

PETITION REGARDING BROOKSIDE PLAYING FIELDS

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Jonathan Bianco
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services
Officer Contact(s)	Adrian Batten, Residents Services
Papers with report	Appendix A - Draft Master Plan

HEADLINES

Summary	This report concerns a petition received signed by 247 residents requesting additional facilities for local residents: footpaths around the park, football pitch, cricket pitch, tennis court and a running track, lighting and cameras each side of Brookside Open Space.
Putting our Residents First	This report supports the following Council objectives of: Our People; Our Natural Environment; Our Built Environment; Our Heritage and Civic Pride; Strong financial management.
Financial Cost	Estimated costs would be £2.2m to deliver the petitioners' requests.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents', Education and Environmental Services
Relevant Ward(s)	Yeading

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services:

- 1. meets with petitioners and listens to their concerns;**
- 2. asks Officers to further explore the Chrysalis Scheme for funding in addition to what has already been carried out and what is currently agreed through the Chrysalis Scheme; and**
- 3. notes there are currently two Chrysalis applications that have been submitted for consideration relating to construction of the northern footpaths and reinstatement of the old football pitch and cricket strip.**

Reasons for recommendations

To give the Cabinet Member the opportunity to discuss with the petitioners their concerns and aspirations awaiting approval.

To investigate in further detail the potential to address the petitioners' concerns.

Alternative options considered / risk management

Options will be discussed with the petitioners.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. A petition was received containing 247 signatures requesting additional facilities for local residents at Brookside playing fields: footpaths around the park, football pitch, cricket pitch, tennis court and a running track, lighting and cameras each side of the Brookside Open Space.
2. Brookside Playing Fields is a large site in the middle of a built up part of the Borough. It is popular with many local residents for informal recreation, just before you enter the open space from Brookside Road there is an outdoor gym and children's playground. The site offers a tranquil area to walk around as well as cut through to the adjoining housing estate.
3. A draft Master Plan has been drawn up containing all of the requests of the petition (copy attached) with indicative costs in the region of £2.2m, to inform any future decisions.
4. The two items listed below have been entered onto the Chrysalis waiting list for 2019/20 for Brookside Open Space and are awaiting approval. This is in addition to the southern footpath that has already been installed using Chrysalis funding.

1. Construction of the northern section of footpath - £55,000

This will then link up with the two other sections that the Council is building on site this month. See attached site plan.

If/when the northern section is built, it will mean that the whole of the open space has a path all around the outside, this can also double up as a running/jogging circuit, as people can also use the central tarmac path to reduce the length that they want to run, or use it as a figure of 8.

2. Reinstatement of the old football pitch and cricket strip - £30,000

This will involve improving the current grass cutting regime to that for a football pitch and installing two new goals.

The cricket pitch would be an artificial grass strip on a stone base. The grass areas for the outfield would need to be improved and cut on a more regular basis than they are at present.

The exact location of these two pitches will need to be agreed on site with Green Spaces and the Community Group.

This is in addition to the two footpaths that have already been installed to the cost of £67k, and a further £102k spent on refurbishment of playground and installation of an outdoor gym.

Financial Implications

In order to cater for all the requests of the petition, indicative costs of £2,200k have been estimated by the Council's Highways consultants. This would be a very expensive project and will not receive funding from Sports England as similar facilities have been provided in the neighbouring Borough which is a short distance away. If these requests are considered to proceed, then funding will have to be identified from a suitable funding source within the Medium Term Financial Forecast and would require a call on Council resources, increasing future capital financing revenue costs.

Works have already been carried out at Brookside Open Space in the past three years at a total cost of £169k on the central footpath, southern perimeter footpath, playground refurbishment and installation of outdoor gym from the Chrysalis Programme budget, funded through Council resources.

Subject to approval, there are a further two more schemes that could potentially proceed in 2019/20 from the Chrysalis Programme budget of £1,000k to construct a northern section perimeter footpath and reinstatement of the old football pitch and cricket wicket at a total estimated cost of £85k, all funded through Council resources. These schemes would not require additional maintenance costs as the Green Spaces team already maintains Brookside Open Space as part of its scheduled works and this cost is already incorporated in the current revenue budget.

Future improvements to Brookside Open Space, in addition to the above two schemes, could be considered within future years' Chrysalis funding beyond 2019/20, subject to Cabinet Member approval.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities?

The Petition Hearing will allow for consideration of petitioners' concerns with the required facilities and possible options to come to an amicable agreement.

Consultation carried out or required

None at this stage.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and confirms that there are no direct financial implications arising from the recommended consideration petitioners' concerns. Specific costs relating to potential courses of actions are detailed above, with potential investment in the site representing a significant addition to the Council's Capital Programme.

Legal

Borough Solicitor confirms that there are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Brookside Open Space Master Plan