

FULL COUNCIL COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 28 June 2021
Title: Project Update
Contact Officer: Project Officer - Nicky Cayley

Background

The purpose of this report is to update the Council on the current status of projects falling under the remit of the Project Officer.

Current Situation

Park Road

- Priority project
- Town Clerk and Councillors have held meetings with neighbours to reassure them of any concerns.
- Rocking horse and slide have been refurbished by the Works Team and will be re installed – the horse will be fixed for health and safety reasons
- Members have selected a contractor to install new equipment.
- The space net will also be installed – away from neighbouring houses.
- The equipment will be complimented by a bench and a hopscotch area will be painted onto some existing hardstanding.
- There will be space for residents to add to the park in future – whether this is play equipment or other items such as raised beds or sensory items.
- The Park should be ready to open in the summer holidays.

Risk

1. The budget of £20, 000 is not sufficient enough to fill the park with enough equipment to alleviate residents' concerns that the park will be used for football. To alleviate this risk, members are invited to consider increasing the budget by £5, 000. The extra equipment will "fill" the open space further, providing obstacle to minimise ball games. It will also provide a rich and high-quality play experience for the town's younger residents, whilst ensuring that there is still room for residents to add to the space at a later date.

Windrush Place Allotments

- The Works Team have now completed all jobs on this site with the exception of the disabled composting toilet.
- There are still some outstanding issues to be addressed by the developers before they are issued with a practical completion certificate – Officers are pushing hard for these to be done.
- Officers expect to be in a position to handover the site to the Allotment Association by the end of June or first week in July subject to legal issues being resolved.
- Just before the site is handed over, the Council's Works Team will flail the plots to cut down the wild flowers, weeds and grass that has accumulated on them.
- The Community Hub will be delivered after the site is open but this will not unduly affect the plot holders.

Risk

- That the developer fails to rectify snagging issues in a timely manner – this could be mitigated by the Council retaining a portion of the payment for these works and completing the jobs in house. Due to pressures on the Works Team this is not the preferred option.

Memorial Bench

- Rotary has not responded to e-mails arising if it wishes to go ahead with the commemorative Covid-19 bench.

Corn Exchange

- Phase 2 is progressing well, with the tender for lighting and sound expected to be signed off by the Working Party on 22 June. The tender can then be sent out.
- A consultation has been held with user groups and a design layout for theatrical seating has now been selected. A tender will now be drawn up for this.
- The Project Officer continued to research possible funding streams, including smaller grant funders, for a screen and projector suitable for live streaming NT productions; as previously advised, funding is severely limited due to the pandemic and is focusing on enabling existing venues to re-open rather than encouraging new start-ups. Whilst there is no positive news on this, research will continue into all possibilities.

Risk

- That no funding stream can be identified for the screen and projector.

Leys Recreation Ground – Bowling Green Sewers/Splash Park Grey Water

- Officers have not yet had the opportunity to begin working on this project, but will ensure that sufficient financial information is available to inform the budget setting process towards the end of this year.

Burwell Hall – Renewable Energy Heating System

- The heating system at Burwell Hall has reached the end of its life with replacement parts not being available.
- This affords the Council the opportunity to replace gas with a renewable energy source – preferably an air or ground source heat pump.
- The Project Officer has arranged meetings with relevant contractors for herself and the Maintenance and Environmental Services Officer in the next couple of weeks to begin the process.

Risk

- None currently identified.

Skatepark

- Zoom meetings have been held with Cllr Butterfield and Mr Pockett.
- Mr Pockett has set up a constituted group “Ramp Up The Leys” and will set up a bank account in order to begin fundraising.
- The Communications Officer has organised a Survey Monkey Survey to be distributed by the group.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability. There are no areas of environmental concern in the current project list and there is the opportunity to make a positive improvement in terms of the heating at Burwell Hall.

Financial implications

- Park Road play area requires additional funding as described in the report.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. to increase the budget for Park Road Play area by £5,000 (to come from rolling capital) in order to provide obstacles to minimise ball games and provide a rich and high-quality play experience for the town's younger residents, ensuring that there is still room for residents to add to the space at a later date;
2. as the final design is dependent upon budget, that this is delegated to Officers and Councillors Ashbourne and Duncan.