

Committee: COMMUNITY AND HOUSING COMMITTEE **Agenda Item**
Date: 21 JANUARY 2010 **16**
Title: GREENWAYS PLAY AREA
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Summary

- 1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on recent developments regarding the Greenways play area and to seek approval to redirect the Big Lottery funding towards upgrading the Saffron Walden Town Council's play area on Saffron Walden Common.

Recommendations

- 2 That Members agree to the Big Lottery Funding of £20,000 being transferred to the Saffron Walden Town Council to upgrade the play area on Saffron Walden Common.

Background Papers

- 3 Previous Committee Reports.

Impact

4

Communication/Consultation	Discussion with Saffron Walden Town Clerk regarding future provision of play areas.
Community Safety	The play area on The Common is highly visible which improves the safety of children playing in the area.
Equalities	There is a larger play area nearby to Greenways at Golden Acre and The Common is also accessible to all. Both sites have equipment suitable for disabled access.
Finance	There will not be an impact on the Council's finances.
Health and Safety	The Town Council monitors and maintains the play areas.

Legal implications/Human Rights	The Council has previously agreed that if a play area is developed then it could be transferred to the Town Council to manage.
Sustainability	The existing play areas at Golden Acre and on The Common are maintained by the Saffron Walden Town Council.
Ward-specific impacts	Saffron Walden Shire and Castle Wards
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

5. Previously Members have been informed that the play area at Greenways had been closed due to health & safety reasons and that the equipment would be removed. It sought approval to transfer the land to the Saffron Walden Town Council.
6. Additionally, the Committee subsequently approved that the land could be transferred to Saffron Walden Town Council if the play area is reinstated.
7. The Uttlesford Play Strategy application secured £20,000 from the Big Lottery for the refurbishment of Greenways play area.
8. A previous Committee report suggested that officers undertake a consultation exercise to establish if the play area was required by local residents. Members took the view that the district should not lose any play areas and that the play area should be reinstated without going through a consultation process.
9. However, a resident of Greenways wrote to the District Council outlining some of the problems that occurred when the play area was in situ and requested that another play area was not constructed on that particular site.
10. The resident made a presentation to the Committee stating that the neighbours had been consulted and that the majority of residents either did not want to see the play area reinstated or had no particular views.
11. With regard to the Big Lottery funding of £20,000 that is available for this project, officers have consulted with Lottery representatives to establish what would happen if the play area was not reinstated. The response was that it will be possible to divert this funding into another play area within the locality.
12. It was agreed, however, that a further survey would need to be carried out to establish whether or not there was a need to replace the play area.

13. Due to workload commitments the survey was not undertaken immediately and the Saffron Walden Town Clerk then requested that the £20,000 be put towards refurbishing part of the play area on The Common as there is a need to replace the existing equipment.
14. During the summer the Council has not had any communication from Greenways residents regarding the absence of a play area. Therefore, as this was a controversial location and only a very small play area with another larger play area nearby at Golden Acre, it might be a better use of resources to divert the funding towards upgrading the play area on The Common which is available to a wider catchment area of children. The Big Lottery has been consulted and is agreeable to this course of action.

Risk Analysis

15.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
The Town Council might not be able to raise further funding to fully refurbish the whole of the play area on The Common	3	Children living in Greenways would not have a play area within the housing estate.	Children living in Greenways have access to two play areas i.e. at Golden Acre and on Saffron Walden Common

- 1 = Little or no risk or impact
 2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.
 3 = Significant risk or impact – action required
 4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.