



REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA: ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Date of Meeting: 1 June 2009

Public

Key Decision: No

Recorded in Forward Plan:

No

Inside/Outside Policy Framework

Title: PLAY SPACE - GRINSDALE AVE/MOOR PARK AVE & PALMER ROAD AREA

Report of: Director of Community Services

Report reference: CS 33/09

Summary:

A group of young people attended the Belle Vue Neighbourhood Forum on the 20th April 2009 and presented the forum with a petition about the lack of play spaces in the Grinsdale Avenue/Moor Park Road and Palmer Road area of Belle Vue

Recommendations:

It is RECOMMENDED that the report be received and that the Director of Community Services undertakes detailed consultation with the petitioners, the local community and the CDRP prior to implementing any work.

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Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

- 1.1. Master Lewis Young presented a petition to the Belle Vue Neighbourhood Forum on the 20th April 2009 on behalf of the young people of the housing estate, which they live on, consisting of Grinsdale Avenue, Moor Park Road and Palmer Road in Belle Vue. The petition states that there are limited areas for play on the estate and that one small area was recently removed when a developer constructed the new houses on the site of the former Vallum Hotel. It says that they have to play on the road, which they think is dangerous.
- 1.2. The forum indicated that the petition (Appendix 1) was to be forwarded to the City Council Executive and suggested it be put on one of the agendas.
- 1.3. The Councillors for the Belle Vue area (Cllr Mary Styth, Cllr Jessica Riddle and Cllr Michael Clark) are aware of the petition and have requested feedback.
- 1.4. The housing estate has two small amenity open spaces, but these are located at the margins of the estate, although they do offer some limited play value. There was a small triangle of grass adjacent to 10 Moor Park Avenue, which was lost, along with a grass verge, when the development was completed. This area of public open space has been incorporated into the Story housing development. Carlisle City Council has maintained the area in question, since the original housing development was built in the late 1960's.
- 1.5. The Council has a clearly defined strategy regarding play areas. There are a large number of play areas across Carlisle and a series of criteria are in place to prioritise these for investment. As part of our Planning guidance housing developments of different sizes of green space and play areas. In the past this has resulted in new areas scattered in many areas. We now seek to focus on fewer, strategic areas.

Whilst it is desirable to have local play areas for children, not all the community welcome these in their immediate area because of noise and anti-social behaviour.

- 1.6 As part of the housing development at this site the developer has contributed £45,000 through a Section 106 Agreement for the provision and maintenance of Sports Pitches, Amenity Open Space and Play Facilities. It was the intention to use the vast majority of this at the nearest significant green space which is at Spider Park adjacent to Belle Vue Junior School.

- 1.7 It is suggested that Officers from the Children & Young People and Green Spaces teams meet with some of these petitioners to discuss these issues and perhaps involve them in how the available funding is spent in line with the current strategy.

2. CONSULTATION

- 2.1 None to date however the recommendations propose consultation with the local community including the petition organisers as well as CDRP.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is RECOMMENDED that the report be received and that the Director of Community Services undertakes detailed consultation with the petitioners, the local community and the CDRP prior to implementing any work.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 This will ensure adequate provision is made as well as involving the community and potential users in the design of the area.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – There are no additional resource implications.
- Financial – The Council received £45,354 in May 2009 for provision and maintenance of offsite pitches and open spaces for a period of 10 years. Any allocation of monies would need to be within the terms of the agreement with the developer.
- Legal – The Director of Legal and Democratic Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report and agrees with the recommendations.
- Corporate – This work contributes to the CGS corporate priority.
- Risk Management – Community ownership of whatever works are agreed will be very important and engagement at an early stage is an essential part of that process.
- Equality and Disability – The area will be designed taking into account the relevant equal access issues.

- Environmental – The provision of quality play areas contributes to the local environment.
- Crime and Disorder – CDRP will be involved in the consultation process.
- Impact on Customers – By involving potential users in the consultation process the outcome should be positive.