

Item CH 19/19 referred from Communities and Housing Advisory Board minutes of 28 May 2019

CH 19/19 LEYBOURNE OPEN SPACE - TRAVELLER INCURSION

The report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services presented for consideration a proposal, including a funding contribution from Leybourne Parish Council, for the installation of “bow top” fencing along a section of Borough Council owned land in the village which had been subject to a number of Traveller incursions over recent years. Details were given of protection measures implemented to date by the Borough and Parish Councils on the four areas of open space consistently targeted in Leybourne.

Members were advised that the cost of the proposal to be funded by the Borough Council after a 25% contribution from Leybourne Parish Council would be £9,750 for which there was no budget allocation. Having considered the arguments for and against the protection of the area in question and the representations from local Members, the Advisory Board supported the proposal given the costs in terms of legal fees and for clearing waste and litter left on site after every incursion.

RECOMMENDED: That the proposal brought forward by Leybourne Parish Council to protect the area of open space identified in the report from Travellers be accepted and the Cabinet be requested to allocate £9,750 from the General Revenue Reserve to fund the balance of the cost.

***Referred to Cabinet**