

Report of:	Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles
Contact Officer:	Mike Edmonds
Telephone No:	01543 464 416
Portfolio Leader:	Culture and Sport
Key Decision:	No
Report Track:	Cabinet 27/02/202

CABINET
27 FEBRUARY 2020
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO PLAY AREA AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACE
GREEN LANE, RUGELEY

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Members approval to proceed with the proposed improvements to the play site located on the open space at Green Lane, Rugeley.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet grant approval to proceed with the improvements proposed for Green Lane play area as set out in this report, subject to the detail being agreed between the Parks and Open Spaces Manager and the Rugeley Town Council, in consultation with the Portfolio Leader for Culture and Sport.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The play area at Green Lane, Rugeley, is in need of upgrading and following consultation with local residents and young people, Rugeley Town Council has identified £40k to undertake improvements to the play site. At the Town Council meeting held on 8 January 2020, the Clerk has confirmed that the funding to undertake the improvements was approved (Town Council Minute 145.1)
- 3.2 Councils have a major role in the provision of good quality parks and public open spaces that are both sustainable and meet the needs of the community and the play area on the site would benefit from this proposed investment.
- 3.3 Rugeley Town Council is keen to progress the development/completion of the play area during 2020. In order to achieve this they will need to finalise and agree the site layout and content of the play area, with the Parks and Open Spaces Manager in consultation with the portfolio Leader for Culture and Sport and appoint a suitable and experienced contractor to undertake the various works of the project. The Town Council will be responsible for managing and

funding the project from its instigation to completion in consultation with the Parks and Open Spaces Manager, where appropriate. The Town Council will have full financial responsibility for meeting any overspend on the project.

- 3.4 At this stage it is envisaged that any ongoing revenue costs associated with the upgrading of the play site will be able to be met from the existing 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 The Council's Priorities are "Promoting Prosperity" and "Community Wellbeing" and these two priorities interlink and reinforce each other to improve the opportunities, wellbeing and quality of life for our communities.
- 4.2 The provision of safe, welcoming and clean play areas for people to use and visit and that offer opportunities to participate in physical activity and recreation contribute to both of the Council's priorities.

5 Report Detail

5.1 Background

- 5.1.1 The Clerk to Rugeley Town Council contacted the Council on 30 November 2018 to express the Town Council's ambitions to invest in the play area at Green Lane, Rugeley. On 20 December 2018 the Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader confirmed support to this request.
- 5.1.2 The play area at Green Lane, Rugeley is in need of upgrading and following consultation with local residents and young people on a Concept Design Plan, Rugeley Town Council has identified £40k to undertake improvements to the play site.
- 5.1.3 The Clerk to Rugeley Town Council has confirmed that the Town Council, at its meeting held on 8 January 2020 approved the allocation of £40k towards the proposed improvements at Green Lane, Rugeley.

5.2 Project Outline

- 5.2.1 This project will include a fully refurbished and inclusive play area for a wide range of children and young people.

5.3 Next Steps

- 5.3.1 Rugeley Town Council is keen to progress the development/completion of the play area during 2020. In order to achieve this they will need to finalise and agree the layout and content of the play area with the Parks and Open Spaces Manager in consultation with the portfolio Leader for Culture and Sport and appoint a suitable and experienced contractor to undertake the various works of the project. After which the Town Council will be fully responsible for managing and funding the project from instigation to completion in consultation with the Parks and Open Spaces Manager. Rugeley Town Council has advised that they

have the funding in place to then engage the contractor and oversee and manage the project. The Town Council will have full financial responsibility for meeting any overspend on the project.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

The investment proposal at Green Lane Public Open Space is to be funded by the Rugeley Town Council. 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

6.2 Legal

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

6.3 Human Resources

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

6.4 Section 17 (Crime Prevention)

There are no identified implications arising from this report.

6.5 Human Rights Act

There are no identified implications in respect of the Human Rights Act 1998 arising from this report.

6.6 Data Protection

There are no identified Data Protection implications arising from this report.

6.7 Risk Management

The many risks involved in such a project relate to the provider being unable to deliver the proposed improvements or not being able to deliver them to the right level of quality or within the allocated budget for the improvements. These key risks rest mainly with Rugeley Town Council who will be responsible for the funding and managing the scheme. However, the Council's involvement in the design, content and the layout design proposals will hopefully assist in migrating or minimising such risks.

6.8 Equality & Diversity

There are no identified implications as result of this report.

6.9 Best Value

The development of a co-ordinated Project Plan and the funding and delivery of the proposals by the Rugeley Town Council will provide best value for the Council and this scheme.

7 Appendices to the Report

None

Previous Consideration

None

Background Papers

None