

Objection to the installation of a Youth Shelter at Shenley Avenue Recreation Ground, Ruislip – RESPONSE TO PETITION	ITEM
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Cabinet Member	Councillor Sandra Jenkins
Cabinet Portfolio	Environment
Officer Contact	Damien Searle – 01895 556 650
Papers with report	Petition forms

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	This report informs the Cabinet Member of a petition that has been received objecting to the installation of a shelter at Shenley Avenue Recreation Ground, Ruislip.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	A clean and attractive borough, A safe borough, A borough where opportunities are open to all, A borough where children and young people are healthy safe and supported.
Financial Cost	No costs
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environment Policy and Overview Committee
Ward(s) affected	Manor

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member:

1. Listens to the views of the petitioners and young people.
2. Requests that local residents living adjacent to the park, young people and other residents form a 'Friends of' group for the park, to advise on this and future decisions relating to the park.

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

The concept of 'friends groups' has been successful at other green spaces throughout the borough as an effective way for local people to be able to contribute effectively in the management and care of local parks and green spaces.

Alternative options considered

To not propose local people form a Friends Group for Shenley Avenue Recreation Ground.

Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)

None at this stage.

Supporting Information

Shenley Avenue Recreation Ground (also known as Shenley Park) is a public open space (12,500 square metres approx) which is bounded by houses in sections of Shenley Avenue, Willow Grove, Rosebury Vale and Cornwall Drive in Ruislip Manor.

Students of Ruislip High School, the majority of whom live in the local area, put forward some proposals for the park, based on an idea for a shelter and outdoor fitness equipment, seeking to increase the range of positive recreational opportunities for people of all ages, at the recreation ground. The young people were successful in the bid they put forward through the school for youth opportunities funding to develop their project. The students carried out a consultation as part of their project, which identified local support for the installation of outdoor fitness equipment but strong concerns about the proposed shelter. This aspect of the project has therefore not progressed.

The project led to a petition being received by the council, signed by 266 people, opposing the construction of a shelter.

Shenley Avenue Recreation Ground is valued by residents as an important local public open space (12,500 square metres approx) used by local people of all ages for informal recreation. In addition to trees and mown grass, there is a children's play area, which was installed in 2004/05 along with boundary fencing and gating, funded by the council's Chrysalis Programme.

Unfortunately, the park still suffers from anti-social behaviour and as a result the park is locked on Friday and Saturday nights, which does help reduce vandalism but incidents continue, such as the recent tearing up of sections of the safety surface in the children's playground. There is a concern that the vandalism is caused by young people.

As a result of the feedback received it is suggest that local residents living adjacent to the park, young people and other residents are asked to form a 'Friends of' group for the park, to work with the green spaces team on future care of, use and management of the park.

Financial Implications

None.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

Views of local people will be heard by the Cabinet Member for Environment and if agreed, a 'Friends Group' for the park will be established to help guide future management and decisions at Shenley Avenue Recreation Ground (also known as Shenley Park).

Consultation Carried Out or Required

If it is agreed that local residents living adjacent to the park, young people and other residents will form a 'Friends of' group for the park, the group would be consulted regularly by the Green Spaces Team as part of the overall management of the park.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

None.

Legal

There must be a full consideration of all representations arising including those which do not accord with the officer recommendation. The decision maker must be satisfied that responses from the public are conscientiously taken into account."

Relevant Service Groups

N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Attached Map of Proposed location of shelter at Shenley Recreation Ground
2. Petition received Mach 2009