

# Item 6

## AREA 3 FORUM

4<sup>th</sup> July 2007

### Report of the Head of Strategy and Regeneration

#### Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme

##### **Application - Fishburn Recreation Ground Development Technical Study**

This report highlights a Local Improvement Programme (LIP) application submitted to and initially appraised by the Strategy and Regeneration Section. The report provides information to the Area 3 Forum for their consideration and comments, which will be used to further develop the project proposal prior to it being taken through Sedgefield Borough Council's decision-making process.

The Area 3 Forum has been allocated £532,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009. A total of £177,333 has been allocated to the year 2007/08. A number of projects have been allocated in the previous year for this area, and there is some additional under-spend resulting from last year, which will be available to the Area Forum for project activity.

#### **Project Background**

- **Name of Project:** Fishburn Recreation Ground Development – Technical Study
- **Name of Applicant:** Fishburn Parish Council
- **Brief Description of Project:** The overall project seeks to implement a series of improvements for enhanced sporting opportunities within the Recreation Ground area – Fishburn. This would include construction of a Club House, to be located where the Tennis Courts are sited, for the use of the Boxing, Bowls and Football Clubs and increasing the number of playing pitches. The applicant will work with partners to invest in the new facilities, skills and programmes.
- **Requested from LIP:** £9,600 (plus VAT) – Technical Study
- **Total Estimated Project Cost:** £9,600 plus VAT. – Technical Study
- **What will the LIP be used for:** The aim of this stage of the project is to fully investigate the options for the construction of a Club House and increasing the number of playing pitches at the Recreation Ground, Fishburn, by undertaking a Technical Study. This would include establishing an accurate project cost as well as looking at the site constraints and planning issues associated with the site.

- **Impact of the Project:** It is expected that the project will encourage a greater number of people to become involved in local sport and active recreation. It is anticipated that the project will allow South Durham Amateur Boxing Club, and the Football and Bowling Clubs to develop their teams and cater for increased use by young people. The applicant has stated that this project would be expected to widen access for opportunities to participate in sport and physical activities by targeting priority groups in the area. Improve education – leading to improved actual and perceived links with the schools in the area. Provide an improved infrastructure for sports provision.

- **Evidence of need and community support:**

The applicant has stated that the need for this development was first highlighted by the 2000 Fishburn Community Appraisal. Discussions have also taken place with the South Durham Amateur Boxing Club. The boxing club operate from a wooden unheated clubhouse at present and a member of this club is a 2008 Beijing Olympics possible medal winner. The Bowls Club operate from metal containers and the changing rooms for the football team are neither fit for use nor would they inspire the young to take up any sports offered at the site. All members of these clubs have shown favour of this development.

By undertaking the study it is recognised that further consultation with various partners and residents will need to be undertaken in considering the most appropriate option.

- **Value for money and Revenue implications:**

By carrying out this stage of the project this will help to establish a full project cost for all elements of the scheme and inform the options available. The project will only go ahead on the clear understanding by all parties that adequate funds and contingencies are in place to undertake the proposed development.

A key issue in considering any future project proposal is to ensure that the increased revenue costs associated with maintaining a facility of this nature can be met.

- **Statutory Approvals:** Requirement of Planning Permission will be a major consideration addressed by undertaking the Technical Study.

Subject to discussion and agreement by the Area Forum to progress the project proposal, the applicant will work with the Strategy and Regeneration Division to inform a full appraisal of the LIP application prior to it being taken through Sedgfield Borough Council's decisions making process.

### **Recommendation from the Strategy and Regeneration Section:**

That the Area Forum considers:

- The project proposal, and how it would meet the priority needs of the Area 3 locality.

If the Area Forum wish to support the undertaking of the Technical Study then a further report will be brought to the Area Forum once this Study has been completed to enable the Forum to consider the overall cost implications of the final project.

**Material considerations:**

**Other applications received from Area 3:**

To date no other applications have been received for this financial year.

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