

EXECUTIVE – 11 OCTOBER 2018

## QUESTIONS

### Executive Summary

The following questions have been received under Section 3 of the Executive Procedure Rules. The replies by the Portfolio Holder are set out below.

#### Questions from Mr Kevin Gill

“At the Executive meeting on the 12th July 2018, The Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Cultural Services, Councillor Kemp, introduced a report which set out a proposal to improve the tennis courts at Woking Park. Councillor Kemp highlighted that the Council’s 2017 Playing Pitch and Outdoor Facilities Strategy had identified the need for improved tennis facilities in the Borough and sought approval to part fund Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project up to a maximum of £164,000.

The council published a document in 2007 titled ‘PLAY STRATEGY FOR WOKING 2007-2012’.

In paragraph 1.1 of the Introduction it is stated:

*“The purpose of this play strategy is to examine current play provision within the Borough of Woking, identify gaps in provision based on an assessment of need and determine priorities for dealing with these gaps against the likely resources available.*

*“The document is also intended to assist planners and developers in understanding local needs and expectations, particularly where new developments are planned, and it therefore reflects and links to existing Local Plan policies and the Local Development Framework.”*

The document reports that there was £200,000 of available funding from the Big Lottery as part of its Children’s Play Initiative.

A ‘PLAY STRATEGY ACTION PLAN - STRATEGIC PLANNING AND POLICY’ document was produced to identify gaps in provision and propose action to address the ‘gaps’.

Section 9 of the Play Strategy Action Plan identifies a lack of provision in remote ‘low key’ areas of the borough such as Sutton Green, Brookwood and Mayford.

#### **Question 1:**

Over the past ten years, how much funding and additional provision has been provided by Woking Borough Council to cater for young people’s play and recreational needs in the Sutton Green area (especially Foxes Path playground and recreation field)?

#### **Question 2:**

Have both the ‘PLAY STRATEGY FOR WOKING 2007-2012’ and ‘PLAY STRATEGY ACTION PLAN’ been completed and if there are any updated 2012+ play strategy action plan documents, where can these updated documents be found?

#### **Question 3:**

Does the council actively encourage private businesses to ‘fill the gaps’ given that there is a lack of play and recreational provision in remote ‘low key’ areas of the borough where the council has found it difficult to provide an increase or may have not yet improved the existing provision?”

### Reply by Councillor C S Kemp, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Cultural Services

“Thank you for your questions. Please see below my replies to each of your three questions.

#### **Reply to Question 1:**

In the past ten years there has been no additional provision or significant refurbishment of play facilities in the Sutton Green area. However, Sutton Green play area on Foxes Path is one of four remaining play areas on the current refurbishment programme. The others are those at Horsell Moor, Loop Road Rec and Oakfield.

#### **Reply to Question 2:**

Not all items from the Play Strategy Action Plan will have been completed as such. Some will be ongoing actions, some superseded and given the time that has passed since this strategy was put in place some of these would need to be reassessed anyway. However, in terms of refurbishments, we still intend to refurbish those play areas identified in the refurbishment programme mentioned above. We do not have an updated version of this play strategy, though would be looking to develop a new play strategy once the current play area refurbishment programme has been completed.

#### **Reply to Question 3:**

Other than through local housing development, where on-site play facilities are sometimes provided or a contribution made to improving existing facilities, we have not been involved in any discussions with other private businesses about providing free public play facilities in Woking. However, should suitable opportunities arise we would be happy to explore possible options.”

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