



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

AREA PANEL 2
17 JANUARY 2007

ITEM 7c

Report of the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Direct Services

The Condition of the Grounds and Facilities at Alvaston Park

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 In response to the specific issues raised in the petition and subsequent meetings with residents, the following points are made;
- 1.2 **Potholes in tarmac around Lake.** The worst potholes have now been repaired. Ideally the whole wearing course needs replacing but this would have to form part of a capital scheme of improvements to the park.
- 1.3 **Vehicular access onto grass areas.** Putting in 6 bollards as has been suggested would not stop vehicles from having access to the grass. To put bollards along the full length of the access road would cost £10,000, which is money that we have not got. Even with bollards in place this would not prevent access for motorbikes and mopeds, which are more frequently driven across the grassed areas than cars.
- 1.4 **Rangers/Toilets.** It is only practical to open the toilets when there is a ranger on site. Recent experience on the park indicates that opening the toilets without a ranger presence would result in vandalism. Within existing budgets we cannot increase the ranger presence and open the toilets for longer periods.

PROPOSED ACTION

- 2.1 **Friends Group.**
Over the last couple of months we have been working with local residents to set up a 'Friends' group through which the ideas and concerns of residents can be raised and ways of tackling them can be discussed. The group has already chosen its Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. The group's next open meeting is on 23 January 2007 at Southgate Youth and Community Centre, Brighton Rd, Alvaston. Proposed Activities – The group have already identified a wide range of activities, which they would like to be involved with to make improvements on the park. These include events, tree planting, litter picking and writing applications for funding to organisations such as the National Lottery and Area Panel 2.
- 2.2 **Capital Schemes;**
Changing Rooms - Council officers have been working on a scheme to replace the vandalised changing rooms. Architects have been appointed to draw up proposals for a building which will include changing rooms, club room, public toilets and rangers office. These proposals will be used to make bids for funding and if the bids are successful work on site should commence in 2008.
Play Area - The play area is proposed for refurbishment as one of the contributions to local services made by the developers of the Wilmorton College site. A

contribution will also be made from the Councils ongoing capital programme for play area refurbishment. The timing of the work will depend on progress with the College site – currently a date in 2008/9 seems most likely.

- 2.3 **Anti-Social Behaviour**– We will continue to work with the Police and ASB Team to reduce problems with anti-social behaviour on the park. Improvements to the park facilities with a resultant increase in usage of the park can also be expected to contribute to a reduction in anti-social behaviour.

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	None