

Report No. 5

Report to Town Hall and Facilities Committee

Open Spaces Working Group

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To provide the committee with an update on the most recent meeting of the working group 28.02.19

2. Background

TOR agreed as a current role of 'managing, maintaining and improving play parks for the enjoyment of residents and visitors to the town and to secure resident engagement to support these aims.' With the following points in mind:

- a) The future strategy for our play parks
 - b) The likely equipment, other leisure needs and safety needs of each play park
 - c) The budgetary and timetable implications of meeting those needs
 - d) Possible management structures for our play parks including appropriate ways of engaging local residents
 - e) The identification of sources of external funding
- 2.1 The working group previously discussed broken equipment at Newton Grove, health and safety concerns about the bins at Filands and adult gym equipment at St Aldhelm's Mead
 - 2.2 The group also discussed future strategic ideas for all open spaces in Malmesbury with a view to taking those thoughts to Policy & Resources Committee for further deliberation

3. Update

- 3.1 Newton Grove – The Town Clerk informed that it wasn't possible to replace the broken section and provided 2 quotes to replace the play equipment at the park, as well as the wet pour flooring. As both quotes were very similar, it was determined that it would be unlikely to get a much lower cost elsewhere. Cllr Ritchie (pre-meeting), had identified that there were monies in reserves which would cover the cost. It was thought that an Area Board grant of £2.5K should be sought to support the purchase (application in time for the next meeting in May). It was agreed that whilst a priority list of works throughout the parks should be drawn up; it was important to action this right away.

3.2 Filands

- a) Paths – regarding the email from a resident, it was discussed that locations of paths are set by the planning authority and not the remit of the Town Council to influence
- b) Bins – Cllr Grant confirmed receipt of the email regarding the health and safety incident relating to one of the bins and that the location of that bin, along with the replacement of it and another bin, would be raised with appropriate personnel at Wiltshire.
- c) Community Orchard – It was confirmed that we have applied for asset transfer of the open space at Filands and that it may be possible to secure a 7-year lease. It was discussed that a letter from Cllr Vandelli to Wiltshire Councillor, Richard Clewer, might help to expedite this, in order that ideas for a Community Orchard could then be progressed.

3.3 Reeds Farm

It was asked if the status of the park could be clarified – regarding ownership, responsibility, subsidence issues.... Cllr Budgen said that he would take a look at the park.

3.4 St Aldhelm's Mead

It was agreed that the location of adult equipment should be raised at TH&F Committee Meeting, since the Town Clerk informed that he was awaiting specific instructions from the Chair of Committee, pre-installation.

3.5 Resident Engagement

- a) It was agreed that we would ask the Town Clerk for information about how the group at White Lion Park operates; whether it was established as a resident's association and if there is a constitution that the working group could look at in order to set up a uniformed approach to engagement throughout the parks.
- b) An idea was brought forward for future consideration as to the potential to set up a group in a format such as a Trust, which could have representatives from each park, schools and so on. This type of organisation might lend itself more readily to grant applications and ease what is likely to be a budgetary burden for the Council.

4. Proposal

- 4.1 That the TH&F Committee approve the expenditure for the replacement equipment at Newton Grove, at an outside cost of £25,000
- 4.2 That the working group consider the quotes and agree a preference for the replacement equipment and communicate this to the Town Clerk
- 4.3 That a grant application is put forward to the Area Board in support of the project (possibly enlisting the support of local residents)
- 4.4 That the project is progressed with a view to completion within the next few months
- 4.5 To progress points 3.2 b) and c) above
- 4.6 To ask the Town Clerk to provide information on points 3.3 and 3.5 a), above
- 4.7 To discuss and agree regarding 3.4 at TH&F Committee Meeting

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 To note the items in the proposal above and action accordingly

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Town Hall and Facilities Committee
3 March 2019