

**NAME OF COMMITTEE / BODY - West Area Committee 14th March 2012**

<b>Title of paper:</b>	<b>Use of West Area Section 106 money to develop Robert Shaw Playing Field</b>	
<b>Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):</b>	Lianne Taylor Director Neighbourhoods and Communities Loxley House, Nottingham Tel: 0115 8764713	<b>Wards affected:</b> Leen Valley
<b>Report author(s) and contact details:</b>	Deborah Wilson Leen Valley Neighbourhood Action Officer deborah.wilson@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 07908489093 & Karen Coker Head Teacher at Robert Shaw Primary School 0115 955765 headteacher@robertshaw.nottingham.sch.uk	
<b>Other colleagues who have provided input:</b>	Paul Crawford Landscape Architect Groundwork Greater Nottingham  Steve Ross, Finance Analyst 0115 8763738 steve.ross@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	

**Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:**

World Class Nottingham	
Work in Nottingham	
Safer Nottingham	√
Neighbourhood Nottingham	√
Family Nottingham	√
Healthy Nottingham	√
Leading Nottingham	

**Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):**

This report requests the use of £42,000 of section 106 money to develop cricket and football facilities on the Robert Shaw Field on Southfield Road.

People on the Ainsley Estate do not have access to an open space upon which they can play football and cricket. However young people in the area are passionate about playing these sports. They have broken into the school grounds to do this and have been seen playing the games on traffic islands.

The school owns a field in the estate and to enable people to access a green space it has opened it to the community in non school hours for the past 2 years. The school has a strong track record of extending its facilities to the Community. The School and its Governors have made a written pledge to continue this arrangement (see appendix).

The nearest park (Melbourne) is 1.5 kilometres away. It does not have a cricket pitch and access to it requires crossing the ring road. Developing a cricket and football pitch on the Robert Shaw field represents the only realistic opportunity to enable young people to have

access to sports facilities in an estate that is extremely isolated and has little else in the way of community facilities.

**Recommendation(s):**

1	That £42,000 of West Area Section 106 money be allocated to develop a cricket and football facility on the Robert Shaw Playing Field.
2	That the decision whether or not to allocate the money is made by the end of March in order to enable cost efficiencies to be made through the procurement process to deliver the work.
3	To amend the Capital Programme to reflect the expenditure detailed.
4	To give delegated authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to authorise the capital orders relating to this project.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The estate itself is in an isolated position bounded by the ring road and railway track and there are no facilities on the estate other than one shop and a primary school.
- 1.2 The local Residents Association Ainsley Area Residents Association (AARA) has been campaigning for football and cricket facilities for many years. The development of Robert Shaw Field is a partnership project between the school and the Residents Association which enhances the community ownership and sustainability of the project. The School Council is keen to be actively involved in the management and delivery of the project.
- 1.3 This Section 106 money has been made available from the development at 469 Nuthall Road (07/00736/PFUL3).

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

- 2.1 There is a clear and demonstrated need for a resource of this kind and this has been highlighted by local young people's behaviour in breaking into the school to use their facilities and playing the sports on traffic islands. Different proposals have been consulted on by the school and Residents group and the key theme that continues to present itself is the need for football and cricket facilities.
- 2.2 The dual use of school premises represents efficient use of facilities in keeping with the extended schools agenda.
- 2.3 The proposal to use section 106 money to develop cricket and football facilities on the field complements a recently successful Biffa bid of £50k which aims to develop a naturalised area to increase biodiversity. If successful, the proposal will enable cost effective use of funding because a single contractor can be appointed to carry out both aspects of the development simultaneously.
- 2.4 Anti-social behaviour has been at worrying levels on the estate. Different stakeholders (including the Neighbourhood Policing Team), believe that bringing football and cricket facilities to the area, together with coaches and mentors for young people, will help to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour.

## **3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The inclusion of a multi-use games area (MUGA) was consulted on. Whilst many thought this would be a nice addition, the enduring need and consistent request has been for cricket and football facilities. The inclusion of a MUGA is not feasible at this time, given the amount of money that is available, although Groundwork Greater Nottingham are currently investigating other funding opportunities for the MUGA.
- 3.2 Encouraging the use of other parks, by involving youth workers and taking young people on mini-bus trips to use other parks has been considered. However the sheer distance of other parks, being 1.5 kilometres (Melbourne), and 2.5 kilometres (King George V), together with the safety implications of crossing the ring road and

the railway means this is an unrealistic and undesirable option. There is also no specific youth workers or sessional work being delivered in this area.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)**

- 4.1 The attached table indicates the cost of the facility and what the money will be spent on. The procurement for the work will be achieved under a single stage tender.
- 4.2 There are monies available in West Area Section 106 grants to fund this scheme.
- 4.3 The section 106 monies are for the provision, enhancement or improvement of public open spaces within vicinity of West Area and can only be used if the public have access to the scheme.
- 4.4 If this report is approved a Portfolio Holder Decision report would need to approve the scheme and include in the capital programme.
- 4.5 The ongoing revenue maintenance costs will be the responsibility of the school.
- 4.6 The intention is to give the funding to the Robert Shaw School in order for them to procure both this scheme and the naturalised area to increase biodiversity scheme, thereby achieving economies through employing only one contractor.

#### **4 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS)**

- 5.1 The site has been vandalised in the past; the plants we put in with local residents were pulled up and removed. However there is no equipment being put on the park, so vandalism risks are much reduced.
- 4.2 A budget of £1000 has been allocated by the school to keep the facility maintained. Maintenance of the new facility will be of the same kind i.e. mowing and trimming, so it is felt this amount is adequate.
- 4.3 The use of the field by the community is entirely dependent on the goodwill of the school. However they are committed to keep it open to the community and have done this for 2 years. A letter pledging this support has been provided by the Governors, and remaining open to the community is a condition of the Biffa grant that has recently been successful.
- 4.4 The school are aware of the Health and Safety Implications and their liability in respect of third party claims. The field is insured against this during school hours by the school insurance and outside school hours by the Community Group's insurance. The taking out of this insurance by the AARA is further evidence of its commitment to the project.
- 4.5 The school Caretaker inspects the site daily and any health and safety issues that arise as a result of the inspection are acted upon e.g. the field was recently shut whilst a repair to the perimeter fence was carried out to prevent access to the railway line.

- 4.6 The Neighbourhood policing team are keen for this initiative to go ahead; it is felt that it will help to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the area.

**6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIAs)**

- 6.1 An equality impact assessment has not been carried out, however the site will be fully accessible and compliant with DDA regulations. The surrounding community is ethnically diverse and Asian boys are amongst the keenest of the school pupils who want to play cricket.
- 6.2 It is anticipated that playing football and cricket together will be a cohesive force and coaches and mentors will work to achieve this. People from this area are amongst the more socially deprived residents in Leen Valley as indicated by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010.

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

- 7.1 Costing Estimate
- 7.2 Letter pledging support from School Governors

**8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

None

## **Appendix to West Area Committee Report requesting use of Section 106 money for Robert Shaw Field**

### **Lack of access to facilities**

The many benefits of physical activity and team sports are well documented. This is true not just for the individual who takes part, but also for families and the wider community. Playing team sports has a positive impact on crime and antisocial behaviour, health, team spirit, co-operation and cohesion in communities.

People on the Ainsley estate do not have access to local facilities that enable them to play football and cricket, but they demonstrate a passionate desire to do this. Many times they have broken into the local school grounds to use their pitches and have even been seen playing the games on nearby traffic islands. The school had over 30 windows broken over a summer holiday prior to the field being opened and 3 burglaries in one week. The nearest park with sufficient space to play such sports (Melbourne) is 1.5 kilometres and even there, there are no cricket facilities. Apart from sheer distance to the park, the estate is isolated and cut off by boundaries which include the ring road, the railway, and a restriction of routes to motor vehicles, making treks to other parks risky and unrealistic.

### **School Commitment**

To enable citizens to have access to open space the school has opened a field it owns, a short distance from the school, for community use outside school hours. The school continues to use it during school hours, thus the field enjoys a dual use, making good use of facilities in keeping with the 'Extended Schools' agenda. The school have done this for the past 2 years and have been providing a maintenance budget for the field which they are happy to continue to do.

The school is committed to its role as the heartbeat of the community. The Board of Governors and the Head Teacher have written a letter pledging support for the continued community use of the field (see below). As well as opening the field, it encourages community groups to use its premises, e.g. a voluntary youth group has been meeting there because there is dedicated youth provision in the area. The initiative to develop the field is a joint partnership project, between the school and Ainsley Area Residents Association (AARA), with support from Groundwork, Neighbourhood Management and Ward Councillors.

### **Involvement of the Residents' Association**

The AARA have been campaigning for cricket and football facilities in the area for many years and their involvement as a major partner will help to ensure community ownership and sustainability of the facilities on the field. The children at the school, the School Council and the members of the AARA have been actively involved in the project e.g. helping to clear weeds and plant shrubs and distribute and administer the consultation.

Groundwork has supported the project to obtain £50,000 of BIFFA funding to enable the development of a naturalised habitat, which will attract a diverse range of wildlife species to facilitate environmental education and appreciation. The project was planned and consulted on from the start to include aspects such as, sports facilities and a bio-diverse natural area, so both sets of use will complement one another. It would represent a much greater cost efficiency to tender for both aspects of the development at the same time and appoint a single contractor to carry out the work as a whole, so an early decision on this request for funding is paramount.

## **Antisocial Behaviour**

Anti social behaviour has been raised as a priority by residents on the estate. The Neighbourhood Policing team also see it as a fundamental issue in the area. Knives have been confiscated from children in the subway; a young person who attends the Local Action Group (LAG) has described the traumatic experience of being mugged in the area and the local shop keeper has reported groups of young people hanging around the shop, allegedly intimidating passers by. The Beat Team has been proactively engaging with the young people in the area and have been carrying out high visibility patrols. Having spoken to a range of 12 to 20 year olds in the area they have clearly expressed that their reasons for constantly hanging around on streets is because there is nothing in the area to do; there is no youth club or facilities to do anything. The Police report "This is a clear frustration for both residents and Police as we cannot encourage them into activities without the relevant facilities available to them."

A local sports coach works has developed strong relationships with young people in the area. He is well respected, and he, and the young people, have attended the LAG to make a plea for local cricket and football facilities. As well as providing diversionary activities, sports facilities will bring mentors and coaches for young people to help them use their energies in a positive way.

## **Its value to the Community**

There is also a semi-professional cricket team who has expressed an interest in using the facilities once they are developed and it is expected that their presence will have a positive influence, generating interest and enthusiasm in the sport; hopefully attracting local spectators and generating community spirit.

The strong support for cricket and football facilities from several different parties lends weight to the need to enable this to happen. In comparison with the rest of Leen Valley, Ainsley represents an area where its citizens score higher on indices of multiple deprivation, for example it is one of the few areas in Leen Valley that has social housing. Cut off by the railway, the ring road and closed off routes to traffic, Ainsley Estate is also physically isolated and lacking in general facilities. Apart from one shop, the school and the field are the only community resources on Ainsley Estate.

The Robert Shaw field represents the only realistic opportunity to enable young people to have access to play and youth facilities, in an estate that is extremely isolated, and it is clear that their development would be much appreciated.



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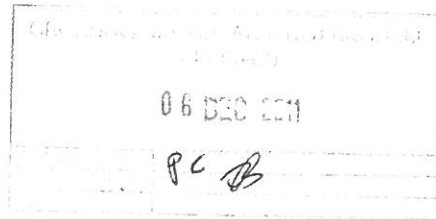


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Reference: Robert Shaw Playing Field

Dear Paul



On behalf of Robert Shaw Governing body, I would very much like to thank you for all the hard work you are doing to the Robert Shaw playing field.

On behalf of the school I can confirm the commitment of the school as follows;

- The playing field will retain free open community access to the playing field 3:30pm to 8:30 am the following days Monday to Friday and 24 hours Saturday and Sunday.
- There will be no booking system to use the playing field or play facilities within it. The facility will be an open facility for all to enjoy.
- The Governors are fully committed to the success of the playing field development and will maintain community access to the facility for future years.

We, as Governors, along with the school and local residents would really like the field to become a good place for all on the Ainsley Estate to visit and enjoy its facilities.

Yours sincerely

Doug Sutton, Chair of Governors  
Karen Coker, Head Teacher



Robert Shaw is a  
Good School  
Ofsted 2008



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



**Robert Shaw Playing Field**

Cost Estimate v2 Feb 2012



NCC Parks /  
School

Area	Item Description	Biffa	S106	NCC Parks / School Contribution	Total
Prelims and contingency A1	Item	£ 4,200.00	£ 4,000.00		£ 8,200.00
Groundwork construction A2	Earth works to Multi user games area. Reutilize material on site for habitat improvement work.	£ 1,500.00	£ 4,000.00		£ 5,500.00
Soft Landscaping A3	Habitat planting to enhance wildlife diversity.	£ 1,000.00	£ -		£ 1,000.00
Habitat Creation A4	Introduce elements to improve habitat diversity. Bird boxes, habitat stacks, boggy area.	£ 5,000.00	£ -		£ 5,000.00
Pathways A5	Creation of pathways providing access and linking the habitats for school curriculum activities.	£ 9,000.00	£ -		£ 9,000.00
Play equipment A6	Construction of natural play equipment and features.	£ 10,150.00	£ -		£ 10,150.00
Soft Landscaping A7	Provide and lay grass safety mats to natural play elements.	£ 3,700.00	£ -		£ 3,700.00
Football and cricket Field and Pitch A10	Regrade and prepare and install drainage. Turf area for football and cricket pitch. Including boundary, line marking and cricket surface.	£ 3,300.00	£ 25,000.00		£ 28,300.00

Football and Cricket	Goals and Net frame	£	-	£	4,800.00	£	4,800.00
Maintenance	Five year maintenance program and repairs budget.	£	-	£	5,000.00	£	5,000.00
Third Party Contribution	Payable to Biffa Ward	£	-	£	4,200.00	£	4,200.00
Rpi inspection	Health and safety design review and post installation inspection.	£	-	£	900.00	£	-
Professional Fees	Design, contract procurement and management.	£	4,150.00	£	4,200.00	£	8,350.00
<b>All prices exclude VAT</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>42,000.00</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>42,000.00</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>94,100.00</b>

<b>Funding Strategy</b>		<b>Works Total:</b>
Biffa Ward S106	£ 42,000.00	£ 42,000.00
Councillors contribution	£ 42,000.00	£ 42,000.00
School Maintenance Contribution	£ 5,100.00	£ 5,100.00
	£ 5,000.00	£ 5,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 94,100.00</b>	<b>£ 94,100.00</b>

=	Secured income
=	Secured income
=	Proposed

Cost estimate and finding breakdown prepared by:

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