

TRUSTS AND CHARITIES COMMITTEE – 27 SEPTEMBER 2019

Title of paper:	Serenity Garden at Highfields Park	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Dave Halstead, Director of Neighbourhood Services Andy Vaughan, Corporate Director, Commercial & Operations	Wards affected: Lenton & Wollaton East
Report author(s) and contact details:	James Dymond, Parks Development Manager James.Dymond@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Eddie Curry, Head of Public Realm Eddie.Curry@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Peter Broad, Senior Landscape Architect Peter.Broad@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	n/a	
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:		
Strategic Regeneration and Development		<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools		<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning and Housing		<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services		<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy, Sustainability and Customer		<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs, Growth and Transport		<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults, Health and Community Sector		<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Early Intervention and Early Years		<input type="checkbox"/>
Leisure and Culture		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration		<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
This report presents an update on the project to create a memorial garden at Highfields Park in partnership with the Forever Stars charity.		
Recommendation(s):		
1	To approve the draft designs for the new Serenity Garden at Highfields Park.	
2	To approve the acceptance of FCC Communities Foundation grant to fund the garden if the bid is successful.	
3	To note any works required for the construction of the Serenity Garden will be subject to separate approval to procure by the City Council.	

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The former paddling pool at the western end of Highfields Park has been out of use for several decades and is now a wildlife area with self-seeded trees and vegetation. Adjacent to it is an open grassed area that abuts the University of Nottingham campus. This project will provide a quiet and peaceful memorial garden to give a new purpose to this area of the park.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 The Forever Stars charity is dedicated to supporting families who've suffered a stillbirth or infant loss. Set up in 2014, they have raised over £200,000 to fund two serenity suites at Queen's Medical Centre and City Hospital. Please see <https://www.foreverstars.org/> for further information.
- 2.2 Forever Stars are now working with the Parks team to create a baby loss remembrance garden within Highfields Park. This area will be called the Serenity Garden and will complement the serenity services offered by the charity to support families who have lost a baby.
- 2.3 The Serenity Garden will provide bereaved families with the opportunity to have a permanent memorial for their baby within commissioned sculptures in the garden, the garden itself will be a place of reflection and relaxation complimenting the surroundings of Highfields Park with ornamental trees and a variety of specially selected shrubs. The garden will also offer a focal point for the baby loss community in Nottingham, as well as help Forever Stars raise awareness about the baby loss community and services available throughout the city and county.

Design and Consultation

- 2.4 Designs for the garden have been produced by the Parks Service Landscape Architect, in partnership with Forever Stars. These were put out to public consultation via an online survey with the following results:
 - 308 respondents completed the online survey, 70% of whom visit the park 2-3 times a year or more.
 - Of these, 55% (169 respondents) never visit the Western end of the park - 106 respondents stated that this was because they didn't know about this part of the park whilst 64 stated that there was nothing there worth visiting.
 - Most importantly, 92% (279 respondents) said they would visit the new garden, showing the enormous potential to create a new attraction that will add to the park and also encourage visitors to use areas that are currently not accessed.
 - 91% (277 respondents) said they "Like" or "Like A Lot" the garden design.

Comments from the consultation included:

- "It looks calm and peaceful and would be a good use of that space"
- "I think the design is lovely, it's in keeping with the park and a very important idea for all of us that have lost children"
- "It looks like it is going to offer a beautiful place of tranquility to enable reflection and remembrance"
- "I like that you are keeping most of the existing trees, and the design is being fitted into the existing landscape. I love that sculptures are part of the design"
- "I feel this park would help so many bereaved families have a place to reflect, and manage their emotions in a place of peace and tranquility in the open air."

Costs and Funding

- 2.5 The garden is expected to cost approximately £121,000.
- 2.6 Forever Stars will fund £50,000 of this and it a bid has been submitted to the FCC Communities Foundation (formerly WREN) for £68,000. Nottingham City Council will contribute up to £10,000 towards the project and the FCC fee (10.75% of the grant) if the bid is successful.

Timescales

- 2.7 If the decision from FCC in December 2019 is successful, work could begin in early 2020 with completion for Easter 2020.

Procurement and Approvals

- 2.8 The main works to construct the garden will be procured via an established Framework. Prices for other items such as planting and landscaping will be sought via three quotes or a tender, depending on the estimated value in accordance with the Council's constitution.
- 2.9 Approval for the capital scheme will be sought via Delegated Decision following this report. All funding and procurement of works will be handled via the City Council.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 One alternative option would be to simply build the garden using the £50,000 funding from Forever Stars. However this would not make best use of the site, allow for the highest quality build or maximise the funds raised by the charity.

4 FINANCE COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 4.1 This project is envisaged to be entirely funded by external resources with the budgeted £121,000 forecast to be funded as follows:
- £50,000 Forever Stars external contribution, and
 - £68,000 FCC Communities Foundation Grant
 - £3,000 NCC

Therefore, the enhancement to the park does not require a contribution from the Trust.

Should there be any shortfall, Nottingham City Council Public Realm have confirmed that they are able to contribute a further £7,000 from revenue resources. If a funding shortfall exists after the Public Realm contribution the scheme will need to be value engineered accordingly, or additional approval will be required.

- 4.2 The Trust has a dowry available to contribute to schemes at Highfield Park if required.

At present, the Highfields Trust has a dowry of £213,500 (£188,500 March 2018). Historically this dowry has been static but reduced due to a significant contribution the Trust made as part of the Heritage Lottery work at the park (£700,000) and subsequently increased due to receiving a financial contribution in relation to the Nottingham Enterprise Zone in 2018/19.

Advice provided by Tom Straw, 30 August 2019

5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

- 5.1 Trustees will be aware that the primary objective of the Charity is to provide public recreation and pleasure grounds for the people of Nottingham forever. To achieve this, a programme of ongoing maintenance of grounds and equipment is completed each year. This ensures the provision of well-maintained, good quality public recreation facilities.
- 5.2 The area of the park the subject of this report has been out of use for some time and so the proposals in the report seek to re-design it and open it up again in furtherance of its charitable objectives.
- 5.3 Highfields is open to the public at large assuring public benefit on an open access basis. There are no restrictions regarding the members of public who may use Highfields and whilst the Serenity Garden will be created for a specific purpose, it will remain open to the public.
- 5.4 This report seeks to approve the design and acceptance of funding for the proposals. Any works undertaken in accordance with this decision will be subject to financial commitment and approval to procure by the City Council directly in line with its constitutional requirements.

Advice provided by Dionne Screamon, 28 August 2019

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (FOR DECISION RELATING TO ALL PROPERTY ASSETS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE) (AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS ONLY)

- 6.1 The report implies that this project will be built, managed and maintained by the City Council following the financial input of the various charities, and if so, there appears to be no further Property input required.
- 6.2 If however, the charities require a Deed of Dedication or to enter in to a lease or other legal arrangements, then specific consideration will need to be given to these terms and Property will support the report author in this process.

Advice provided by John West, Estates Surveyor, 27 August 2019.

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required because there is no proposal for new or changing policies / services / functions or financial decisions that would have a major impact on services or service users.

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

- 8.1 Site Plan reference POS/17/06/01/P-2

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- 9.1 None.