

Committee: Resources

Date: 6 September 2022

Title: Refurbishment of Playparks and Recreation Ground Fitness Trail

Purpose of Report

Members to be updated on information surrounding the proposed refurbishment of Winterhay and West Crescent Playparks and the proposed Fitness Trail on the recreation ground.

Recommendation:

Members to delegate authority to officers in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Open Spaces Committee to proceed with gaining support for the allocation of S106 and CIL funding from SSDC at the earliest opportunity and to initiate the projects as soon as possible.

Report:

1. Members will be aware that the Town Council has been looking to investigate three major projects around;
 - a. The redevelopment of Winterhay Play Park
 - b. The refurbishment of the West Crescent playpark
 - c. The introduction of a fitness trail and outdoor gym equipment
2. It was hoped that these would be able to be funded through the bequest that had been left to the Town Council as well as from Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levies (CIL) which South Somerset District Council has been collecting on behalf of the communities in and around Ilminster.
3. During the course of a recent meeting with Nathan Turnbull, SSDC's Localities Officer it was intimated that all S106/CIL funds would have to have been allocated before Vesting Day for the new authority on the 1 April 2023. At the time of writing the report, this has yet to be confirmed in writing to officers.
4. Now that we have appointed a new Recreation Manager, we are in a position to advance these projects as quickly as possible. Agreement has been made that we will be carrying out Community Consultation over the coming months that will include identifying what people in Ilminster would like to see as part of

these three projects. This consultation is happening as a result of a successful bid to SLCC to be part of a project to carry out Community Consultation.

5. As a result we are looking for members to agree that officers should apply for funding and instigate the above projects. This will be done in conjunction with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Open Spaces as well as taking due consideration of the consultation results and input from South Somerset District Council.
6. Costs and budgets for each of the projects will be identified and referred to Members at the appropriate Open Spaces Meetings and Full Council meetings. No groundwork will commence on the projects until these have been agreed by members.
7. Time is of the essence here and as such we are asking that Members delegate authority to officers in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Open Spaces Committee to proceed with gaining support for the allocation of S106 and CIL funding from SSDC at the earliest opportunity and to initiate the projects as soon as possible.

**Mark Tredwin
Town Clerk
August 2022**