

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 2 APRIL 2003

**BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICE FUND : TEENAGE RECREATION
AREAS**

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee on progress that has been made with the Better Neighbourhood Services funded Teenage Recreation areas and to invite the Committee to approve the location of the Multi Sports play area in North West Kilmarnock.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Teenage Recreation Project has been funded through the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund (BNSF) and the outline project was approved at the Emergency Powers Committee of 22 November 2001.
- 2.2 The project concept is to provide informal and casual 'kick about / basket ball areas' for young people. The areas will be for young people to use informally, without any need for changing facilities and without the need for booking.
- 2.3 In January and February 2002, Officers from the Council's Recreation Section met with young people from Shortlees, and North West Kilmarnock Youth Groups and also Primary 7 pupils from Shortlees, Kirkstyle, Mount Carmel, Onthank and Hill Head Primary Schools to seek views on the proposed areas. Many views were given about the location and content of the recreation areas including the desire for multi sport courts rather than the smaller sports walls.
- 2.4 Considering young people's views, and the views of a number of community organisations, it was agreed that two multi sports courts would be provided, 1 in North West Kilmarnock and 1 in Shortlees / Riccarton.

The proposed locations are:-

- North West Kilmarnock - Meiklewood Road.
Situated between Onthank and Mount Carmel Primary Schools, the area would provide high visibility and lighting would also be able to be provided.

The location is far enough away from houses in terms of a noise nuisance, and traffic calming measures on Meiklewood Road have recently been put in place. The Police have also commented on this location as been the most suitable, stating that it is far enough away from dwellings, has good casual observation from passing pedestrians and motorists, and is in close proximity to both schools in the area. The location of the court in this area is subject to the approval of planning permission and the use of land in the Housing land portfolio.

- Shortlees / Riccarton
The initial proposal was to locate the court on the blaes area at Shortlees Primary School. However, due to the proposed new school build this has become problematic, possible alternative sites in areas managed by the Community Services Committee are currently being examined.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 A total of £100,000 has been allocated to the project from the BNSF.

4. LEGAL / AUTHORITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 No objections were received during the planning process regarding the siting of this play facility at Meiklewood Road. The use of this land requires to be agreed by the Housing Committee.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Provision of new sports facilities forms part of the Council's Leisure Strategy.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Committee
- (i) agree to the court in North West Kilmarnock being located at Meiklewood Road (subject to planning permission and land use being approved);
 - (ii) agree to the court in Shortlees being located in a suitable location to be agreed with the local Councillor; and
 - (iii) otherwise note the content of the report

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/AH

11th March 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

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