

2 July 2019

Community and Health Committee

Warley Playing Fields – Proposed Car Park

Report of: *Kim Anderson, Partnership, Leisure and Funding Manager*

Wards Affected: *Warley*

This report is: *Public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 In 2018 the Council refurbished the Play area in Warley Playing Fields and in 2019 commenced the installment of an outdoor gym on the site. The site is also used by football and rugby teams. The parking opposite the play area has a parking order to restrict it to residents parking only Monday to Friday. It is proposed that a 20-space car park be created on the site which will create parking for the play area, outdoor gym but also supports parking for football and rugby.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Members note the proposal for a 20-space car park on Warley Playing Fields as indicated on the site map (Appendix A); and that**
- 2.2 Officers prepare a report for submission to Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee setting out the costs, resources and planning application required to complete the installation of the car park for the Committee's approval.**

3. Background

- 3.1 In July 2019 the Council completed the refurbishment of the play area in Warley Playing Fields. In June 2019 phase 1 of the installation of the outdoor gym had also been completed. The play area and outdoor gym has proved to be very popular but currently the site does not have any parking provision.
- 3.2 The site opposite the play area is allocated as resident parking only from 9 to 5 Monday to Friday.

- 3.3 It is recommended that officer prepare and submit a planning application for a new 20-space car park on Warley Playing Fields as indicated on the site map (Appendix A).
- 3.4 Subject to planning approval, it is recommended that officers prepare a report for submission to Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee setting out all costs and resources required to complete the installation of the car park for the Committee's consideration.

4 Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 Currently Warley Playing Fields is designated as public open space and any planning application will need to demonstrate the need for car parking on the site.
- 4.2 If the Council is keen to make all of its play areas and outdoor gyms as inclusive as possible, easy access to those facilities is paramount.
- 4.3 The Playing Fields also provide football and rugby pitches and the car park will also support those activities.
- 4.4 The car parking that is situated opposite is allocated as residents parking only from 9 to 5 Monday to Friday so visitors wanting to use the park are unable to park there during the week.
- 4.5 As part of any planning submission local residents will be consulted on the proposed new car park.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 As part of the delivery of the Leisure Strategy, the Council needs to ensure that there is easy and accessible access to its facilities. The car park will support not only the refurbished play area and new outdoor gym it will also support the needs of the rugby and football clubs that also utilise the site.

6 References to Corporate Plan

- 6.1 The Leisure Strategy sits under two main strands of the Vision for Brentwood 2016-19: Environment and Housing Management to develop a Leisure Strategy to provide strong and sustainable leisure facilities for residents and businesses; and Community and Health - to work with community and

voluntary organisations to develop the priorities for community development. There are also strong links for the priorities of the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2014-2017, the Local Development Plan, Active Brentwood/Essex and the Council's Asset Management Strategy 2014/15.

7 Implications

Financial Implications

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- 7.1 The costs for the Council to submit a planning application will be £234. This will be met from existing budgets.
- 7.1 Subject to planning being agreed, Officers will prepare a report to Policy, Resources and Economic Development setting out all costs and resources required for the potential to install a car park at Warley Playing fields. This will have to be reviewed in line with the Council's Budget and Capital Strategy to ensure any funds required can be appropriately managed.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Paula Harvey, Corporate Governance Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer
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- 7.3 The recommendations are lawful and within the Council's powers and duties.

8 Appendix A – Site map of proposed car park Warley Playing Fields

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