



PORTFOLIO AREA: HEALTH AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Date of Meeting: 6TH DECEMBER 2004

Public

Key Decision: Yes

Recorded in Forward Plan:

No

Inside/Outside Policy Framework

Title: PETITION RECEIVED FROM RESIDENTS OF KINGFISHER
PARK ESTATE, WARWICK ROAD, CARLISLE – RE: PLAY AREA
Report of: CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT SERVICES
Report reference: CLS/021/04

Summary: Residents of Walkmill Close, off Warwick Road, have submitted a petition requesting that the Children's Play Area in the estate be closed, due to anti-social behaviour emanating from it.

Recommendations: It is recommended that:-

- (i) The Play Area be retained.
- (ii) The Play Area be closely monitored for the next few months.
- (iii) Encourage people of the area to use the facilities available to them at Botcherby Community centre and Greystone Community Centre.

Contact Officer:

Ext: 7364

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: Petition Enclosed

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

- 1.1 The petition requesting the removal of the play area contains 156 names from 102 different addresses on the estate. 12 residents have requested that the play area be retained. Residents for 61 properties did not sign the petition, due to them being away when it was conducted, the house being empty, or wishing to make no comment (2 householders).
- 1.2 A petition was submitted to the Planning and Landuse Sub-Committee on 3rd August 2001, prior to the play area being provided. This petition requested that the play area and cycleway not be provided. A petition supporting the provision of the facilities was also submitted. The sub-committee resolved to reaffirm its commitment to the completion of the Kingfisher park development in all its aspects, including the play area and related links.
- 1.3 A play area was provided as required by the Section 106 agreement no. 406, dated 4th April 1997. The Section 106 agreement relating to provision of play areas on developments of 40 units or more is linked to the Local Plan Policy LC2.
- 1.4 It is common throughout the City that a new play area attracts vandalism and anti-social behaviour due to it being new. Usually, when the novelty wears off, the anti-social behaviour subsides, and usually goes away completely. The problem was made worse on this occasion due to the length of time it took the developers to complete the play area. Whilst in unfinished condition, without regular maintenance and litter collection, antisocial activities were undertaken within the area. At the beginning of November the City Council took over responsibility for the play area, and since then litter collection has occurred 3 times a week and most of the faults have been rectified. Subsequently, the problems and vandalism to the equipment appears to have ceased.

2. CONSULTATION

- 2.1 Consultation regarding planning applications normally takes place with adjacent landowners, but on this occasion it is the inhabitants of the developed estate who are complaining. Anyone buying a house on the estate should have been aware of the presence of the play area as part of their solicitor's local search.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that:-

- (i) The Play Area be retained.
- (ii) The Play Area be closely monitored for the next few months.
Encourage people of the area to use the facilities available to them at Botcherby Community centre and Greystone Community Centre.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The play area is provided for the children of the estate, and for future children of the estate, and its removal would result in them losing this valuable facility.
- 4.2 Nuisance surrounding a new play area usually subsides as the 'Novelty Value' wears off.
- 4.3 The provision of a play area is a requirement of the Planning Permission on any development of 40 or more units. This is a substantial site providing 185 dwellings so there is no case for departing from policy.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – Nil
- Financial – Developers (Barratts) have spent approx £60,000 to provide Play Area.
- Legal – Removal of the Play Area would be contrary to the provision of the Section 106 Agreement, and adopted planning policies.
- Corporate – Nil
- Risk Management – Play Area subject to Risk Assessment reports as are all other City Council Play Areas.
- Equality Issues – Could be argued that removal of Play Area would deprive children of facilities which are in existence on other estates.
- Environmental – Nil

- **Crime and Disorder –** The police have been regularly called to this site, but the Situation regarding vandalism has now improved, in line with the take-over of the Play Area by the City Council.

The City Council will monitor the site for the next few months.

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TO: Chris Wright - Leisure Department, Civic Centre

CC: Andy Weeks - Development Officer, Neighbourhood Watch,
Councillors - Michael Boaden, Terry Scarborough, Anne Glendinning.

FROM: The Residents of Kingfisher Park Estate, Carlisle

Please find enclosed a Petition by the Residents of the above estate, for the play area to be cleared and put back to grass. The reason being that it has become apparant that the childrens playarea at Kingfisher Park has become an assembly point for teenagers at night time.

This area is now associated with under age drinking, excessive noise, broken bottles, beer cans, condoms and vandals who wilfully damage property.

They also take dog feaces out of the bins and smear it down the slides. The swings are out of order and the slides are out of use due to the mess and broken glass all over the area it is a no go area for the children who's age group it was created for.

The Police have been called out to this area on numerous occassions and it has been noted that up to 40 teenagers can gather at this area at any one time.

Please note that some of the children have signed this petition and expressed a wish for an all weather football pitch to be created instead away from the houses.

We would also like to point out that before the footpath and playarea were constructed a petition was forwarded to Carlisle City Council appealing for this not to be built as everyone knew what would happen, unfortunately this was rejected.

Some of the residents would like the park to be kept on the condition that the night time problem with teenagers is sorted out by the relevant authorities.

No of Houses	Area	For	Against	No Comment	Out or Empty
72	Walkmill Crescent	45	5	2	20
12	Falcon Mews	9	-	-	3
25	Whimbrell Drive	19	3	-	3
17	Finch Close	10	-	-	7
22	Curlew Walk	7	2	-	13
27	Heron Drive	12	2	-	5 13
175 total		102	12	2	59

156 names in total of which 12 are against the play area being removed