

WARDS AFFECTED: Leen Valley

ITEM No .....

WEST AREA COMMITTEE

14 MARCH 2007

## **REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

### **Development and Improvements to Parks and Play Areas in Leen Valley**

#### **1 SUMMARY**

This report asks members to agree a one-off contribution of £25,000 to support the improvement and refurbishment of Parks and Play areas across Leen Valley.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Members agree to the £25,000 being provided from the uncommitted balance for the Leen Valley Ward.

#### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 A series of Consultation events held across various Neighbourhoods in the Leen Valley Ward have identified a number of Play areas and Parks in need of repairs and improvements.
- 3.2 The consultation activities involving Kennington Road residents identified anti-social behaviour as a major problem within the neighbourhood. A key priority to address some of the ASB problems being experienced was the refurbishment of the Kennington Road Park. Residents felt that the Park was in need of modernisation and required security improvements. Park Services were keen to assist in responding to the requests made for the Park to becoming community owned resource but were unable to provide resources to carry out the full menu of works. It was agreed that the Area Committee budget could be used to compliment work that Park Services were in a position to fund.
- 3.3 A small Play area known as Beechdale Mews has been constantly vandalised by young people from outside the local neighbourhood. Facilities on the site are meant to be for a younger age group of children, however youth between 16 – 25 years of age regularly intimidate residents and their children. The local Tenant and Resident Group formed as part of Neighbourhood Policing have met on several occasions with Park Services to explore ways of addressing problems associated with the Play area.
- 3.4 The Play area has been adopted by Park Services so that it can be maintained and access secured to prevent further vandalism. A programme of works has been recommended by residents and Park Services to bring the Play area to a standard which will enable a younger age group to benefit from the facilities. The work has been costed by Park Services and includes the installation of a gate, improvements to fencing and introduction of new play equipment.
- 3.5 An area referred to as a “dry area” on Ashwell Gardens has been constantly vandalised and become an eyesore in the neighbourhood. Consultation with local residents has identified a number of solutions to address the problem.

Suggestions include the demolition of the “dry area” and the installation of seating to make it a local community relaxation space. Members have suggested that further consultation activities should be organised to determine the works which would have the most impact.

3.6 The Area Coordinator and the Senior Parks Officer will be exploring other opportunities for funding from sources such as WREN, Community Award Schemes, waste disposal companies (BIFFA, HANSON) and lotteries to support the full menu of works. It is intended that the areas targeted will adhere to the Breathing Spaces Framework for parks and open spaces.

#### 4 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The £25,000 contribution towards the Parks and Play areas can be met from the Leen Valley Wards current uncommitted balance of £30,451.01. Which forms part of the overall West Area Committee uncommitted balance of £45,383.25. This figure does not include the effect of any other requests for allocation elsewhere on this Agenda.

#### 5 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

**Comment [s1]:** This is an obligatory heading. If there are no comments please state none.

#### 6 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

None

#### 7 **RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

The improvements to the Parks and Play areas requires additional resources from other sources of funding to be committed and expects sufficient capacity within Park Services to carry out the project management of works identified.

#### 8 **VALUE FOR MONEY**

None

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#### 9 **CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

An increase in Play areas for young people in the Leen Valley Ward will reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

#### 10 **STRATEGIC AIMS**

- Ensuring Local Involvement In Decision Making
- Making Nottingham A Safer City
- Improving The Health Of Local People
- Maximising Leisure And Cultural Opportunities

#### 11 **List of background papers other than published works or those disclosing confidential or exempt information**

None

**Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

None.

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