

Calne Without Parish Council Finance Committee

16<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Agenda Item 6

Project initiation request – Playground and equipment for Petty Acre Derry Hill

## 1 Introduction

The following report from Cllr Malpas is a project proposal for the provision of playground and outdoor gym equipment for Derry Hill.

The papers include the following:

- Project proposal
- Community Consultation
- Project Delivery timeline

The Finance Committee is asked to consider the funding implications of the project for the current year and for the preparation of the budget for 2021/22 and make recommendations to the Council when the project is considered in October 2020.

## 2 Budget

The current budget allocations in 2020/21 for projects are as follows:

PROJECT CATEGORY		Budget Commitments
ROAD SAFETY	£15,000.00	Road Safety
INFRASTRUCTURE	£3,000.00	Project, Broads Green Signs
MAINTENANCE	£5,000.00	Asset Maintenance
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS	£1,000.00	Notice Boards, Play equipment and Well House.
COMMUNITY FACILITIES	£3,000.00	
ENVIRONMEMNT AND INFRASTRUCTURE*	£5,000.00	Footpath improvements
STATUS	£150.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£32,150.00</b>	

\*Note this is subject to approval at Council on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Costs for the project are identified in the report as ranging from £20,000 to £100,000 depending on the type and scale of scheme chosen. The cost in 2020/21 are likely to be small to cover the cost of the initial community consultation and can also access the Council's public consultation and publicity budget of £1500 of which £1350 is currently available. The Finance Committee should examine the Council's budget Plan for 2021/22 and onwards and make suggestions about spending limits and whether the Council should use Community Infrastructure Levy Funds or Sun Edision with reference to the Council's

scoring system set up to evaluate grant requests to indicate value for money and the number and geographical spread of residents to benefit from the proposal.

### **3 Grants**

There are a number of grants available from national organisations such as Sport England and National Lottery (see list [here](#)) and there may be local grants available or local fundraising that can be done to support the Council's input. The type of grant applied for will depend on the scheme being proposed and should form part of the scheme feasibility work.

- 4 Recommendation: That the Finance Committee consider the financial feasibility of the project proposal as presented and make recommendations to the Council as appropriate.**

## **CALNE WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL(CWPC)**

### **PROJECT INITIATION REQUEST – PLAYGROUND AND EQUIPMENT FOR PETTY ACRE DERRY HILL**

#### **PROPOSAL:**

Calne Without Parish Council is requested to approve initiation of a project to examine the feasibility of providing a children's play area with equipment at Petty Acre, Derry Hill and 'outdoor gym' equipment for use by the community.

In advance of commissioning a funded feasibility study, the council should establish the permissions necessary to use Petty Acre for such a community facility.

The council should consider a public consultation about the proposal to establish a playground and the levels of community support adjacent to Petty Acre and more broadly within the Derry Hill community.

The survey should also establish the level of community support to establish a community led group to support delivery and commissioning of the facility.

In the event there is a level of community support for such a project, the feasibility study would examine:

The suitability of the location for a children's play area with equipment (for children up to 12 years of age);

The suitability of the location for outdoor gymnasium equipment (for teenagers and adults);

Identify a range of costed proposals, including schematics, plans, equipment options and play area sizes;

Identify the Health & Safety liabilities associated with the provision of the capability including insurance and maintenance requirements with outline costs for these;

Identify any legislative or planning approvals necessary to deliver the project.

The council should note there is a broad cost range for providing such facilities ranging from some £20,000 to in excess of £100,000. In addition, there will be ongoing costs for maintenance and safety inspections.

## BACKGROUND

1. In establishing the Parish Council budget for 2019/20 and 2020/21 the council identified provision of a playground and equipment at Petty Acre, Derry Hill as a potential project to improve community facilities. This reflected a number of representations from the community either in one to one conversations with councillors and at the Derry Hill and Studley village fete. Overall provision in the community facilities budget line is £150,000 over the four-year planning period.
2. The Covid-19 pandemic has understandably led to considerable delays in the council proceeding with a wide range of plans with efforts focused on supporting necessary services and community support. However, as part of our efforts to help the community in the new environment in which we find ourselves, the council should examine what it can do to provide necessary support and potentially enhance community facilities. Examination of the support for, and provision of, a locally based play area and potentially a range of simple outdoor gym equipment may be one option to consider. Particularly as it reflects representations that have been made, and for which budget provision has been identified.
3. Improved community health is a key Government priority and outdoor exercise and social interaction contribute to this. Outdoor play is important for children and provision of outdoor play equipment encourages this and provides an environment for social interaction. Healthy lifestyles for adults is also being promoted. In the Calne Without community we have a wide range of footpaths for walking and running as well as safe cycling routes. Provision of a range of outdoor gym equipment alongside any playground would enhance this and also may encourage parents and older children (teenagers) to exercise alongside their children and siblings where they are able to play safely.

## PROPOSALS

4. Whilst the proposal reflects a level of representation from the community about the provision of equipment. Locating and building such facilities may not be an attractive proposition for all members of the community, particularly those whose properties are adjacent to Petty Acre. It is therefore important that before embarking on a project of this potential scale and cost we consult with the community about the intention to examine the feasibility of providing such facilities. The level of support or opposition should inform the council's decision about proceeding with the project. The consultation should also seek to identify members of the community who would wish to be involved in the development and delivery of the project.
5. The necessary permissions for use of Petty Acre will also need to be established.

6. The proposal is that the project, if approved, would have up to sixteen stages:

- a. Council consideration of the proposition, and, if agreed confirm appropriate permissions for use of Petty Acre for such a facility and commission of community consultation – to be managed by the council;
- b. Review of responses to the consultation by a group of nominated councillors, ideally those from West Ward, with provision of a report and recommendation to the council about whether or not to proceed with a feasibility study;

If the council agrees the feasibility should proceed

- c. A lead councillor identified to manage the project supported by a council working group involving community volunteers;
- d. Preparation of a request to tender, to be endorsed by the council, to a range of suitably qualified contractors/consultants seeking proposal to conduct a feasibility study to:
  - i. Consider the suitability of the location for a children's play area with a range of equipment suitable for children up to 12 years of age;
  - ii. Consider the suitability of the location for outdoor gymnasium equipment suitable for teenagers and adults;
  - iii. Consider the optimum location on Petty Acre with due regard to the proximity of houses;
  - iv. Provide a range of costed proposals, including schematics, plans, equipment options and play area sizes;
  - v. Identify the Health & Safety liabilities associated with the provision of the capability including insurance and maintenance requirements with outline costs for these;
  - vi. Identify any legislative or planning approvals necessary to deliver the project and:
  - vii. Identify potential suppliers with examples of previous successful delivery of similar projects.
- e. Evaluation of proposals by the 'Playground' Sub-Group and potential clarifications and possibly a focused community consultation.

- f. Report to the council, by the sub-group, about the outcome of the feasibility study with a recommendation about proceeding with the project to the next stage. This meeting and decisions to be made to be clearly communicated to the community
  - g. Upon approval by the council, the issue of invitations to tender (ITT) for the provision of the playground area and equipment.
  - h. Consideration of the responses to the ITT by the sub-committee, preparation of a report and recommendation for consideration by the full council.
  - i. Following approval; initiation of the project identifying a responsible councillor and oversight group, potentially involving residents.
  - j. Project delivery and acceptance.
7. An illustrative simple project plan is attached; this suggests project delivery could take about 18 months, although there may be scope for some concurrent activity. Conversely there may be some risks that I have not identified that could impede delivery.
  8. The consultation phase should be managed by the council. It is proposed this is done using a leaflet drop for all residents of Derry Hill and Studley villages, including Pewsham Ward residents. Potential wording for the leaflet is in an annex to this paper.
  9. The council should consider the feasibility of providing a capability to allow on-line responses.

## FUNDING

10. The Parish Council budget for 2020/21 made provision of £5500 for community facilities with overall provision within the four-year planning horizon of £150,000; which assumes consumption of CIL monies. Provision in 2020/21 is considered adequate to cover the cost of the initial work for public consultation and seeking quotes for the feasibility work. The subsequent feasibility study, if agreed and considered value for money, will likely require provision from CIL and potentially Sun Edison funds.
11. There is a wide cost range for provision of such facilities in varying styles using a range of materials from the traditional metal swing frames and climbing equipment and slides. To more imaginative approaches using natural materials and capabilities such as 'trim trails'. Costs can range from £20,000 for very basic facilities to upwards of £100,000. The cost of maintenance and safety inspections as well as insurance will need to be factored into any decision to proceed with the project.

12. Illustrative websites for the types of equipment and facilities that might be provided are: [actionplayandleisure.co.uk](http://actionplayandleisure.co.uk); [touchwoodplay.co.uk](http://touchwoodplay.co.uk) and [schoofurniture-direct.co.uk](http://schoofurniture-direct.co.uk). There are many more.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 13. That Calne Without Parish Council agree that work be initiated to examine the feasibility of providing a Children's Playground with equipment and outdoor gymnasium equipment on Petty Acre Derry Hill and that the initial phase involves:**

- a. Establishing the permissions necessary for providing such a facility on Petty Acre;**
- b. A public consultation to identify the level of community support to examine the feasibility and cost of providing a Children's Playground, with equipment and outdoor gymnasium equipment on Petty Acre Derry Hill. The consultation should also establish the potential level of community participation in the project.**

Alan Malpas

## CALNE WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL – COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

**PROVISION OF CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND WITH EQUIPMENT AND OUTDOOR GYMNASIUM EQUIPMENT AT PETTY ACRE, DERRY HILL**

In response to a number of representations the Parish Council is considering commissioning a feasibility study into the provision of an outdoor play area with equipment for children up to 12 years of age and outdoor gymnasium equipment suitable for teenage and adult use at Petty Acre, Derry Hill.

The aim of this project is to enhance the facilities available to the community and promote the benefits of outdoor play and exercise whilst enhancing the area as a desirable place to live.

The council recognises there will be a range of community views about the provision of such a facility, particularly from those residents directly adjacent to Petty Acre. Therefore, before committing to the cost of the necessary feasibility study to inform any decision, the Council considers it appropriate to embark upon a community consultation about the proposal.

Could you please answer the following questions and return your completed form to the Parish Clerk, or your local councillor, at the addresses at the foot of the form. [An online version of the form for response is available at [www.barnet.gov.uk](#)]. The details you provide will not be shared outside the council although the results of the survey will be summarised and published.

Your councillor would be happy to speak with you directly about the proposal if you wish.

Responses are requested by: [    ]

**Q1:** Do you support the proposal that Calne Without Parish Council commission a feasibility study into the provision of a children's playground with equipment for children up to 12 years of age and outdoor gymnasium equipment suitable for teenagers and adults at Petty Acre, Derry Hill.

**A1: YES**

**NO** (please ring answer)

**Q2:** If you do not support the proposal could you briefly explain why?

**A2:**



**Additional Comments** (please add any further comments you consider might be useful to the Council in reaching a decision about conducting the proposed feasibility study):

**Please provide your postal address this will enable us to plot areas of support or concern about the proposal.**

**Would you be willing to volunteer as a member of a community group to support evaluation and delivery of the project if there is sufficient support for it to proceed? If so, please provide your contact details separately to the Parish Council Clerk at: [sarah.glen@calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.glen@calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk)**

**West Ward and Pewsham Ward Councillor Contact Details:**

[illegible]