

TITLE OF INFORMATION NOTE: BANCROFT RECREATION GROUND

INFORMATION NOTE OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the current situation for the delivery of incremental affordable improvements to Bancroft Recreation Ground based on the principles outlined in the most recent version of the master plan set out in the report to Cabinet on 28 January 2014 as attached at Appendix A.

2. STEPS TO DATE

- 2.1 In order to keep Members updated the Chairman of the Hitchin Area Committee has included an information note on Bancroft Recreation Ground as a regular item on the agenda for Hitchin Area Committee.

- 2.2 At its meeting of the 16 December 2014 Cabinet resolved at item 13 - BANCROFT RECREATION GROUND, HITCHIN:

- (1) That a phased approach to deliver incremental affordable improvements to Bancroft Recreation Ground based on the principles outlined in the most recent version of the master plan set out in the report to Cabinet on 28 January 2014 be agreed, using Section 106 and other limited internal and external financial resources;
- (2) That, subject to the approval of a revenue growth bid of £15,000 per annum, the inclusion of a water splash park and associated toilet/baby changing provision for Bancroft Recreation Ground in the Capital Programme for 2015/16 be agreed; and
- (3) That the limited incremental improvements for Bancroft recreation ground be incorporated into the Green Space Management Strategy Work Programme and, in consultation with relevant Portfolio Holders, be managed by officers without the need of a Project Board

- 2.3 At the Hitchin Area Committee meeting of the 3rd March 2015 at item 8, Members received an information note advising them that:

Water Splash Park

- Officers had produced a draft specification for the water splash park and that the associated tender documents had been issued to appropriate contractors.
- A four week consultation period on the specification was held and comments incorporated into the specification as appropriate.
- Detail of the consultation responses can be found on the North Herts District Council web site at <http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/parks-and-open-spaces/parks-and-open-spaces-projects/bancroft-recreation-ground-and-priory>

- Works on site due to commence in Sept 2015 and open to the public in spring 2016 for an operational season of May – Sept.

Toilet / Baby Changing Facility

- Proposal for the splash park to include new toilet / baby changing facility.

Public Tennis Courts

- Courts no longer in a safe condition for use and that Groundwork have been appointed to develop a specification for a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and to investigate possible external funding sources.
- Officers continue to verify the cost and other implications of either removing or repairing or replacing the courts and will make recommendations for consideration in accordance with the adopted master plan.
- It was noted that the principles outlined in the approved master plan identified the removal of these courts.

Hitchin Tennis Club

- The club have agreed to additional signage being erected at the entrance to their courts promoting public use.

3. INFORMATION TO NOTE

3.1 Water Splash Park

- 3.1.1 The tender process is now in place and progressing according to the agreed timetable as per the table below
- 3.1.2 Four companies with a proven track record in the provision of water splash parks have been selected to tender for the works and the table below identifies key tasks and dates.

Key Tasks	Date to be completed by
Tender Documentation Issued	Complete
Closing Date for Tender Queries	Complete
Closing Date for Query Responses back to Tenderers	Complete
Closing Date for Tenders to be Returned	Complete
Tender Evaluation Completion Date	7 th August 2015
Notification of Intention to Award	13 th August 2015
Contract Award	28 th August 2015
Start of Construction	21 st September 2015
Completion of Works	April 2016
Operate Water Splash Park	May 2016

3.2 Toilet / Baby Changing Facility

- 3.2.1 Officers from the Council's Property Service Department continue to seek quotations for the toilet /baby changing facility which will be located in the disused wing of bowls pavilion. This will be open for use during the operational season of the water splash park (May –Sept).

3.3 Public Tennis Courts

- 3.3.1 Officers continue to investigate possible options for the courts including, repair / replacement of a single tennis court, removal of the courts and the provision of a new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) large enough to contain 2 netball / tennis courts.
- 3.3.2 Groundwork Hertfordshire have commenced work to develop a specification for a MUGA and to investigate possible external funding sources.
- 3.3.3 Once all the information is available officers will make recommendations for consideration in accordance with the adopted master plan.

3.4 Hitchin Lawn Tennis Club

- 3.4.1 Dialogue with the Hitchin Tennis Club is ongoing but there are no significant matter to update upon at this point.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 These are described in paragraph 3 of this report.

5. APPENDICES

- 5.1 Appendix A: Approved Master Plan.

6. CONTACT OFFICERS

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7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 16th December 2014 Cabinet report & resolutions item 13. (Available on NHDC web site)
- March / April 2015 Water Splash Park full survey results. (Available on NHDC web site)