

FULL COUNCIL

Date: Monday, 6 December 2021
Title: Project Update Report
Contact Officer: Projects Officer - Nicky Cayley

Background

This report is to update members on projects that have been carried out and also upcoming projects.

Current Situation

Park Road Play Area

The project is now complete and the park re opened to residents on 9 November. Due to the project taking longer than expected, the Project Officer has negotiated provision of some thermoplastic designs to be laid on the concrete base in the park (simple hopscotch design and counting caterpillar for example) free of charge to the Council. These will be done when the team is in the area. A plaque is also being arranged to commemorate the reopening and to acknowledge the Town Hall Charity's generous donation towards the project.

Corn Exchange

The lighting and sound installation commenced on 8 November. Progress is going well although some of the lights have been delayed in transit. Henley Theatre Services is lending some lights to the company running the pantomime at no cost to them.

It is hoped that the seating installation can begin in February/March 2022.

Blue Plaque, Alice Batt

The Project Officer has been in touch with Oxfordshire Blue Plaque Society and they have confirmed that the plaque in recognition of Alice Batt is due for installation in early 2022. The Council previously gave £300 towards a blue plaque for Patrick Steptoe. Members are asked to consider if they wish to contribute the same amount or the £500 budgeted for the item (this would cover the full amount). The Town Council would be credited on the bottom of the plaque in either case.

Future Projects/Projects Commencing

WWSG Tennis Courts Colour Coating

Having sourced some initial quotes for the budget, the Project Officer is hoping to programme this in for after the Easter Holidays in 2022. She is working with the Tennis Club to find suitable dates. The MUGAs at King George V Field and Burwell will also have a refresh as part of this programme.

Skate Park Regeneration

The Project Officer has been looking into funding streams available for this project. There are some streams that the Town Council is eligible to apply for which, if successful, could bring a sizable amount of money to the project. The ball park figure to renew the skatepark is £110,000. However, all funding sources require strong evidence of community involvement and this is currently lacking for this project. The Communications and Community Engagement Officer and Project Officer have put forward a number of ideas to the Ramp Up the Leys Group in this area but thus far, there has been little progress.

Due to this stumbling block, Council is asked to consider if it wishes to increase the budget allocated towards the skatepark to enable the project to move forwards and be realised.

Play Ground Survey

The Project Officer will be reporting on options for a piece of new equipment at Quarry Road in the next cycle of meetings.

However, the Project officer will be carrying out a review of all playgrounds to establish areas of need and also to assist with budgeting for renewals. It would be more economical, more environmentally friendly and make more of a community impact to renew whole play areas at a time rather than a piecemeal approach.

Other Projects not yet Started

- Infrastructure Audit of Street Furniture
- King George V Field – storage and toilet facilities, and defibrillator
- Children’s Memorial Garden
- Covid-19 Memorial

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. There are no environmental risks associated with this report.

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 risks associated with this report.

Financial implications

The Council may need to budget for some items such as the Children's Memorial Garden and the Covid-19 Memorial if not already done so. The amount needed to renew the skatepark would be £100, 000 - £150, 000.

Recommendations

Member are invited to note the report and consider: -

1. How much the Council wishes to contribute towards the blue plaque in memory of Alice Batt
2. If the Council wishes to increase the budget available for the skatepark and if so by how much.