

## **BRECKLAND COUNCIL**

### **Report of Stephen Askew, Executive Member for the Communities Portfolio to the: Cabinet – 9 September 2008**

#### **NEW BUCKENHAM PLAY AREA**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This reports outline reasons for requesting £15,900 capital match funding towards the development of a new play area in the village of New Buckenham.

##### **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 a maximum grant of £15,900 or 30% of the cost of scheme, whichever is the lower, be granted, subject to all other sources of funding having been attained.

**Note:** In preparing this report, due regard has been had to equality of opportunity, human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental and risk management considerations as appropriate. Relevant officers have been consulted in relation to any legal, financial or human resources implications and comments received are reflected in the report.

##### **3. Information, Issues and Options**

###### **3.1 Background**

- 3.1.1 The applicant for this match funding request is New Buckenham Parish Council.

- 3.1.2 The project involves developing a new play area on land owned by New Buckenham Parish Council, which currently has some play equipment in place. The play area has been designed to accommodate children and young people of all abilities.

- 3.1.3 The project aims to:

- Create an exciting, stimulating and safe environment which will provide free play opportunities for children and young people to use at any time
- Provide a facility which will encourage youngsters to be active in the open air, to socialise with other children and make new friends
- Provide stimulating equipment, including an adventure trail and aerial runway
- Ensure that the design of the area is aesthetically pleasing as New Buckenham is in a Conservation Area and the land borders an area of
- Provide a facility which will be accessible on foot.

- 3.1.4 The group have conducted extensive consultation in order to understand the needs of the local community, including:

- Questionnaires delivered to families in the village and generated a 60% response rate
- Consultation with individual village organisations and letters of support
- The use of village events to generate discussion and consultation. Displays have been erected at 2 events giving people the opportunity to display their views on the proposed project
- Visits to other play areas to get ideas and inspiration
- An assessment of the site has been made by the police architectural liaison officer

and advice has been given on how best to develop the site

### 3.2 Financial

3.2.1 The total cost of this project is £53,324.

Some funding towards this project has already been secured and there is clear evidence that the local community support this project from the financial contributions so many have made, see table below:

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Amount requested</b>	<b>% of total</b>	<b>Funding approved</b>
WREN	£10,000	18.75	Yes
New Buck Parish Council	£1,000	1.9	Yes
New Buck Good Companions	£200	0.4	Yes
New Buck WI	£250	0.47	Yes
Gardening Group	£25	0.05	Yes
Recycling Scheme	£500	0.94	Yes
Village of the Year	£250	0.47	Yes
Anonymous donation	£500	0.94	Yes
New Buck Junior Activities Committee	£1,000	1.9	Yes
Awards for all	£10,000	18.75	No
National Playing Fields Assoc	£1,000	1.9	No
Garfield Western	£5,000	9.4	No
Ongoing fundraising	£7,699	15	Ongoing
<b>Breckland Council</b>	<b>£15,900</b>	<b>29.8</b>	
<b>Total =</b>	<b>£53,625</b>		

### 3.3 Options

3.3.1 There are the following options:

1. Approve this application for funding on the grounds of the high score and subject to offer letter conditions
2. Award funding at a reduced level
3. Reject the application for funding

### 3.4 Reasons for Recommendation(s)

3.4.1 This group have developed a sound community project based on thorough consultation and research within the local community. There is clear evidence of support from the whole community for the project.

## 4. Risk and Financial Implications

### 4.1 Risk

4.1.1 I have completed a risk assessment in accordance with the Council's Risk Management methodology and the following risks and mitigating factors have been identified.

Risk:

The group may not be able to secure all the funding needed for the project.

Mitigation Plan:

I will continue to liaise with the group regarding the development of the project. It

may also be an option to scale down the project slightly if they are unable to secure all the funding.

#### 4.2 **Financial**

4.2.1 Proforma B attached.

#### 5. **Legal Implications**

5.1 There are no specific legal issues that require special comment here.

#### 6. **Other Implications**

a) Equalities:

An Equalities Impact Assessment been conducted - Reference number 4

b) Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998:

c) Section 40, Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006:

d) Human Resources:

e) Human Rights:

There are no specific Human Rights issues affecting this report.

f) Other: [e.g. Children's Act 2004]

#### 7. **Alignment to Council Priorities**

7.1 This project meets 2 of Breckland Councils priorities – It contributes to building safer and stronger communities by providing a vital community meeting space that is fit for purpose and accessible to all. It also contributes to the prosperous communities objective by developing a sustainable community resource from which quality play and social skills can be developed.

#### 8. **Ward/Community Affected**

8.1 New Buckenham parish and surrounding area.

#### Background Papers

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##### Key Decision Status (Executive Decisions only):

*This is not a key decision*

##### Appendices attached to this report:

*None*