

## EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 16 SEPTEMBER 2009

### HOWARD PARK AND STREETSPOUR CAGES – UPDATE REPORT

#### Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the projects to improve facilities in Howard Park and provide new Streetsport cages in Mauchline and Gargieston, Kilmarnock.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009, Cabinet approved several projects in the Leisure Services Capital Programme including an allocation of £170,000 from the Improvements to Major Park funding for Howard Park, Kilmarnock.
- 2.2 Since this meeting, a programme of improvement works has been discussed with relevant Spokespersons and local Members. Work will commence in the park shortly. This work is in addition to the Public Art installation that will also be located in Howard Park in 2009/10.
- 2.3 At its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009, Cabinet approved expenditure on new streetsport cages in Mauchline and Gargieston, Kilmarnock and since this meeting discussions have been held with ward Councillors to determine the best sites for these installations. In Mauchline consultation with the local community is currently taking place and will end on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

#### 3. PROJECT UPDATES

- 3.1 At Howard Park the following improvement works are being implemented:
- Installation of new play equipment
  - Consultation of new pathways and garden area
  - Upgrading streetlighting in the park
  - Erection of a new feature entrance wall
  - Planting of 24 ornamental cherry trees
  - Installation of new park furniture including picnic tables, benches, litter bins and signage
  - Clearing the Alexander Marshall memorial and upgrading the cholera grave site.
- 3.2 This work will involve the removal of the existing football pitch to create a casual recreation space, crossed by new paths, which will be more family friendly. The

football teams who previously played in the park have either folded or have been relocated. The loss of this pitch will be offset by the new pitch currently being completed at Moorfield. Kilmarnock Cycling Club will continue to use the changing pavilion as a base for their activities.

3.3 At Mauchline, the favoured site for the streetsport cage is Beechgrove Park, and this site is supported by local ward Councillors. The streetsport cage would compliment the new playpark which is currently being installed in the park. Should this site be supported by the findings of the local consultation exercise, the streetsport cage will be installed at this location.

3.4 At Gargieston it has not been possible to identify a suitable site for a streetsport cage as the available sites are too close to housing, and therefore likely to cause nuisance. With this in mind, ward Councillors felt that re-allocation of funds to a new playpark in the area would be a more appropriate option. Investigations are currently underway to identify the most suitable site for this new facility.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from the report, funding for these projects was allocated by Cabinet at the meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009 and 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

#### **5. COMMUNITY PLANNING/POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Investment in the development and improvement of major parks and play facilities supports the delivery of the outcomes of the Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement.

#### **6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1 There are no additional risk management implications arising from this report. All works undertaken and equipment/facilities installed will meet the appropriate health and safety and quality standards.

#### **7. CONCLUSIONS**

7.1 Following Cabinet's earlier decisions, a programme of improvement works has now been implemented in Howard Park, and this project will make the park more attractive to all visitors and support the regeneration of Kilmarnock Town Centre.

7.2 Discussions with local Ward Members have identified Beechgrove Park as the favoured site for a streetsport cage. The final decision on the location for the streetsport cage will be taken, in conjunction with local ward Councillors, once the results of the consultation process are known.

7.3 Discussions with local ward Councillors highlighted difficulties identifying a site for a streetsport cage in Gargieston and local Members have expressed the view that the funding should therefore be allocated for a new playpark at a suitable site which has still to be identified.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:-

- (i) note the programme of work currently underway in Howard Park, Kilmarnock;
- (ii) note the preference for Beechgrove Park, Mauchline as the site for a streetsport cage, subject to the results of the consultation exercise;
- (ii) agree to allocate funds to a playpark at Gargieston rather than a streetsport cage; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report

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Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JAG/CF

31<sup>st</sup> August 2009

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**NIL**

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