

Park Development Plan Policy

Full Council Approved: October 2017 (Reviewed October 2020)

Due for Review: October 2023

1. General

The Development Plans are a means of defining the character and to a large extent the content of the parks. They are a means of capturing and collating all stakeholders' views and aspirations into a coherent overarching plan which is then used as the vehicle to develop the facility in line with the aspirations of the Plan. In particular they are used to identify capital projects and in turn the source of funding; by the Town Council, through s106 funds¹ or through securing external grant funding.

2. Process

The process for developing the plan is set out schematically in Appendix 1. This is a process designed to capture and consolidate the community's view of the development of the parks as well as that of the Council. Ultimately the Council decides on the final plan by adoption at a Council or Committee meeting

3. Implementation

The Plan gives a clear direction to Officers, responsible for delivering the Plan, as to what is required to develop each facility. It will be used as a key tool in securing external funding, including s106 development funds and third party grants. The process of securing grant funding is neither predictable nor straight forward. Officers need to be able to react to funding opportunities that match the Plans' aspirations as they arise. Funders will be heartened to see a coherent, community supported Plan which clearly demonstrates how their money may be spent and the benefits to the community.

¹ This is money paid by developers to compensate for the additional pressure placed on local infrastructure. The amount of money and the allocation of the funds is development specific.

4. Accountability

This is provided by way of the monthly Clerk's report to Full Council or if deemed necessary by way of a specific report to advise on progress of a particular project where this is relevant.

Where there is the need for decisions on financing options this will be reported back to Committee / Council for decision. Examples of such a scenario may be to request match or partial funding from the Council above allocated ear marked reserves. The guiding principle will be to maximise both the community and financial gain that can be secured through grant funding.

Other than third party grants there will be, until the institution of CIL², s106 money available for projects. It may be the s106 money is directed towards a specific park, but it may be necessary for the Council to set some priority between the parks as to which projects come forward first. This will be on the basis of establishing the greatest community benefit.

5. Review

Inevitably personnel will change within the Council and within the Friends' Groups and visions will change with experience and the introduction of new equipment or initiatives. Three years is deemed a practical period for review.

Any feed-back from local stakeholders will be considered in the review process

² The Community Infrastructure Levy is a fixed development charge paid by every contractor based on the area of development. This is a figure per square metre that will be established by HDC once they have finalised their Local Plan. This money is to be used to provide infrastructure associated with the impact of development. A percentage of the money will be allocated to parish level projects.

APPENDIX 1 Development Plan Process

Development Plan Process

