

**REPORT FROM:** Environmental Services Manager

**TO:** Colne & District Committee

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## **ALKINCOATS PARK MUGA**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide Members with details of updated costs and plans for the siting of the MUGA in Alkincoats Park.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee approve this option.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

To ensure the MUGA is located in the best position in the park and enable the project to move forward.

### **ISSUE**

1. At the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019 Colne Committee meeting, the planning application for the provision of a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) adjacent to the eastern boundary of the existing tennis courts at Alkincoats Park was refused with members resolving:

**That consideration be given to using the funding already allocated for this scheme to fund the creation of a hard core area, for use primarily by younger children, on the informal grassed football area between the tennis courts and the children's play area; and for the installation of a MUGA at the end part of the tennis courts, currently used as a kick about area.**

2. Subsequently, new plans and costs have been developed based on the above resolution. To install the MUGA on the site of the existing ball court area of the tennis courts and overlay the surface would cost approx. £26,400. Drawing No. E0534D/3C provided in Appendix 1 details the work that would be involved in completing this aspect of the project.

3. To construct a 30m x 18m hard surface on the informal grassed football area and create a ball court akin to the one already in use on the tennis courts would cost approx. £34,800. Drawing No. E0534D/2A provides detail of the work involved.
4. As can be seen in the drawing, we would take away the existing basketball net and concrete pad underneath in addition to one of the existing goalposts. The other goalpost could be left in situ to provide a small goal area at the eastern end of the grassed area.
5. Unlike the original option, the new site for the MUGA does not need planning permission as we are essentially upgrading a similar existing facility. In terms of the proposed new hard surfaced area, we would in essence be enlarging an existing tarmac area to provide a similar existing facility (a hard surfaced football pitch). It is currently used for informal football and basketball use. The provision of basketball would be met through the inclusion of two basketball hoops in the new MUGA.
6. In addition to the costed work above, it would make sense to include some additional work on the existing access and steps in to the tennis court area from the car park (this will be the main entrance to the MUGA). As shown in Appendix 3, this is in a poor state of repair. We are proposing that we carry out the following work to improve this area:
  - Repaint white lines on the edge of existing steps
  - Re-surface and edge the access point at the top of the steps in to the tennis court area
  - Install a handrail to the car park side of the steps
  - Plant some additional herbaceous shrubs/plants to plug the gap where people are walking through the beds
  - Provide signage for the MUGA
7. The estimated cost for this work is £5,000. As such, the total cost for the new scheme would be £66,200.
  - Install MUGA - £26,400
  - Construct new hard surface ball court - £34,800
  - Additional Access/Entrance improvements - £5,000
8. The previous option which was refused planning permission had been costed at circa £78,000 due to the extensive landscaping that would have had to be undertaken prior to the MUGA being installed. This scheme is £12,000 cheaper and provides greater value for money in that we are getting two long term facilities that will support provision for all ages.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

**Policy:** None

**Financial:** There is sufficient capital programme budget to cover the costs outlined in 7.

**Legal:** None of the two new facilities would need planning permission.

**Risk Management:** None

**Health and Safety:** None

**Sustainability:** The MUGA and ball court would provide the necessary facilities in the Park to cater for all ages (specifically 0-16 years).

**Community Safety:** The MUGA would provide a safe enclosed multi-sports facility for all sections of the community. MUGA's are robust and once in situ are fairly cheap to maintain. It would be inspected on a weekly basis as with other MUGA's.

The ball court would upgrade an area of the Park that could be used all year round. The informal grassed area suffers from poor drainage during the winter months and is unusable 6 months out of the year. We would still have a small grassed goal area which could be used during the summer.

**Equality and Diversity:** None

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – MUGA plan  
Appendix 2 – Ball Court plan  
Appendix 3 – Photos of Entrance Area

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Planning Application (**19/0197/FUL**) to Colne Committee 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019 **Refused**

Transfer of Vivary Way MUGA to Alkincoats Park report to Colne Committee 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018.