

BRIDGE, CLIFTON NORTH & CLIFTON SOUTH AREA COMMITTEE
12 NOVEMBER 2014

Title of paper:	VICTORIA EMBANKMENT & MEADOWS RECREATION GROUND CRICKET PAVILION	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	John Kelly, Corporate Director for Community Services Hugh White, Director of Sport, Culture and Parks	Wards affected: Bridge
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Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)		
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
Cutting unemployment by a quarter		<input type="checkbox"/>
Cut crime and anti-social behaviour		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ensure more school leavers get a job, training or further education than any other City		<input type="checkbox"/>
Your neighbourhood as clean as the City Centre		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Help keep your energy bills down		<input type="checkbox"/>
Good access to public transport		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham has a good mix of housing		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham is a good place to do business, invest and create jobs		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham offers a wide range of leisure activities, parks and sporting events		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Support early intervention activities		<input type="checkbox"/>
Deliver effective, value for money services to our citizens		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
The report outlines proposals for the cricket pavilion at the Victoria Embankment & Meadows Recreation Ground.		
Recommendation(s):		
1	Note the proposals for the cricket pavilion.	
2	Approve the contribution of £10,000 Area Capital funding towards the funding bids for project.	

1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The current cricket pavilion at the Victoria Embankment and Meadows Recreation Ground is in a poor state of repair and has been disused for a number of years. In order to bring cricket back to the site, restored or new facilities are required at the park.
- 1.2 On 29th October 2014, a bid was submitted for £80,000 of from WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd) landfill tax funding towards a new cricket pavilion. This bid was submitted early in the project process so as not to miss the funding deadline.

1.3 £150,000 of match funding is available from the ECB (English Cricket Board) towards the project if approval is given to proceed with a funding bid before the end of November 2014.

2. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

The Vision

2.1 The current cricket pavilion, as shown in Appendix 1, was built in 1906 but is in a poor state of repair and has been unused for many years.

2.2 The City Council's vision for the site is:

- Improved / new Sports Facilities for Cricket plus new changing / club house facilities.
- A secure site that is both well managed and well maintained.
- Equal access for all of the community.
- A project that is financially deliverable and managed through a sustainable / realistic business model.

2.3 In order to progress plans for cricket facilities at the site, the Parks & Open Spaces Service has been working with local architects maber to investigate options for the site. maber are kindly providing pro-bono (free) staff time to the project.

Funding & Aims

2.4 Funding for cricket pavilion works is available from three main sources:

- The ECB – up to £150,000
 - WREN landfill tax funds - £80,000
 - Area Capital - £10,000
- Possible total: £240,000.

2.5 As Nottingham City is a priority for cricket, the ECB has indicated that funding is available to the right project, in the right place, serving the right community. The ECB's Cricketing Priorities 2013 – 2017 are:

- Last Man Stands (more people playing in more teams)
- South Asians
- Women & Girls
- Disability
- Retaining Players in the Game

2.6 The ECB and City Council wish to see a building on the site which can deliver changing facilities for 3 cricket wickets:

- 4 changing rooms (20sq m each) with toilets, showers and storage
- Disability Access
- 2 Officials rooms
- Tea Room/Kitchen area
- External Viewing Area

2.7 The bid for WREN funding was submitted for the 29th October 2014 deadline and a decision will be made on 22nd April 2015.

Option 1: Restoration

- 2.8 Condition surveys have been carried out on the current building which is in a poor state of repair both visually and structurally. The estimated cost for the refurbishment of the existing pavilion to provide a modern, fit-for-purpose changing room is £381,000.
- 2.9 However it soon became apparent that there were issues with this approach, firstly the structure of the building is in a very poor state and would need a complete re-haul of the site, secondly the structural changes that are required are not insignificant and therefore will be costly to undertake and thirdly the ECB requirement of 4 changing areas would not be able to be achieved due to the small footprint of the existing building.
- 2.10 Another key issue is that of disability access which would be required as part of the refurbishment. This is a particularly difficult issue to resolve due to the pavilion being built on large steps and one which greatly increases the costs of the works. (The recent flood alleviation scheme now negates the need for it to be built on steps).

Option 2: New Build

- 2.11 An alternative option is to demolish the existing building and build a new cricket pavilion at the site. This would be achievable within the project budget and Mabers architects are providing further support by considering design options for a new building. Examples of other local ECB-funded new cricket pavilions are shown in Appendix 2.
- 2.12 Some architectural elements of the existing building may be able to be saved and recycled in a new building, such as the metal columns.
- 2.13 If the pavilion is to be a new build then the location must be considered as the current location at the centre of the site has no formal pathway to reach it. An alternative location along the outer rim of the site would make the pavilion more practical for disabled access.

Consultation

- 2.14 Following the initial phase of consultation for the Embankment, a draft master plan was created based on some of the key themes of improvement suggested. At this stage the master plan was evolving, allowing for concepts and ideas to be prioritised. The draft master plan presented 27 improvements ranging in scale from major renovations to pavilions to the installation of seating shelters
- 2.15 People were asked to prioritise their top 5 improvements on the draft plan from a list of categories. Of the valid responses received, the pavilions were voted as 2nd in the list of required improvements.
- 2.16 A meeting in the Meadows to discuss this was held on October 15th and the issues considered with local residents. Residents were shown a presentation from NCC and Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club explaining the work that has been undertaken so far to try to design a build that restores the current pavilion and is fit for purpose. This exercise highlighted many problems with the existing structure and the footprint of the building as well not being DDA compliant as it is built on concrete steps. The

residents were shown designs of other recently constructed cricket pavilion and discussions were held to determine what would be acceptable moving forward

2.17 The general consensus from the group was positive with a vote taken which enables the project team to investigate the building of a new pavilion in a new location. There were some stipulations in that the design incorporates as much of the existing building as possible including the double-angled, 4 sided roof, the cast iron pillars and that a veranda or outside space is included.

2.18 The project team have therefore instructed the architects to look at a new design, incorporating the residents wishes that will fulfil the brief of the ECB and unlock their funding for the project.

Timescales

2.19 The proposed timescales for the project are as follows:

- November 2014: finalise outline design proposals
- November 2014: apply for ECB funding
- Late November 2014: public consultation meeting
- December 2014 – January 2015: apply for planning approval
- January 2015 – ECB funding decision
- March 2014 – Planning approval decision
- April 2015 – WREN funding decision

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To not take the opportunity to improve the cricket facilities at the park would mean that the condition of the existing building continues to deteriorate as maintenance expenses increase. The opportunity to bid for funding from the ECB may also be lost.

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

4.1 The funding for the project is as follows:

ECB	£150,000
WREN	£80,000
Area Capital	£10,000
Sub-total	£240,000

4.2 A Delegated Decision for the project will be published once the external funding outcomes are known.

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

5.1 The proposals to improve the facility will help increase total site usage, by creating more and better facilities. This will help reduce crime and disorder on the sites.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 An EIA is not required as this report does not include proposals for new or changing policies, services or functions

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

None

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

None

Appendix 1: The Cricket Pavilion



Appendix 2: Examples of new ECB-Funded Cricket Pavilions



Gedling Cricket Club



Plumtree Cricket Club