

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 24th FEBRUARY 2022

Item 7 – Shakespeare Park - Improvement & Development

Purpose

To receive a progress report on the improvement project and financing for phase 2; and to receive an update on arrangements for future management of the pavilion and site.

Pavilion and Site Works

Most of the site works and snagging works have been completed. Outstanding work includes four items inside and the Car Park top surface, signage and some landscaping, which is due to be completed upon completion of the Tennis Courts Improvements.

Phase 2a – Tennis Courts Improvements

Work commenced on the improvements to the tennis courts on 31st January 2022. The base course and kerb stones have been laid and at the moment all is on track for the works to take their scheduled 8 weeks and to be completed around the beginning of April.

Phase 2b – Playground Improvements

Total costs for the works are £57,231.

£1,000 of funding has already been received from Tesco.

An application for £3,545.71 of Section 106 funding was approved by the Blaby District Planning Obligation Monitoring Group on Thursday 27th January 2022. The approval is on condition that the approved Section 106 funding is applied towards the Agility Trail and/or Sensory Garden only, since these are new facilities and are eligible for funding.

Further funding sources are currently being sought.

The contractor has provided the revised designs, so an application to discharge the planning condition will be submitted shortly, which could take 8 weeks, and can run concurrently with finalising funding sources. With lead in times, the earliest the works could commence would be in September 2022.

Future Management Arrangements

The new Pavilion building is a shared sports facility and the Council's preferred option is for the management of the facility to be undertaken by the Clubs through a Management Committee, made up of representatives from the clubs and the Council.

A central aim of this project is for Clubs to increase participation and therefore, membership. The brand new much improved and enhanced facility acts as a catalyst in this respect. More members should mean more money collected in membership fees; however, the Clubs almost certainly will be paying more towards the costs associated with the new facility under all the proposed arrangements.

Detailed work has now been undertaken on the draft legal agreements, which are submitted for initial consideration under a separate confidential item on the agenda, due to legal confidentiality being required at this stage. It is likely that the arrangements won't be fully implemented until the autumn with an informal Management Committee in place for the beginning of the Bowls Club season 2022/23 working with the Council on the legal arrangements. Once these are agreed, a Shadow Management Committee can be formed to work towards registration as a Charitable Trust.

Further to this, interim arrangements will also need to be made for the 2022/2023 seasons in respect of pitch allocations, which is also set out at a separate item on the agenda concerning the 2022/2023 pitch allocations.

Timescales

Revised timescales, taking into account the content and recommendations of this report, are attached at Appendix 1.

Recommendations

1. That progress with the Project: *Pavilion and Site Works, Tennis Courts improvements and Playground Improvements*, as set out in the relevant section of the report, be noted; and
2. that the revised timescales for the project, attached at Appendix 1, be approved.

Reasons

1. To ensure that the project, which would enable an increase in sport participation and improve recreation and play facilities in a Ward which had high rankings of multiple deprivation across a range of domains, including income, employment and education and had the worst proportion of overweight or obese children in the County of Leicestershire, was delivered efficiently and effectively.
2. To provide a guide for the progression of the project, which could be amended accordingly as appropriate.

APPENDIX 1 – TIMESCALES

The following is the proposed updated timescales for delivery of the project, taking into account the statements set out in the report:

February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy & Resources Committee receives progress report on Phase 2, funding and New Pavilion Management arrangements• Ongoing works on improvements to the Tennis Courts
March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing works on improvements to the Tennis Courts• Funding applications for Playground Works• Discharge of Playground Planning Condition
April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initial informal meetings of Shakespeare Park Sports Pavilion Management Committee• Completion of works on Tennis Courts• Completion of surfacing works on the Car Park• Snagging on New Pavilion completed• Policy & Resources Committee determines New Pavilion Management arrangements and funding arrangements for the Playground works
May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential establishment of Shadow Shakespeare Park Sports Pavilion Management Committee• Potential Open Day for New Facilities, showcasing sporting activities at the site
September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishment of Shakespeare Park Sports Pavilion Management Committee Charitable Trust• Commencement of works on Playground
October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commencement of Lease of Pavilion to Shakespeare Park Sports Pavilion Management Committee Charitable Trust• Completion of works on Playground