

AREA COMMITTEE EAST (A.C.E) DALES, ST ANN'S & MAPPERLEY
19TH NOVEMBER 2013

Title of paper:	Parks & Open Spaces Portfolio for Area 6 and consultation results for Jersey Gardens (Rocket Park)	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Hugh White, Director of Sport, Culture and Parks John Kelly, Corporate Director for Communities	Wards affected: Mapperley St Ann's Dales
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Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
World Class Nottingham		
Work in Nottingham		
Safer Nottingham		X
Neighbourhood Nottingham		X
Family Nottingham		X
Healthy Nottingham		X
Leading Nottingham		
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>The report provides a breakdown of all Area Committee East parks, highlighting their condition, funding availability and current priorities. The information can be used to help decision making for future developments and funding, such as Section 106, Area Capital, Ward Councillor budgets and Parks Development budgets.</p> <p>The report also details the outcome of recent consultation that has taken place with relation to Jersey Gardens (Rocket Park) and further proposals for the site.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	Note the information in Appendix A, detailing the current standard / quality of parks and open spaces within Area 6, along with priorities for improvements moving forward.	
2	Note the outcome of the recent consultation for Jersey Gardens park (Appendix B).	
3	Decide on priorities for spend of the current (and future housing) capital funding for Jersey Gardens park.	

1. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

1.1 This report has been requested by Councillors as a way to better understand the open space provision and challenges within the new Area Committee boundary.

1.2 As a result of recent external funding, a number of park and playground sites have seen improvement as a result of:

- DCSF (Department for Children, Schools & Families) Pathfinder playground funding (e.g. King Edward Park).
- Area Capital and Section 106 funding (e.g. Sycamore Park).

- External funding bids, namely relating to Landfill Tax funding (e.g. Colwick Woods play area).

1.3 The most recent improvements that have been made within the ACE area include:

- The redevelopment of Colwick Woods play area (£105,000);
- Parkdale play area refurbishment (£35,000);
- The creation of a ball court at Sycamore Park (£60,000).

1.4 The Area Committee East Chair's briefing on 23rd August 2013 requested that an update be provided on proposals for Jersey Gardens (Rocket Park) play area, along with a general report highlighting the condition and opportunities for the area's parks.

1.5 Approximately 150 consultation leaflets (with pre-paid return envelopes enclosed) on Rocket Park were distributed by the Tenants And Residents Association throughout the entire estate. The consultation results (16 responses) and an overview of comments are provided in Appendix B.

1.6 At the current time, there is £11,000 of capital funding remaining to spend on the site, with a further £10,000 due to be received after the next phase of housing developments have been completed.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 To provide an update to Area Committee on the proposed playground for Jersey Gardens, following consultation in October 2013.

2.2 To provide background information for consideration if future funding options become available (e.g. Section 106, Area Capital or other external funding) as a way to help prioritise future development.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 None.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

4.1 The report outlines the current condition of the parks portfolio within the Area Committee boundary, any financial information provided relates to funding that has already been secured or committed towards a site.

4.2 There is currently no Section 106 funding available in the Area, however there are additional signed S106 agreements amounting to over £200,000 that would be payable to the City Council if / when those developments proceed. However it should be noted that a number of these agreements are very old and unlikely to proceed.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)

5.1 The report is for background purposes, however, some of the key concerns that relate to a site may have crime and disorder implications, with any future development aimed at trying to reduce issues wherever possible.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Has the equality impact been assessed?

Not needed (report does not contain proposals or financial decisions)

No

Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached

7. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

7.1 None.

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

8.1 Area Committee East (Area 6) 12th February 2012 - Parks & Open Spaces in Mapperley, St Ann's & Dales.

8.3 Delegated Decisions approving the spend of capital funding: DD0449, DD0582, DD0816.

Appendix A

Ward: Mapperley					
Site name	Description of site	Overall quality**	Funding available	Current Parks Priorities / Actions	
Corporation Oaks / Elm Avenue	Historic avenue running from the Arboretum down to Wells road, including The Chase	54.6%	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure historic features are maintained 	
Pearmain Park	Small playground and open space improved in 2009	32.5% (45%)	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some low level anti-social behaviour ("ASB"), including littering - PCSO's aware, regular cleansing required. Ongoing maintenance of site to keep vegetation cut back. Dog fouling / enforcement required – though bins and signage present 	
Landmere Gardens	Small open space, old playground removed 2012, grassed with some shrub beds	48.1%	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priorities to keep woodland understorey open to improve sightlines Reduce bramble areas to open up views & seed wildflowers to promote biodiversity. 	
Coppice Park	Park with grassed areas, sloped woodland 2 play areas and a ball court (2010)	38.5% (52%)	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing woodland and shrub clearance works to help reduce ASB and drug use in woodland area near allotments, along with opening up sightlines. 	
Sycamore Park	Park with grassed areas, sloped woodland play areas (2010) and a ball court improved in (2012)	26.1% (55%)	£16,000 for site improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic, periodic drug misuse on site Vegetation management, especially to rear of houses. ASB / Littering / fly tipping due to secluded nature of site 	
Mickleborough Railway Cutting	Old railway cutting that used to contain a playground, tarmac surface on 2 levels, steep sided banks on 3 sides with heavy tree and shrub growth.	32.5%	£8,950 for site improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in ground vegetation round existing play area Opening up footpath and investigating surface treatment Limited improvement to existing play area Thinning of some trees at the rear of properties. 	
Astley Drive play area	Small open space on steep slope, with some play equipment present	43.5%	£11,000 for playground removal and improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old play area to be removed to create small kick- 	
Boynton Drive play	Small open space on steep	42.8%			

area	slope, with some play equipment present				about area
City Heights park	Sloping park with a mix of grass, trees, shrub borders and small toddler playground	38.6%	£35,000 with Locality Management for site maintenance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently adopted site (2013) Works needed to ensure maintainable moving forward. Lighting repair works carried out Oct 2013.
Ward: St Ann's					
Site name	Description of site	Overall quality**	Funding available	Current Priorities / Actions	
Robin Hood Chase play area	Park, with large grassed area, playground (2013) and old tarmac area, that has a ball court and outdoor gym (2006)	34.9% (60%)	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting concerns about old tarmac area near the ball court 	
Marmion Park	Grassed park with play area and ball court (2009)	53.5%	None		
Heskey Park	Playground (2006), ball court and grassed open space	52.8%	None		
Victoria Park & St Mary's Rest Garden	2 historical parks, St Mary's being an old graveyard, grassed, wildflower with some shrub beds and some historical features. Victoria Park is a grassed park with some trees, formal planting, play areas and ball court along with toilets	61.8%	£2,000 for ongoing improvement works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Flag Award site Loss of TRA group means limited public involvement apart from volunteers Maintenance of historic features Issues over street drinking / rough sleeping and near constant drug use – even though locked at night. Proposals in place to work to replant or replace shrub beds to open up site and make more manageable 	
King Edward Park	Grassed park, with historical features, some trees and shrub areas, disused bowling green with pavilion (used by STOP group), playground (2010) ball courts and gym (2009)	33.2% (55%)	£5k for ongoing improvement works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong TRA helping drive improvement on site Some issues with street drinking and drug use / sales Limited funding to carry out other major improvements 	
Rocket Park (Jersey Gardens)	Small open space re-landscaped in 2011 following	30.0% (45%)	£11,000 £10,000 to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent consultation showed desire to reduce ASB levels further (e.g. more lighting) rather than install 	

	funding from Stonebridge housing development. Space for play area created		follow on completion of Keepmoat phase	play equipment. • Some ASB issues locally, though site looks tidy.
Ward: Dales				
Site name	Description of site	Overall quality**	Funding available	Current Priorities / Actions
Lee's Hill	Small refurbished play area (2010)	22.7% (45%)	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issues with ASB / drinking / drug use and arson attempts, due to close proximity of steps to Hermitage, even when locked and CCTV nearby.
Green's Mill	Park in grounds of windmill, on slope with grass banks, some trees and shrub beds, refurbished play area (2009)	60.2%	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issues with ASB / drinking / drug use / littering and possible prostitution. Working to try and reduce shrub cover across site to open up views Lighting on site being fixed (October 2013). Development of site management / maintenance plan.
Tricket's Yard	Park next to community centre, a mix of grass and tarmac, with old playground and ball court	49.8	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ball court and playground largely date from late 1990's Some vandalism on site around stone gabions. Initial meetings held to try and improve site
Colwick Woods	Large park with a mix of grass and woodland, old pavilion used by some local groups, with new playground (2013)	47.6% (52%)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New play area installed October 2013. Site features require investment (i.e. fencing, pavilion access, steps etc)] Future Green Flag Award site
Parkdale Park	Small grassed park with a few trees, and additional equipment being installed on site (2013) to complement the existing equipment (2012)	36.3% (50%)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play area equipment added in 2012 and refurbished in October 2013. Locking the site has reduced ASB.
Colwick Country Park	Large site with a mix of grassland, wet woodland and lakes on the site of former gravel pits. The site facilities include bank and boat angling,	46.3%	£80k secured from Property Maintenance for emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fly tipping on Racecourse Road common ASB issues common at night, even though car parks locked. Significant investment needed to ensure the site continues to provide existing facilities

	marina, Adventure Centre, model boat club, old football pitches and toilets.	H&S works to electrics in marina.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huge potential for income generation • Future Green Flag Award site
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** Please note 'overall quality' score is a percentage out of 100. The survey work was carried out across the City as part of Breathing Spaces in 2009 and covers all aspects of green space including things such as safety, accessibility, and facilities for children. Due to the scope of the work, it has not yet been repeated and where improvements or works have taken place since 2009/10 this will have influenced the score with an estimate provided of the new score in brackets.

Appendix B: Rocket Park Consultation

The consultation results are outlined below. The questionnaire was delivered to all properties on the estate by the TRA.

Consultation Results Oct-13					
Topic	Playground for under 12's	Other equipment / Gym	Items to reduce ASB	Do nothing - leave as is	TOTAL
Votes	6	1	10	1	19
%	31.6.%	5.3%	52.5%	5.3%	100%

Comments received:

- Things for 7-12, gym items, basket ball, skate park etc, where no ASB takes place. Something long lasting would be good.
- Seating area and grass well used, children and teenagers would vandalise equipment if put up on site, already 2 play schemes operating in the area, don't need any more.
- Too much disruption already, no-one on Jersey Gardens wants a park, as it will cause ASB. Needs more flowers and plants and replace lost trees.
- More street lighting round the park and neighbouring house.
- Would like a play area but feels it would be abused.
- Fence park off to stop ASB
- No change i.e. leave it as it is.
- Having a park is a lot safer for local children rather than travel or Victoria Park or King Edwards Park
- Need a play area as otherwise where will they play otherwise, especially with new houses being built. Need to try and keep them safe and happy.

The feedback from the questionnaires clearly shows that tackling ASB and reducing issues on site is seen as a key concern, either via improved lighting or other measures

Options that could be explored include

- Looking to improve lighting, potentially as part of the Keepmoat phase of works (to be maintained by PFI).
- Tree works to ensure existing lighting is working adequately on site

As this funding is specifically for the Park site, there is limited scope for carrying out any other works on the wider estate.

Though there was some support for providing play equipment, it should be noted that the existing open space is well used for informal play / picnics etc. Any equipment put on site would need to be hard wearing and vandal resistant.