



Coventry City Council

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks

Time and Date

9.30 am on Thursday, 24th September, 2015

Place

Committee Room 2 - Council House

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interests**
3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 6)
 - a) To agree the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2015
 - b) Matters Arising
4. **Petition Update Report - Juniper Drive Play Area** (Pages 7 - 12)
Report of the Executive Director of Place
5. **Outstanding Issues** (Pages 13 - 16)
6. **Any Other Items of Public Business**

Private Business

Nil

Chris West, Executive Director, Resources, Council House Coventry

Wednesday, 16 September 2015

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Gurdip Paddan Tel: 024 7683 3075 Email gurdip.paddan@coventry.gov.uk

Membership: Councillors A Khan (Cabinet Member) and J Birdi (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Please note: a hearing loop is available in the committee rooms

If you require a British Sign Language interpreter for this meeting
OR if you would like this information in another format or
language please contact us.

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Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks
held at 9.30 am on Monday, 22 June 2015

Present:

Members: Councillor A Khan (Chair)
 Councillor J Birdi (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Employees (by Directorate): G Hood, Place Directorate
 G Paddan, Resources Directorate
 A Walster, Place Directorate

Apologies: Councillor Andrews

Public Business

1. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

3. Withdrawal of Council Services from Spencer Park - Request that the Council keep the Pavilion open for at least part of each week in the 2015 season and to re-open the tennis courts and the flat green

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director of Place concerning a petition bearing 559 signatures, requesting that the Council keep the Pavilion open for at least part of each week in the 2015 season and to re-open the tennis courts and flat green. The petition was sponsored by Councillor Taylor, an Earlsdon Ward Councillor, who was invited to the meeting together with the petition organiser.

The petition organiser presented the Chair with additional 2608 signatures; total of 3179, including the 561 online e-signatures.

The report noted that Spencer Park was a relatively small but popular park situated in Earlsdon Ward in the Southern part of the City and covered an area of approximately 3.98 acres. The park was opened in 1883 and its formal layout includes a number of recreational opportunities and features including tennis and bowling facilities, a pavilion, seating, informal grassed areas, shrub planting and seasonal bedding. The Park has a well-established and very active Friends Group.

A consultation on the Council's budget was undertaken between November 2014 and February 2015; this had led to some early dialogue between the Friends Group and the Council. Elected Members were made aware of the proposal

affecting Spencer Park under the larger Savings Plan which was also discussed at a public consultation meeting and at Ward Forums. The consultation process was still on going and Council Officers would be meeting representatives of the Spencer Park Friends Group to discuss the proposal in more detail and seek their views.

The annual running costs for the maintenance of bowling green and tennis facilities were in the region of £30,000 which was only partly offset by income received of approximately £3,500, a net cost to the Council of £26,500 pa. There was also the extensive repair and resurfacing cost for the tennis courts within the next five years which would place significant pressure on the Parks budget.

The petition organiser spoke on behalf of petitioners in respect of maintaining the facilities and expressed concern in respect of the roof of the pavilion. It was confirmed that the roof would be repaired in time to celebrate the 100 year birthday. The future use of the park was also considered and it was agreed to support the Friends Group and maintain the dialogue with the Group to help with fund raising and events.

RESOLVED, that after due consideration of the report and the matters raised at the meeting, the Cabinet Member: -

- 1. Requests that officers continue to engage with the Friends of Spencer Park and Recreation Ground regarding the future management and maintenance of the park.**
- 2. Notes the substantial reduction to the parks operational budget and ensuing implication on future service delivery and standards.**
- 3. Notes that adequate tennis and bowling provision is afforded by The War Memorial Park within one mile of Spencer Park.**
- 4. Agrees that the Council continue to maintain the crown bowling green only.**
- 5. Agrees that the tennis courts continue to be used by schools/clubs and that options are explored with local groups for wider public access.**
- 6. That a further update report be presented to the Cabinet Member in six months on the progress made with the Friends of Spencer Park and Recreation Ground on the local management of the park and its facilities.**

4. Outstanding Issues

The Cabinet Member noted a report of the Executive Director of Resources that contained a list of outstanding issues and summarised the current position in respect of the item.

5. Any Other Items of Public Business

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 10am)

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24th September 2015

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks - Councillor A Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director, Place

Ward(s) affected:

Woodlands

Title:

Petition Update Report - Juniper Drive Play Area

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

In January 2015 the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks considered an e-petition which had been organised by Councillor Julia Lepoidevin, a Woodlands Ward Councillor.

The petition was signed by 115 residents who live in the vicinity of Juniper Drive. It called on the Council to update and replace play equipment in the park area Juniper Drive/Woodridge Avenue in consultation with local residents as there had been no update of the equipment for a number of years.

The report identified that most of the equipment at Juniper Drive Play Area was at the end of its practicable life that refurbishment costs were estimated at £29,400, and that adequate play provision was located at Allesley Park just 600m away from Juniper Drive and well within its catchment area.

It was highlighted that the Parks Service budget was to be reduced by £1m from April 2015 and that part of the Parks Service Financial Strategy was to review the replacement of equipment when it became beyond practicable repair.

It was agreed at that as refurbishing and replacing the equipment at Juniper Drive would be unsustainable in the present climate, the play equipment would be removed and the affected areas reinstated to grass. The Council would however work with the local residents` group to explore external funding opportunities for the replacement of the play equipment at the Juniper Drive Play Area. Cabinet Member requested a progress report on this work be submitted to a future meeting.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks is recommended to:

1. Note the progress made by the Allesley Green Residents Association in seeking external funding to remove the old play equipment at Juniper Drive Play area and replace with new.
2. Endorse the actions of Council Officers in assisting the Association to seek and submit external funding bids.
3. Agree that the removal of the play equipment at Juniper Drive be postponed until November 2015 (subject to any necessary action arising from safety or maintenance issues) allowing the Association adequate time to explore funding sources.
4. Agree that the Council continues to inspect and maintain the equipment at Juniper Drive Children's Play area until November 2015.

List of Appendices included:

N/A

Other useful background papers:

Report to Cabinet Member on the 8 April 2014 entitled: Allesley Park Play Area
Report to Cabinet Member on the 7th Jan 2015 entitled: Juniper Drive Play Area Petition – Request that children's play equipment in the park is replaced with updated equipment following consultation with local residents.

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel, or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 In January 2015 the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks considered an e-petition which had been organised by Councillor Julia Lepoidevin, a Woodlands Ward Councillor. The petition was signed by 115 residents who live in the vicinity of Juniper Drive. It called on the Council to update and replace play equipment in the park area at Juniper Drive/Woodridge Avenue in consultation with local residents as there had been no update of the equipment for a number of years.
- 1.2 Juniper Drive Play Area is located in the west of the City and contains equipment designed for the younger age group (ages 4 to 7 years). The play area is managed by the Parks Service within the Place Directorate, and regular inspections have found that most of the equipment was nearing the end of its practicable life, with some items showing signs of wear and tear and vandalism.
- 1.3 It was recognised that Juniper Drive Play Area is located just 600 metres from Allesley Park (the Area Park for the west of the city) and has benefitted from significant investment in recent years. Juniper Drive and Woodridge Avenue fall well within its catchment area. The Allesley Park play area provides good, safe, well-maintained and serviceable equipment offering a wide range of play experiences which caters for age groups 7-13 years and 4-7 years.
- 1.4 The Parks Service operational budget will be reduced by £1m from 2015/16 and, as part of its financial strategy, the service will be reviewing the replacement of play equipment as and when its practicable life ends. This review will be on an item-by-item and site-by-site basis and will take into consideration cost, remaining equipment, and location to other play areas.
- 1.5 The cost of refurbishing Juniper Drive play area was estimated at £29,400: this was considered inappropriate under the Council's economic circumstances, particularly as the play area fell within the catchment area of Allesley Park.
- 1.6 As adequate play provision was located at Allesley Park, it had been agreed that the play equipment at Juniper Drive could be removed and the site reinstated to grass. It had also been agreed that the Council would work with the local residents' group to explore external funding opportunities for the replacement of the play equipment at the Juniper Drive Play Area.
- 1.7 During February 2015 local residents formed the "Allesley Green Residents' Association". The group has expressed an interest in seeking external funding to remove the old play equipment at Juniper Drive and replace with new. In May 2015 the Head of Streetpride and Greenspace advised the Association that the Council would continue to inspect and maintain the equipment for a further 6 months only (until Nov 2015). The purpose was to give the Association adequate time to explore funding sources, submit applications, and receive notice of success. Council Officers have offered their support to the group in the application process.
- 1.8 The of Head Streetpride and Greenspace also attended a residents' forum arranged by the Allesley Green Residents Association in June 2015 to outline the circumstances surrounding the decision to remove the play equipment at Juniper Drive and respond to questions. The opportunity was taken to reinforce the commitment to delay the removal of

the equipment whilst the Association pursued external funding opportunities and the offer of Council Officer support in that process.

- 1.9 A member of the Residents' Association Committee has been appointed as fundraiser, who has experience of successfully exploiting external funding opportunities. Initial discussions with WREN (who grant fund community projects) have taken place and the response has been positive. In addition another member of the Association has offered a free design service as he is a landscape designer.
- 1.10 Further meetings between the Association and Councils officers have continued with a view to progressing a funding application.

2. Results of consultation undertaken

No consultation has taken place on this issue

3. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 3.1 To be agreed subject to approval of a recommendation within this report

4. Comments from Executive Director, Resources

4.1 Financial implications

The cost of removing the existing items of equipment, safer surfacing, fencing and subsequent reinstatement of the area would be approximately £13,500.

These one-off works, if approved, could be funded from the Parks and Open Spaces revenue budget and, given the likely reduction in the Parks service operational budget, would remove any on-going liability relating to the existing equipment.

4.2 Legal implications

No legal implications associated with this matter.

5. Other implications

None

5.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

N/A

5.2 How is risk being managed?

The continued programme of play area and equipment safety inspection will ensure that facilities are maintained in a safe and usable condition.

5.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

It is the Council's responsibility to ensure facilities are maintained in a safe condition

5.4 Equalities / EIA Implications for (or impact on) the environment

The Service will continue to provide a level of provision which will ensure that all children within the City have access to park play facilities.

5.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

Continued provision of safe, attractive and stimulating play environments.

5.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

Report author(s):

Name and job title: **Graham Hood, Head of Streetpride and Greenspace**

Directorate: **Place**

Tel and email contact: **0247683 2194 graham.hood@coventry.gov.uk**

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Andrew Walster	AD – Streetscene and Greenspace	Place	14.8.15	14.8.15
Jas Bilen	HR Manager	Resources	4.8.15	4.8.15
Gurdip Paddan,	Governance Services Officer	Resources	14.8.15	14.8.15
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Finance: Cath Crosby	Lead Accountant Business Partner	Resources	4.8.15	5.8.15
Legal: Andrew Burton	Corporate Governance and Litigation Team	Resources	4.8.15	5.8.15
Director: Martin Yardley	Director – Place Directorate	Place		
Councillor Abdul Khan	Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks)			

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Appendices

None

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Public report Cabinet Member Report

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks

24 September 2015

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks – Councillor A Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director for Resources

Ward(s) affected:

None

Title:

Outstanding Issues Report

Is this a key decision? No

Executive Summary:

In May 2004 the City Council adopted an Outstanding Minutes System, linked to the Forward Plan, to ensure that follow up reports can be monitored and reported to Members. The attached appendix sets out a table detailing the issues on which further reports have been requested by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks so he is aware of them and can monitor progress.

Recommendations:

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks is requested to consider the list of outstanding issues and to ask the Member of the Management Board or appropriate officer to explain the current position on those which should have been discharged at this meeting or an earlier meeting.

List of Appendices included:

Table of Outstanding Issues.

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it, or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report author(s):

Name and job title:

Gurdip Paddan
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Directorate:

Resources Directorate

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Names of approvers: (officers and Members)				

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APPENDIX

	Subject	Date for Consideration	Directorate/ Responsible Officer	Proposed Date/Amendment to Date for Consideration	Reason for Request to Delay Submission of Report
1	Withdrawal of Council Services from Spencer Park Petition - Request that the Council keep the Pavilion open for at least part of each week in the 2015 season and to re-open the tennis courts and the flat green: Progress report on this work be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet Member (minute 3/15 refers)	No date specified	Andrew Walster Assistant Director for Streetscene and Greenspace Place Directorate		

* Identifies items where a report is on the agenda for the meeting

