

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 23RD APRIL 2008

WOODROAD REGENERATION FORUM – PLAYPARK PROPOSALS

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for proposals from the Woodroad Regeneration Forum to install new children's play equipment in Woodroad Park, Cumnock.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Woodroad Regeneration Forum was established in early 2007 to improve and develop the Woodroad Park in Cumnock. The group consists of local people with an interest in regenerating the park and ensuring that it remains a valued community asset. The Forum representatives first met with local Councillors and officers on 6th March 2007. At this meeting it was agreed that officers would offer support to the group, particularly with regard to use of the park, external funding opportunities, and technical information. The group have received significant support from officers and have also sought to keep both Councillors and officers up to date with progress, through emails and meetings.
- 2.2 The Woodroad Regeneration Forum developed ideas for the future of the park and implemented a programme of public consultation to assess the communities' priorities for improvements to the park. The proposals were then further developed by a consultant employed by the group following the consultation process. The final report from the consultant is the subject of ongoing discussion.
- 2.3 The Forum has however identified the provision of new playpark facilities as its top priority and has secured funding from a range of bodies, including the Minerals Trust, to purchase and install new toddler and junior play equipment for the park.
- 2.4 The Forum recently organised an event to launch a competition to design a logo for their organisation with the support of local schools. A design competition is currently underway and the Forum's logo will be selected in May.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The Forum wish to fund the installation of a new toddler / junior playpark on the site of the old putting green in Woodroad Park. This site was selected as it is further away from the river than the existing site and it will create a new focal point for park visitors in the centre of the park. The equipment provided will meet the Council's standards and will offer excellent play value and durability (see Appendix).

- 3.2 There are no conditions on the Forum's grant funding that require them to lease the ground for the playpark. As the playpark in Woodroad Park features on the list of playparks 'still to be prioritised' for improvement then the Council would be able to take on full maintenance, insurance and inspection responsibilities. The Council will also take responsibility for the removal of the existing play equipment.
- 3.3 The playpark represents the first phase of the Forum's regeneration proposals. Officers will continue to offer support and advice as further phases are developed and the Forum will continue to keep Councillors and officers up to date with their proposals. Approval will be sought from Cabinet for any future developments in the Woodroad Park.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The new play facilities will be funded entirely by the Woodroad Regeneration Forum. The cost of maintenance and inspection and removal of the existing play equipment can be met from current budgets.

5. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The proposals for the improvements of play facilities within the Woodroad Park support the priorities of the Community Plan in terms of Improving Opportunities, Improving Community Safety, Improving Health and Improving the Environment.

6. LEGAL AUTHORITY / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Nil

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The Woodroad Park Regeneration Forum have raised funds to provide a new toddler / junior playpark in Woodroad, Cumnock. The proposals offer the opportunity to improve the facilities in Woodroad Park in partnership with the Forum. It is hoped that the new equipment will be installed before the school summer holidays.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- (i) approve the installation of new toddler / junior play facilities, funded by the Woodroad Park Regeneration Forum, on the site of the old putting green
 - (ii) remit to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to provide progress reports on the work of the Woodroad Park Regeneration Forum as appropriate
 - (iii) otherwise note the content of this report

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JAG/BMcC
4th April 2008

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 578178 and ask for John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services

Implementation Officer – (john.griffiths@east-ayrshire.gov.uk)

APPENDIX