

Report of the Strategic Director

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

To update Members on the Pride in Parks initiative.

2. Background

Since April 2018 funding has been allocated to undertake improvements to the Borough owned play areas that were identified as high priority sites in the Play Strategy and to the Town and Parish Council's that maintain their own parks and outdoor recreational facilities to enable improvement and renovation works to be undertaken at these sites.

This report provides an update on progress made on the Pride in Parks Initiative and the proposals for 2020/21.

3. Financial Implications

The 2020/21 Capital Programme includes an allocation of £199,000 to fund 3 schemes. Further details are provided in the appendix.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the progress on the schemes identified in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 capital programmes as part of the Pride in Parks Initiative.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX

1. Broxtowe Borough Council Schemes - 2019/20 Schemes

There were 4 remaining Borough Council sites identified as high priority in the Borough's Play Strategy for which there was budget provision in the 2019/20 Capital Programme.

(i) King George V Park, Bramcote

With a successful bid to FCC Environment for £50,000, together with £24,850 from an insurance settlement and £49,000 from the Council's own capital resources this scheme is now complete. An official opening event took place in January 2020. Reinstatement works to the grass areas around the site have now been undertaken.

(ii) Sherman Drive Open Space, Chilwell

The 2019/20 capital programme included £30,000 from the Council's capital resources towards replacement equipment and surfacing.

All works were completed in late summer 2019.

(iii) Hall om Wong Open Space, Kimberley

The 2019/20 Capital Programme included £20,000 from the Council's capital resources for work at this site. A bid was submitted to FCC Environment for £54,000 with a proposal to use the £20,000 funding together with a further allocation of £11,000 in the 2019/20 Capital Programme for access improvements at this site as the Council's contribution. In March 2020 it was confirmed that the bid for £54,000 had been successful and a scheme to the value of £85,000 is now currently in progress.

(iv) Hickings Lane Recreation Ground, Stapleford

The 2019/20 Capital Programme included a £165,500 scheme to refurbish the play area and install a new multi use games area. The cost of the scheme was met by contributions of £93,500 from FCC Environment, £18,500 from Section 106 receipts, £2,500 from United Living, £1,000 from Stapleford Town Football Club and £50,000 from the Council's own capital resources. Work on this site was completed in summer 2019.

2. Broxtowe Borough Council Schemes 2020/21

All the High Priority Schemes within the Borough Play Strategy at Council sites have now been funded and work undertaken to address the issues. The next phase of works concentrates on the schemes identified as Medium Priority where works need to be undertaken in the period 2020-23. In the 2020-21 Capital Programme there is £199,000 allocated for 3 schemes.

i) Dovecote Lane Recreation Ground, Beeston

A scheme to fully refurbish this very popular play area with new modern climbing units and a full range of equipment for younger children and new rubber surfacing is currently being drawn up. It is proposed to submit a bid to FCC Community Foundation for £90,000 with an allocation of £45,000 from the Council's Capital Programme and £5,000 from United Living, giving a total scheme value of £140,000. The submission date for the bid is 2 September 2020 with a decision in December 2020.

ii) Swiney Way Open Space, Chilwell

A scheme to replace the very outdated equipment at this small area that is specifically for younger children and also provide a full rubber surface. The scheme at a cost of £42,000 will be funded from the Council's Capital Programme. Work is expected to take place in summer 2020.

iii) Play Area Improvements

A number of play areas, whilst not requiring a full refurbishment, do require extensive remedial works to make them fully compliant with relevant safety legislation. The Play Strategy identified that priorities may change during the period of the strategy due to issues such as increased usage of sites, vandalism and equipment failure. This budget recognises these changes and allows for the site specific issues to be addressed without undertaking a full refurbishment of the particular site.

The works costing £42,000 will be funded from the Council's Capital Programme.

COVID-19 Implications

Following Government guidance all play areas were closed in mid March with advisory notices erected. In general, this advice has been well respected. The play areas will be reopened in line with national guidance and a detailed inspection and cleanse undertaken in advance of opening. In terms of construction work on new sites there was an initial period when no works were carried out due to issues with suppliers and overall uncertainty. Contractors have now provided their necessary COVID-19 risk assessments and works have now commenced at Hall om Wong, Kimberley on the play area refurbishment.

3. Town/Parish Sites

There are 6 Town/Parish Councils that manage their own parks/recreation grounds as follows:

Awsworth 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

As part of the Pride in Parks project all 6 Town/Parish Councils were asked to consider their priorities for work over financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Over the 2 year period the Town/Parish Councils chose to do a wide range of projects including play area improvements, provision of outdoor fitness equipment, upgrading and extensions of sports pavilions and habitat improvement works. All the works that were identified as high or medium priorities in the Play Strategy were completed as part of the initiative.

With the exception of a small underspend which Nuthall Parish Council requested to be carried forward into the 2020/21 financial year to allow it to be used as part of a match funding bid, all the works at the Town and Parish Council sites are now complete and invoices for the Borough Council contribution submitted and paid.