

REPORT TO:	HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 7
DATE OF MEETING:	3rd February, 2011	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	STUART BATCHELOR, ext 5820, batchelors@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Relocation of Maurice Lea Memorial Park Bowls Pavilion	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Gresley	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS07

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 To approve the principle of relocating the Maurice Lea Memorial Park Bowls Pavilion to Gresley Old Hall and subject to a feasible project recommend to the Finance and Management Committee at a later date to agree to this disposal of a Council asset.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To provide the background to the proposal to relocate the Maurice Lea Memorial Park Bowls Pavilion to Gresley Old Hall and seek members approval to recommend this proposal to transfer an asset.

3.0 Detail

Background

- 3.1 In 1995 the Council obtained planning permission to erect the Pavilion with installation complete by March 1996. The Council contributed £20,873 towards the provision of the facility which was partnership funding towards a grant of £10,500 from Foundation for Sports & the Arts, applied for by Maurice Lea Memorial Park Flat Green Bowls Club. The Club used the building for approximately 8 years until they ceased to exist in 2005 and the Pavilion has been unused since. Alternative bowls clubs were approached to take on the building, to no success and attempts were made to relocate it to bowls clubs at Eureka Park and the Gresley Old Hall but failed due to a lack of funding. Since the pavilion was originally built it has always been a focus for anti social behaviour, this particularly being the case in recent years since its appearance has degraded due to lack of use/ownership. The decision was taken in 2009 to try and get a user or consider demolition of the building.
- 3.2 Consequently the building was widely advertised to community groups and organisations for a long term use of the building. A local Playgroup expressed interest, but as the building is on common land and SDDC has no legal title to the land, it cannot issue a lease which would in any way prevent public access to the building. Consequently the Playgroup were not prepared to use the building without more secure tenure.

Proposal

- 3.3 Since November the Council has been working with Gresley Old Hall to look at how they can develop their outdoor space through the use of S106 money allocated for their site as part of the housing development in Gresley. One of the proposals is to provide a new pavilion for the bowls club based at the Hall, so that they could attract new members.
- 3.4 To save on the expensive provision of a new build pavilion and save the cost of the likely demolition of the Maurice Lea Pavilion the obvious proposal appeared to be that the Maurice Lea Park Bowls Pavilion be relocated to Gresley Old Hall with costs of removal, reinstatement and relocation being taken from the S106 funds.
- 3.5 This proposal is now being considered with issues such as planning, building integrity etc being evaluated. If the Committee agree to the principle of the transfer then Church Lukas Consultants, who are working on behalf of Gresley Old Hall, will complete the Planning Permission process and the feasibility works for the relocation. Once this is complete to the satisfaction of all parties a final report would be presented to Finance and Management Committee requesting the formal disposal of the asset by transferring the ownership and responsibility for the relocation to the Gresley Old Hall.
- 3.6 In terms of the Maurice Lea Memorial Park there will be the continued use of the bowling greens as normal. These are managed from the existing Park Keepers Office. Development work to promote bowling will be a focus of the 'Parklife' project with new participants being directed towards other clubs, and in particular the Gresley Old Hall Club, so that they can become part of a sustainable group. The space left by the removal of the Pavilion will be landscaped.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The cost of transport, reinstatement of land at Maurice Lea Memorial Park and installation at Gresley Old Hall will be funded from the Section 106 funds allocated for the development of the outdoor facilities at that site.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 The disposal of the Pavilion will support the Council's policy of passing control of council facilities over to community ownership/management. The transfer will also support the Corporate Priority of Lifestyle Choice through the provision of bowling opportunities and club membership at the Gresley Old Hall facility.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.0 The pavilion has not been used by a community group for many years and despite attempts to resolve this the facility is no longer suitable for use in the Park.

7.0 Conclusion

- 7.1 The proposed transfer of the bowls pavilion will ensure a new use is given to a building which has no community value in the Maurice Lea Park and is a regular target for anti social behaviour. The location of the pavilion at Gresley Old Hall will help secure increased participation in bowling by the local community.

8.0 Background Papers