

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 8 NOVEMBER 2011
title: CALDERSTONES OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: CHRIS HUGHES, HEAD OF CULTURAL & LEISURE SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform members of proposals by the 'Friends of Whalley Moor Woodland' to carry out a second phase of work to the woodland area to the rear of the Calderstones estate in Whalley.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions:
 - to make people's lives safer and healthier
 - to protect and enhance the environmental quality of the area

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In March 2010, Committee was given an update on play projects delivered through funding secured from The Big Lottery. One of these schemes was the provision of a woodland play facility at Calderstones.
- 2.2 At the same time, a Friends Group was established to help design the facility, and to act as consultees in any future developments on the estate.
- 2.3 The play facility was one element in a range of work to create better use of the woodland. Not all elements were able to be funded, so it was agreed that the Friends should explore further avenues of external funding.
- 2.4 The play area opened in September 2010, and the Friends Group continued to seek grant aid to deliver elements that could not be funded as part of the first phase.

3 CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The Friends recently heard that they had been successful in securing £40,000 for further works on the site. Such work included an additional footpath and some interpretation / public art elements.
- 3.2 As the Friends have no security of tenure for the woodland, the Borough Council, as landowner, has to act as accountable body for the funds, ensuring they are spent as agreed in the grant offer. As such, the scheme would be brought into the Council's capital programme as a scheme fully funded by external resources. The scheme is reflected in the capital programme report shown elsewhere on the agenda.
- 3.3 The scheme has two distinct elements:
 - Footpath works
 - Interpretation and Public Art

The Friends have asked that we project-manage the footpath works, and they will find someone to help with the other elements.

3.4 Work on the paths is due to start shortly, followed by the other elements, with a view to having everything complete by Spring 2012.

4 **RISK ASSESSMENT**

Approval of this report may have the following implications:

- **Resources** – there are no direct financial implications to the report, apart from some in-kind costs associated with acting as accountable body. We will be able to charge fees to elements of the work that we will directly supervise. As we will be directly managing the funds on behalf of the Group, the scheme will be brought into our capital programme.
- **Technical, Environmental and Legal** – it is our responsibility to ensure that the grant is spent in accordance with the terms laid down by the Big Lottery.
- **Political** – the project demonstrates the Council's commitment to providing recreational opportunities.
- **Reputation** – the project has a clear commitment to supporting and empowering communities.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Notes the contents of the report and endorses the Friends of Whalley Moor Woodland's project.

5.2 Agrees to act as accountable body and includes the project in the current capital programme.

JOHN C HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

For further information, please ask for Chris Hughes 01200 414479