

ARBORETUM, DUNKIRK AND LENTON, RADFORD AND PARK AREA COMMITTEE
17 SEPTEMBER 2014

Title of paper:	RADFORD RECREATION GROUND DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	John Kelly, Corporate Director for Community Services Hugh White, Director of Sport, Culture and Parks	Wards affected: Radford and Park
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Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	Councillor Dave Trimble, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture, 13 May 2014	
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 checked="" 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 details proposals to improve Radford Recreation Ground to enable the site to be put forward as a Green Flag Award candidate site through securing additional capital funding (via Section 106 payments) to ensure the delivery of the improvements.		
Recommendation(s):		
1	Approve the allocation of additional Section 106 funding to the scheme (from funding that has come into the Radford and Park Ward) totalling £71,088.30.	
2	Review the consultation information and agree to the priorities for the improvement of the site as shown in the draft project plan (Appendix 1), with spend priorities as outlined in paragraph 2.15 below.	
3	Take into consideration the potential 'Green Corridor' and implications that this may have for the site and prioritisation of works, as detailed in paragraph 2.15.	

1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 The allocation of Section 106 money will enable the Radford Recreation Ground to be improved and entered as a Green Flag Award candidate and, at present, there are 2 unallocated amounts within the Radford and Park Ward:

S106 from 04/00144/PFUL3, Radford Boulevard	£55,143.00
S106 from 13/00222, Oxford Street	£15,945.30

- 1.2 The allocation of the unallocated amounts would give a total budget for the scheme, including previously committed funding, of £100,104 (as at 21/8/14).

2. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

Introduction

- 2.1 Radford Recreation Ground is one of the largest parks within Radford and Park Ward and has been identified as a key site that should be kept at a high quality.
- 2.2 Significant investment secured via New Deal for Communities from 2005-2008, led to the site being put forward for the Green Flag award, however the destruction of the pavilion on site by fire in 2008 meant that the application was withdrawn and was not progressed further.
- 2.3 The park has, however, always had the potential to become a Green Flag site, however the significant funding required to resolve some outstanding issues and make other associated improvements has not been available until now.
- 2.4 The proposals outlined in paragraphs 2.15 below will need to be undertaken so as to bring the site up to a quality suitable for it to achieve the Green Flag award. These proposals have largely come out of consultation with local residents and / or been identified as health and safety concerns.
- 2.5 These works will help create a park that is usable to a wider range of the local community than at present, and will also help demonstrate that the local community is working together to improve the site.

Community

- 2.6 The local community has a high proportion of students and is also very diverse in ethnic make up. Within the aims of both the development plan and the Green Flag Award, there are aspirations that the local community is involved with the decision making of the park. To enable this, a fledgling "Friends of" group has been formed, and we are looking to encourage greater involvement in this group as a way to help improve the site and try and reduce some community tensions that can occur between long term residents and students.

Green Flag Award

- 2.7 The Green Flag Award is a national award that sets standards for parks and open spaces. Across the Country there are just under 1,500 award winning parks that are judged annually against a set of criteria, including maintenance, management, welcoming feel, health and safety and community involvement.
- 2.8 Nottingham City currently has the 4th highest number of awards (by authority area) across the country with 20 Green Flags. As part of the ongoing process to improve parks, it is envisaged that Radford Recreation Ground will be put forward for the award for the 2015/16 judging period (application by end of January 2015).

Consultation

- 2.9 Consultation has taken place with local residents and has also included some of the local stakeholders.
- 2.10 Current park users are generally drawn from the local area, with around 40% surveyed being under 30 years old (demonstrating the high student population locally).

2.11 The site is well used for walking/jogging, relaxation and sitting on the benches and the play area is a popular location. To a lesser extent the site is also used for football, dog walking and as a shortcut.

2.12 The key items that people wanted to see improved on the site were lighting and planting, followed by improvements to the play area, addition of outdoor gym/fitness equipment, additional seating, greater community use, along with reducing the amount of litter and improving signage.

2.13 For a full break down of consultation results please see Appendix 2.

Proposals

2.14 The consultation that was carried out during the summer resulted in 66 survey responses and highlighted a number of concerns and ideas for improvement that are outlined below. This also follows on from initial consultation carried out for the Green Corridor.

2.15 The spending priorities are outlined as follows:

Highlighted issue	Priority/timescale	Estimated cost
Remove foundations of former pavilion – health and safety requirement	High/within 3 months	£9,890
Improve opportunities relating to towards walking, jogging, dog walking and general fitness	High/within 3 months	£2,000 – walking route
Improve planting on site to improve the visual appeal of the site	High/within 5 months	£3,000
Improve the play area to encourage greater use for a wide range of ages and abilities	(Medium/1-2 years - full refurbishment) High/within 5 months - additional items of new play equipment.	(Up to £100,000) £15,000
Creation of fitness trail/area (outdoor gym type equipment)	High/within 5 months	£25,000
Create more seating (picnic benches)	High/within 5 months	£4,000
Improve the site for wider community use and	High/Curry in the Park event - October 2014	£2,000
Improve signage (directional and on site) (potentially to include renaming the park)	High/within 5 months	£5,000
Students – attracting greater usage, potentially more female students	High/Curry in the Park event - October 2014	(Included above)
University of Nottingham undergraduates involvement	High/Curry in the Park event - October 2014	(Included above)

Total estimated spend: £66,000

2.16 Ongoing consultation and expansion of the plans may well lead to an increase in spend, and/or highlight other priorities for spending.

Green Corridor

- 2.17 There are proposals and concepts for a 'green corridor' running from Castle Boulevard to John Carroll Leisure Centre to help open up the Ward and create safer walking and cycling routes. This is still in the concept stages, however the proposal would have an impact on Radford Recreation Ground (as containing part of the route) so there is a need to phase developments in order to maximise both potential funding and also long term benefit for the site.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Not allocating funding to the site would mean that fewer or only lower cost improvements would take place on site. This would not bring the site up to a Green Flag status, and would not meet citizens' aspirations for the site.
- 3.2 Not considering the potential phasing of works would mean that, should the Green Corridor take place, recently carried out improvements may have to be moved or replaced as part of the Corridor scheme.

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

- 4.1 Should the Section 106 not be allocated to the site, then the scope for any projects will be significantly reduced.
- 4.2 The Section 106 needs to be allocated within the next 5 years otherwise this funding will need to be returned to the developer, resulting in loss of development potential for open spaces across the Ward.
- 4.3 The breakdown of the funding for the work is:

Secured existing funding	
Area Capital contribution	£20,000
S106 (Portfolio holder Decision 632)	£15,000
Sub total	£45,000
Additional funding to be agreed	
S106 Radford Boulevard	£55,143
S106 Oxford Street	£15,945
Provisional total	£106,088
Expenditure to date	£5,984
Remaining budget	£100,104

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

- 5.1 The proposals to improve the site up to a Green Flag standard will help increase usage of the site, by creating more facilities on site along with better signage. This linked to the potential for future lighting (leading to better night time usage) would help reduce crime and disorder on site.

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

- Appendix 1 - Radford Recreation Ground Project Brief – Draft Document
- Appendix 2 - Radford Recreation Ground – Consultation data summer 2014
- A Report of Community Feedback in Relation to the Proposed Green Corridor Running through Radford, Lenton and Dunkirk, March 2014

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- Portfolio Holder Decision 632 – Spend of Section 106 and other funding on Parks and Open Spaces Improvements in Area 4 (20 January 2010)
- Delegated Decision Form DD0566 – Allocation of Area Capital and Section 106 funding for Parks and Open Spaces Improvements in Area 4 (21 December 2012)