

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
5 NOVEMBER 2008
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ORGANISATIONAL IMPROVEMENT
PARKS DEVELOPMENT HALF-YEAR REVIEW 2008 - 09
KEY DECISION – NO

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Members on progress as at 30 September 2008 in respect of the delivery of the Parks Development Projects as detailed within the report.

2. Recommendation(s)

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| 2.1 That Members note the progress of the Parks Development Projects as at 30 September 2008 as outlined within the report. |
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4. Key Issues

- 4.1 To follow is an update at the half-way point in the current financial year, of the progress being made in respect of the Parks Development Projects for 2008-09. Council officers are responsible for the research, development and delivery of a number of diverse projects within this programme. Please see the detail contained within Section 2 (Details of Matters to be Considered) for further information on individual projects included within this report.

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Annexes to the Report i.e. copies of correspondence, plans etc.	None
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Section 1

Background

Relevant background information has previously been provided in dedicated reports and individual Permission to Spend reports. Please see Section 2 below for further detail.

Section 2

Details of Matters to be Considered

To follow is updated information on the progress of various projects as at 30 September 2008, including relevant financial information.

Arthur Street Play Area & Open Space – F008

A draft design was prepared for the consultation event that took place during April 2008. The event was successful with a range of users and residents of various ages attending.

A report was submitted to Cabinet on 21 August 2008 to consider a range of options to move the scheme forward. The preferred option was to retain the football pitch, develop a small ball games area and relocate and improve the play area provision.

The service checks have now been completed and a revised project plan is being developed to move the new design forward with the aim of submitting a planning application in February 2009. Subject to approval, work will commence on-site during June 2009.

The total approved budget is £108,310 and the spend to date is £10,579

Barnard Way Public Open Space – C654

Phase 1 entailed providing a footpath through the site, and is complete. Phase 2 includes landscaping of the earthbanks previously created, provision of new boundary fencing bordering Hednesford Road and part of Barnard Way, and minor enhancements to the existing play area. Subject to weather conditions, this is scheduled to be started in December 2008 and completed by 31 March 2009.

The total approved budget is £20,450. Total spend to date is £470.

Barnard Way Play Area – C689

Most works are complete on this scheme. The one remaining item of equipment is now in stock and awaiting installation. Subject to available resources and suitable weather conditions it is intended to complete by 31 March 2009.

The total approved budget is £4,370 and the total spend to date is £4,552 resulting in a current overspend of £182.

Cannock Park Replacement Fencing – C009

Quotations have been received for replacement of the existing Cannock Park perimeter fencing fronting the main A34 (Stafford Road) and additional gates. Following consultation with the Friends

of Cannock Park, alterations were suggested to the design, and further quotes are now to be obtained.

The total approved budget of £53,150 is included within the Cannock Park Capital sum of £89,880 (C009), and currently remains underspent.

Flaxley Road Play Area – C407

Most works are complete on this scheme. The one remaining item of equipment is now in stock and awaiting installation. Subject to available resources and suitable weather conditions it is intended to complete by 31 March 2009.

The total budget is £19,640. Total spend to date is £17,250 leaving a current total underspend of £2,390.

Hawks Green Capital Works - Meadow Way / Hayes Way Play Areas & Open Spaces – C690

This project has seen major investment in play areas, equipment and landscaping at two areas, one bordering Meadow Way, the other bordering Hayes Way. Additional work as a result of the ground conditions and tree planting and seeding has taken place in accordance with the timetable (Spring 2008), together with repairs due to vandalism. These works are now complete but have been funded from the total budget available for the project, including the sum allocated for ongoing maintenance. Investigations into the provision of a budget from uncommitted Section 106 funds for ongoing maintenance are currently taking place.

The total approved budget is £304,220, of which £304,267 has been spent to date.

Old Hednesford Parkland – C408

Landscape management works commenced during August 2008, these works included a range of activities including initial litter collection and mowing out of footpath routes that had become overgrown over the years.

The initial cleaning of the watercourse and removal of litter has also been carried out and further cleaning operations are planned during October 2008 and during the duration of the remainder of the project.

Pupils from Kingsmead Technology College have been given the opportunity to improve the underpass at Old Hednesford Parkland using art (Projekt Flux).

A range of art panels have been prepared by the pupils and will be installed on the underpass during November 2008

Work still to be arranged includes the repair of footbridges the installation of litter bins, picnic tables, tree planting and improvement to footpath surfaces.

Subject to weather conditions, this scheme is on target for completion by 31 March 2009

To date the total approved budget is £97,380. Total spend to date is £40,383.

Oxford Green Public Open Space – F009

A Project Action Team has been formed to discuss the detail of this project comprising of Officers from Cannock Chase Council, Ward Members, Groundwork Trust Stoke and local residents group.

The project is still in the design stage and layout drawings have been prepared for consideration by the group. Groundwork Trust are investigating a range of funding streams including Staffordshire Environmental Fund, Community Spaces Fund, Play Builders Fund, Big Lottery - Awards For All. Section 106 funds of £27,910 are presently available for this scheme.

The anticipated cost of the total project is approximately £175k for those draft proposals that have been considered.

Staffordshire County Council has recently agreed to a lease for the site for a period of 25 years at a pepper corn rent. The legal documentation is awaited.

Parks Footpath Refurbishment (Cannock, Elmore and Hednesford Park) – C597

Works at Elmore Park and Hednesford Park are completed. Cannock Park works are to be arranged once new perimeter fencing has been installed (see “Cannock Park Replacement Fencing” above).

The approved budget for this is £16,600. Total spend to date is £8,261.

Refurbishment of Heath Hayes Park Play Area – F017

The refurbishment work to the Heath Hayes Park play area has included a range of new play equipment including swings, slides, spring mobiles, seesaw and rotating equipment with new safer surface and tarmac surface.

The majority of the work is now complete with the exception of some drainage works, footpath repairs to the perimeter of the site and improvement to access points for maintenance vehicles

The total approved budget for this is £81,390. Total spend to date is £74,610 leaving £6,780 currently available.

Rolling Programme of Play Areas across the District – C658

Refurbishment of Cannock Park is complete, and work being done on Heath Hayes Park Play Area is detailed in the specific project above.

To date the budget is £80,360. Total spend to date is £57,290 leaving a current total of £23,070 unspent.

Wolseley Road Public Open Space – C006

Works to this public open space are now complete, with the seeding taking place in Spring 2008 as scheduled.

The total budget is £42,240. Total spend to date is £21,588 leaving an overall underspend of £20,652.

Ravenhill Park – Paddling Pool Refurbishment – F015

Works on this are unlikely to start during the winter period as waterproofing requires at least one month of dry weather, and would necessitate the closure of the pool.

To date the total cumulative budget is £26,890 on which there is currently no expenditure to date.

Hednesford Park – Footpath improvements linked to the Cannock Chase Heritage Trail – F016

These works are in train and will be fully complete by 31 March 2009.

Sandy Lane Replacement Play Area – F019

This project is in the early stages of development and estimates have been prepared indicating the cost of the scheme. Permission to Spend was granted by Cabinet on 21 August 2008, as was the decision to relocate the former Sandy Lane play area provision adjacent to the new Rugeley Leisure Centre Complex.

A public consultation event is scheduled to be held during January 2009.

To date the total budget is £66,720. Total spend to date is £340.

Section 3

Contribution to CHASE

The additional and refurbished community facilities outlined throughout the report will further support the aim of the Council to develop a healthier and more active community. These facilities will enable greater use by local residents and local schools and colleges.

In particular one of the Council's objectives is to increase participation in sports and recreation facilities by an additional 1% each year.

These facilities will enhance the development of physical and social skills through play for children and young people, and thus their potential for development.

Culture is sustained and developed through the provision of opportunity for expression, and participation in developing and challenging communities.

Supporting Healthier Communities, Housing and Older People and improved access to good quality open space will have a positive impact on mental health leading to improved community health and well being.

Section 4**Financial Implications**

Scheme	Code	Budget to 30/09/08	Spend to 30/09/08	Variance to 30/09/08
		£	£	£
Flaxley Road Play Area	C407	19,640	17,250	2,390
Ravenhill Park – Paddling Pool refurbishment	F015	26,890	0	26,890
Hednesford Park – Footpath improvements linked to the Chase Heritage Trail.	F016	22,650	0	22,650
Barnard Way Play Area	C689	4,370	4,552	(182)
Old Hednesford Parkland	C408	97,380	40,383	56,997
Rolling Programme of Play Areas across the District	C658	80,360	57,290	23,070
Hawks Green Capital Works- Meadow Way and Hayes Way Play Areas and Open Spaces	C690	304,220	304,267	(47)
Parks Footpath Refurbishment	C597	16,600	8,261	8,339
Barnard Way Public Open Space	C654	20,450	470	19,980
Wolseley Road Public Open Space	C006	42,240	21,588	20,652
Arthur Street Play Area & Open Space	F008	108,310	10,579	97,731
Sandy Lane Replacement Play Area	F019	66,720	340	66,380
Oxford Green POS	F009	27,910	2,285	25,625
Heath Hayes Park Play Area Refurbishment	F017	81,390	74,610	6,780
Cannock Park (includes replacement fencing)	C009	89,880	22,065	67,815

Section 5

Human Resource Implications

There are no additional Human Resource implications arising from this report.

Section 6

Legal Implications

All projects once embarked upon will result in the Council entering into contractual relations for such projects to be completed. The Council will be subject to various contractual obligations and liabilities and accordingly, it must ensure that it is in a position to discharge all contractual obligations. Failure to do so may expose the Council to possible claims.

For certain projects the Council will be required to comply with its tendering process. This is to ensure that any contract awarded is awarded through a process that is transparent and free from any allegation of bias or favouritism.

The Council is under a legal obligation to ensure that it complies with its own Contract Procurement Policy, EU Regulations on Procurement (where applicable), other relevant statutory provisions and contract principles when offering and awarding contracts.

Failure to comply with our own Policies, EU Regulations and other legislation relating to Procurement could render any offer and award of contract unlawful thereby causing delay and possible claims for contract damages.

Moreover, all projects must be approved and authorised by the Council. Officers' actions must remain within the remit of the approval/authorisation given by Council in respect of each specific project.

Section 7

Section 17 (Crime Prevention)

Where planning permissions have been granted or planning applications are required or pending, consultation is required with the appropriate Architectural Liaison Officer from Staffordshire Police.

Section 8

Human Rights Act Implications

Where there are pending Planning Applications it is imperative that the Council adheres to its policies and ensures that all applicants and others entitled to address the Planning Control Committee have a "fair hearing" as required under Article 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Section 9

Data Protection Act Implications

There are no identified implications in respect of the Data Protection Act.

Section 10

Risk Management Implications

Each project is required to have an individual Risk Assessment associated with it. New schemes now coming forward are subject to a rigorous risk management process as part of the reporting process.

In general terms the current risk to the Council is of schemes not being delivered on time, this being related to the size of the project(s) and the level of staffing resources currently available for scheme implementation. The outcome of future planning applications may also impact on the programme delivery timetables.

Section 11

Equality and Diversity Implications

New or refurbished facilities as detailed in this report are public facilities, the success of which can be measured by their popularity of use and the ease of access for all sections of the community.

Section 12

Other Options Considered

This is not applicable in the context of the purpose of this report.

Section 13

List of Background Papers

None

Annexes

None.