

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

meeting date: 19 OCTOBER 2021
title: S106 PROJECTS, LONGRIDGE
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek a recommendation from Committee for an additional capital budget in respect of Mardale Football pitches and Longridge Sports and Arts Centre for 2022/2022 and subsequent approval to procure those works.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities
- Community Objectives - To help make people's lives healthier and safer.
 - Corporate Priorities - To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
 - Other Considerations - The improvements will enhance the leisure provision in Longridge.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As part of new housing developments the Council seeks to gain funding from developers for off-site leisure schemes which serve both the development and the wider local area. Usually, the sum is directed at play areas and public open spaces. In this case the sum of £132,990 was secured from the Dilworth development in Longridge for 4 projects, the agreement dates from 2015.
- 2.2 The beneficiaries from the sum so far have been Longridge Cricket Club, who received £12k for wicket improvements and Kestor Lane Play Area which was allocated £30k. The balance of the available sum following the final payment from the developer is £90,990 which is proposed to be allocated for improving the pitch drainage at Mardale football pitches, which is the remaining Council project to benefit from the funding and the Longridge Sports Club based at the High School. It is proposed that of the balance remaining; £10k is provided to the Sports Club for improvements there and the remaining £81k is allocated to improving the drainage at Mardale.
- 2.3 The pitches at Mardale are well used by Longridge Juniors which is a thriving club, serving the area and catering for over 250 boys and girls from 5 to 16. They have 16 teams playing in local leagues.
- 2.4 The pitches historically have been subject to flooding, resulting in the loss of many games during the winter period. This has a direct impact on the health of the local youngsters involved, as well as creating a backlog of games for teams which must be crammed into the Spring period when both the state of the pitches and the weather improve.

- 2.5 The intention is to let a contract to complete an extensive drainage scheme, which, although unable to eliminate completely the effects of bad weather on the pitches, will significantly improve the situation through the winter period and reduce the number of games that must be postponed because of flooded pitches. The drainage scheme will help with the removal of water into a nearby water course, which will make the pitches playable for longer periods during wet weather.
- 2.6 All works will be procured in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the aim would be for work to commence on site in May 2022. Because it would not be practical or sensible to try and carry out the extensive groundwork needed for the new scheme during the winter period.
- 2.7 There is one full size pitch, one intermediate, one 9v9 and two 7v7 pitches accommodated at the site together with some changing accommodation, serviced by a public pay and display car park.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 There is currently no provision within the capital programme for 2022/2023 for these works. Committee is asked therefore to consider the works required and to recommend to Policy and Finance Committee the inclusion of an additional capital budget of £80,900 in respect of Longridge Mardale pitches for the finance year 2021/22, funded from the s106 contribution secured for this purpose.
- 3.2 Committee is also asked to authorise (subject to approval from Policy and Finance Committee) the Director of Community Services to procure the drainage works set out above.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications.
- Resources – Council officers will write the tender specification and carry out the evaluation of the tenders when received. They will also oversee the onsite work when that commences. whilst a capital scheme does not currently exist for this project, funding is available using S106 monies should members wish to approve its use for this specific scheme. Alongside 3 other specified uses, the S106 monies referred to are to be used on 'Grass Pitch Improvements at Mardale, Longridge'. A request will be required to be made to P&F if Committee wish the scheme to proceed, seeking it to be included in the Council Capital programme for 2022/23.
 - Technical, Environmental and Legal – All works must be procured in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure. Rules. Council officers would oversee the letting and monitoring of the tender.
 - Political – None in the context of this report
 - Reputation – The Council's reputation will be enhanced through its investment of s 106 funding in its sporting facilities and the improvement in their condition and availability.
 - Equality & Diversity – The pitches are open to all.

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Recommend to Policy and Finance Committee that it approve an additional capital budget of £80,900 in respect of Longridge Mardale pitches in the 2022/23 Capital Programme funded from S.106 monies received from Taylor Wimpey in respect of the Dilworth development in Longridge.
- 5.2 Authorise the Director of Community Services (subject to approval of the capital budget by Policy and Finance Committee) to procure drainage improvement works at the Mardale pitch site, Longridge as specified in this report.

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Head of Cultural and Leisure Services

JOHN HEAP
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

S106 agreement between RVBC and Wimpey Ltd

For further information please ask for Mark Beveridge 01200 425111