

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

4 FEBRUARY 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ORGANISATIONAL IMPROVEMENT

PARKS DEVELOPMENT UPDATE 2008-09

KEY DECISION – NO

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Members on progress as at 31 December 2008 in respect of the delivery of the Parks Development Projects as detailed within the report.

2. Recommendation

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| 2.1 That Members note the progress of the Capital Projects as at 31 December 2008 as outlined within the report, and intended development into 2009-10. |
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3. Conclusions and Reasons for the Recommendation

- 3.1 Generally the approved Parks Development Projects are progressing in line with agreed timescales and budget.

4. Key Issues

- 4.1 To follow is an update 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 capital projects as at 31 December 2008, including associated financial information.

Arthur Street Play Area & Open Space – F008

A preferred outline option was selected following the consultation event held in April 2008 and a report to Cabinet on 21 August 2008. It is proposed to deliver the entire project during the 2009-10 financial year.

The total approved budget is £108,310 and the spend to date is £10,984

Barnard Way Public Open Space – C654

The current phase of this project includes landscaping of earth-banks previously created, provision of new boundary fencing bordering Hednesford Road and part of Barnard Way, and minor enhancements to the existing play area. This had been scheduled to start in December 2008, however weather conditions have been unsuitable. Weather permitting, tree planting will be completed before the end of February 2009 and the boundary fencing by March 2009.

The total approved budget is £20,650. Total spend to date is £757.

Barnard Way Play Area – C689

As reported in November, 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 dry weather conditions it is intended to be completed by 31 March 2009.

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

Cannock Park Replacement Fencing – C009

Quotations have previously 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. Revised quotations are to

be sought during February. It is proposed to deliver the entire project during the 2009-10 financial year.

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

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. This has not been possible during the winter months but work is still on schedule to be carried out before 31 March 2009, subject to suitable dry weather conditions.

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

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

Major improvements to the two areas bordering Hayes Way and Meadow Way have been completed. Investigations into the provision of a budget from uncommitted Section 106 funds for ongoing maintenance are continuing to take place. Some replacement planting is scheduled to be completed during February 2009, weather permitting.

The total approved budget is £304,220, of which £305,142 has been spent to date.

Old Hednesford Parkland – C408

Landscape management works, watercourse clearance and litter removal have been carried out. Litter bins have been installed and footbridges repaired. Further cleaning operations are planned during the duration of the remainder of the project.

Artwork to Hemlock Bridge – Continuous graffiti and vandalism affected the bridge and therefore project completion required a different approach to that previously envisaged re Projekt Flux , in order to address anti-social behaviour.

Staffordshire County Council was re-approached to approve using spray art directly onto the bridge. 18 young people have since been targeted and engaged and have created a mural within the bridge. To date no more graffiti has occurred, thus satisfying local residents. Young people wish to continue to apply spray art therefore making it a living project. This will be subject to County Council approval. It is intended that the Projekt Flux artworks previously created will be distributed in the community together with supporting statements.

Outstanding tree planting is scheduled to be completed during February 2009. Subject to weather conditions, improvements to footpath surfaces should also be completed by 31 March 2009.

To date the total approved budget is £97,380. Total spend to date is £49,409

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 a local Residents group. Staffordshire County Council has agreed to a 25 year lease at a peppercorn rent. Legal documentation is still awaited.

The project is still in the design stage and layout drawings have been considered by the group. A range of funding streams have been investigated. The outcome of a Playbuilder bid is currently awaited, and a Section 106 Agreement relating to Automotive Lighting may be able to provide up to £125k further funding to this scheme. Section 106 funds of £27,910 are presently confirmed as available for this scheme.

The anticipated cost of the total project is approximately £175k for those draft proposals that have been considered. An expression of interest for potential funding has been submitted as part of a Playbuilder bid, the outcome of which is due later this year.

To date total expenditure is £2,285, reflecting the capitalisation of related officer time applicable to this particular scheme.

Parks Footpath Refurbishment (Cannock, Elmore and Hednesford Parks) – 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 surfacing.

The majority of the work is now finished 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 scheme is £81,390. Total spend to date is £74,971 leaving £6,419 currently available.

Rolling Programme of Play Areas across the District – C658

To date the budget is £80,360. Total spend to date is £62,500 leaving a current total of £17,860 unspent.

Wolseley Road Public Open Space – C006

Works to this public open space are now complete, with the seeding having taken place during Spring 2008 as scheduled.

The total budget is £42,240. Total spend to date is £21,638 leaving an overall under-spend of £20,602.

Ravenhill Park – Paddling Pool Refurbishment – F015

Property Services are investigating the cause of the leaking in the pool and will be costing up a scheme to rectify this issue. Currently it is not clear whether the sum will be sufficient to effect a long term repair. Property Services have been instructed to undertake running repairs to get the pool available for the 09/10 season.

The total budget is £26,890. Total spend to date is nil.

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

These works are complete.

Sandy Lane Replacement Play Area – F019

This project is in the early stages of development and estimates have been prepared indicating the indicative 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. It is proposed to deliver the entire project during the 2009-10 financial year.

To date the total budget is £66,720. Total spend to date is £506.

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, local schools / colleges and enhance the development of physical and social skills through play for children and young people, and thus their potential for development.

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

Section 4**Financial Implications**

Scheme	Code	Budget to 31/12/08 £	Spend to 31/12/08 £	Variance to 31/12/08 £
Flaxley Road Play Area	C407	19,640	17,250	2,390
Ravenhill Park – Paddling Pool Refurbishment	F015	£26,890	nil	£26,890
Hednesford Park – Footpath improvements linked to the Chase Heritage Trail	F016	£22,650	nil	£22,650
Barnard Way Play Area	C689	4,370	4,552	(182)
Old Hednesford Parkland	C408	97,380	49,409	47,971
Rolling Programme of Play Areas across the District	C658	80,360	62,500	17,860
Hawks Green Capital Works- Meadow Way and Hayes Way Play Areas and Open Spaces	C690	304,220	305,142	(922)
Parks Footpath Refurbishment	C597	16,600	8,261	8,339
Barnard Way Public Open Space	C654	20,650	757	19,893
Wolseley Road Public Open Space	C006	42,240	21,638	20,602
Arthur Street Play Area & Open Space	F008	108,310	10,984	97,326
Sandy Lane Replacement Play Area	F019	66,720	506	66,214
Oxford Green POS	F009	27,910	2,285	25,625
Heath Hayes Park Play Area Refurbishment	F017	81,390	74,971	6,419
Cannock Park (includes replacement fencing)	C009	89,880	22,670	67,210

Section 5

Human Resource Implications

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

Section 6

Legal Implications

In order to secure delivery of the works outstanding it may be necessary for the Council to enter into contracts. These must comply with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules to ensure that the Council meets the requirements of the law and good practice. Any monies which have been received by the Council under an Agreement under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) may only be used for the purposes set out in that Agreement.

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

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

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), the level of staffing resources currently available for scheme implementation and related weather / ground conditions. The outcome of future planning applications may also impact on the programme delivery timetables. To some extent risks are mitigated by the development of project delivery plans with scope to deal with minimal interruptions and capacity issues.

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:

- Children's Playbuilder Expressions of Interest, 2009-10.....Oxford Green, Cannock.
- CCDC Budget – Council, 27 February 2008.

Permission to Spend Reports to Cabinet:

- Various Schemes – Cabinet – 17 July 2008.
- Arthur Street Play Area and Open Space – Cabinet - 21 August 2008
- (Former) Sandy Lane, Rugeley Play Area – Cabinet - 21 August 2008.

Annexes

None.