

**RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2009

title: REPAIRS TO RIVERSIDE FOOTPATH AND IMPROVEMENT WORKS,
BRUNGERLY PARK, CLITHEROE.

submitted by: JOHN C HEAP - DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIAL SERVICES

principal author: GRAHAM JAGGER – STREETSCENE MANAGER

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To present information to members regarding suggested improvement works to Brungerly Park and

1.2 To decide how to take the project forward

1.3 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Mission Statement & Vision shared with Local Strategic Partnership
 - An area with an exceptional environment & quality of life for all.
- Council Ambitions
 - to make peoples lives healthier and safer
 - to protect and enhance the environmental quality of our area
- Community Objective
 - None
- RVBC Environmental Charter
 - The promotion of public enjoyment and access to the countryside and to develop the most effective use of our own areas of public open space.
- Citizens Charter
 - None
- Council Priorities 2009/10
 - None

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 In August 2007 a section of the footpath that runs alongside and parallel to the River Ribble through Brungerly Park suffered a partial collapse, which necessitated the closure of the majority of this most popular walk through the park. The promoted route of the Ribble Way was diverted along a parallel path within the park.

2.2 Following the committee's decision to approve Option 3 as presented to them at the meeting of 4th November 2008 (Minute 537) an allocation of £50,000 from the Capital Budget in years 2009/10 and 2010/11 was made towards carrying out repairs to the path and associated tree works to minimise the risk of a further collapse of the path in the future. £3000 of the allocation was spent on investigative work carried out by Lancashire County Council on our behalf.

2.3 Following the committee's decision at the meeting of 14th July 2009 minute 180) to divert the route via alternative paths on a permanent basis and carry out other general improvements to the park environment including consideration of measures to improve wheeled access an assessment of the general condition of the park was undertaken with particular attention afforded to accessibility.

3.0 ISSUES

3.1 A menu of possible improvements to Brungerly Park is listed below with the estimated costs for each item.

Grading	Key	Description	Cost
Necessary	N1	Extend palisade fencing around closure points to prevent access to riverside walkway.	£500.00
	N2	Install palisade fencing around failure point.	£1,000.00
	N3	Remove weight from trees most in danger of falling into river to remove most imminent risk of further path collapses.	£600.00
	N4	Pile vegetation and tree waste from N3, N8 & N11 at each end of closure and around path failure.	£400.00
	N5	Repair 4 culverts along top path to reduce localised flooding and mud deposition on path.	£500.00
	N6	Repair culvert on Clitheroe Footpath No.2 and repair surface.	£500.00
	N7	Repair 2 culverts on bottom section of Clitheroe Footpath No.2.	£500.00
	N8	Clean out drainage channels of Trees, shrubs and debris between culverts on top and bottom paths.	£300.00
	N9	Reset stone steps on Clitheroe Footpath No.2 between upper and lower path OR redesign section to remove steps completely.	£500.00
	N10	Clean off mud and vegetation from Clitheroe Footpath No.26 & 2 (lower section) to Disabled fishing platform and modify timber edging to allow better drainage.	£200.00
	N11	Remove 1 x dangerous Copper Beech and crown reduce 1 x Copper Beech. Replace beech with 2 new standards.	£1,100.00
	N12	Pollard 1 x Ash and prune 1 x Ash	£200.00
		Sub -total	£5,000.00
Recommended	R1	Patch areas of failing tarmac on Clitheroe Footpath No.1	£750.00
	R2	Remove trees which are lifting tarmac surface of Clitheroe Footpath No. 1 and regrade affected areas with new tarmac surfacing.	£4,000.00
	R3	Resurface Clitheroe Footpath No.2 with tarmac, remove steps and replace with slopes where possible. Includes removal of large Ash tree.	£4,750.00
	R4	Install handrail on Clitheroe Footpath No.2 between upper and lower path.	£3,000.00
	R5	Update the Park Management plan in line with The Green Flag Award criteria.	Existing staff resources.
	R6	Remove long step and regrade tarmac to form continuous slope at junction of paths.	£1,000.00

Grading	Key	Description	Cost
	R7	Repair and replace where necessary timber edging along the second lower path.	£1,000.00
	R8	Install drainage on Clitheroe Footpath No.1 alongside stone wall.	£500.00
		Sub -total	£15,000.00
Desirable	D1	Improve views across Ribble by selective thinning and crown lifting.	£500.00
	D2	Resurface lower path to access onto disabled fishing platform with tarmac.	£3,000.00
	D3	Introduce a woodland management regime to protect existing habitat and improve amenity and wildlife value of the park. Encourage ground cover to assist in soil stabilisation on sloping ground.	Revenue budget implications. Assistance from new Friends group in applying for grants.
	D4	Introduce interpretive information through better signage and information. 2 Main entrance signs and 3-4 smaller ones throughout site to give information on wildlife and history of the site.	£4,000.00
		Sub-total	£7,500.00
		Capital Salaries	£2,500.00
		Total	£30,000.00
Recommended further improvements 2010/11			
		Install timber handrail on steep stepped path. Resurface stepped stone path – infill with concrete and apply non-slip surface. At present this stepped section is being washed out on an annual basis and requires regular attention. OR leave path as is and close off with timber fencing when maintenance becomes too costly.	
		Improve access to bathing hut fishing area by providing surfaced path and area.	
		Renovate and renew infrastructure and signage as required, introduce new as required. Standardize design of infrastructure in a style n keeping with the park.	
		Allow some open grassed areas to grow long (Reduce to 1 cut per year) and cut paths through sward to encourage wildflowers.	
		Repair other paths within park.	
		Make repairs to walls and steps throughout park.	
		Paint fencing and gates throughout park.	
		Replace bus shelters with more appropriate structures.	
		Introduce informal natural play facility.	
		Develop park leaflet.	
		Investigate whether toilets could be refurbished or have alternative use.	
		Support Friends Group activities.	
		Sub-Total	£20,000.00
		Total	£50,000.00

- 3.2 A number of local residents have expressed an interest in forming a Friends of Brungerly Park group and are keen to assist in the development of the park. The input from the group could take the form of applying for grant funding for improvement projects, carrying out practical conservation work, leading walks, organizing events. The core members of this proposed group are members of Clitheroe Civic Society and are experienced in what can be achieved. Following a recent recruitment drive they have a prospective membership of 80 and they will be holding their first meeting on 18th November 2009.
- 3.3 Lancashire Wildlife Trust have pledged their support for improving the park and are keen to support both the Council and the Friends Group in doing so.
- 4.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

Resources:- The project is included in the Engineering Services programme of work for 2009/10 and 2010/11. In terms of financial issues these are referred to at both 2.2 & 3.1 in this report. This investment in the park will not be worthwhile without revenue support to maintain the park's condition once this work is completed. As much work as possible will be carried out in house by the General Works and Grounds Maintenance staff.

Technical, Environmental and Legal:- The Council is the owner of the land on which the majority of the proposed works would take place. Lancashire Wildlife Trust lease the remaining areas of the park which would be affected by some of the proposed works and following initial consultation are keen to work in partnership with the Council to maximise the amenity and conservation value of the park. Some of the paths within the park are Public Footpaths as recorded on the Public Rights of Way Definitive Map and Statement. Lancashire County Council reimburse us 1/3 of the contribution to staffing costs if we match the amount allocated for maintenance of Rights of Way or if it is less a percentage thereof. In this case if all of the works identified are carried out that affect the Rights of Way within the park this would equate to approximately £7000. This money could be transferred into the maintenance budget which is almost entirely spent on employing the General Works team to carry out work required.

Political:- There are no known political issues arising out of this report.

Reputation:- The path that is affected has been a well used and much appreciated route through the park and its loss to the public may well have an effect on the Council's reputation as far as some people are concerned. The improvement to the park and adjacent Nature Reserve will enhance the Council's reputation and go some way to mitigating the loss of the riverside walkway.

- 5.0 RECOMMEND THAT COMMITTEE
- 5.1 Support the proposed list of work which will make significant improvements to Brungerly Park.
- 5.2 Endorse the creation of the new Friends Group.

JOHN C HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Background Papers

- Reports to Community Services Committee
- 14th July 2009 Minute 188

- 17th March 2009 Minute 895
- 4th November 2008 Minute 537
- 9th September 2008 Minute 380
- 3rd June 2008 Minute 84
- 15th January 2008 Minute 702

Reports to Policy & Finance Committee

- 10th June 2008 Minute 149(ii)

For further information please contact Martin Kersey on 01200 414530.