

Agenda Item No.3 (c)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC POLICY, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET**

13 December 2016

Report of the Chief Executive

**COMMUNITY PRIORITIES PROGRAMME – APPLICATION FOR FUNDING
FOR SHIREBROOK TOWN PARK**

1. Purpose of the Report

To approve an application from Councillor Marian Stockdale for Community Priority Programme funding of £50,000 to support the development of Shirebrook Town Park. This will comprise of £25,000 towards phase 1 the bespoke play area and £25,000 towards phase 2, the splash park.

2. Information and Analysis

Background

At Cabinet on 24 May 2016, Members agreed to establish a £2.271 million Community Priorities Programme using one off resources identified from General Reserves. It was agreed at the meeting that any projects requiring funding of £20,000 or above would need to seek approval by the Cabinet Member for Strategic Policy, Economic Development and Budget.

The Community Priorities Programme aims to support the development of projects which meets real identified needs, supports communities and families, build community capacity and are sustainable. All projects need to meet the following criteria:

- Support activity benefiting the designated Lower Super Output Area (LSOA).
- Support the aims and objectives of the Thriving Communities programme.
- Link into Thriving Communities activity in areas where work is currently being piloted where possible.
- Be time limited and not require ongoing funding from the Council.
- Complement, not duplicate other funding sources such as the Public Health Locality Fund, the Members Community Leadership Scheme etc.
- Show how activity can be sustained beyond the life of the funding.

- Meet an identified need which can be evidenced through for example, the English Indices of Deprivation, the Derbyshire Quilt etc.
- Be delivered within agreed timescales.
- Show how local people have helped in the design of identified activity or have been consulted or engaged.
- Show what difference will be made.

An application for funding of £50,000 under the Community Priorities Programme has been submitted by Cllr Marian Stockdale towards the redevelopment of Shirebrook Town Park. This is part of a larger proposal to redevelop the park to include play space, splash park, gardens, orchard, timber trim trail, interactive sports wall, audio-interactive play set and exercise equipment. The current facilities are very limited and this will provide better and more varied play and recreation opportunities to the children and young people of the town and surrounding areas. £25,000 of the funding will go towards phase one of the project which is a bespoke play area for ages 2 to 12. This will be designed so that it is accessible for disabled people. An additional £25,000 will also go towards phase two which is the splash park. The play area has been costed out at £75,000 - £125,000 and the splash park at £50,000 - £70,000 dependant on size, water filtration and circulation preferences. Cllr Stockdale is also contributing £2,000 for the orchard from Community Leadership Funds which will help shape the planned walkways and picnic area by planting established apple and pear trees kick-starting the whole project. Creating the play area will act as a catalyst for the future redevelopment of the park to provide facilities for everyone.

This project will cost approximately £475,000 in total. Shirebrook Town Council has contributed £50,000 and Bolsover District Council has contributed £25,000 towards the redevelopment to date. The contribution of £25,000 from Community Priorities Programme will ensure that the first phase can begin in the Spring of 2017 when everything required to begin the project will be in place. Bolsover District Council's contribution of £25,000 is to provide £5,000 for a consultant to investigate potential external funding opportunities that could support this project and £20,000 towards the park equipment. The consultant has undertaken extensive research into potential funding sources, will be undertaking further research into possible funding opportunities and submitting funding applications to support phase two - the splash park - and further phases of the redevelopment.

Recreation and playgrounds are a fundamental part of developing a child's health and well-being and critical to their development and learning. This will be a high quality and diverse play area for everyone to enjoy and play in a safe and secure environment for many years to come. It will bring the local community together and build community cohesion. It will provide opportunities for families to meet other families and form new friendships and improve social inclusion and support those who feel socially isolated.

Shirebrook has very few amenities for leisure and healthy living and is expanding quite rapidly due to the migrant workforce and commuters who travel to work on the M1/A1. The town has permission to develop 750 houses and building works have commenced. The town is becoming a popular area for commuters who tend to look elsewhere for leisure and recreational activities. There is need for leisure provision in the town that encompasses all age groups. There are no large parks in the local area and plans look to redevelop the park along the lines of facilities that currently exist in Nottingham, Worksop and Matlock. Shirebrook is a growing population that needs to be seen as a feeder town that serves many areas with employment and reasonably priced shopping opportunities. Currently families and young people from Shirebrook and surrounding communities have to travel considerable distances to access facilities of the standard being proposed. This will cut down on journeys to other facilities and enable those who were unable to travel to other locations access the facilities. It will also encourage shoppers and visitors to stay in the town for longer which has a positive effect on the local economy. This would move the image of the town away from just being a short stay destination. The two contributions of £25,000 over two phases will put the town in a place where people will wish to stay so triggering a once busy town back to its rightful place.

A group of local enthusiasts working alongside the Town Council and District Council will undertake the vast amount of work required to progress this ambitious project. The group wish to see a focal point in Shirebrook town centre and are engaged in continuous petitioning of schools and at local events in the town to raise the profile of this huge challenge.

Shirebrook Town Council has undertaken extensive public consultation which has identified the need for better provision for families. 126 people completed questionnaires and 100% of those said that if Shirebrook had an all-inclusive town park suitable for the whole family, that they and their family would use it. They have also undertaken more detailed consultation with children and young people which will be used to plan the improvements and to decide how the park should be managed and developed in the future.

The planned park is adjacent to the Kissingate Leisure Centre which the Town Council has taken over from Bolsover District Council. This will mean that the whole project can be maintained by the workforce employed by the Town Council.

The information contained in the application, as submitted, meets the selection criteria as set out above.

3. Financial Considerations

The total cost of £50,000 can be met from the Community Priorities Programme budget. The £25,000 towards phase 2 the splash park, is subject to the remainder of the match funding being in place to install the facilities. To ensure that there is compliance with the Council's Financial Regulations, all approved projects will be issued with standard conditions of grant and will be subject to monitoring and evaluation.

4. Equality and Diversity Considerations

The Community Priorities Programme will ensure that the funding set aside will be targeted to the most deprived and disadvantaged areas of the county.

5. Social Value Considerations

The Community Priorities Programme will support the development of projects in the 50% most deprived LSOAs in the county, engaging with local people and supporting the improvement of the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the communities concerned. The play park and splash park will provide activities which support children and young people to be active and improve their health and wellbeing. Currently families and young people from Shirebrook and surrounding communities have to travel considerable distances to access facilities of the standard being proposed. This will cut down on journeys to other facilities and enable those who were unable to travel to other locations access the facilities. It will also encourage shoppers and visitors to stay in the town for longer which has a positive effect on the local economy.

6. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered; legal, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental, human resources, health, property and transport considerations.

7. Background Papers

- The English Indices of Deprivation - Report to Cabinet - 3 November 2015
- Reserves Position report to Cabinet - 26 January 2016
- Community Priorities Programme report to Cabinet – 24 May 2016
- Community Priorities Programme application for Shirebrook Town Park – November 2016

8. Key Decision

No

9. Call-in

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report? **No**

10. Officer's Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member for Strategic Policy, Economic Development and Budget approves the application for £50,000 for Shirebrook Town Park. The £25,000 towards phase 2, the splash park, is subject to the remainder of the match funding being in place to install the facilities.

Ian Stephenson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE