

Report to: Community Committee

Agenda Item

Date: 19 June 2008

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Title: **MULTI-USE GAMES AREA, THE GREEN,
STONEFIELD DRIVE, STANSTED
MOUNTFITCHET**

Author: Gaynor Bradley, Community Partnerships
Manager, Uttlesford District Council

Item for decision

Summary

- 1 This report seeks Members' agreement to progress with the installation of a Multi-use Games Area on The Green, Stoneyfield Drive, Stansted.

Recommendations

- 2 Members' agree that, based on the outcome of a final consultation exercise with the residents, the installation of a Multi-use Games Area on The Green, Stoneyfield Drive, Stansted be progressed.

Background Papers

- 3 Committee report to Community Committee March 2008

Situation

- 4 Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council has received reports regarding the development of this project and has agreed "to support the project in principle subject to:
 - a) confirmation of youth support (the Youth 2000 group);
 - b) similar specifications (i.e. without loo and storage) and revised quotations to be received, and
 - c) capital funding being forthcoming from other parties.

Subject to the above, and once precise amounts are known, the Parish Council agrees to fund the insurance and on-going maintenance for such a facility".

- 5 This project was submitted to the Big Lottery for funding as part of the Uttlesford Play Strategy application and in December 2007 confirmation was received that £45,000 had been awarded to the project.

- 6 Further fundraising has been carried out since that time and the total funding for this project is now:

Big Lottery	£45,000
Youth Opportunities Fund	£5,000
Local Pub	£1,000
SY2000	£1,000
Christmas Fayre	£50
TOTAL	£52,050

7. A further report was presented to a meeting of Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council on 4 June 2008 seeking final approval to award the contract for the installation of the multi-use games area. The matter will be considered at the main Parish Council meeting in June 2008.
8. Members of the District Council's Community Committee received a report on this subject in March 2008. At that meeting Member's decided that once a final consultation had been undertaken in that area the outcome should be reported back to the this Committee to seek Members' views on the way forward.
9. A final consultation exercise was carried out amongst the residents and the results are detailed at Appendix 1. The outcome indicates that the majority of the residents are in favour of the installation of a games area on The Green.
10. There was, however, a different view as to where exactly it should be placed. Apparently, The Green is also used for informal games of cricket and rounders so it will be necessary to leave an area of open space for those activities to continue. It is, therefore, necessary to further consult with the proposed contractor on the exact location and then inform the residents around The Green to check that they are happy with the outcome.
11. Providing that this Committee agrees that the installation of the multi-use games area should go ahead and assuming that Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council agrees to award the contract then work could commence on the installation as soon as the preferred contractor can fit the work into their schedule.

MULTI-USE GAMES AREA – THE GREEN, STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

FINAL SURVEY RESULTS – JUNE 2008

A door knocking exercise took place on Saturday afternoon to consult the residents living around The Green and a little way into the side roads to find out how many objections there were to the installation of a multi-use games area. The majority of people were in favour of the area with one family going to think about it. (A number of residents were not at home on that occasion but extensive consultation has been carried out in the past and again the majority were in favour of this development.)

	Residents
No. of Houses visited	52
No response/not at home	22
In favour	27
Not sure	1
Objecting	2
TOTAL RESPONSES	30

General Comments

Need to position the pitch lengthways across The Green to facilitate continued informal games of cricket and rounders

Dogs fouling the area – can it become a dog free area

Can we put up no dogs allowed signs on the existing play area and on the multi-use games area (people take their dogs in and let them off the lead so they foul the area and owners do not remove the faeces)

Speeding in the area needs addressing - can road humps be installed – we would be better off spending our money on that

Might keep younger children awake if the older ones are playing on the pitch late at night
Will the facility be policed – young people sit in the existing play area in the evenings drinking and taking drugs
Definitely do not put up a shelter or any seating
Do not install lighting
Existing play area could do with modernising and whole area should have safety surfacing
Would be good if the area was supported by police, sports outreach workers and youth workers
Would be better situated to one side
Under cover seating area more appropriate at skatepark
Build in the goals so they do not get vandalised
Good idea but needs a youth shelter
Bus shelter – what happened to it - can we have another one
Concerned about noise and anti-social behaviour
Must have regular support and policing
Put pitch at one end rather than in the middle leaving a usable area

The above comments will be taken into account regarding the installation and other points followed up other Council departments and agencies.

Residents will also be informed of the location of the pitch on The Green prior to work commencing to ensure the majority of people are happy with the arrangement.