

## Southwick Green Play Area Refurbishment

### Report by the Director for Communities

#### 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks the approval from the Cabinet Member for Environment for the refurbishment of the existing play area at Southwick Green, utilising Capital funding allocated in the 2014/15 Capital Investment Programme.

#### 2.0 Background

- 2.1 Southwick Green Play Area was last upgraded in 1999 and is recognised as being in need of modernisation. The local community has increased in size and the play area has not been added to or been refurbished to keep pace with the local communities current needs and aspirations.
- 2.2 A local group, Southwick Green Community Group who have campaigned for an improvement to the play area have supported Officers from the Parks & Foreshore section in consulting with the local community over the improvements they would like to see in the play area's refurbishment. The Group have successfully secured additional funding of £2,500 from Shoreham Port Authority to further enhance the play area.
- 2.3 Children from the local Glebe School have also been involved throughout the process.
- 2.4 Six play companies were invited to tender for the project, with four companies returning a tender submission for consideration.
- 2.5 Consultation events displaying the four companies returned designs were held on the Green and nearby Southwick Square. Both events were well attended and offered local residents the opportunity to vote for their favourite design and also for their comments on the proposed refurbishment.
- 2.6 Following this, the three leading designs were displayed at the Glebe school for the children to add their votes and thoughts into the process.
- 2.7 Results from the voting and a summary of the comments are attached as Appendix 1.

- 2.8 A further £2,500 from the Parks & Foreshore section's revenue budget is also planned to be allocated to the project, making the total amount for the project £80,000.
- 2.9 There was less than 5% in votes between two of the companies designs at the end of the voting process. Due to this closeness, these two companies have been provided with the comments received in relation to their submitted designs and asked to resubmit an updated scheme taking the comments into account for final consideration by the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014.
- 2.10 The two play companies have also been informed of the revised budget total of £80,000.
- 2.11 It is proposed to choose the winning design following this date by a panel made up from Parks & Foreshore Officers and members of the Community Group.

### **3.0 Proposal**

- 3.1 It is proposed to replace the ageing play equipment using the Capital funding of £75,000 with play equipment which better meets the needs of the Community and offers a challenging and stimulating play experience for all local users and visitors to Southwick.
- 3.2 It is also proposed to use the £2,500 donated from Shoreham Port Authority on this project.
- 3.3 It is proposed to allocate £2,500 from the Parks and Foreshore section's revenue budgets towards this project.
- 3.4 It is proposed to choose the winning design following this date by a panel made up from Parks & Foreshore Officers and members of the Community Group.
- 3.5 It is proposed to inform the local residents of the final design chosen through the local Ward Councillors Hilditch and Metcalfe.
- 3.6 It is proposed to appoint the Engineers section to project manage this play area refurbishment.

### **4.0 Legal**

- 4.1 Southwick Green is designated as a Village Green. There are no legal obstructions to the revamping of the existing play area providing the play area is not expanded from its current dimensions.
- 4.2 The equipment will not require planning consent to be required for this project as equipment selected will not exceed dimensions that would otherwise require a planning application to be submitted.

### **5.0 Financial implications**

- 5.1 Southwick Green play area improvements are estimated at £80,000 including Engineers fees.

- 5.2 The approved 2014/15 Capital Investment Programme includes a budget provision of £75,000 for the play area improvements at Southwick Green.
- 5.3 That £2,500 is allocated to the scheme from the Parks & Foreshore section's revenue budgets.
- 5.4 That the £2,500 contribution from the Shoreham Port Authority is added to the funding available for the scheme.

## **6.0 Recommendation**

- 6.1 The Cabinet Member for Environment is asked to approve the Southwick Green play area improvements funded from the £75,000 budget provision included in the 2014/15 Capital Investment Programme, plus note a further donation of £2,500 from Shoreham Port authority and an additional £2,500 allocated from the Parks & Foreshore's section revenue budgets, making a project total of £80,000.

## **Local Government Act 1972**

### **Background Papers:**

Appendix 1 – Consultation Results

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## Schedule of other matters

### **1.0 Council Priority**

1.1 Catching the Wave – Enterprising Communities

### **2.0 Specific Action Plans**

2.1 None

### **3.0 Sustainability Issues**

3.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

### **4.0 Equality Issues**

4.1 The play area will be designed to maximise the opportunities for inclusive play in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act.

### **5.0 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**

5.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

### **6.0 Human Rights Issues**

6.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

### **7.0 Reputation**

7.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

### **8.0 Consultations**

8.1 Consultation will take place with the Southwick Green Improvement Community Group, local parents, children, teachers and other bodies such as the Police and our Wellbeing colleagues.

### **9.0 Risk Assessment**

9.1 All play companies selected to tender must be members of the Association of Play Industries and supply and install equipment fully compliant with the relevant safety standards (BSEN 1176 and 1177) and provide a RoSPA certificate of compliance by way of a Post Installation inspection prior to opening to the public.

### **10.0 Health & Safety Issues**

10.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

### **11.0 Procurement Strategy**

11.1 Matter considered and no issues identified

### **12.0 Partnership Working**

12.1 Matter considered and no issues identified