



PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PLANNING & TRANSPORT

TOPIC – OPEN SPACE FUND RELEASE TO BISHOPS WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL FOR AN EXTENSION TO THE HOE ROAD RECREATION GROUND CAR PARK

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 Principal Scrutiny Committee and all Members of the relevant Scrutiny Panel (individual Ward Members are consulted separately where appropriate). In addition, all Members are notified.

Five or more of these consulted Members can require that the matter be referred to Cabinet for determination.

Contact Officers:

Case Officer:

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Committee Administrator:

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SUMMARY

Bishops Waltham Parish Council is seeking financial assistance from the open space fund to extend the car park at the Hoe Road Recreation Ground. This Portfolio Holder's Decision Notice seeks authority to the release of £75,451.15

DECISION

That the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport approve the release of £75,451.15 from the Open Space Fund, held by the City Council, to Bishops Waltham Parish Council (BWPC) to enable them to proceed with the extension of the car park at the Hoe Road Recreation Ground.

REASON FOR THE DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 1.1 The recreation ground at Hoe Road, Bishops Waltham contains three full size football pitches, together with three mini pitches. Football matches are played primarily on Saturdays, but also on Sundays throughout the season.
- 1.2 The games are organised by the local football club who have 287 members, ranging in age from 5 to 17 years old. As many as 12 games can be played during one day which involves 264 players together with officials and spectators.

- 1.3 The existing car park facilities are inadequate and consequently on match days vehicles belonging to families of the football club and to visiting teams tend to park in nearby Hamble Springs and Cricklemede. As many as 80 vehicles can on occasion form a single line, restricting the surrounding roads to one lane.
- 1.4 Residents of Hamble Springs have made numerous complaints to the Parish Council regarding the inconvenience, noise and occasionally anti-social behaviour resulting from instances of inconsiderate parking.
- 1.5 As a result the parish council applied for planning permission to enlarge the existing car park at the Recreation Ground in May 2007. The application was permitted at Planning Committee on 21st May 2007.
- 1.6 Due to the proximity of 'The Moors' Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) immediately adjacent to the car park site, Natural England were consulted in July 2007. Their response was positive, given that the site for the proposed car park extension is species poor, no trees or hedges are to be removed and no European Protected Species would be affected.
- 1.7 BWPC formally resolved to proceed with this facility on the 4th December 2007 following selection of the contractor (Graham Moyse) from a tender list of six companies by the Policy and Resources Committee on the 27th November 2007.
- 1.8 An application for the release of Open Space funding was received by Winchester City Council on the 7th December 2007 and validated by the Open Space Officer on the 19th December 2007.
- 1.9 At the beginning of January 2008, there was a total of £162,078.52 in the Open Space Fund for BWPC. £96,366.42 in the sport 'pot' and £65,712.10 in the play 'pot'.
- 1.10 This report seeks Cabinet approval to the release of £75,451.15 from the Open Space Fund sport 'pot'. This sum would enable BWPC to extend the car park at Hoe Road Recreation Ground.
- 1.11 A fund release of £75,451.15 would reduce the amount held in the open space fund sport 'pot' for Bishops Waltham parish from £96,366.42 to £20,915.27. This would still enable the parish council to implement other stated objectives in the Open Space Strategy for example the extension to the car park at Priory Park.

APPENDICES

None

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

None

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

N/A

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision

Councillor Keith Wood – Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport