

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

1 March 2011

Report of the Chief Leisure Officer and the Cabinet Members for Leisure, Youth & Arts and Finance

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 LEYBOURNE LAKES COUNTRY PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Summary

This report brings forward proposals for improvements at Leybourne Lakes Country Park for Members' consideration. The proposed improvements are funded in full from developer contributions.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 A Capital Plan scheme for improvements at Leybourne Lakes Country Park was considered at Cabinet on 1 February 2011, with a recommendation to Council to transfer the scheme from List B to List A of the Capital Plan, for progression in 2011/12. A copy of the List C Evaluation for the scheme, reported to the Finance & Property Advisory Board on 5 January 2011 can be found at **[Annex 1]**

1.2 Proposed Improvements

1.2.1 Following comments from users of the Park, and a recent site risk assessment undertaken by the Council's Insurers, a number of improvements have been identified for the site:

- Play Area Surfacing – Members will be aware that a new play area was provided in the Country Park in 2009, funded by the Government's Playbuilder Scheme, and has proved to be very successful. Due to its popularity, sections of the play area are prone to heavy wear and can become very muddy. This has prompted a number of comments from parents and it is, therefore, proposed that appropriate surfacing be provided around key areas, including the main entrance points and picnic area.
- Path Improvements – A number of paths around the site have been highlighted for repair by the Head Ranger, and the Council's Insurers during a recent site risk assessment. It is proposed that repairs be undertaken, prioritising those paths most in need of improvement.

Primarily, the works will focus on the main path alongside the Millstream towards Brooklands Lake.

- Slipway – The existing slipway is used by a number of water sports users including the Scouts, and is essential to the success of many events taking place on site. It is proposed that improvements are undertaken to the slipway surfacing and the concrete apron entering the water to maintain its future use.
- Site Furniture/Signage – Additional site furniture will be provided including litter bins and seats. The main pedestrian entrance signs will be replaced and improved following liaison with local Parish/Town Councils.

1.3 Timescale

- 1.3.1 Subject to confirmation by Full Council on 17 February 2011 that the scheme is included in the Capital Plan List A for 2011/12, the works will be undertaken over the coming financial year, with the play area surfacing and new pedestrian entrance signs being progressed in advance of the school summer holidays.

1.4 Legal Implications

- 1.4.1 The works will be progressed in accordance with the Council's approved procurement procedures.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.5.1 The proposed works will cost £55,000, and can be funded in full by developer contributions held by the Council.

1.6 Risk Assessment

- 1.6.1 Where applicable, all works will be carried out to relevant British and European standards.

1.7 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.7.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report. A Full Equality Impact Assessment for Leybourne Lakes Country Park is programmed to take place in 2011/12.

1.8 Policy Considerations

- 1.8.1 Asset Management, Biodiversity & Sustainability, Healthy Lifestyles, Young People.

1.9 Recommendations

- 1.9.1 It is **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET** that the improvements to Leybourne Lakes Country Park be progressed in accordance with the proposals outlined in the report, funded in full by developer contributions.

The Chief Leisure Officer confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Darren Lanes

Nil

Robert Styles
Chief Leisure Officer

Martin Coffin
Cabinet Member for Leisure, Youth & Arts

David Aikman
Cabinet Member for Finance

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	N/A
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	Yes	The proposals aim to provide improved site/facility access.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?	N/A	N/A

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.