

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 17TH JUNE 2009

MORTON PARK, DARVEL

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to allocate Capital Programme funding to Morton Park, Darvel in 2010/11 and to seek grant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund – Parks for People Programme, to support a range of improvements to the park, if appropriate.

2. BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

- 2.1 The Council has approved a programme of capital investment in improvements to major parks. To date, funding has been allocated to Kay Park and Howard Park. £170,000 was allocated to work in each park. In Kay Park these funds were utilised for play equipment, path re-surfacing, arboricultural work, a new entrance feature and general improvements. Plans for Howard Park are being finalised and should include new play equipment, lighting and general improvements.
- 2.2 In order to have sufficient time to develop an improvement programme that might qualify for Heritage Lottery Fund, it is necessary to seek approval from Cabinet now for expenditure that will take place in 2010/11.
- 2.3 Any bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund – Parks for People Programme, requires careful development and a considerable emphasis is placed on community involvement in any project and on the restoration of a parks historical features. There can be no guarantee of success with any funding bid, and therefore plans would be developed with options, both with and without external funding. There is a 31st August deadline for applications this year, and it may be necessary to appoint a suitably qualified consultant to develop a suitable bid to meet this deadline.
- 2.4 The Capital Programme contains an allocation for Improvements to Major Parks. East Ayrshire's major parks include Kay Park, Howard Park, Morton Park – Darvel, Dean Park, Dean Castle Country Park, Bellfield Estate, Annanhill Park, Woodroad Park – Cumnock and Cunningham Watt Park – Stewarton. It is proposed that more detailed reports on each of the remaining major parks are provided to assist future Capital Programme consideration

3. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 There are no major risks associated with allocating funds to a project in Morton Park, Darvel in 2010/11.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is proposed to allocate £170,000 which is available in the Capital Programme for improvements to major parks to Morton Park, Darvel.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Investment in Morton Park, Darvel would support the Community Regeneration section of the Community Plan.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The Council has allocated funding for improvements to major parks and in order to allow the required time for the development of appropriate projects and external funding bids, it is necessary to approve projects well in advance. If funding for Morton Park, Darvel from the 2010/11 Capital Programme is approved now, this will allow a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund – Parks for People Programme to be considered for submission.

7.2 The spokespersons for Environment and Regeneration were consulted in the preparation of this report, and support this proposal.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:-

- (i) Approve the allocation of £170,000 from the Capital Programme to Morton Park, Darvel in 2010/11;
- (ii) Remit to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to consider and submit a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund – Parks for People Programme relating to Morton Park, Darvel, if appropriate;
- (iii) Remit to Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to submit further reports on the priorities for investment in major parks in due course; and
- (iv) otherwise note the contents of the report

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JAG

11th June 2009

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

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