

Report of the Interim Strategic Director

PLAY AREA AND PARKS/OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS1. Purpose of report

To consider schemes to improve the play areas and parks/open spaces in the borough as part of the 2018/19 capital programme.

2. Background

The 2018/19 Capital Programme includes £250,000 for Play Area and Parks/Open Space Improvements. This funding has been allocated to undertake improvements to the Borough owned play areas that have been identified as high priority sites in the new Play Strategy. It is also proposed that funding is allocated to the Town and Parish Councils that maintain their own parks and outdoor recreational facilities to enable improvement and renovation works to be undertaken at these sites. This will help achieve "Fairness for All" with all residents across the borough having the potential to access improved outdoor leisure/recreational facilities, see appendix 1.

3. Financial implications

It is proposed that the £250,000 is split with £125,000 allocated to the Borough Council and £125,000 allocated to the Town and Parish Councils based on the methodology shown in appendix 2.

The 2019/20 Capital Programme includes the same level of funding and it is proposed that a similar 50:50 split of funding between the Borough Council and the Town/Parish Councils is adopted to allow more effective forward planning to be achieved.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that:

- 1. The 2018/19 Capital Programme of £125,000 including capital salaries for Broxtowe Borough Council play areas be allocated to the seven high priority year 1 schemes identified.**
- 2. The 2018/19 capital programme of £125,000 for Town and Parish Council improvements to parks/open spaces be allocated to the six Town/Parish Councils at the funding levels identified in appendix 2.**
- 3. Delegated authority be given to the Head of Environment in discussion with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Leisure and Environment Committee to consider and approve where appropriate schemes submitted by Town/Parish Councils.**
- 4. The financial and administration process for Town and Parish Councils is as detailed in appendix 1 section 2.**
- 5. The 2019/20 capital programme allocates £100,000 to support bids for schemes at Hickings Lane Recreation Ground and King George's Park play areas.**

Background papers

Nil

1. Proposed allocation of funding for Broxtowe Borough Council Sites

There are 13 Borough Council play areas listed as high priority sites in the Play Strategy 2017-2025. These are detailed below:

- Broadgate Park, Beeston
- Leyton Crescent Recreation Ground, Beeston
- King George's Park, Bramcote
- Sherman Drive Open Space, Chilwell
- Jubilee Park, Eastwood
- Mansfield Road Recreation Ground, Eastwood
- Hall om Wong Open Space, Kimberley
- Millfield Road Open Space, Kimberley
- Redbridge Drive Open Space, Nuthall
- Central Avenue Recreation Ground, Stapleford
- Hickings Lane Recreation Ground, Stapleford
- Judson Avenue Open Space, Stapleford
- Salcey Drive, Trowell

Since the strategy was written there have been various funding successes and the amounts required for some schemes have changed. The tables below summarise the current requirements split over two financial years together with a reference to Section 106 funding for Mansfield Road Recreation Ground.

Year 1 2018/19 Schemes

Budget allocation £112,500 plus £12,500 Capital Salaries **Total £125,000.**

SITE	UPDATE	FUNDING REQUIRED
Broadgate Park, Beeston	Successful bids for funding with work now in progress. Slight shortfall needed to complete the scheme.	£5,000
Leyton Crescent Recreation Ground, Beeston	Successful bids for funding totalling £66,000. This is a very large play area that requires additional funding to complete scheme. Original proposed funding in Play Strategy £100,000. The slight increase in costs reflects additional surfacing works required.	£37,000
Jubilee Park, Eastwood	General clean of equipment.	£1,000
Millfield Road Open Space, Kimberley	The original proposed funding in the Play Strategy was £1,000 for a general clean of the equipment and surfacing. However, consultation for the Broxtowe Parks Standard has identified a need for additional work. Additional play equipment is required for a wider age	£20,000

SITE	UPDATE	FUNDING REQUIRED
	range to help this site achieve the Broxtowe Parks Standard.	
Redbridge Drive Open Space, Nuthall	Extend range of equipment with a focus on the younger age range. Original proposed funding in the Play Strategy £40,000. Additional works to replace some of the equipment which is beyond economical repair and additional play surfacing works have resulted in increased costs.	£47,500
Central Avenue Recreation Ground, Stapleford	General clean of equipment and surfacing.	£1,000
Judson Avenue Open Space, Stapleford	External funding obtained and work complete.	£0
Salcey Drive Open Space, Trowell	General clean of equipment and surfacing.	£1,000
Total of Year 1 Schemes		£112,500

Year 2 2019/20 Schemes

Budget allocation £112,500 plus £12,500 Capital Schemes **Total £125,000.**

SITE	UPDATE	ESTIMATED FUNDING REQUIRED
King George's Park, Bramcote	Needs full refurbishment and is a suitable site for a bid for external funding. Bid prepared in year 1 2018/19 with a view to works in year 2 (2019/20).	£90,000
Sherman Drive Open Space, Chilwell	New equipment and surfacing.	£30,000
Hall om Wong, Kimberley	Extend provision for younger age range.	£20,000
Hickings Lane Recreation Ground, Stapleford	Needs a full refurbishment and is a suitable site for a bid for external funding. Bid prepared in year 1 2018/19 with a view to works in year 2 (2019/20).	£100,000
Total Year 2 Schemes		£240,000

The total of the year 1 schemes is £112,500

The total of the year 2 schemes is £240,000

In terms of the year 2 schemes, if the two submissions for external funding to WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental) in total £100,000 are successful, then this would potentially reduce the year 2 requirement to £140,000. In addition there is a Section 106 payment of £31,000 from the St John's College development at Bramcote which has to be used for the King George's Park Play Area and an allocation of £18,500 from the Whitely Mill site at Stapleford that has to be used at Hickings Lane Recreation Ground. The figure for the site at Stapleford has been received from the developer and the sum from the St John's College development is payable at the practical completion of 30 dwellings. Taking into account these additional sums it would bring the amount required for year 2 schemes within the budget allocation of £112,500. In addition other funding schemes will be explored to see if these can further supplement the amount of external funding obtained. At this stage the funding required amounts for year 2 are only estimates and will need developing further. It does however suggest that with successful funding bids the schemes as proposed are achievable. A further report detailing the year 2 schemes will be brought back to this committee later in the 2018/19 financial year. Support from Committee is however required to commit £100,000 pump priming funding to be used as support for the bids at Hickings Lane Recreation Ground and King George's Park. This is essential to demonstrate to the funding providers the Council's commitment to the schemes.

Section 106 Funded Scheme

Mansfield Road Recreation Ground, Eastwood	A review of the site has identified a need for new/replacement equipment as a result of the failure of an existing item that had to be removed and deterioration of existing equipment. There is potential to fund this from a £26,000 Section 106 allocation from the Rippon Homes Development at Peacock Drive, Eastwood. Please see report elsewhere on the Agenda.	£26,000
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2. Proposed allocation of funding for Town/Parish Council Sites

There are 6 Town/Parish Councils that manage their own Parks/Recreation Grounds. These are detailed below:

Awsorth Parish Council

- The Lane Recreation Ground
- Shilo Recreation Ground

Brinsley Parish Council

- Brinsley Recreation Ground

Greasley Parish Council

- Beauvale Park
- Greenhills Road Recreation Ground

Kimberley Town Council

- Knowle Park
- The Stag Recreation Ground

Nuthall Parish Council

- Basil Russell Playing Fields
- Temple Centre Recreation Ground

Trowell Parish Council

- Trowell Parish Hall

In preparing this report all 6 Town/Parish Councils were asked to consider their priorities for work over the next two financial years. They were also invited to a workshop session held at the Town Hall, Beeston in February. This meeting covered the following points:

- The proposed level of funding available for Town/Parish Councils in 2018/19 and 2019/20.
- The financial and administrative processes, with Town and Parish Councils acting as their own agents to manage and procure the works with financial and technical guidance provided by the Borough Council as necessary. The Town and Parish Councils need to obtain three quotations for the works before they can be ordered. On completion of the works the Town and Parish Councils pay for the work and then submit an application to the Borough Council for grant funding from their allocation.
- The type of schemes that the money could be used for. It was explained that this could be a wider remit than just play equipment and play areas. It was also pointed out that the funding was a 'one off' and any revenue implications associated with maintaining any new or improved facilities would be the responsibility of the Town/Parish Council.
- There were discussions on an equitable method of allocating the funding. Further details are provided in appendix 2.
- It was acknowledged that it was important that all the works undertaken, including that on Town/Parish Council sites made specific reference to the Borough Council as funding providers and that all schemes were promoted with press releases and on site events to celebrate the works as appropriate.

APPENDIX 2

Proposed allocation of funding between the Town/Parish Council Sites

As part of the consultation process with the Town/Parish Councils all 6 Councils identified in appendix 1 were made aware of the proposed funding and how it could potentially be used.

Detailed below is a description of each park/recreation area. Each site has been weighted based on the facilities available.

Weighing Score	Description
5	Major park/recreation Ground with multiple facilities
3	Park/recreation ground with a range of facilities
1	Site with more limited range of facilities

AwsworthThe Lane Recreation Ground – 1.7 hectares

An area with a full range of facilities including cricket, bowls, play area, skate park, multi-use games area, car park, sports facilities and environmental area. Weighting score 5.

Shilo Recreation Ground – 2.8 hectares

A site with a range of facilities. These include football, play area, car park, extensive footpath network and major habitat areas. Weighting score 3.

BrinsleyBrinsley Recreation Ground – 3.8 hectares

Another site with an extensive range of facilities including bowls, football, play area, multi-use games area, outdoor exercise equipment, activity trail, extensive footpath network, car park and an environmental area. Weighting score 5.

GreasleyBeauvale Park – 2 hectares

A park with a middle range of facilities when compared to others. These include a large play area, footpath network, area for football and car park. Weighting score 3.

Greenhills Road Recreation Ground – 1.4 hectares

There are only limited facilities at this site with a linear path and wildflower meadow together with a small activity trail. Weighting score 1.

Kimberley

Stag Recreation Ground – 2.1 hectares

A site with a large range of facilities. These include football bowls, play area, multi-use games area and car park. Weighting score 5.

Knowle Park – 0.9 hectares

A relatively small site with a play area and football goal. Weighting score 1.

Nuthall

Basil Russell – 2.7 hectares

An area with a full range of facilities including football, bowls, cricket, tennis, play area, skate park, outdoor exercise equipment, footpaths, car park, sports pavilion and public toilets. Weighting score 5.

Temple Centre – 1.1 hectares

This site has limited facilities and is mainly used for junior football. Weighting score 1.

Trowell

Parish Hall Site – 0.4 hectares

A very small site with play facilities and a small area for basketball/football. Weighting score 1.

The calculation to assess the overall score for each site also factors in the number of households in each of the Parish/Town Council areas. Households were used rather than the number of people on the electoral register as this figure only includes those aged 18 and over.

In order to ensure that all Councils receive a minimum level of funding to undertake schemes that will make a difference in their area, the calculation allocates each Town/Parish Council 5% of the £125,000 equating to £6,250 with the remaining sum split using the calculation based on the size of recreation area, number of households and facilities available weighting. The minimum level of funding in one year would be £6,886.26 to Trowell Parish Council. As an example this would allow for a new item of play equipment to be installed at the Parish Hall site.

The table below shows the calculations with the overall score and allocation for each Town/Parish Council

Parish / Town	Site	Size of Site (hectares) A	Facilities available weighting B	Households C	Score AxBxC	5% Allowance D	Total Scores	Percentage of Total Score	Percentage of £87,500 E	Maximum Total Allocation D+E
Awsworth	The Lane Recreation Ground	1.7	5	1001	8508.5	£6,250	16917	11.66%	£10,202.46	£16,452.46
	Shilo Recreation Ground	2.8	3	1001	8408					
Brinsley	Brinsley Recreation Ground	3.8	5	1024	19456	£6,250	19456	13.41%	£11,733.77	£17,983.77
Greasley	Beauvale Park	2	3	4996	29976	£6,250	36970.4	25.48%	£22,296.58	£28,546.58
	Greenhills Road	1.4	1	4996	6994.4					
Kimberley	Stag Recreation Ground	2.1	5	2785	29243	£6,250	31749	21.88%	£19,147.59	£25,397.59
	Knowle Park	0.9	1	2785	2507					
Nuthall	Basil Russell	2.7	5	2667	36004.5	£6,250	38938	26.84%	£23,483.34	£29,733.34
	Temple Centre	1.1	1	2667	2934					
Trowell	Parish Hall Site	0.4	1	1055	422	£6,250	1055	0.73%	£636.26	£6,886.26
Total:						£37,500	145086	100.00%	£87,500	£125,000.00

Facility Weighting is scored:

- Major park/recreation area with multiple facilities 5 marks
- Park/Recreation Area with a range of facilities 3 marks
- Site with more limited range of facilities 1 mark

It is now proposed that the relevant Town/Parish Councils be advised of these amounts for the 2018/19 financial year together with guidance on the sort of schemes that the Council would consider as favourable. These would include:

- Play area/skate park improvements
- Improvements to outdoor sports/exercise facilities
- Footpath creation/surfacing
- Improvements to sports pavilions (but not Parish Halls)
- Habitat improvements
- Improvement for disabled access parking (but not full car park surfacing schemes)

The Councils are then able to progress their relevant schemes up to maximum value as shown with final approval given by the Head of Environment in discussions with the Chair/Vice Chair of the Leisure and Environment Committee to ensure that the proposed schemes are relevant and appropriate.

Should the Parish/Town Council wish to utilise their allocation to help finance match funding bids or as a contribution alongside existing resources they already have, this is acceptable. It is also possible that Town/Parish Councils may wish to utilise the funds from 2018/19 with their allocation in 2019/20 to allow a more significant project to be delivered. It is however intended that all funding allocated be used within the 2 year capital programme.