



## EXECUTIVE

YOU ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE TO BE HELD IN THE PRINCIPAL COMMITTEE ROOM, THE DEANE HOUSE, BELVEDERE ROAD, TAUNTON ON WEDNESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2006 AT 18:15.

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### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies
2. Public Question Time
3. Declaration of Interests
4. French Weir Park Development Funding  
Report of Leisure Development Manager (attached)
5. The Provision of Sports Pavilions in Taunton  
Report of Sports Services Manager (attached)

The following item is likely to be considered after the exclusion of the press and public because of the likelihood that exempt information would otherwise be disclosed relating to the Clause set out below of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

6. RDA Funding for Project Taunton  
Report of Strategic Director (attached)

G P DYKE  
Member Services Manager  
07 November 2006





Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to the discussion. Lift access to the main committee room on the first floor of the building is available from the main ground floor entrance. Toilet facilities, with wheelchair access, are also available. There is a time set aside at the beginning of the meeting to allow the public to ask questions



An induction loop operates to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter. If you require any further information, please contact Greg Dyke on:



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## **REPORT OF THE LEISURE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

(This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Clark)

This report addresses the corporate priorities of Environment, Economy and Health

### **FRENCH WEIR PARK: MATCH FUNDING FOR LOTTERY BID**

#### 1 Purpose of the report

To explain the capital investment planned for French Weir Park, and to seek the approval for the submission of an application for a Project Planning Grant from Heritage Lottery and BIG Lottery Funds.

#### 2 Summary

Officers consider that it may be possible to secure a lottery grant to add to Section 106 funds for improving French Weir Park. A development project with the community over the last year has resulted in an active Friends Group and a preliminary development plan which needs further refinement and development. This work may be funded by the Lottery and an application for such a Project Planning Grant is to be made in November subject to Members approval.

#### 3 Introduction

French Weir Park is in need of updating to meet the needs of its community in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and to play its part in aspirations to develop the river frontage for public use throughout the town. The development plan was presented to Health and Leisure Panel in February.

#### 4 The Project

There is an active Friends Group in the park which is supporting and helping officers to prepare a bid to the HLF/BIG Lottery. The bid will be for funds to improve and update the park's infrastructure, extend the range of facilities provided, increase the number and types of park users and increase the involvement of the community in its management.

The following are the main elements of the project: -

- Play areas
- Furniture
- Paths
- River decking
- The toilet building
- Railings & Lighting
- Entrances
- Bridge Improvements
- Development Costs
- Project Management

Outline plans for the bid have been agreed with the Friends over the last year. To develop the plans further, to the standard required by Lottery Funders for the main grant, will need the services of various experts. This is estimated at costing £32,000. The HLF/BIG Lottery may fund 75% of this cost as a Project Planning Grant, the remainder can be found within existing budgets.

## 5 Funding

In order to make this initial application, HLF/BIG Lottery requires assurance that the Council will be able to fund its share of the costs of both the project planning costs and final project costs. The total cost of the scheme (project planning plus capital works) is estimated at £900,000. The total share for the Council is estimated to be £225,000 (25%). The implementation project would probably start in 2009 so not all of the funding would need to be made available at the outset.

### 5.1 Revenue

The council's share of the project planning stage costs are around £8,000 (25%) which as mentioned above will come from existing resources for parks development projects.

### 5.2 Capital

The Council's capital contribution for the main project will come entirely from developer contributions to local recreational facilities (Section 106). At present the Council already holds a total of £50,616 of Section 106 money for this area of town

There is a further £144,240 due from other nearby developments which are under construction, which will be received shortly. This will give a total of £194,856 towards the Council's share of the project costs.

This leaves a shortfall in funding of £22,144. In order to bridge this gap there are further Section 106's for local sites where work has not yet begun (or is at an early stage) to the value of £108,000. It is expected that by the time the project is ready to proceed some of these agreements will be in place and available to fund the complete scheme. If this is not the case, this could be funded from the annual capital budget for play equipment in parks.

Although not key for the delivery of the original planned works these additional sums may add to the scope of the project or be available for any short falls that occur by the time of implementation.

5.3 Should the application to the Lottery be unsuccessful, the development plans will be scaled back in accordance with the available Section 106 funding. In this case a revised scheme will be presented to the Executive for approval.

## 6 Financial Implications

At present the Council does not have sufficient capital resources of its own to proceed with this scheme independently. It is therefore entirely reliant on

S106 monies and an application to the Lottery for funding. Should the Lottery application be unsuccessful then the works will only be carried out to the value of the available secured S106 monies.

The inclusion of a new scheme within the capital programme, such as this, is a supplementary estimate and as such requires approval from both the Executive and Full Council. This is required even if the project is entirely funded from external sources.

## 7 Recommendation

Members are recommended to:

1. approve the submission of an application for a Project Planning Grant for French Weir Park, followed by Stage 1 and Stage 2 applications for full project funding and
2. approve the allocation of the Section 106 sums arising in the vicinity of the park for its development and improvement.
3. Request that, subject to a successful bid to the Lottery, Full Council adds this project to the approved capital programme (project cost of £900,000) and notes that this is funded entirely from external sources, including S106 monies already held.

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## **Background Papers**

Health & Leisure Review Panel 16/02/06 French Weir Development Plan

## **TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE - November 2006.**

### **REPORT OF THE SPORTS SERVICES MANAGER**

This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Clark

This matter addresses the Corporate Priorities of Crime, Health and Delivery.

### **PROVIDING SPORTS PAVILIONS IN TAUNTON**

#### **Executive Summary:**

TDBC needs to replace the wooden sports pavilions on Hamilton Gault and Galmington Playing Fields. They are in poor condition and no longer provide fitting facilities for sport in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

There is a possibility of securing significant funds from the Football Foundation to replace these facilities with the balance being found from S106 agreements for sport.

The Football Association support replacing these pavilions particularly when aligned to the Clubs that use them adopting the FA Charter Standard Award.

The Executive is asked to consider the progress made on replacing these pavilions and to approve continuing work towards this goal.

#### **1. Purpose Of The Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the need for capital investment in two ageing facilities. To explain how Officers intend to secure funds and to seek Executive approval for an application to the Football Foundation.

#### **2 Background**

- 2.1 The Council provides sports pavilions on the Hamilton Gault and Galmington Playing Fields. Chiefly football teams use these on Saturdays and Sundays. Both adults and children, male and female, use them.

The pavilions are several decades old and of wooden construction. They are prone to both malicious and accidental damage (from footballs). The facilities provided for both players and officials are poor. Access is difficult for disabled users and the general standard of provision falls well below current expectations.

#### **3 Football Pitch Pricing & Charter Standard**

- 3.1 The cost of preparing and repairing a football pitch for a game is £68 (DLO figures). The charge for an adult team to use a pitch for the 2006/07 season is £34 (and half of this for juniors). The Council has historically and consistently set the charge below that of the maintenance cost to support healthy activities.
- 3.2 In December 2002 the Council agreed to a detailed review of Parks and Sports Services fees and charges. This was to set up an effective and equitable policy, which contributes to the Council's vision and service priorities.

An Issues Paper was presented in July 2003 that outlined the background to charging policies in the public sector and the guiding principles as set out by the Audit Commission. In September 2003 the then Lead Councillor agreed the following principles for a charging policy for leisure: -

- Adopt policies to maximise accessibility for all sections of the community, irrespective of income and ethnicity;
  - Charges should be subsidised based on (in) ability to pay rather than status.
  - Charges for clubs and organisations that use Council facilities should be set based on the activity fulfilling corporate objectives.
  - Promote services in terms of healthy lifestyles particularly for older people and the financially disadvantaged. In those areas where there is a preponderance of these groups seek to improve access by providing facilities within these communities.
- 3.3 Since the Issues Paper and the resulting agreement on the principles for a future charging policy at the HLRP in July 2005 it was agreed there should be widespread consultation with the clubs that use the Council's facilities.

There have been several meetings with clubs and with the Football League Secretaries where the principles were outlined.

Most representatives support the idea of rewarding organisations based on good practice.

- 3.4 The Council adopted a new charging structure for the 2006/07 season as a result of these discussions. Clubs will pay the entire cost of providing the pitch (£68) unless they meet certain criteria that help to deliver the Council's Corporate Priorities. Namely the Clubs will have to commit to gaining the 'FA Charter Standard' by the end of the 2006/07 season.
- 3.5 The Football Association has introduced a quality scheme called 'Charter Standard'. Both junior and adult clubs can gain this award and this is the benchmark that TDBC has adopted for Clubs to receive the largest 'discounts'.

For junior clubs the standard includes issues such as ensuring that any adults coaching and managing young people have both CRB checks and have gained



a basic coaching award. The adult standard is awarded to clubs that adopt FA codes of conduct (particularly about behaviour of players and staff), have First Aid Qualifications and who have coaches with a recognised qualification.

At both levels Clubs applying for the awards must be constituted, be affiliated to their Governing Body (often through the local league structure) and offer meaningful discounts for those on 'means-tested benefits'. All clubs must adopt positive attitudes to ensuring equality of opportunity.

#### **4. The Link Between Pricing and Pavilions!**

4.1 The Football Foundation manages substantial funds in partnership with the FA. Historically it has been difficult for a Council to access these funds, as the users of the facilities in question are required to prepare football 'development plans' and to date clubs have had no incentive to do so.

4.2 The Sports Services Manager and the Somerset Football Development Manager have met with the Clubs that use the sites and have outlined the Charter Standard proposal. Clubs are eager to improve and to develop and will receive support during the next 6 months to apply for Charter Standard.

Because of this the Football Foundation have suggested that they will consider an application for up to 75% of the cost of providing new pavilions at Hamilton Gault & Galmington Playing Fields.

4.3 The English Football Association view this initiative with much interest and see it as a model of Good Practice. The link between pricing, Charter Standard and improved facilities is clear. The FA are encouraged that those Clubs who are willing to commit to developing for the benefit of the game stand to be rewarded through improved facilities and 'reduced' prices.

#### **5. The Proposals, Timescale and Financial Aspects**

5.1 The proposed pavilions have been designed and a Planning Application has been submitted. It is hoped that permission might be granted early in 2007 at the same time that an application is made to the Football Foundation for support.

The Football Foundation will reply after 30 weeks and if successful it is expected that work on-site will start in the autumn of 2007.

5.2 We estimate the cost of providing each of the 2 pavilions will be about £400,000. It is hoped and expected to secure up to £300,000 through the Football Foundation for each facility.

TDBC does not have enough capital resources to continue with these schemes without external help. It is reliant on funding from the Football Foundation.

The balance needed will be taken from S106 agreements relating to sport in the Taunton area.

- 5.3 The inclusion of a new scheme within the capital programme is in effect a supplementary estimate and as such requires Executive and Full Council approval. This is understood to be the case even though the project will be entirely funded through external sources.

## **6. Conclusions**

- 6.1 The incentive to clubs to earn the FA Charter Standard is great. It is expected that most clubs playing in the local leagues will achieve the standard by September 2007.

The benefits are that parents of young footballers can make an informed choice about where their child plays. Those clubs with the award will be able to show that they provide a safe, well-organised environment that is open to all. The clubs benefit from the new pavilions provided by TDBC and can apply for further grants from the Football Foundation.

Clubs will pay less to play if they are Charter Standard Clubs.

- 6.2 The FA is supportive as the Charter Standard Award is a sign that football clubs are committing to improvements and are taking a stand against some of the poor behaviour that is becoming prevalent in the game (through the Clubs adopting FA Codes Of Conduct).

The FA views the scheme as 'best practice' and are keen to see the outcomes.

- 6.3 The benefits to TDBC are that 'discounts' are only awarded to clubs delivering quality services to people in a safe environment. Access for all is assured, as Charter Standard Clubs must have policies in place to enable those on low incomes to join in.

TDBC also benefits because it may attract substantial funding to replace ageing facilities. TDBC cannot attract this funding without the partnership with the Clubs and the FA.

- 6.4 Finally the local leagues are supportive because more of 'their' clubs earn the award and commit to improved standards of organisation and behaviour. League Secretaries have pointed out that in future their leagues may only be open to clubs that hold the FA Charter Standard.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are recommended to: -

- 7.1 Note the work to date and the future proposals to progress the project. Members are asked to seek clarification on any of the issues in the paper.
- 7.2 Approve the use of S106 sums for playing fields and sport to 'match fund' the application.

- 7.3 Request that, subject to a successful bid to the Football Foundation, Full Council adds this project to the approved capital programme (project costs of £800,000) and notes that this is funded entirely from external sources, including S106 monies already held.

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**Background Papers**

HLRP Minutes                      28/07/05                      Charges Review For Sports Pitches