



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

## AREA PANEL 1 27 OCTOBER 2004

Report of Director of Commercial Services

### New Facilities – Cambridge Street/Willowcroft Recreation Ground

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 Back in 2002 a pizza evening was held with the young people of Spondon, involving the Police, Youth Service and Councillor Evonne Berry. This meeting identified the desire to have a skateboard facility in the area.

In 2004 an application to the Small Change Fund from Spondon Youth initiative was successful. £30,000 was approved, for youth facilities in the Asterdale Estate area of Spondon. Additional funding from Section 106 (Station Road development), the Youth Service and a donation by Derbyshire Constabulary was also secured.

Cambridge Street/Willowcroft Recreation Ground was chosen because of the restrictions and constraints of the funders. For example Section 106 could only be spent in the area close to Station Road and Small Change could only be spent in the Asterdale Estate area.

This left only two areas of open space that could be considered. These being Cambridge Street/Willowcroft Recreation Ground and Gravel Pit Lane Recreation Ground.

Officers consulted with the Police, Community Watch Patrol and the Anti Social Behaviour Team to determine the most appropriate site. Feedback from this resulted in the selection of Cambridge Street/Willowcroft Recreation Ground.

This site was chosen because of its accessibility, opportunity for surveillance from surrounding roads, scope to improve and enhance the existing the facilities and economies of scale.

A consultation evening was held 26 May at the Community Centre with young people to identify what youth facilities they would like on the site. 54 young people attended and preference was expressed for a sports wall and skateboarding equipment.

A consultation evening for the local residents was held on Wednesday 2 June to present the ideas suggested by the young people. Residents highlighted some concerns about the type of equipment preferred and potential problems. At this meeting it was agreed that further consultation and an on site meeting would be carried out on Cambridge Street/Willowcroft Recreation Ground in August 2004.

Subsequently a petition was submitted to Area Panel 1 on 7 July 2004 with 128 signatures opposing the proposals to install youth facilities on Cambridge Street/Willowcroft Recreation Ground.

The August consultation involved sending out over 400 letters and comment cards to homes around the proposed site and over 300 letters/cards to the local shops, the library and community centre. Posters advertising the on site consultation event were displayed in prominent positions throughout the area.

Residents were given the opportunity to attend the on site consultation before having to return the comments card on 16 August.

The on site consultation event was held on 2 August and the invitation was to anyone interested in the proposals to come and look at the proposed options and talk to officers involved with the project. Representatives from the Police, Community Watch Patrol, and Youth Service were also present.

The closing date for comments cards was Monday 16 August. All the comments from the exhibition and the information from the petition have been analysed and indicate that 22 residents from the area immediately surrounding the Recreation Ground were opposed to the installation of youth facilities being installed. 15 residents within the immediate area were supportive of the youth facilities being installed, with the majority preferring option 1, which included the wheeled sports area and sports wall located so they can be seen from the Cambridge Street entrance and the play area moved to a central location.

## PROPOSED ACTION

2.1 That the Area Panel notes the contents of the attached consultation report.

2.2 It is recommended:

- that a sports wall is installed, the old playground removed and replaced with a new one in a central location and the football pitch moved slightly to allow the construction of the new play area and that no wheeled sports facility is located on Cambridge Street/Willowcroft Recreation Ground.
- that we carry out further consultation with residents around Gravel Pit Lane Recreation Ground with a view to installing a sports wall on that site.

2.3 It is also proposed that Parks will look at the provision of wheeled sports facilities as part of the strategic provision of outdoor youth facilities in the City to be presented as a report to Cabinet.

2.4 A letter will be sent to the lead petitioner and all the people who have contributed to the consultation to provide an update and confirmation of the decision taken regarding the recommendation in 2.2 above.

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| <b>Background papers:</b>            | None                     |                                  |
| <b>List of appendices:</b>           | None                     |                                  |

