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Date: *26 March 2012*

NOTIFICATION OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION

On 26 March 2012, Cllr Brooks, the Health and Leisure Portfolio Holder, made the following decision. Any member of the Council, who is not a Portfolio Holder, who considers that this decision should be reviewed should give notice to the Monitoring Officer (Grainne O'Rourke) (in writing or by e-mail) to be received **ON OR BY 2 APRIL 2012**.

Details of the documents the Portfolio Holder considered are attached.

DECISION:

To allocate £15,000 from developers' contributions for project development and community engagement work for the provision of a performance pavilion at the New Milton Memorial Recreation Ground.

REASONS:

To enable the rejuvenation of the Recreation Ground to be achieved within a coherent and strategic Vision Plan with full community engagement.

ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:

Not to fund this project development phase would run the risk of enhancements to the Recreation Ground being undertaken in a piecemeal manner.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED:

None

For Further Information Please Contact:

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**HEALTH AND LEISURE PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION:
MARCH 2012**

**ALLOCATION OF DEVELOPERS CONTRIBUTIONS FOR OPEN SPACE:
MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND, NEW MILTON**

ITEM FOR DECISION

A request has been made by New Milton Town Council for the allocation of £15,000 for project development and community engagement work for the provision of a performance pavilion at the New Milton Memorial Recreation Ground (see Appendix 1 for details). An allocation of £5,000 for initial feasibility work was made in 2011 and a Vision Plan and framework for further development of the potential of the recreation ground has been produced, and has been adopted by the town council.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

The proposals will benefit to the whole community and respond positively to the following Core Strategy policies:

- CS2 - design quality (high quality design that respects the local context)
- CS3 – protecting and enhancing our special environment (enhancing local distinctiveness)
- CS5 – safe and healthy communities (safe and well-structured public space)
- CS7 – open spaces, sport and recreation (creating high quality of public space)
- CS19 – tourism (improved visitor experience)
- CS20 – town, district and village and local centres (more attractive and accessible town centre)

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The sum requested is £15,000. The balance of unallocated developers' contributions for open space in New Milton is currently just over £400,000.

IMPACT ON OTHER PORTFOLIOS

None

CONSULTATION INPUT

The project is being developed through a project steering group consisting of members and officers of the district and town council, and a representative of the New Milton town partnership. Additional representatives of other community groups including New Milton Music Festival/ ASBOcafe/ youth groups are brought in as required at key stages.

Extensive community engagement is an integral part of the project planning.

Consultation responses from district members are attached.

PROPOSED DECISION

That an allocation from developers contributions held for use in the parish of New Milton be made for project development and community engagement work for the provision of a performance pavilion at the New Milton Memorial Recreation Ground.

REASONS

To enable the rejuvenation of the Recreation Ground to be achieved within a coherent and strategic Vision Plan with full community engagement.

ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Not to fund this project development phase. This would run the risk of enhancements to the Recreation Ground being undertaken in a piecemeal manner without the benefit of community understanding and support.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED

None

SIGNED

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Cllr Mrs Di Brooks
Portfolio Holder, Health and Leisure

Date: 26.3.2012

Date notification of this Decision given - 26 March 2012
Last date for call-in - 2 April 2012

CONSULTATION RETURNS

Councillor	Comments
Cllr Penny Jackman Chairman: Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel	No objections, the local members appear to support the use of the funds for this purpose.
Cllr Steve Davies Vice-Chairman: Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel (also local member for Milton)	I am pleased to support this request
Cllr David Harrison Shadow Portfolio Holder, Health & Leisure	This is an excellent use of funds, providing something that will have long lasting value to the community
Local Members	
Cllr Goff Beck	In principle I agree to the release of DC's and understand such a decision is not necessarily agreeing the proposed project will proceed. However I must put down a marker of concern. I wish to be made aware of the Charity Commission's views and how those views relate to the Revd. John Edward Kelsall's criteria in respect to the usages of the Memorial Recreation Ground. Also I would wish to be made aware of the outcome of the recent public consultation hosted in the Memorial Hall. I have reservations as to the number of residents who responded, which I am advised was under 200 and is that a true representative of the 25,000 residents of New Milton on such an important issue.
Cllr Steve Clarke	I fully support this request.
Cllr Jill Cleary	I support the request.
Cllr Alan O'Sullivan	I would support this application for progressing to the next stage, but would like the results to be fully discussed with NMTC, as Trustees, after that.
Cllr Alan Rice	

Cllr Christine Ward	As a member of the working party I am fully supportive of this request for developer's contributions.
Cllr John Ward	I am actually not opposed to some funding being used for this restricted purpose, providing this is not taken, at this stage, for the approval of the full scheme.
Cllr Paul Woods	Excellent- You have my full support

Text used for display board #1 of public consultation in February 2012:

WHY LOOK AT MAKING CHANGES TO THE RECREATION GROUND?

You may be wondering why the Town Council decided to look at the design of the Recreation Ground and what it currently offers to the people of the Town. The impetus came from two directions:

- **Firstly, the response from people attending events held on the Rec, such as the Community Picnic and May Day Festivities, who said how much they enjoyed these events and wished there were more.**
- **Secondly, the strong response from people participating in the community consultation for the Town Plan Update carried out by New Milton Town Partnership. Many commented on the uninspiring aspects of the Recreation Ground and said that, whilst New Milton is very lucky to have this green space in the heart of the Town, it has the potential to be so much better than it is.**

What has been lacking in the past is a cohesive layout plan resulting in a hotchpotch of ageing equipment which means that the Recreation Ground is not used nearly as much as it could be. The whole area has been looked at and some ideas for improvements have been put forward here for you to look at and comment upon. Any improvements will be implemented in phases and each phase will be fully consulted upon.

The first phase is for a Performance Pavilion where music and drama can be performed in the open air. It must blend in with and enhance the surroundings but still allow good viewing.

Who will pay and how much will it cost? Following this consultation, when you've given us your views, the project steering group will meet to agree a design brief and a budget for the performance pavilion. Later on, provided there is sufficient support for the project to go ahead, funding will be drawn down from developers' contributions funds which have been previously collected through the planning process and are held specifically to support public open space projects within New Milton (and cannot be used for any other purpose).

Please take this opportunity to look at the ideas presented here and let us have your thoughts on them. We also very much welcome your ideas. If there is sufficient support for Phase 1, your ideas will go forward to help design a pavilion that is unique to New Milton and its people and which will help make New Milton a more interesting and vibrant place to live in, and will attract more visitors to our town to enjoy what it offers.

**New Milton Memorial Recreation Ground
Suggested pavilion project plan as revised 16 Jan 2012 (all dates provisional)**

- Vision Plan formally approved + procurement process agreed (28th Nov 2011)
- Land survey (Jan 2012)
- Steering Group meeting (30 Jan 2012)
- Public consultation (13-17 Feb)
- Request release of dev cons funds for project development (March)
- Agree approximate budget (March?)
- Initial design brief agreed (March?)
- Adverts placed/EoI's invited, (March?)
- Expressions of Interest/ CVs received (April?)
- Shortlist of potential designers and final design brief agreed by Steering Group (June?)
- Invitations to submit initial design proposals issued (process to be agreed - could be design competition or similar) (July?)
- Request release of dev cons funds for implementation (July?)
- Initial design proposals received (dates from here on subject to further discussion)
- Consideration of submissions by SG + input from wider interest groups (probably need to allow 2 months for this)
- Designer/constructor appointed
- Design development with preferred contractor + community involvement as agreed
- Construction commences
- Pavilion completed
- Official opening event

Notes on project plan

Note 1 Primary consideration is that pavilion must be functional, meet local needs, be designed to suit New Milton, ie be specific to the locality, create a sense of place, not a standard catalogue item.

Note 2 All key decisions to be agreed through project Steering Group, + formal decisions by NMTC as required

Note 3 Procurement procedures subject to approval of NFDC internal audit

Breakdown of proposed £15,000 project development funding

£2k	Land survey
£2.5k	Additional hours for town development officer
£1.5k	Public consultation (incl graphics/ display material)
£9k	NFDC Environmental Design team fees (in part, time already incurred in 2011/12)