



Report for:	Cabinet
Date of meeting:	14 February 2017
Part:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Gadebridge Splash Park
Contact:	<p>Cllr Janice Marshall Portfolio Holder for Environment Services, Regulatory Services and Sustainability.</p> <p>Author/Responsible Officers :</p> <p>Joe Guiton Neighbourhood Action & Children's Services Team Leader</p> <p>David Austin Assistant Director Neighbourhood Delivery</p>
Purpose of report:	For Cabinet to review and approve the recommendations for a new Splash Park in Gadebridge Park.
Recommendations	<p>That Cabinet approve the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the project to install a Splash Park in Gadebridge Park. The location of the Splash Park and new Play Area are shown on the plan in Appendix 1 2. Approve the virement of capital underspend from the Play Area Improvements Project to the relocation of the Children's Play Area. 3. Approve the Splash Park opening in spring 2018 4. Delegate authority to the Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Delivery) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environmental, Sustainability and , Regulatory Services to - award the contract for the supply and construction of the Splash Park and Play

	Area.
Corporate Objectives:	Clean Safe and Enjoyable Environment – Splash Parks are very popular facilities which give families a safe enjoyable place to visit.
Financial Implications: 'Value For Money Implications'	<p>The recommendations ensure that the Council's commitment to installing new facilities is delivered in the most cost effective way.</p> <p>The draft capital programme for financial years 2016/17 to 2021/22, includes budgets of £1.5m phased over 2017/18 and 2018/19 (see section 5 below). These budgets are considered sufficient for the build of the splash park, infrastructure requirements such as pathways and signage, and renovation of the white bridge.</p> <p>The current capital programme has an approved budget of £490k for the Play Area Refurbishment scheme. As part of the budget monitoring process, an underspend of £151k has been identified on this project, which it is now proposed to re-allocate by budget virement to the Splash Park budget for installation of a new play area adjacent to the Splash Park.</p> <p>The underspend is a result of match funding, external grants and substitution of available s106 funding.</p> <p>Ongoing revenue costs - £50k per annum built in to medium term forecasts for financial year 2018/19 onwards made up of :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing – £35k • Chemicals and water testing – £7k • Maintenance - £8k <p>The works will be awarded on the basis of a competitive tendering process.</p>
Risk Implications	Project will be uploaded on to project reporting system to ensure that risks are managed.
Health And Safety Implications	<p>All play equipment will be constructed and installed to EN1176.</p> <p>The Splash Park will comply with current British Standards and relevant guidelines for water splash parks that have no standing water.</p>
Monitoring Officer/S.151	Monitoring Officer: The project officers must ensure that an appropriate form of supply and construction contract is completed prior to commencement of the works and

<p>Officer Comments</p>	<p>early consultation with the legal team is advised to ensure that this is completed in time for commencement.</p> <p>S.151 Comments</p> <p>The proposed scheme can be met from within existing approved budgets of £1m. The additional funds required to deliver the refurbishment of the play area can be funded subject to Members authorising the virement for the use of the £150k underspend from the Play Area Improvement project to this.</p> <p>Further works to consider the scale and cost of resurfacing and enlarging the existing car park will need to be brought back for member consideration once the Environment Agency confirm the requirements and potential implications of the relocation of the river have been considered and confirmed</p>
<p>Consultees:</p>	<p>The following stakeholders have been consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Manager – Procurement, Commissioning and Compliance • Public consultation • Planning & Regeneration • Clean, Safe & Green • Building Services • Estates • Resident Services • Environmental Health • Environment Agency

Background papers:	None
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 As part of the corporate plan commitment to “*deliver a clean, safe and enjoyable environment*”, Members are committed to funding a Splash Park and the refurbishment of the White Bridge in Gadebridge Park.
- 1.2 This report sets out the key points and recommendations for Cabinet to consider and approve.

2. Background

- 2.1 In 2004 the Gadebridge Park Paddling Pool was closed due to Health and Safety concerns and there has been a lot of public pressure for a new facility since the installation and/or refurbishment of other water facilities in neighbouring boroughs.
- 2.2 In 2012 a refurbishment project was started to review and improve the quality and play value of the 52 Children's Play Areas in the Borough. This project was extended and is due for completion in March 2017. Gadebridge Park Play Area was not included as part of the play area improvement project because of the possibility of delivering a Splash Park for Gadebridge.
- 2.3 The park offers recreational activities such as lawn green bowls, putting, croquet and petanque. The facilities are low in play value and in poor quality with an average attendance of 3 visitors an hour throughout the season.
- 2.4 The Environment Agency has also approached the council to improve the sustainability of the River Gade through Gadebridge Park. This will reduce flood risk by realigning the channel to a low gradient within the floodplain and improve sustainability by diverting spring flows into the main channel.

3. Location and Design

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Splash Park is located on the northern side of the bowls green within the existing putting and croquet facilities. This location is out of the flood risk zone and takes into consideration the river staying on its original course as shown in appendix 1. The proposed 1-in-50 flood event is if the river is relocated as per the Environment Agency proposal which would reduce the flood risk further.
- 3.2 The existing hedge that surrounds the recreational facilities creates a barrier to the park from the High Street entrances and to the games on offer. If the hedge is

removed it will make the Splash Park more visible and accessible from every direction.

- 3.3** The Splash Park surface will be made and finished in concrete with below ground features. This is to ensure that the views across the park are uninterrupted by large play structures. It is also less prone to vandalism and has the added benefit of when the Splash Park is not in use, it can be used for children to ride and skate on.
- 3.4** It is recommended that the design and colour of the Splash Park is sympathetic to its surroundings and take into consideration St Marys Church, Walled Gardens and Charter Tower. The concrete can be coloured to blend in with the colour of the listed structures.
- 3.5** The Splash Park requires a building to house the recirculation system. There is opportunity to include within that building additional seasonal toilets and a concessions kiosk. Splash Parks can attract up to 2000 people a day and the facilities in the park are not adequate to cope with the potential increase in demand.
- 3.6** The Play Area is located within the flood risk zone and has suffered from incidents of flooding on numerous occasions. This has caused damage to the equipment and surfacing and area closed for long periods of time. The Play Area is the only full accessible play facility in Hemel Hempstead.
- 3.7** It is recommended that Children's Play Area be removed and a new play space relocated amongst the trees to the northern side of the Splash Park. This will give a more cohesive play facility for families with children of mixed ages and abilities.
- 3.8** This will also give the opportunity for the Car Park to be extended in to the park further and assist with the possible increase in visitors to the park.
- 3.9** The Environment Agency has approach Dacorum Borough Council with a proposal to relocate the River Gade. Relocating the Play Area will assist with this project giving more scope on the rivers location and design. Although a formal route has not been formally submitted, any possible route will not affect the overall design or location of the Splash Park and Play Area. However, if the EA's proposed relocation of the Gade takes place, it will result in limiting access from the car park to the Splash Park, new play area and the Old Town unless additional river crossing points are made. Indicative layout shown in appendix 2.

4. Timescales

- 4.1** Discussions with the Procurement team have suggested that the procurement process would take between 7 to 8 months.
- 4.2** The Splash Park and Play Area be completed and open for spring 2018

5. Estimated Costs

- 5.1** A budget has been allocated of £1.5 million for the refurbishment of the White Bridge and installation of a new Splash Park
- 5.2** £1 million has been allocated to the Splash Park and £500k for the White Bridge.

- 5.3** The following costings are based on Splash Parks installed by other Local Authorities and indicative quotes from Splash Park Installers. The Infrastructure costs are based on the Town Centre Regeneration works supplied by Strategic Planning and Regeneration.
- 5.4** The cost of a Splash Park varies from size, design and type. The recommended size and type for Gadebridge Park is approximately 500sqm meters with below ground water features and water recirculation system. Estimated Cost £625k.
- 5.5** Supply and installation of a building to house the Splash Park infrastructure and to include toilets and concession kiosk, power and water. Estimated Cost £125k
- 5.6** Landscaping – tree works, planting, footpaths, fencing, removing old play area and making good. Estimated Costs £100K
- 5.7** Park signage – monoliths, fingerposts and interpretation boards. Estimated Cost £50k
- 5.8** It is recommended that a £100k contingency be included within the budget due to unforeseen problems associated with the installation of a Splash Park and supporting infrastructure.
- Total £1m
- 5.9** Supply and installation of a new play area. Estimated Cost £150k. This could be funded from the Play Area Improvements project underspend of £151k.

6. White Bridge

- 6.1** Two reports have been commissioned over the last 5 years on the condition of the bridge. The first in 2011-2012 by Hertfordshire Highways and a second more detailed assessment and options study in 2013 by Inertia Consulting Limited.
- 6.2** The bridge is failing structurally due to the weight of the concrete and hot rolled asphalt deck that replaced the original wooden deck.
- 6.3** The north parapet pilaster has corroded at the base and is broken causing movement to the handrail.
- 6.4** Site visits have been carried out with structural engineers for advice on the recommendations. The recommendations will be considered in consultation with the Conservation Development Management Team, Environment Agency and Building Services. A proposal will then be put forward to the Portfolio Holder for Environmental, Sustainability and Regulatory Services for approval.

7. Additional Options

- 7.1** The most popular recreation facility that is used in Gadebridge Park is the Putting Adventure Golf. Subject to budget, there could be an option to install a new up to date facility.

- 7.2** This would need to be in a fenced area and could be placed on the public bowls green which is in a poor condition, under used and high in maintenance.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1** Cabinet are asked to approve the following recommendations:
- 8.2** That the new Splash Park is sited in the location as shown on the plan in appendix 1 to this report.
- 8.3** That a new Play Area is funded through the Capital Play Area Improvement underspend.
- 8.4** That the Play Area in the carpark is removed and a new Play Area is installed next to the Splash Park in the location shown on the plan at appendix 1 making a more cohesive play space.
- 8.5** That the new facilities are opened in the spring of 2018.