
REPORT TO:	HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	28 AUGUST 2003	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	CHRIS MASON EXT 5794	DOC: \\thomas\data\cent_serv\committee reports\housing & community services\28 aug 2003\add works- swad woodland forest park.doc
SUBJECT:	FURTHER IMPROVEMENT WORKS – SWADLINCOTE WOODLAND FOREST PARK	REF: CM
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	WOODVILLE, SWADLINCOTE, GRESLEY, NEWHALL, MIDWAY, HARTSHORNE	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That Members note the contents of the report and approve the way forward.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To outline to Members, proposals to provide additional surfaced footpaths to improve access to the adventure play area and to incorporate within this new linkage, a distinctive play feature.

3.0 Executive Summary

3.1 Grant aid from Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN) and the allocation of finance in the Council's capital programme allows for further enhancement work to be undertaken at Swadlincote Woodland Forest Park. It is intended to allocate the money on infrastructure improvements (new surfaced footpaths) and on the provision of a new, exciting play feature (artificial boulder). The requirement for this work was originally identified in a list of additional works that were excluded when Single Regeneration Budget 2 (SRB2) ended. It is intended to have the works completed by the end of October 2003.

4.0 Detail

4.1 In this year's Capital Programme, £25,000 has been allocated for 'access improvements' at Swadlincote Woodland Forest Park. 'Access Improvements' were included in 2001, in a wish list of disparate projects that could not be funded when SRB2 ended.

4.2 The total value of these additional works was in the region of £195,500. At the time the Woodland's Project Management team identified the provision of the artificial boulder and the footpath link to the access road, together with the provision of additional boardwalks and decking as their highest priority.

- 4.3 Various applications were made for external funding and it was possible to finance boardwalk and decking provision over the balancing pond late in 2001/02 using a £5,000 grant from The National Forest. Success was also achieved in 2002/03 when WREN allocated £25,000 towards a project to provide new footpath links and a new distinctive play feature at the site (artificial climbing boulder). Unfortunately, the offer of grant aid and the allocation of partnership funding came too late for one large project to be delivered in 2002/03.
- 4.4 Faults Perry Culley and Rech (FPCR), who undertook all of the original site design work, have been commissioned to design, procure and supervise the work on site.
- 4.5 The individual elements of this project together with budget estimates are as follows:

Item	Cost
Climbing boulder with wet pour safety surfacing	£22,000
Ground investigation with trial pit to establish bearing capacity for installation of climbing boulder	£500
Tarmac footpath with timber edging (530 m ² @£25)	£13,250
2 no. benches adjacent to climbing boulder (£600 each)	£1200
Landscape Consultant / contract administration fees	£6,500
Total	£43,450

- 4.6 Details of the climbing boulder are attached at Annexe A. At Annexe B is a plan that identifies the proposed layout of the new surfaced footpaths together with the location of the climbing boulder. The new footpath will provide an important link from one of the main areas of housing areas to the adventure play area.
- 4.7 In normal circumstances this project would have been managed through the awarding of one main contract. However, the wide diversity of the tasks involved makes this very difficult. It is therefore intended to seek separate tenders for the footpath and specialised play provision work.

4.8 The proposed timetable for the work is as follows:

Task	Date Complete
Design / specification of works and preparation of tender package	1 August 2003
Tendering	22 August 2003
Start on site	15 September 2003
Completion of Works	31 October 2003

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 When awarding grant aid, WREN require applicants to name a third party to reimburse 11% of the grant awarded. This is linked to how landfill operators claim their allowance from the government and also includes a compulsory levy to ENTRUST and support to the running costs of the Environmental Body.

5.2 WREN is happy for this contribution to come from the Council and permission is therefore sought to allocate £2750 from the Council's contribution to the scheme to cover this cost. The net impact of this is that the following finance is available to fund the project:

WREN £25k grant less 11% environment levy: **£22,250**

Council's contribution, £25k less payment of levy: **£22,250**

Total **£44,500**

6.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 The delivery of this project makes a contribution to one of the Council's key aims to 'Support the development of the National Forest'.

7.0 Community Implications

7.1 Completion of this project will make a key feature of the site (Adventure Play Area & toilet block) more easily accessible. The provision of the artificial boulder was always viewed as innovative provision and an attraction for older children. Having the finance available now makes it possible to deliver this important provision.

8.0 Conclusions

8.1 The delivery of this project will further enhance what is already a well-used community facility in the heart of the Swadlincote urban area.

9.0 Background Papers

9.1 Budget Costings – Boulder and Footpath Works, 18th July 2003, FPCR.

