
REPORT TO:	FINANCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	18TH OCTOBER 2012	CATEGORY: OPEN DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	MARK ALFLAT	
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SUBJECT:	FINANCING OF CRAZY GOLF FACILITY AT ROSLISTON FORESTRY CENTRE	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ROSLISTON	TERMS OF REFERENCE: FM01

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Committee approve use of the Rosliston FC café sinking fund for repairs to the Crazy Golf Facility at the site.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To explain the poor condition of the Crazy Golf facility at Rosliston FC and make the case to utilise the Rosliston café sinking fund to effect remedial works.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 A custom made crazy golf facility illustrating the life cycle of a bird was installed at Rosliston Forestry Centre (RFC) using external funding approximately 4 years ago. The frame and flooring of the holes was made from timber which has rotted and become unsafe. Negotiations were held with the designer and installer but no compensation was forthcoming as warranty had run out before problems appeared and neither contractor was willing to accept responsibility or liability. The facility has now been out of commission either partly or fully for over a year. It is prominently sited near to the visitor centre and a main path and its poor condition and failure is both an embarrassment and financial loss of approx £4,000pa to the site partners.
- 3.2 The RFC Partnership executive believe it is a priority that the facility is repaired and brought back into use to protect the reputation of the centre and restore the income to the site. However there are insufficient funds within the centre's annual maintenance budget to pick up a repair of this size and remedial work of this nature would not secure external funding.
- 3.3 In considering the options to finance the works the executive considered that utilising the RFC café sinking fund would provide an effective solution.
- 3.4 When setting up the tenancy agreement with the existing café operator it was agreed that rent would be paid as both a base rent and % share of turnover. The share of turnover was set up as a separate "café sinking fund" outside the centre's main

business plan and for use in managing the Council's responsibilities in relation to the lease e.g. windows, roof, external decoration etc. In fact the fund has been used to replace all the café windows.

- 3.5 The sinking fund arrangement has been in place since 2008 and accumulated £34,523.80. Nearly £11,000 was utilised in replacing the windows leaving a balance of £23,560 with an anticipated £10,000 of further income for the period Sept 2011 to Sept 2012 anticipated in the near future.
- 3.6 There are no café works pending or projected so it is considered that using £14,000 from the fund to finance the crazy golf works is no risk to the authority.
- 3.7 Different options and estimates have been sought by the partners to undertake the necessary works and the Best Value quote is for £14,000. The quote includes for concrete bases rather than timber and is a much more robust design necessitating less maintenance.
- 3.8 It is therefore requested that £14,000 is sanctioned as a contribution from the café sinking fund towards the Crazy Golf remedial works. The intention is to undertake the works asap to improve the site appearance and have the feature ready for the main season next year.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The use of £14,000 will reduce the café sinking fund but it retains enough balance to cover all needs and will continue to be replenished annually.

6.0 Corporate Implications

- 6.1 RFC contributes significantly to the Council's Lifestyle Choices theme and the strategic objective of improving the health and well being of our residents and communities.

7.0 Community Implications

- 7.1 RFC contributes significantly to the Sustainable community strategy and in particular the themes of healthier communities and children and young people.

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 None