

REPORT TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE – 21 October 2009

DEVELOPMENT OF DANNY CRACKNELL POCKET PARK (DCPP)

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee at its meeting on 7th October recommended that the scheme for the development of the Danny Cracknell Pocket Park at a cost of £51,000, subject to further discussions between the Town Clerk and officers of the New Forest District Council regarding funding, be approved. The initial estimated cost was £51,000, but Natural England would provide £8,000 and meet the cost of interpretation boards, as part of the Living Rivers Scheme, bringing the cost down to £43,000.
- 1.2 A number of additional items had been separately costed, and, if required and if funding could be obtained, needed to be added:
- Woodland floor specialist plants (could involve community in bulb planting day) £5,000-£10,000
 - Picnic bench £1,850
 - Access Track for local Farmer (to prevent erosion) £1,800
 - Signage (depending on whether a simple sign or sculptural piece) £500-£5,000
 - Bridge refurbishment £5,000-£10,000 (as the bridge was owned by Hampshire County Council, funding would be sought from them).

2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 The capital budget for the Bickerley/Pocket Park, £35,000, was deleted from the original budget for 2009/10. The scheme was expected to be financed from developers contributions held by New Forest District Council, and would, therefore, be cost neutral.
- 2.2 Consideration needs to be given to re-instate this scheme but at the amended estimated cost of £51,000. As Natural England would give £10,000 towards the cost, the balance of £41,000 is expected to be financed from developers' contributions.
- 2.3 A further report will be submitted in the first instance to the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee, if funding is required for the additional items in paragraph 1.2 above .

3 CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 To enable this scheme to proceed, this Committee needs to approve a supplementary estimate and funding, as shown in recommendations 4.1 and 4.2.
- 3.2 This Committee supports the recommendation of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee for the development of the Danny Cracknell Pocket Park, and the further recommendations 4.3 to 4.7, relating to the items in paragraph 1.2 above.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 1) a supplementary estimate of £51,000 for the development of the Danny Cracknell Pocket Park be approved;
- 2) developers' contributions of £43,000, subject to further discussions between the Town Clerk and the District Officers, and grant of £8,000 from Natural England, be used to finance the scheme.
- 3) funds for the woodland floor specialist plants, picnic bench and access track, shown as additional items, be requested from Developers' Contributions;
- 4) funding be sought from Hampshire County Council to enable the bridge to be refurbished;
- 5) at this stage, no additional signage showing the name of the Park be included in the scheme;
- 6) That offers from the public to sponsor individual elements of the scheme be welcomed.

For further information please contact:

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