

Decision maker:	Councillor Petrina Lees, Leader of the Council	Date: 1 March 2022
Title:	S106 funding for the Foresthall Play Ground Improvement Project	
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Summary

1. This report is about the request for the use of S106 funding for the Foresthall Play Ground Improvement Project in the parish of Stansted Mountfitchet.
 2. Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council (SMPC) recently became responsible for the majority of the Open Spaces on Foresthall Park including the maintenance and improvement of the various playgrounds that were installed by the estate's developers.
 3. In Foresthall Park we have identified 3 locations for improvement: Reeve Road, Wilkin's Crescent and Walson Way.
 4. Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council believes that the residents and potential users of the playground should be able to voice their opinion on the new play equipment being installed. For this reason, SMPC have undertaken a public consultations exercise for all the above sites and asked the residents for their opinion on the proposals.
 5. Based on consultation results Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council propose to install:
 - On Reeve Road, install a toddler roundabout to supplement existing static toddler equipment.
 - On Wilkin's Crescent, install a reused swing and slide inside the current LEAP area, which can be used by both younger and older children. In addition, SMPC want to install a trim trail suitable for older children (6-12) outside of the LEAP and on a downward slope in order to minimise the visual impact to nearby residents.
 - On Walson way the residents require that new seating should be provided so that all ages can enjoy the nature that arises from the nearby SUDS and Open Spaces.
1. The total cost of the project is £20,000 and Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council have received a grant offer of £3,500 from the UDC Community Projects scheme.
 2. In all three cases, the additional money would be drawn from the remaining

community facilities pot associated with Foresthall Park, which currently stands at £31,864.45.

3. The Parish Council needs £16,500 from the remaining balance from the community facilities pot associated with Foresthall Park and it would leave a balance of £15,364.45 if funding is agreed.

Recommendations

4. Following public consultation, the council has agreed to install more play equipment on the Wilkin's Crescent Play Area and to add additional seating at Watson Green. The proposal has the support of both Ward District Councillors and of County Councillor Ray Gooding to approve funds of £16,500 to Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council from S106 funds to secure the Foresthall Play Ground Improvement Project

Financial Implications

5. The funding requested will be drawn from ring fenced funds available for this purpose. There are no other financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers

6. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

Email and enclosures from Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council dated 25/11/2021.

Impact

- 9.

Communication/Consultation	Consultation with public and local members has been carried out.
Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	N/A
Health and Safety	N/A
Human Rights/Legal Implications	The S106 agreement sets out the Council's obligations.

Sustainability	Improve current Playgrounds and Open Space to provide increased play equipment and socialising opportunities for the residents of Stansted and create an inclusive environment for all ages and install equipment which is more sustainable: long lasting, vandal proof or recycled
Ward-specific impacts	Improved Play Ground facilities in Stansted Mountfitchet.
Workforce/Workplace	N/A

Situation

10. A recent increase in housing and visitors in Stansted is putting strain on the existing play areas which are not currently all age inclusive, the current playground equipment is for children of 2 to 6 years old.
11. The planned playground improvements on Foresthall Park are part of a wider plan to provide increased play equipment and socialising opportunities for the residents of Stansted. This new initiative has its roots in feedback to the Council from the young residents of Stansted South who complained that there was no equipment suitable for their age group.
12. This initiative is looking to provide new play equipment for younger children and older children (6 to 12 years), as well as providing adult residents with socialising opportunities.
13. Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council has requested a UDC Community Project Grant of £3,500. The Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council request is for the release of £16,500 of S106 funds from the remaining community facilities pot at Foresthall Park in order to fill the current funding gap. A cost breakdown has been provided by the Parish, for the project work.

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

14. This is also a worthy project, for which there is support following public consultation and has the support of both Ward District Councillors and of County Councillor.

Risk Analysis

15.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
The Council is legally obligated to release S106 Community funding at the parish council's request. Withholding funds could result in legal challenge to the council.	3	3	To release the funding from the remaining community facilities pot associated with Foresthall Park.

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.