

**REPORT FROM: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER**

**TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

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## **PARKS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform members of the Local Authority Parks Improvement Fund (LAPIF) received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and provide details of small scale projects we consider to be the most worthwhile/pressing to spend the money on.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That members approve the proposed improvement projects at Marsden Park, Ball Grove Park and Letcliffe Park.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- (1) To spend the funding provided by the MHCLG via the LAPIF.
- (2) Officers deem these projects to be the most pressing and worthwhile at the current time.

### **ISSUE**

1. The government, through the MHCLG, have provided grants to all 350 local authorities in England as part of a one off £9.7 million fund. Pendle has received £14,236 from the LAPIF.
2. There are no parameters on what the money can be spent on and as such due to the amount being relatively small we feel the funding should be split between 3 projects. The justification being that the projects chosen are the most pressing and worthwhile at the current time and they will have a positive impact on their respective parks.
3. The MHCLG have intimated that they would like the funding spent by the end of 2019 at the latest.
4. The projects we are proposing to be funded by the LAPIF are:
  - Treatment and painting of Marsden Park's main entrance gates and associated railings.

- Upgrade and improvement of the stone paths in Ball Grove Park.
  - Extension of the main car park at Letcliffe Park.
5. **Marsden Park (£6,995)** – the main formal entrance gates to the Park off Walton Lane are looking tired aesthetically and it was recently noted in the feedback report from the Green Flag Award judges that the, 'Main entrance gates/railings are showing signs of deterioration; additional resources needed to carry out full repaint'.
  6. We have for some time wanted to progress this essential work. The treatment and re-painting of the gates and associated railings at either side of this grand entrance will give this area of the park a huge lift and breathe new life in to this popular entrance point.
  7. **Ball Grove Park (£3,172)** – There are a number of compacted stone paths in the Park that have over the years deteriorated and are now becoming only passable by able bodied users. As such, we have a desire to upgrade/improve the relevant paths so that all users, including people with buggies and in wheelchairs, can move freely around all areas of the park.
  8. The work will allow this and prolong the life of the paths for at least another 5 years.
  9. **Letcliffe Park (£5,845)** – In view of the impending installation of 8 new sculptures in the park as part of the Pendle Sculpture Trail, we would be looking to extend the existing main car park to create an additional 6 car parking spaces. In addition, we would line mark both car parks to ensure vehicle parking is utilised to its maximum capacity.
  10. We currently have room for circa 30 car parking spaces over two car parks but this in reality is not the case as there is no line marking and as such cars do not use the car park to its full capacity.
  11. With the advent of the new sculptures being installed, we expect an increase (albeit not too significant) in visitor numbers particularly at weekends and during school holidays.
  12. The extension of the car park and line marking of both car parks would provide adequate parking (at least 38 vehicular spaces) to accommodate the envisaged increase in visitor numbers thus negating any concerns about parking on the main road and the traffic management issues that come with this.
  13. The additional money needed (there is a shortfall of £1,776) to enable all three projects to go ahead can be found from a mix of existing Parks R&M revenue budgets.
  14. The above projects have been quoted for and contractors are ready to move on these works in the short term. If approval is forthcoming from members, all work would be completed by the end of October 2019 at the latest.

## IMPLICATIONS

**Policy:** None

**Financial:** The LAPIF would pay for more or less all 3 projects with a small amount being taken from a mix of existing Parks R&M revenue budgets to make up the shortfall.

**Legal:** The Letcliffe Park project would need to be agreed by Barnoldswick Town Council due to the Park being under their ownership.

**Risk Management:** None

**Health and Safety:** The suggested improvements at Ball Grove Park will alleviate any slip/trip/fall concerns for people using the path network thus improving health & safety for users.

**Sustainability:** The projects at Marsden and Ball Grove Parks will prolong the lives of both assets and make them more attractive to users.

**Community Safety:** None

**Equality and Diversity:** The upgraded paths at Ball Grove Park would enable access throughout the park for all sections of the community.

**APPENDICES** None

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS** None