

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 8TH NOVEMBER 2006

DEVELOPING A NETWORK OF MULTI USE GAMES AREAS

Report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the installation of twelve new Multi-Use Games Areas across East Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Over the last five years Leisure Development Services has been providing innovative approaches to health improvement, community regeneration and engaging young people. The initiatives include community health development and children's health improvement programmes through the Recreation Partnership Project, CHIP, the Activity Motivation Initiative and Play Development to inclusive and diversionary initiatives through the CATCH Walking Initiative and New Sporting Futures. New Sporting Futures has developed a range of innovative services that are designed to act as powerful alternatives to anti-social behaviour, crime and substance misuse for young people. The most established of these services are the Premier Night Leagues, Streetsport Express and StreetFootball Programmes. StreetFootball sessions currently take place at Multi-Use Games Areas in Shortlees, North West Kilmarnock and Bellsbank.
- 2.2 Following the success of the Multi-use Games Areas the Leisure Services Section has worked in partnership with East Ayrshire Sports Council to develop a network of these facilities across East Ayrshire. These new facilities compliment and extend the range of play facilities being made available through the Council's playpark improvement programme.

3 PROGRESS

- 3.1 Following successful bids to the Rural Service Priority Fund, Score Environment Limited and other funders, it will now be possible to use these funds in addition to the Council's own funds to develop Multi-Use Games Areas in the following areas

- **HURLFORD**
- **GALSTON**
- **STEWARTON**
- **BARSHARE**
- **NEW CUMNOCK**
- **PATNA**
- **DALMELLINGTON**
- **CATRINE**
- **KILMAURS**
- **NETHERTHIRD**

- **AUCHINLECK**
- **NEW FARM LOCH**

3.2 Potential sites have been identified within each of the target communities, however, final implementation will be influenced by a community consultation process. A number of partners have committed to involvement in this process including the Police, the Community Wardens and Jupiter, the appointed contractor. The consultation process will incorporate good practice from the existing facilities in Shortlees, North West Kilmarnock and Bellsbank. Some sites will also be subject to planning approval. The stages of this process are summarized as follows-

- Initial meeting with local Elected Member (Leisure Development Manager and Outdoor Amenities Manager)
- Leaflet and posters distributed in specific communities
- Consultation work with local young people
- Community based consultation meeting

3.3 The Multi-Use Games Areas to be installed as part of this application will be 22m x 12m in size. Each will consist of 2 end units incorporating Basketball and Football Goals. Fencing surrounding the units will be 3 metres in height to prevent balls escaping onto roads and the ground will be tarmac with sports markings to incorporate the 2 sports outlined above. The areas will be floodlit via links to existing buildings or streetlights and this will be controlled by a timer. If funding is available it is also our intention to offer regular coaching sessions across the network, train local people and develop leadership opportunities.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The indicative funding package for the initiative is structured as follows-

Rural Service Priority Fund	£150,000
Score Environment Limited	£215,000
Community Safety and other Funding	£ 70,000
Council Time Limited Project Funding	<u>£240,000</u>
Total	<u>£675,000</u>

4.2 The indicative cost to implement the programme is as follows-

7 full size MUGAS @ £39,000	£273,000
5 Sports wall upgrades @ £31,000	£155,000
Lighting @ £9,000	£108,000
Paths / Access	£ 36,000
Maintenance/ running costs etc	£ 85,000
Contingency	<u>£ 18,000</u>
Total	<u>£675,000</u>

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Some sites may be subject to planning approval; appropriate applications will be made in due course.

6. COMMUNITY PLAN / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The work of New **Sporting** Futures is completely embedded within East Ayrshire's Community Plan delivering across four of the six themes but with a specific focus on Improving Community Safety. In addition, the project delivers directly upon East Ayrshire's Anti-Social Behaviour, Youth Justice and emerging Leisure and Cultural Strategies.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 In conclusion, the concept of Multi-Use Games Areas is a tried and tested model of providing successful, community-based sports development. Similar facilities are used in countries throughout the world for the purposes of talent identification and youth diversion, however, the potential of these facilities can also be demonstrated much closer to home. Already within East Ayrshire three MUGAs have been installed within the Shortlees and Onthank areas of Kilmarnock and in Bellsbank. These existing facilities have proven to be extremely popular with young people both at organised activities and when using them on a casual basis.

7.2 The establishment of a network of community based Multi-Use Games Areas clearly demonstrates East Ayrshire's commitment to diverting young people from anti-social behaviour and encourage involvement in sport as a positive and healthy alternative.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) approve the implementation of the programme of M.U.G.A. installations as shown in 3.1; and
- (ii) otherwise note the content of the report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JAG/KK

16th October 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

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