



PORTFOLIO: LEISURE

CABINET: 5 JUNE 2002

MARCHWOOD: PROVISION OF SKATEBOARD FACILITY

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Marchwood Parish Council has made a request for the funding of a skatepark, using developers' contributions.

2. THE SCHEME

- 2.1 The site is Cork Field, Marchwood. This site is leased to the Parish and has already been the subject of investment when it was first restored for public use and then with the installation of facilities for BMX bikes. Developers' contributions were also used for those investments. This site is the single largest new site to be added to open space in Marchwood since development took place.
- 2.2 The Parish has a very significant number of young people and this represents a sizeable demand for the facility. There is no other facility in the village. There has been a very significant effort been put in by the Parish to work with local young people and to research the provision of these facilities.
- 2.3 The Cork Field site is well located for use by young people – being accessible from the village but not surrounded by housing. Also there is an established use of the site with the cycle facility.
- 2.4 It has been confirmed that the scheme does not need planning permission. Officers suggest that the scheme be supported given the need in the village and the concerted efforts of the Parish Council to effectively research the project.

3. ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 As is required by the guidelines, the comments of the Director of Environment Services and Community Services are set out below:

The Director of Environment Services comments are: -

- (a) Is the proposed scheme directly related to the development which it proposes to serve?

Yes, it is centrally located in the development area.

- (b) Does the need for the scheme arise from the development and is it relevant to it?

Yes, the need arises substantially from the demands of the adjoining housing areas.

- (c) Does the scheme conform to the adopted Local Plan and Development Briefs for the areas and fall within the terms of the S106 Agreement?

Yes, this is an important open space identified in the Local Plan to provide for a variety of activities.

The Director of Community Services comments are:-

- (a) Can the scheme be shown to meet the needs of the people in the development area?

Yes, this provision will meet needs in the community that are not provided for at the moment.

- (b) Does the scheme complement or improve existing or planned facilities in the catchment?

Yes, there is nothing like it locally and it is part of the agreed schedule of open space provision.

- (c) Can the request be accommodated within the funds available, given the known and anticipated requirements within the area for which contributions are held?

Yes, funds are retained for other schemes and it is still within the initial allocation within the schedule.

- (d) Is the proportion of funding from contributions reasonable, given the nature of the scheme?

Yes, the scheme will meet needs across the village and a significant population of young people.

- (e) Is there financial need on behalf of the promoter of the scheme?

Yes. The Parish has funded the development costs to date and now seek an award for construction.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The budget for the scheme is £48,000. There are sufficient funds available to meet the award if the recommendation is agreed.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The scheme makes better use of an existing public open space, which is already in active use by local young people. There can be disturbance issues when young people use facilities like this but this site is well suited given its location and existing use. This reduces the level of potential conflict and makes it also more suitable for the needs of the young people for whom it is intended.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Having accessible local facilities for young people can help mitigate crime and disorder issues. This is particularly so in this case where the facility has been the subject of consultation with young people in the village. It also joins other facilities on this site being used by them already.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 There has been considerable consultation, on the ground, about the scheme and the Parish Council is itself the lead agency. The proposal has been considered by the internal Open Space Group, which supports the recommendation. There is also a requirement for the Directors of Community and Environment Services to make specific comments on any scheme seeking to use developers' contributions.

- 7.2 The Local member is supportive of the scheme:

"Marchwood Parish has developed rapidly over the last 20 years and now has a large 11-16 year old population. Youth crime has increase dramatically recently and the parish council is working with all local bodies to reduce this problem. But as well as enforcement of the law facilities must be supplied for the youngsters to relax, the Youth Centre is still a long way off completion and we urgently need this facility. This

skate park has been planned with the full involvement of the local youngsters and would demonstrate our commitment to improve their quality of life in Marchwood."

8. PORTFOLIO HOLDERS COMMENTS

8.1 The Portfolio holder for Leisure supports the allocation.

9. RECOMMENDATION

9.1 It is recommended that the sum of £48,000 be allocated from developers' contributions to enable the construction of a skatepark facility at Cork Field, Marchwood, and the funds to be released on the letting of the scheme.

For further Information contact:

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Background Papers:

Letter from Marchwood Parish Council
15th January 2002 and e mail 17th May
2002

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