

Report of:	Head of Environment & Healthy Lifestyles
Contact Officer:	Colin Donnelly
Telephone No:	01543 464 520
Portfolio Leader:	Housing, Heritage & Leisure
Key Decision:	No
Report Track:	Cabinet: 09/09/21

Cabinet
9 September 2021
Proposed Art Installations to the Play Area and Open Space at Penny Cress Green, Norton Canes

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval for permission to spend further Section 106 funds (S106) to develop and deliver the proposed art installations and green space improvements at Penny Cress Green, Norton Canes (The CEMA).
- 1.2 To seek approval for permission to spend monies donated by the Forest of Mercia CIC for planting native trees and shrubs at the CEMA.

2 Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

- 2.1 Grant approval to proceed with the proposed art installations and improvement to the play area and open space at Penny Cress Green, Norton Canes (The CEMA), as set out in this report and the indicative plan attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Recommend that £15,088.45, from existing S106 funds, are included into the Capital Programme for 2021 – 2022; and accept £12,000 from the Forest of Mercia CIC towards the project.
- 2.3 Grants permission to spend up to an additional £27,088.45 to deliver the arts and soft landscape proposals of this project as set out in this report (as per item 2.2 above).
- 2.4 Delegate authority to the Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles in consultation with the Housing, Heritage and Leisure Portfolio Holder, to agree the project detail and to take such actions as may be necessary to progress the above recommendations within the approved budget.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendations

Key Issues

- 3.1 The site at Penny Cress Green occupies an area of 1.75 hectares and needs upgrading, thereby providing an opportunity to not only install new modern play equipment but to also enhance and improve the open space, making it a more useable and pleasant site.
- 3.2 Significant housing development has taken place over the last 5 years or so in Norton Canes and the Parish Council has requested Cannock Chase Council utilise funding identified from the new developments to deliver new and improved sport, recreation, and open space facilities within the parish.
- 3.3 Councils have a major role in the provision of good quality parks, play areas and public open spaces that are both sustainable and meet the needs of the community.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.4 A contribution of £15,088.45 from the Councils S106 fund, collected following the Class A1 Store extension of Sainsburys Supermarket Ltd, situated at the Orbital Retail Centre, Voyager Drive has been identified which can be used “**for the built environment, arts and public realm improvements**”.
- 3.5 The Forest of Mercia have identified funding to the value of £12,000 to contribute to the CEMA public open space project. These funds are from central Government to tackle Climate Pollution by planting native trees and shrubs around the Country.
- 3.6 The Council is keen to progress this proposed development and for it to be completed by the second quarter in 2021. To achieve this deadline, it will be necessary to include the estimated cost of the proposed scheme in the Council’s Capital Programme for 2021-22 and to secure approval to spend the S106 funds to develop and deliver the scheme within the budget approved.
- 3.7 At this stage it is envisaged that any ongoing revenue costs associated with the maintenance of the installed art works will be met from the existing maintenance budgets. Should this position change as the details of the scheme are clarified, then a further report to Cabinet may be necessary.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 This report supports the Council’s Corporate Priorities as follows:
 - (i) Supporting Health and Wellbeing –
 - a. Encouraging and supporting people of all ages to have active and healthy lifestyles to improve and maintain their physical and mental wellbeing:

- b. Maintain and improve our green spaces and countryside so that they remain attractive, enhance our quality of life, and contribute towards a more positive environmental impact.

5 Report Detail

5.1 Background

- 5.1.1 The Clerk to Norton Canes Parish Council has written to the Council on several occasions over the last few years to express the Parish Council's ambitions to invest in sport, recreation, and open space facilities within the parish, and regarding its desire to use s106 funds identified from recent local housing developments to contribute to the delivery of these proposals. On 1st February 2019 the Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader confirmed her support to these requests and this proposed scheme has been finalised following discussions between the Parish and District Council.
- 5.1.2 Cannock Chase Council has previously identified a sum of £120,000 from S106 contributions collected following the housing development situated south of Red Lion Lane which can be used "**for the improvements to indoor and outdoor sports and recreational activities within the Norton Canes area**". Permission for this was granted by cabinet on 19th December 2019
- 5.1.3 Since the original approval on 19th December 2019 and further consultation events, a budget of approximately £10,000 was estimated to be required to achieve the desired arts features. A S106 fund of £15,088.45 has been identified that would support this cost. The remaining £5,088.45 would go towards further site furniture costs, such as benches and bins.
- 5.1.4 The Forest of Mercia CIC has identified £12,000 that can be used for native tree and shrub planting at the CEMA.

5.2 Project Outline

- 5.2.1 This project includes the provision of a new fully equipped play area, circular footpaths, a community art sculpture, natural landscaping, and the installation of green gym equipment to encourage the Penny Cress Green site (The CEMA) back into constructive use for sport and active recreation.
- 5.2.2 Works to the play area commenced in Q1 of 2021-22. To date the following works have been commenced / completed:
- New Circular pathway has been installed.
 - Green Gym apparatus has been purchased / commissioned
 - Design of the new play area has been consulted on and will be installed in September 2021.
 - Planting and landscape works have been agreed and will be funded via the Forest of Mercia.

5.2.3 The play spaces have been designed with a mining theme, to fit into the surroundings and enhance the local environment as well as being capable of being used in different ways by children and young people of different ages and abilities.

5.2.4 The new community sculpture will depict local historical landscapes of significance and be designed in consultation with the Parish Council, Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles, Planet Arts, and residents (including children). The facilities will provide the opportunity to increase participation levels in sport and recreation and promote healthy and active lifestyles across the local and wider community.

5.3 Project Costs and Funding

5.3.1 The itemised costs together with the funding previously identified and in part requested for this scheme are as follows:

Pre-Tender Cost Estimate	£
Footpaths (550m)	27,000.00
Play Area	70,000.00
Green Gym Equipment	13,500.00
Art Sculpture	10,000.00
Landscaping	12,000.00
Site furniture and new access improvements	10,000.00
Contingency	4,588.45
Sub Total	147,088.45
Total	147,088.45
Funding Previously Approved	
Q255 S106 Land south of Red Lion Lane, Norton Canes	120,000.00
Additional funding requested (as per this report)	
Q231 S106 Sainsbury's Supermarket, The Orbital Centre, Voyager Drive. Cannock	15,088.45
Forest of Mercia	12,000.00
Total	147,088.45

5.3.2 The current revenue cost for maintaining and inspecting the site is circa £1,500 per annum and it is envisaged that any ongoing revenue costs associated with the future upgrading of the play area and improvements to the open space will be

met from existing budgets. Should this position change a further report to Cabinet may be necessary.

5.4 Project Management and Timeline

5.4.1 The remainder of this project will be overseen and managed by the Council's Capital Projects Officer working in collaboration with the Parks and Open Spaces Team, Norton Canes Parish Council, Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles, Forest of Mercia CIC, and Planet Arts.

5.4.2 The project's estimated timeline is as follows:

1	Finalise project brief, specification and procurement and contract documentation	December 2019
2	Issue Tender	December 2020
3	Submit Tender	January 2021
4	Evaluate Tenders and contract award	February 2021
5	Consultation and review of design	May 2021
6	Start on Site	May 2021
7	Completion	September / October 2021

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

6.1.1 Since the original approval on 19th December 2019, additional expenditure of approximately £10,000 is estimated to be required to achieve the desired arts features. The S106 funds Q231 Sainsburys, Orbital Centre of £15,088.45 is currently unallocated and has been identified as suitable funding to meet this expenditure. The remaining £5,088.45 would go towards further site furniture costs, such as benches and bins.

6.1.2 At this stage, it is envisaged that ongoing site maintenance of the renovated play site facilities will be met from existing revenue budgets. Should this position change as the details of the scheme are clarified then further reports to Cabinet may be necessary.

6.1.3 The Forest of Mercia CIC has identified £12,000 that can be used for native tree and shrub planting at the CEMA. This Forest of Mercia funding of £12,000 is conditional of it being spent in the financial year 2021–2022.

6.2 Legal

6.2.1 The Council will ensure that the necessary legal agreements and details of the works to be carried out are in place before any works are undertaken, especially dealing with gaining access to Council and/or other land.

6.3 Human Resources

6.3.1 There are no identified human resource implications arising from this report.

6.4 Risk Management

6.4.1 The main risks involved in such a project relate to the provider not being able to deliver the proposed improvements; not being able to deliver them to the required quality standard; or within the allocated budget for the works. However, the council's involvement in the design, content and the layout proposals will hopefully assist in mitigating or minimising such risks, and where relevant, elements of the project will be reviewed to keep within the existing budget.

6.5 Equality & Diversity

6.5.1 It is anticipated that new development and facilities will have positive impacts on a range of equality groups and that any negative impacts can be mitigated through the future design process.

6.6 Climate Change

6.6.1 The planting and landscaping works as recommended in this report will enhance the natural environment and will contribute towards the Councils climate agenda.

7 Appendices to the Report

Appendix 1: Indicative Development Plan

Appendix 2: Illustrative Arts Proposals

Previous Consideration







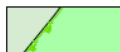

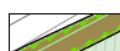
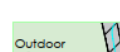
None.

Background Papers

Proposed Improvement to Penny Cres Green - Cabinet 19 December 2019



Legend:

-  Existing Site Boundary
-  Formal play provision to be extended and improved to accommodate new space net, inclusive play features, sensory play and informal play
-  New formal entrance features with interpretation panels. To include timber kissing gates with level access for wheelchairs refer to plan Ref.
-  Existing native woodland / buffer planting (mature trees and shrubs) to be retained.
-  New standard tree planting forming avenue effect with native species such as Hornbeam and lime.
Cb - Carpinus betulus
Fs - Fagus sylvatica
Qp - Quercus petraea
Tp - Tilia platyphyllos
-  New 1.2m wide pedestrian depth tarmacadam pathway to create circular walk . complete with benches, bins and social areas and tree planting
-  New native woodland planting mix to bulk up existing woodland planting.
-  Wildflower planting to outside edge of new pathways fronting Chapel Street min 1.5m width. Seed mix WFG15 (Countrylife, Schools & Colleges) @ a rate of 5 g/Sqm
-  Existing hedgerow to be gapped up by 25% and made solid, to include timber post and rail fence to road side
-  New outdoor gym stations, to include 2 activities per station. Exact locations, type to be agreed. Minimum 6 activities

Appendix 1



Civic Centre
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Cannock
Staffordshire
WS11 1BG
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www.cannockchase.gov.uk

Scheme : The CEMA Development Plan	
Drawing Title : Indicative Development Proposals	
Drawing No : EN/ST/9/CS/4/CP - 005a	Scale : 1:250 @ A3
Drawn By : CwD	Date : 16th June 2021
Checked By :	Date :



THE CEMA - Off PENNY CRESS GREEN

CEMA APPENDIX 2 – Illustrative Arts Proposals

