

**BISHOPSTOKE, FAIR OAK & HORTON HEATH (BIFOHH) LOCAL
AREA COMMITTEE (LAC)**

Wednesday 29 June 2022

FINANCE MONITORING REPORT

Report of the Local Area Manager

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that

- (1) **£18,000 is allocated from developer contributions for extension to the parking provision for the splashpad and new Café at New Century Park development in Fair Oak;**
- (2) **£15,000 is allocated from developer contributions for a replacement fence and boardwalk at the West Horton Farm countryside site in Bishopstoke; and**
- (3) **£2,100 is allocated from existing revenue budgets as the BIFOHH contribution to the Holiday Activity and Food Programme.**

Summary

This report contains recommendations for expenditure from the Committee's developer contributions and revenue budget.

Statutory Powers

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 i.e. the Local Authority's general power of competence, including power to act for the benefit of its area or persons resident or present in its area.
S.106 Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Strategic Implications

1.The works outlined below contribute to the following strategic priorities:

Local First: where possible taking decisions at a local level about things which affect people's lives, and using contributions from local developments for local projects

Healthy Community: to enable healthier lifestyles and wellbeing

Green Borough: Excellent Environment for all: creating a sense of place through improved community facilities, developing green infrastructure

Extended parking provision for the splashpad and new Café at New Century Park development, Fair Oak

2. Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish Council (FO&HH), as part of its Splashpad, Café and wider environmental improvements to New Century Park, require funds to support the enhancements of the current car park on the north of the site, including increasing the number of bays, line marking and space for cycle racks.
3. New access is also being considered for safer access and egress. FO&HH will use the spoils from the splashpad installation to create bunding around the car park which will be sown with wildflowers. This will also act as additional park security as a natural barrier for unauthorised encampments.
4. The improved car parking area will also be used to host community events, including a local makers market. As part of the Council's Greening Campaign, residents are encouraged to access local services via greener forms of travel. However, the Council does need to provide adequate parking for those with limited mobility as well as visitors to the area.
5. It is therefore recommended that Councillors approve the below developer contributions to progress this community scheme.

F/15/77500 Foreman Homes re Land to West of Hammerley Farm, Horton Heath	£18,000
TOTAL	£18,000

Replacement Fence and Boardwalk West Horton Farm Countryside Site, Bishopstoke

6. The West Horton Farm countryside site has a 20-metre-long boardwalk and c100 metres of post and rail fence that runs alongside the road. The boardwalk is on a public right of way and well used.

7. The decking boards are approaching the end of their shelf life and although singular repairs have been made to individual boards, the time has come for a full replacement boardwalk, as it has been deemed a risk if left much longer.
8. The proposal is to replace the existing softwood boards with green oak at a cost of £9,500. The posts and bearers are made from oak which has a longer lifespan than the softwood decking boards, which is why these decking boards have failed first. To replace the softwood decking boards, like for like, is slightly cheaper (£2k), however, it is anticipated that they would only last a decade. The oak is usually expected to last 20 years compared to the 10 years for softwood. Therefore, it is expected the proposed new oak boards would last as long as the structure, however, with anything there is no guarantee, as there are many variables in play.
9. There is a further option to provide a recycled plastic boardwalk, however, due to staff capacity, costings and quotes have been unable to be provided before the publication of this report. It is therefore proposed that Countryside staff investigate this option, and should this be deemed preferable by Countryside officers, then a future finance report will come back to this Committee and make this recommendation and any cost changes.
10. The post and rail fence is in slightly better condition. There are 56 posts, 20 have failed and 36 are currently not failed, so the fence is still upright but sections of it will fall over in the coming 12 months if no maintenance is undertaken. It will be more expensive to extract and replace failed posts over time than it will to do the fence in one go. It is therefore recommended that a replacement fence is provided. The replacement fence is estimated at £5,500.
11. It is recommended that Councillors approve the below developer contributions to provide a new green oak boardwalk and post and rail fence, with the caveat that should the recycled plastic boardwalk be deemed preferable by officers, then a future finance report will update Councillors and request further funding, should this be more expensive.

F/15/77500 Foreman Homes re Land to West of Hammerley Farm, Horton Heath	£15,000
TOTAL	£15,000

Summer Holiday Activity and Food Programme for Disadvantaged Families

12. On the back of the Marcus Rashford Campaign to end child food poverty the Department for Education (DFE) have given Hampshire County Council (HCC) £3.3 million to provide school holiday food and activity programmes primarily targeted at families in receipt of free school meals (FSM). Last year the Council was successful in securing funding from this pot to deliver a programme of free family activity days (one per week for five weeks) during the school summer holidays at Itchen Valley Country Park (IVCP).
13. Each event provided a range of outdoor fun, creative and enriching activities to promote physical activity, healthy eating and learning and included a two-course hot meal. At the end of each event families were given a goody bag to take home which included recipe cards, healthy eating information and games to encourage family play and physical activity.
14. Whilst IVCP is a great location and offers plenty of outdoor space, the Council recognised that it is not easily accessible without access to private transport therefore, a free bus service from the north and south of the Borough with a number of pick up / drop off points on both routes was provided. Transport was also provided for those with additional needs or requiring wheelchair access.
15. In order to maximise the opportunity for vulnerable families to attend, the Council worked with all of the Borough's Primary Schools to specifically promote the programme to their FSM families two weeks in advance of any wider publicity. This approach proved to be particularly successful as all of the events were fully booked within 48 hours of the booking system going live. In total the Council welcomed 456 participants of which 278 were children aged between 3 and 10 years. 90% of families were in receipt of FSM.
16. Feedback about the events from participants was extremely positive. Families really valued and benefitted from the programme and the free transport was instrumental in enabling many families to attend (particularly from the north of the Borough) that would have otherwise been unable to.
17. In light of the success of last year's programme and the impact of cost of living crisis, the Council would like to deliver a similar programme again this summer. However, this year HCC have changed the funding application process which has now moved to a tender process. Whilst a tender has been submitted, the criteria is much more tailored towards providers of child day care offering a minimum 4 day per week service.
18. Last year, HCC acknowledged that the offer provided something different in terms of working with the whole family, but given that the programme falls outside of the new criteria there is concern that the programme may not be successful with this year.
19. It is vital the Council continues to support our vulnerable families but without the funding it is unlikely the project will be able to be delivered. Therefore, as

an alternative option, there is an opportunity to explore if there could be any funding from all the LAC's, should the bid to HCC be unsuccessful.

20. The outcome of the application will not be known until the end of June/July 2022. The overall project would cost around £12K, looking to offer approximately 100 places at each event.
21. Last year's booking's data has been analysed to determine uptake by geographical area for information. This is however, only one year's data and the uptake could be very different this time round.

LAC Area	Number of participants	Percentage
BIFOHH	43	9.4
BHH	36	7.9
CFH	52	11.4
Eastleigh	255	55.9
HEWEB	70	15.3

22. In terms of the proportion of funding from each LAC, a 17.5% contribution from BIFOHH, BHH, CFH and HEWEB (£2,100 each) has been proposed with the remaining 30% being contributed from ELAC (£3,600), given the higher proportion of families from this area.
23. LAC funding for this year is proposed as a back-up plan, however, if LAC's were interested in supporting the project with additional funding there is the option to increase the capacity to enable more families to participate. This will be communicated in due course, should this arise.
24. It is therefore recommended that £2,100 is reallocated from unallocated exiting BIFOHH revenue budgets.

Financial Implications

25. The recommendations in this report can be contained within the revenue budget and within existing allocated and unallocated developer's contributions.

Risk Assessment

26. The recommendations in this report carry a medium to high risk to the Council and its partners. The main risk centres around the dangers of not replacing the boardwalk. The boardwalks condition has now come to the attention of the Council, and we need to act to ensure it is safe for users.
27. The extension to the car parking provision at New Century Park does provide a potential reputational risk to the Council as the development of a new car park could be seen as promoting vehicle use which would not support the climate crisis. FO&HH are seeking to mitigate this with the planting of wildflowers on the bund, adding cycle racks and continuing through its many channels to promote greener transport to residents.
28. It is a fact, however, that this will be a heavily used facility, and without adequate provision, car parking will spill onto neighbouring roads and cause frustration to local residents in the immediate vicinity. Also, if local car users cannot find space at the facility to park, they will then increase their journey further afield, seeking out similar facilities in the wider area, therefore increasing car use.
29. The risk of not contributing to the Food and Activity programme could jeopardise the Council's ability to provide the scheme. This could add to the pressure of those families who are most in need during the difficult summer holidays.

Equality and Diversity Implications

30. A full Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been carried out, because each project individually will have due regard to equalities impacts and complete an impact assessment where it is proportionate to do so and prior to the delivery of the approved funds.
31. The additional car parking at New Century Park will allow extra allocation for those with limited mobility and wheelchair users.
32. The improved board walk at West Horton Farm will allow for a smoother and safer journey for wheelchair users and parents with pushchairs.
33. The holiday food and activity programme provides arguably the greatest benefit in terms of equality. The programme offers those children on FSM the opportunity for activity and meals in the summer holidays.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

34. The recommendation within this report will have a medium impact in regard to climate change.
35. The fundamental environmental sensitivity is the request for additional car parking at New Century Park. As stated above, this is an unfortunate dichotomy for the Council when balancing its green credentials as well as

providing community facilities. However, by not providing extra car parking, this will not make the problem go away, simply move it onto neighbouring streets, or increase the length of car journeys to facilities outside of the area. Cycle racks will be provided and the already active campaign to encourage residents to use greener forms of transport by FO&HH continue to be delivered.

Conclusion

36. Councillors are requested to agree expenditure from this Committee's available developer contributions and note the revenue allocation.

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Appendices Attached: 0

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

None.