



PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT

TOPIC – RELEASE OF OPEN SPACE FUNDS FOR REPLACEMENT PLAY EQUIPMENT

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Corporate Director (Governance), the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other relevant overview and scrutiny committee. In addition, all Members are notified.

If five or more Members from those informed so request, the Leader may require the matter to be referred to Cabinet for determination.

Contact Officers: Stuart Dunbar-Dempsey, Open Space project Officer, Tel: 01962 848 425, Email: sdunbar-dempsey@winchester.gov.uk

Case Officer:

Committee Administrator: Nancy Graham, Tel: 01962 848 235, Email: ngraham@winchester.gov.uk

SUMMARY

Under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990), Winchester City Council can require housing developers to provide public open space on new housing sites, in areas where there are deficiencies. Where it is not possible to provide the public open space on site the Council maintains a system which allows developers to pay a sum in lieu.

The sums are paid into separate pots according to the parish or settlement where the development has taken place and are then used by the parish councils to either purchase more land for open space or make improvements to existing outdoor recreational facilities.

The Council's Open Space Project Officer monitors the release of these funds to ensure that what is proposed by the parish council is an appropriate use of the fund with reference to the annually updated Open Space Strategy.

South Wonston continues to have open space shortfalls. The Parish Council are proposing to help overcome this shortfall by making improvements and additions to the play facility at the main recreation ground. The Parish Council are requesting a release of £20,250 from the Open Space Fund.

DECISION

That the proposed release of £20,250 from the Open Space Fund to South Wonston Parish Council is agreed.

REASON FOR THE DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Winchester City Council's Open Space Strategy 2012-13 assesses South Wonston as being short of public open space when using the minimum standard in the Local Plan (table 5 p99 and Policy RT.4).

The parish has a 1.3 Ha shortfall in children's play space. However, it has not been possible for the Parish Council to acquire more land; consequently the Open Space Strategy proposes that there be improvements to the play facility at the main recreation ground.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

A release of £20,250 from South Wonston's Open Space pot will leave their play pot with £1,756.79 (as at the end of September 2012).

The intention is to ensure that by April 2014 parishes will have spent any surplus open space funds in advance of the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE DECISION

In May the Parish Council consulted South Wonston Primary School about replacement play equipment at the recreation ground. In June the school responded with their list of items which the children had chosen.

FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

n/a

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED

n/a

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

n/a

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision: 22.11.12

Councillor Roger Huxstep – Portfolio Holder for Environment