details from the Design Out Crime Officer can be viewed at Appendix A. In summary, the Officer confirmed that they would be unable to support this proposal for various reasons, including:
- Anti-social behaviour
  - Drug use
  - History of several serious assaults at the location
  - No natural surveillance
  - Not accessible for emergency vehicles.
- 2.4 Grounds Maintenance confirmed that they would be unable to support the proposal, citing similar concerns to the Design Out Crime Officer as well as stating that during the winter months their vehicles would not be able to get to the site in order to carry out any maintenance or repairs.
- 2.5 In addition, the area already has three substantial play areas for the local community, namely Scotsbridge play area, Ebury play area (Rickmansworth Aquadrome) and the newly refurbished Skidmore Way play area.

##### **Details - Rickmansworth Aquadrome – additional play facilities**

- 2.6 In order to enhance the play offer at Rickmansworth Aquadrome, Officers propose utilising £12,596 of Section 106 funding to install a Wildwood Den in the dog-free picnic area during the financial year 2019/20 (see appendix B for location details and appendix C for examples of Wildwood Dens).
- 2.7 The play space would be designed to be in-keeping with the local area and provide families with a playable feature when accessing the dog-free picnic area. It would be sited carefully, taking into consideration the Rickmansworth Canal Festival and access into the area.

- 2.8 The Section 106 funds, which are proposed to be used for this project are: The Coach House, Rickmansworth (£7,676) and 18-26 Ebury Road, Rickmansworth (£4,920).

### **3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to assess whether or not Rickmansworth Park would be a suitable location for a play area. In addition the report considers use of Section 106 funds for additional play facilities within Rickmansworth Aquadrome.

### **4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications**

The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policy and budgets. The relevant policy is entitled:

#### **Community Strategy 2018 – 2023:**

##### Independence and Resilience

Residents live in supportive communities

##### Health and Wellbeing:

Residents have opportunities to be physically and mentally healthy

Residents, especially the vulnerable, have access to health and social care

##### Safety

Residents are safe from crime and anti-social behaviour

Neighbourhoods are safe for people to live, work and socialise in.

#### **TRDC Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021:**

- 1.1.2 Maintain the number of accredited open spaces, parks and woodland areas
- 2.3 We want to support the most vulnerable in our District
  - 2.3.1 Reduce anti-social behaviour and crime
  - 2.3.2 Support vulnerable people
- 2.4 We will provide a safe and healthy environment
  - 2.4.1 Ensure the safety of people in the district
- 2.5 We will reduce health inequalities, promote healthy lifestyles, support learning and community organisations
  - 2.5.1 Improve and facilitate access to leisure and recreational activities for adults
  - 2.5.2 Contribute to partnership working to reduce health inequalities
  - 2.5.3 Provide a range of supervised leisure activities and facilities for young people
  - 2.5.4 Work with the Community and Voluntary sector to meet the needs of local communities
- 4.1 The recommendations in this report relate to the achievement of the following performance indicators.
  - LL34 To maintain accreditation for Green Flag

- CP14 No. of ASB incidents (reported to the Police)
- CP47 Perception of ASB as a problem in the local area
- CP07 Perception to the extent to which public services are working to make the area safer
- CP02 Satisfaction with Parks and Open Spaces
- LL33 Number of attendances by young people at leisure venues and activities
- LL30 Vulnerable children’s satisfaction with leisure projects

4.2 The impact of the recommendations on these performance indicators is that they will support the Council in achieving these targets.

## 5 Financial Implications

5.1 Funding for the Wildwood Den at Rickmansworth Aquadrome would be through the Section 106 funds as detailed at point 2.8.

## 6 Legal Implications

6.1 Section 106 monies to be used are specifically for providing and improving amenity space, as well as children’s play equipment. The use of section 106 monies for the projects set out in the report would be in conformity with the Section 106 deeds which secured it.

6.2 All proposed works will be tendered within the Council’s Constitution and procurement procedures.

## 7 Equal Opportunities Implications

7.1 Relevance Test

Has a relevance test been completed for Equality Impact? (Appendix D)	Yes
Did the relevance test conclude a full impact assessment was required? Play facilities are open access and free to the public to use	No

## 8 Staffing Implications

8.1 The small leisure facilities capital programme will require the time of the Leisure Development Manager, Projects Development Officer, external Principal Designer and Project Manager to oversee project management, consultation, negotiations and installation of the new facilities.

## 9 Environmental Implications

9.1 The play space will utilise natural, raw, untreated and sustainable English Oak, sourced from a location with a sustainable forestry management plan and ideally sourced locally.

9.2 In addition, the natural play space will create a new habitat for insects and other mini-beasts.

## 10 Community Safety Implications

10.1 The local Police Community Safety Officers, Crime Prevention Liaison Officer and the Grounds Maintenance team will be consulted on the final design options for all sites.

10.2 The installation of new leisure facilities will provide the opportunity for children and young people to take part in positive activities.

## 11 Public Health implications

11.1 Providing free, accessible play facilities will encourage children and young people to be physically active, and will support the achievement of the Council's Physical Activity Strategy. It will also provide a point for families to meet and socialise, supporting mental wellbeing and the priorities of the Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

## 12 Customer Services Centre Implications

12.1 None specific.

## 13 Communications and Website Implications

13.1 Officers will work with the Trees and Landscape department, Park Ranger, café owner and any other stakeholders on the development of the play space at the Aquadrome.

13.2 The Three Rivers Leisure website will be updated with information and the local community informed of any works due to take place.

13.3 In addition, Members will be updated as work progresses.

## 14 Risk and Health & Safety Implications

14.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

14.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Leisure and Landscape and Environment Protection service plans. Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this/these plans.

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Control Measures	Response <i>(tolerate, treat terminate, transfer)</i>	Risk Rating <i>(combination of likelihood and impact)</i>
Loss of Section 106	Legal implications and loss of funding	Section 106 funding monitored and projects allocated to each	Treat	Low – 1

funding should projects not go ahead	for local residents. Poor community perception	funding pot to be completed within the deadline of Section 106 agreement		
Newly installed/ refurbished play areas fail to pass post installation or routine inspections	Play area will remain closed until areas of failure remedied	Procurement – specification that equipment and design must meet the requirements. Project Management – ongoing throughout the build process and monitoring of any issues. Grounds maintenance staff trained to assess and monitor sites in accordance with BS EN 1176	Treat	Low – 4

14.3 The above risks are scored using the matrix below. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

<b>Very Likely</b> ----- <b>Likelihood</b> ----- ▼ <b>Remote</b>	<b>Low</b> 4	<b>High</b> 8	<b>Very High</b> 12	<b>Very High</b> 16
	<b>Low</b> 3	<b>Medium</b> 6	<b>High</b> 9	<b>Very High</b> 12
	<b>Low</b> 2	<b>Low</b> 4	<b>Medium</b> 6	<b>High</b> 8
	<b>Low</b> 1	<b>Low</b> 2	<b>Low</b> 3	<b>Low</b> 4
	<b>Impact</b>			
	Low -----▶ Unacceptable			

**Impact Score**

- 4 (Catastrophic)
- 3 (Critical)
- 2 (Significant)
- 1 (Marginal)

**Likelihood Score**

- 4 (Very Likely (≥80%))
- 3 (Likely (21-79%))
- 2 (Unlikely (6-20%))
- 1 (Remote (≤5%))

14.4 In the officers' opinion none of the new risks above, were they to come about, would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and are therefore operational risks. The effectiveness of the management of operational risks is reviewed by the Audit Committee annually.

## 15 Recommendation

15.1 The Leisure, Environment and Community Committee reject the proposal to install a play area at Rickmansworth Park, for the reasons detailed at points 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5.

15.2 The Leisure, Environment and Community Committee agree to use the Section 106 funds, detailed at point 2.8 to install an additional play space in the dog-free picnic area at Rickmansworth Aquadrome, during the financial year 2019/20.

Report prepared by: Charlotte Gomes, Leisure Development Manager

### Data Quality

Data sources: Section 106 Agreements

Data checked by: Matthew Barnes, Principal Solicitor

Data rating:

1	Poor	
2	Sufficient	✓
3	High	

**Background Papers – None**

### APPENDICES:

**APPENDIX A**– Letter from the Design Out Crime Officer, from the Crime Prevention Design Service at Herts Constabulary

**APPENDIX B** – Map for the location of the additional play space at the Aquadrome

**APPENDIX C** – Examples of the Wildwood Dens

**APPENDIX D** – Relevance Test