

Briefing Notes

Social and Community Overview and
Scrutiny Committee

January 2010

This note contains information to keep Members informed of matters relating to the work of the Committee but where no decisions from Members are needed.

If Members have questions relating to matters shown, they are asked to contact the Officers indicated.

PlayBuilder Update

Background

Following the launch of the first National Play Strategy in December 2008, Gloucestershire County Council was awarded £1.1m, between April 2009 to March 2011, to develop a number of natural, creative, challenging play spaces that will appeal to children aged 8-13. The project is managed and co-ordinated by a steering group of the Gloucestershire Play Partnership.

Progress In Year One (2009/10)

Following lengthy discussion, it was agreed that for 2009/10 each district would be awarded £84k to enhance two play spaces.

Designs have subsequently been developed for Agg Gardner and Springfield Park in Cheltenham, and following a successful presentation to the steering group an additional £10k has been secured for these designs.

Work is scheduled to be completed by March 2010.

Plans for Year Two (2010/11)

The funding for 2010/11 was subsequently allocated against a weighted criteria – with Cheltenham being allocated an initial £104,719 in the second year of the programme.

At the Overview & Scrutiny Meeting in November 2009, members asked to be involved in the selection process for the Year Two sites, which were to be selected from the remaining five sites on the original shortlist.

On November 25th, The Healthy Communities Partnership Manager and the Parks Development Manager, met with Cllr Duncan Smith and Cllr John Rawson to undertake a scoring process for each of the remaining sites, against an agreed criteria in accordance with the guidance of the county steering group.

It was agreed that the funding for Year Two would be used to provide enhanced play provision within the following sites;

- Benhall Park
- Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields
- St Peters Park

In reaching the decision, it was recognised that both the Hesters Way/Monkscroft area, and the Moors/St Peters/Christ College area, were both likely to be subject to major redevelopment during the coming years, which offered significant scope to consider improvements to local play provision.

Members of the steering group have subsequently been to each of the three selected sites to inspect their suitability for inclusion within the Year Two countywide portfolio, which will be presented to the Gloucestershire CYPSP Executive Group in January for approval.

Ongoing CBC Core Capital Investment in Play Provision

In addition to this funding the council will be undertaking improvement and refurbishment to the following sites from it's annual £80,000 capital programme. These works are based on safety and condition surveys undertaken by the Council's Playground Inspector and the annual report undertaken by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. It will include replacement of equipment where items have reached the end of their safe and useful life, replacement of impact absorbing surfaces and works to perimeter fencing.

- Priors Farm
- Sandford Park
- Pittville Park
- Elm Farm
- Hesters Way Park
- St. Peters Park (to supplement Play Building funds)

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