

Briefing Note

Reeds Lane Recreation Ground Update

For Estates & Facilities Management Committee on 11th November 2021 – Item 12

Update on Phase 1 of the Reeds Lane Recreation ground improvements.

Drainage

- The North side and South side ditches have been dug out and cleared by Grasstex. This work has been funded by the Parish Council.
- The Culvert at the North West corner of Recreation Ground North has been investigated. An inspection pit (observation tank) has been found and a culvert heading off under the front gardens of the Kingsland Cottages has been discovered. The culvert is presently blocked and will be rodded to try and clear it.
- With the loss of connecting ditches that previously ran north to the Dunlop Close east/west main drain, it is proposed that the North East corner Recreation Ground North will be turned into an Ephemeral Pond. This work is proposed to be funded by WSCC Operation Watershed. With the loss of the connecting ditch to beyond Osborn Close at the South West corner of the Recreation Ground South, the Parish Council are in discussion with WSCC to make a connection to the roadside gully instead. It is proposed that a new ditch would connect to the existing and run down the inside of the western hedge to a trash screen, sump and into an attenuation tank located under the vehicle entrance. A new shorter ditch would also run inside of the roadside hedge to the same tank. The tank would then have an exit culvert feeding into the roadside gully. Again, an application to WSCC Operation Watershed will be made to fund this work.

Play Area improvements

- MSDC has approved the S106 funding for this project. This funding was received from the Linden Homes/Vistry s106 Settlement in late July this year
- Sovereign Design Play Systems Ltd has been appointed to the contract to undertake this work. The contract will re-equip the currently empty enclosure within Recreation Ground South, and to a plan previously agreed with residents. It is planned to commence in Mid-January 2022.
- This work will include the installation of a raised path to allow users to access the play areas throughout the year from the current roadside pedestrian gate.

Grounds Maintenance

- Over the winter period, the Parish Council maintenance officer will tidy the banks of the Northern Boundary in sessions. This will include spreading excavated soil and cutting back dead wood. The aim is to make the area look more presentable, but also to prepare for the planting of a replacement native species hedge in Autumn 2022, subject to funding being identified by the Parish Council.

Phase 2

- If funding is secured for Financial Year 2022/3 the Parish Council will plant a native species hedge long the northern boundary of Recreation Ground North in Autumn of 2022.
 - Once the drainage works have been completed, and are proven to be functioning as planned, it is proposed to complete the installation of the additional play equipment that has previously been identified for Recreation Ground South (including that for inclusive and accessible play). This work will be the subject of a further application to MSDC for funding from s106 Developer Funds that are already held by them for this purpose.
 - At the same time, and using the same funding source, it is proposed to improve the playing pitch on Recreation Ground North, including removing the remains of a former access track from in front of the western goal mouth and realigning that goal mouth so that it is correctly facing the eastern goal mouth.
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