
Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

22 July 2021

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities Councillor AS Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services

Ward(s) affected:

Henley

Title: Response to a petition: Potters Green – Request for Children’s Play Facility

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

This report responds to a petition containing 298 signatures which was submitted to Coventry City Council in October 20. The petition is supported by Councillor E Ruane, a Henley Ward Councillor and requests that the Council provide a children’s play facility on the field between Woodway Lane and Shilton Lane

The petition reads:

“We the undersigned petition the Council to request a park with play equipment for children (swings, slide, climbing frame etc) on field between Woodway lane and Shilton Lane adjacent to Woodway lane cemetery, historically there was a play area located on this site for the children of Potters Green ”.

The petition provides the following justification:

This play area has grown with new houses and many young families moving to the area, there is little for the children to do , especially in light of the recent Covid -19 pandemic, it would be a great health benefit both mentally and physically to have a park in this area, a safe place for children to and family to enjoy.

The children’s play facility which had originally been located at this location had been removed as a result of continued vandalism and complaints from neighbouring residents.

Potters Green falls with the catchment area of two local play facilities located at Eaglestone Way new housing development off Shilton lane and Woodway Walk Play area both around 10 minutes' walk away respectively.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities is recommended to:

1. Consider the content of the petition and note the concerns of the petitioners
2. Note that a play facility has been built by a developer and located at Eaglestone Way new housing development off Shilton lane.
3. Note that the cost of providing a children's play facility has been estimated at approximately £150, 000
4. Note that the Greenspace Service do not have the resources to provide a new children's play facility at this location and that this will be subject to securing external funding.
5. Note that as part of the Planning Application for the New Elmfield Farm Development on Wigston Road and should permission be granted the developer has been requested to provide a new children's play facility on the development

List of Appendices included:

Appendix A – Archived image of original play facility at Potters Green dated 1994

Appendix B – Plan showing location of play facilities of which Potters Green Falls within their catchment areas.

Background papers:

None,

Other useful documents

None.

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

Report title: Petition – Provide a children’s play facility Potters Green Park

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 A number of years ago a children’s play area did exist at this location as suggested by the petitioners. The facility was removed some years ago (possibly 26 years ago) due to repeated vandalism and complaints from residents on Woodway Lane whose houses looked onto the site. The attached image taken in 1994 clearly shows that most of the play area had virtually all gone at that point shown Appendix A.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 A new housing development was completed in 2020 at Eaglestone Way off Shilton Lane which was developed by Persimmon Homes. As part of that development the developer created a new children’s play facility which is managed and maintained by the developer. Its provision was a planning requirement. The play area appears to be designed to cater for the 8 to 12 age group and the Potters Green Area falls within the catchment of the facility and is approximately 10 minutes’ walk. Its location is shown Appendix B
- 2.2 In addition, Potters Green Park falls within the catchment area of a further play facilities located at Woodway Walk, which is on Woodway Lane and this play facility is designed to cater for children aged 8 to 12 and is located approximately 10 minutes’ walk away. This is managed and maintained by the Streetpride and Council Greenspace Service. This is also shown on Appendix B
- 2.3 Outline planning permission is being sought for the Elmfield Farm Residential Development on Wigston Road. It is likely that this will be considered by Planning Committee in August this year. As part of the consultation process the Councils Parks Service has requested the developer provide a new children’s play facility on the development. Should permission be granted this would provide an additional children’s play facility whose catchment would include parts of the Potters Green Area and would be approximately 15 minutes walk from the old facility which had previously existed on the field between Woodway lane and Shilton Lane.
- 2.4 During 2015/16 the Parks Service operational budget was reduced by £1m from 2016. As part of its financial strategy the service now reviews the provision of children’s play facilities and the replacement of play equipment as and when its practicable life ends. This ongoing review will be on a item by item and site by site basis and will take into consideration cost, remaining equipment and location to other play areas.
- 2.5 The re-establishment of a play facility at Potters Green has been considered however it would cost a minimum of approximately £150,000 to complete to a National Playing Fields Association Locally Equipped Area for Play Standard. The Parks Service does not have the existing resources to undertake this proposal.
- 2.6 It is therefore recommended that the Council’s Park Service continues to explore and exploit all funding opportunities both external and internal to maintain existing play facilities and provide new facilities to ensure all children have access to facilities with dynamic and high play value items of equipment offering an exciting and stimulating play environment.

2.7 The ability of the service to implement this recommendation will be subject to available resources and its ability to secure external funding.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 No consultation has taken place on this issue

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

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

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Director of Law and Governance

5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations at the present time.

The service reviews the provision of new play facilities and 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.

New children's play provision and when the replacement of items of play equipment becomes necessary, this will be managed through a combination of external funding (for example section 106 funds) and the existing budget provision.

5.2 Legal implications

The responsibility for managing and maintaining the children's play area in this park falls to the Council which has a duty of care towards employees, contractors and the public who use the play facilities. Play provision is governed by the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Occupiers Liability Acts of 1957 and 1984. The Council has a legal responsibility to ensure the children's play area is in as safe a condition as reasonably practicable. The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 require providers to carry out risk assessments. Play provision also has to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

6. Other implications

None

6.1 How will this contribute to the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/)?

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

6.2 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.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

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

6.4 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

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.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and 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

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

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Gill Carter	Team Leader, Legal Services	Law and Governance	6 th July 21	7 th July 21
Usha Patel	Governance Services Officer	Law and Governance	6 th July 21	6 th July 21
Mark Yates	Parks Service Manager,	Street Pride and Green spaces	6 th July 21	7 th July 21
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and Members)				
Andrew Walster	Director (Streetscene and Regulatory Services)	-	8 th July 21	8 th July 21
Councillor AS Khan	Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities		7 th July 21	8 th July 21

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