

REPORT OF ACTING DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD STRATEGY AND SUPPORT

PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS TO LANCASTER WAY PARK

1 SUMMARY

This report seeks approval from the West Area Committee of £5,000 to be made available to pay for physical improvements to Lancaster Way Park in Strelley from the Bilborough Ward uncommitted balance.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that West Area Committee allocate £5000 from the Bilborough ward budget to fund this scheme.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Lancaster Way Park is situated in Strelley. The park provides a valuable asset to the local community and is well used by families in the area. The facilities provided on this site allow space for children to play not only on the play equipment provided but also participate in informal sport and leisure activities, the park is also a place for quiet relaxation.
- 3.2 Over the past few years Lancaster Way Park has been subject to an increased amount of anti-social behaviour and vandalism, a number of small fires have taken place in the park including litter bins and trees being set alight. The children's play area has also been vandalised with graffiti and had equipment damaged. In addition, the anti-social behaviour on the park has impacted on its neighbours who have been subjected to verbal abuse, late night noise, vandalism and criminal damage. Furthermore, the park is used as a cut through by people on motorbikes and mini-motos (the park leads into Broxtowe Country Park) often as a means of escaping from scenes of crime.
- 3.4 Since the end of 2006 the park has been locked on a daily basis at dusk. Residents have reported that the locking of the park has reduced the amount of anti-social behaviour taking place in the park. However, the entrance gates are only approximately 3ft high and significantly shorter than the surrounding perimeter fencing (which is approximately 4.5 feet). Although locked gates do deter some people from entering the park after closure, others simply climb over and continue to cause vandalism and anti-social behaviour.
- 3.5 Residents from the local area attend the Strelley Local Action Group (public meetings which take place every six weeks) and have repeatedly raised their concerns about the anti-social behaviour on Lancaster Way Park. Although the police regularly patrol the area, residents have requested that the fencing surrounding the front of the park

and the gates to the park be improved so to deter people from entering the park after it closes. It is considered that larger fence will reduce the incidents of vandalism on the site and improve security, which will benefit the whole community.

4 PROPOSALS

If the fencing and the gate entrance to Lancaster Way Park are replaced with fencing and gates which are 6ft tall it would make it harder to vandalise and would make the park more secure when it is locked at night. It will also increase the security of people's homes that back onto the park.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The £5,000 contribution can be met by charging the Bilborough Ward un-committed balance. The total un-committed balance, not including the affect of other requests for allocation else where on this agenda, stands currently as follows:-

Aspley Ward	£16,712
Bilborough Ward	£21,181
Leen Valley Ward	£23,631
<u>Total</u>	<u>£61,524</u>

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

7 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

Equality and Diversity procedures will be followed in relation to the tendering, management, employment practice and delivery of any contracts resulting from the above plan.

8 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Risk assessments will be completed where applicable.

9 CONSULTATIONS

Residents have been involved in the formation of this report through regular discussion at the Strelley Local Action Group and at Strelley Tenants and Residents Association meetings.

10 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This report contributes towards the following strategic priorities:-

- People feeling safe in their communities
- A cleaner, greener city

11 CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS

This report contributes towards the priorities of the Crime and Disorder Act by preventing people entering the park after closure, therefore reducing anti-social behaviour and crime within the area

12 VALUE FOR MONEY

The improvement to the security of the park will reduce vandalism and maintenance costs for the park.

13 List of background papers other than published works or those disclosing confidential or exempt information

None.

14 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

None.

**LIANNE TAYLOR
ACTING DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD STRATEGY AND SUPPORT**

*The Clock tower,
Eastcroft Depot,
London Road
Nottingham NG2 3AH
Tel;0115 9152123
Email: lianne.taylor@nottinghamcity.gov.uk*

Contact officers:-

Mark Hillary
Neighbourhood Manager
Tel: 0115 9157655 Email: mark.hillary@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Susan Ward-Rice
Community Development Officer
Tel: 0115 915 3958 Email: susan.ward-rice@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

21st June 2007