

AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE FOR A PLAYGROUND IN NONSUCH PARK

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Wards affected: Nonsuch Ward;
Appendices (attached):

Summary

To seek permission from the Joint Management Committee to pursue a bid to Your Fund Surrey for a toddler playground in the London Road Dog Free area.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Give authority for officers to investigate the viability of a playground in Nonsuch Park London Road Dog Free Area.**
- (2) Agree to receive a further report on progress of this application at their next meeting on 20 January 2025.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 Officers recently received an offer from Surrey County Council Councillor – John Beckett to apply to Your Fund Surrey to install a toddler playground in Nonsuch Park. Due to the lack of play facilities in the Stoneleigh area, the idea of playground has been suggested on several occasions over the years but has never been progressed due to lack of funding.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Your Fund Surrey Scheme has two funding streams, small and large community projects.
- 2.2 The installation of a toddler playground falls into a small community scheme and funding is available up to £50,000.
- 2.3 The scheme must be put forward by one of the following:

Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee

14 October 2024

- Voluntary or community organisation
- Registered charity
- Constituted group or club
- Community interest company (CIC)
- Social enterprise
- School or statutory body (including town, parish or community council but **excluding** borough and district councils)
- Local business

2.4 Therefore, if members are in support of progressing this project, officers will need to ask one of our partners to put the bid forward on behalf of the park. It is likely that the Little Oaks Forest School would be interested in supporting this project.

2.5 The deadline for applications is 25 January 2025.

2.6 If members support the project in principle, officers will need to investigate if planning permission is required and if Surrey County Council need to be consulted as owners of the park.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 This will be carried out ahead of commencing the project.

3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 None for the purpose of this report.

3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 If the project is supported, all appropriate safeguarding measures pertaining to a children's playground will be put in place.

3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 This project is dependent on support from the Joint Management Committee and partner organisations to submit the bid on our behalf.

3.5 Other

3.5.1 None

Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee

14 October 2024

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The project to acquire and install a playground will need to be fully funded from external sources, as the JMC does not have budget for this work.
- 4.2 If the project is progressed, it will need to be agreed who will maintain the playground in the future as the JMC do not have a budget for playground inspections and on-going maintenance.
- 4.3 As this project will largely benefit the residents of Epsom and Ewell and the lack of play facilities have been highlighted in Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's draft Open Space Audit it is likely that this can be absorbed in Epsom & Ewell's current revenue budgets with the caveat that the facility will not be replaced when it reaches end of life. It would be appropriate to consult Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's Environment Committee to confirm its agreement to adopting responsibility for ongoing inspections and maintenance within its existing budgeted resources.
- 4.4 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** As part of the project, a plan should be developed at the outset for how to manage and fund the replacement or decommissioning of the equipment when it reaches end-of-life, as well as ongoing maintenance and inspections.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There could be legal implications concerning the installation of a play facility under the terms of the head lease with Surrey County Council.
- 5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None other than as set out in the report.

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:
 - Safe & Well
 - Green & Vibrant
- 6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:**
- 6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:**
- 6.5 **Partnerships:** This project will require partnership working with the park community to submit the bid application.
- 6.6 Background papers
- 6.7 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee

14 October 2024

Previous reports:

- None

Other papers:

- None