

# Item 6b

**AREA 5 FORUM**

**11<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

**Report of the Assistant Chief Executive**

**Sedgefield Borough Local Improvement Programme**

## **Application - Simpasture Park Refurbishment**

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 5 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 5 Forum has been allocated £1,140,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009 subject to budget approval. A total of £380,000 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:** Simpasture Park Refurbishment
- **Name of Applicant:** Great Aycliffe Town Council
- **Brief Description of Project:** The aims of the project are to refurbish the present run down tennis courts and provide a double multi use games area and two tennis courts for unrestricted community use. In addition a small disused 'kiddy car' track area will be refurbished to provide a toddlers play area which is presently not provided in the adjacent junior play area.
- **Requested from LIP:** £89,245 (70%)
- **Total Estimated Project Cost:** £127,145
- **What will the LIP be used for:**

The applicant has stated that the project will provide a double Multi Use Games Area with basketball and cricket stumps along with goals, a double Tennis Court, a toddler play area providing 7 pieces of equipment, 1 section of play panels and 1 learning element, seating, and litter bins. Costs for preparation of the area and safety surfaces has also been included in to the project.

- **Impact of the Project:**

The applicant has stated that the project will help to reduce football in other areas that are not deemed suitable. It will also encourage greater opportunities to engage in sport and recreation activities. The re-vamp of the park and play area will discourage anti-social behaviour occurring by youths and children playing football in non-designated areas. The toddler play area will provide a safer, dedicated facility for parents/grandparents/carers of young children to use thereby encouraging family activities and cohesion. All activities will be provided free of charge thereby removing any barriers to participation and encouraging equal access to facilities for all.

The project aims to link to three of the four Sedgefield Borough Council community strategy objectives. Healthy – the project will improve the health and well being of the local community, Attractive – the project will develop and maximise the leisure and cultural facilities in the borough, Strong Communities – assisting in creating a safe neighbourhood by helping to combat anti-social behaviour by providing sports facilities for the young people of the town.

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

Consultation has taken place through Parish Plan 2006/07 and Great Aycliffe Town Council Satisfaction Survey 2007. Results show request for outdoor five-a-side for 13-19 year old. Majority in favour of Tennis Court Refurbishment and five-a-side/basketball facility. A need for a toddler area was also highlighted within the Survey. The applicant has stated that a need for investment in play areas has come out in the top 5 existing services for investment, during the above survey.

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

The total project cost £127,145, of which the applicant has applied for £89,245 (70%). Great Aycliffe Town Council will provide the remaining funding. The Town Council will cover future revenue costs.

- **Statutory Approvals:**

Requirement of Planning Permission and Building Regulation consent is to be confirmed.

## **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 5 locality.

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 further develop the LIP application prior to it being taken through Sedgefield Borough Council's decisions making process.

## **Material considerations:**

### **Other applications received from Area 5:**

Applications approved by Sedgefield Borough Council to date:

Great Aycliffe Way & Nature Reserve	£183,505
Woodham Community Centre	£25,200
Midridge Village Hall	£76,485
Neville Parade Community Centre	£44,353
Newton Aycliffe Sports Club Technical Study	£5,875
Total	<u>£335,418</u>

Applications to be discussed at Area Forum:

Neville Parade Methodist Church	£18,471
Aycliffe Village Hall	£44,815
Moore Lane Pavilion Refurbishment	£25,089

Application considered by the Area Forum and being further developed:

Newton Aycliffe Sport Club	£252,685
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Applications under development:

Morrison Close Community Centre

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