



AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

**Greater Fishponds Area Neighbourhood Partnership
22nd March 2012**

Report of: Denise James, Area Environment Officer, Environment and Leisure.

Title: PARK INVESTMENT PLAN & CLEAN and GREEN SPENDS

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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Neighbourhood Committee agrees the S106 spend of £14,006.08 for the 135 Charlton Road, Speedwell development. To improve access to Coombe Brook - The Gozzie, due to recent intensification of use by Chester Park Infant School, for Forest School activities. **(See appendix 1)**

That the Neighbourhood Committee agree the recommendation from the Environment Sub Group to also spend a small part of the allocated £19,355.57 for Manor Rd, Fishponds development, if the proposed works are more than the £14,006.08.

That the Neighbourhood Committee notes that it is a requirement that the £14,006.08 has to be spent by 24th July 2012, or the funds will no longer be available.

That the Neighbourhood Committee note the seven S106 Quick Win locations recommended by the Environment Sub Group. **(See appendix 2)**

That the Neighbourhood Committee agree the spend for the Clean & Green devolved budget, as recommended by the Environmental Sub Group. **(See appendix 3)**

Background

1. The Greater Fishponds Neighbourhood Committee agreed the Parks Investment Plan at the Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on 8th December 2011. The Neighbourhood Committee requested that further work was done on the plan to establish further prioritisation of projects, and to develop costs for the prioritised projects. These works to be carried out jointly by the Neighbourhood Environment Officer and Environment Sub Group.
2. The Neighbourhood Committee also agreed at the meeting to set aside £50,000 of the Parks Section 106 to support quick wins and to delegate responsibility to process up to £2,500 by the Area Environment Officer with close collaboration with the Environment Sub Group. This would allow for park groups to apply for quick win projects, with a condition to ensure that the money is used on capital investment that is sustainable. The Environment Sub Group have approved seven locations for Quick Wins – (**see appendix 2**)
3. The Environment Sub Group met on 28th March to discuss and prioritise recommendations for the S106 spend of £14,006.08. This spend has to be spent by 24th July 2012. The group also approved funding requests as part of their delegated responsibility to approve “Quick Wins” projects.
4. The nine recommended projects for the Quick Wins have been put forward by Park Friends Groups and can be delivered within the £2,500 budget. Further details on these projects are contained within the relevant appendix
5. A site visit has been carried out to cost up the recommended works to improve safety and access at Coombe Brook – The Gozzie. These works are listed in the Parks Investment Plan, under Nature and Woodland priorities. The cost for this project is an approximate figure and may require a small amount of additional S106 funding. The Environmental Sub Group recommended if this were the case, they would propose to allocate a small amount from the Manor Road development. Further details on why these works are deemed necessary are listed in **appendix 1**.
6. The Neighbourhood Committee is asked to approve the Environment Sub Group recommendations for the Clean & Green devolved budget. These recommendations were discussed at their meeting on March 28th.

7. The Neighbourhood Committee is asked to note that delivery of prioritised schemes will depend on officer capacity. Councillors will be kept informed of timescales and the progress of schemes will be updated within the Area Coordinators report at Neighbourhood Partnership meetings.

PROPOSAL

1. Coombe Brook – The Gozzie has been identified in the AGSIP as in need of investment, under the theme of Nature and Woodland. The investment priority for this particular location being to improve the existing paths and explore the possibility of creating a new path to Whitefield Road, as well as improving the maintenance of the site to encourage wildlife.
2. The works required to improve the safety to steps and improve access to Coombe Brook – The Gozzie will be completed by 24th July 2012. These works are required in order to improve safety to users of the valley and more importantly make the location more user friendly in view of the site being designated as a Forest School location.
3. Chester Park Infants School have embarked on a new initiative and have identified Coombe Brook Valley as an area whereby reception pupils can develop their learning, through a Forest School project. The site is suited to the needs of the children because it is within their local community and will be promoting care, respect and understanding for nature and wildlife at the site.
4. It is hoped that in the long term this learning experience will have a lifelong effect on how the children engage with their local area and that the children will encourage parents to use the area with their children to enjoy this hidden green space.
5. It is proposed that 15 children will visit the site on a weekly basis for a three week block, to ensure that all the Reception children experience the Forest School. The school is currently only able to offer each Reception child a three week block, due to how many weeks are left in the current school year. There are 75 children in total in the Reception class. It is proposed that the new school year in September 2012, the children will be offered larger learning blocks.
6. At the moment the only safe form of access for the school children to the site is via Moorlands Road and into Ridgeway Playing Fields. This is time consuming and the preferred option would be via the steps leading directly into the valley.
7. The first Forest School lesson took place on Tuesday 28th March. Feedback from the teacher was that they had “a very magical

experience – buzzing is the word I think I would use to describe their enthusiasm”

8. The Environment Sub Group is fully supportive of this new initiative, as it will encourage young children to take more pride in their local environment. It is also hoped that with further investment into the area, links could be developed from Royate Hill Nature Reserve through to Lodge Hill Open Space, to incorporate a healthy walk route and wildlife corridor.
9. The Area Environment Officer will be supporting Chester Park School and will be working with them to source additional funding, to purchase equipment for the children to use on site.

RISK ASSESSMENT

1. The main risk of not approving the S106 £14,006.08 spend is that the money will not be available to the Neighbourhood Partnership, if it is not spend by the deadline of 24th July 2012.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1. It is not expected that there will be any adverse impacts to any equalities community from this investment decision.

REVENUE

1. The revenue implications of investment are taken into account through the way in which the Council allocates S106 income. Therefore there are no additional revenue implications for this spend proposal.

APPENDIX 1

Greater Fishponds S.106 Spend – 06/01151/135 Charlton Road, Speedwell - £14,006.08 – Time limit 24th July 2012

Spending Priority	Objective	Scope of work	Approximate costs	General comment
Coombe Vale stream crossing	To improve safety steps, paths and of stream crossing in view of recent intensification of use by school groups	Improvement of steps and path surface. Provision of handrails.	£14k - £18k	It is estimated that works will take approximately 8 weeks to complete, once approval has been given by the Neighbourhood Partnership Committee.

NB: Prices and scope of work are outline only subject to more detailed design and site investigation/measurement of quantities.

APPENDIX 2

GREATER FISHPONDS NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP – RECOMMENDED PARKS IMPROVEMENT PLAN INVESTMENT PRIORITIES -

Quick Wins Assessed by the Environment Sub Group on a case by case basis as agreed at the Neighbourhood Partnership meeting held on 08.12.11
Maximum spend £2,500

Site Name	Theme	Quick Win	Investment Priority	Ward
Fishponds Park	Sustainable Development	Install Power Supply	The park is located in a central shopping area. Will allow local park to hold small events for the local community & also invest further into the park.	Frome Vale
Lodge Hill Open Space	Access & Movement	2 x Benches	Prime hill top location, well used by local community and is also on route to local surgery. Benches would allow people to rest, as well as allowing them to sit and enjoy the views	Hillfields
East Park Housing	Access & Movement	1 x Bench & litter bin	Install a bench & litter bin at entrance leading on to Greenbank. Location identified as a litter hot spot.	Eastville
Eastville Park	Option 1. Access & Movement	Bench materials	To purchase materials to refurbish traditional Bristol Twig Victorian style benches. Bristol Parks will match fund this option by providing labour. It is anticipated that approximately 50 benches could be refurbished.	Eastville Friends of Eastville Park to confirm which option they would prefer to to with.
	Option 2. Sustainable development	Install Power Supply	Will allow park friends group to hold fundraising events to assist with further investment into the park	

Site Name	Theme	Quick Win	Investment Priority	Ward
Ridgeway Playing Fields	Access & Movement	1 x Notice Board or 2 x benches	Notice board to promote events & to encourage local community to use the Playing fields. Benches will allow visitors & users of the space to relax.	Hillfields
Argyle Road	Childrens Play	New bench	Currently only one bench in the play area, additional bench will allow visitors and users to relax.	Hillfields
Begbrook Park	Health & Safety	Funds to be put to Improve steps & footbridge that lead from Sterncourt Road.	The existing steps and handrails are not fit for purpose. Requires thorough make over, which will raise both the safety and the aesthetic appeal of this well used thoroughfare.	Frome Vale

Appendix 3

**Greater Fishponds Neighbourhood Partnership
Clean & Green Devolved Budget
Environment Sub Group Approval Requests**

Location	Ward	Description of Works	Est Cost	Current Balance 2011/12 £1435
Freemantle Gardens/Fishponds Rd/Bourne Lane junction with Stapleton Rd Block	Eastville	Multi agency week of action, addressing fly-tipping, graffiti, bins on streets, street cleansing, untidy front gardens + general non contract enhancement works. Funding request for up to three community payback sessions dependant on works required + any additional costs to deliver clean up.	£100- £150	To be approved
Clean up area to be still to be identified – from Neighbourhood Forum Issues on 17 th April 2012	Frome Vale	Multi agency week of action, addressing fly-tipping, graffiti, bins on streets, street cleansing, untidy front gardens + general non contract enhancement works. Funding request for up to three community payback sessions dependant on works required + any additional costs to deliver clean up.	£100- £150	

Location	Ward	Description of Works	Est Cost	Current Balance 2011/12 £1435
Clean up area to be still to be identified – from Neighbourhood Forum Issues on 30 th May 2012	Hillfields	Multi agency week of action, addressing fly-tipping, graffiti, bins on streets, street cleansing, untidy front gardens + general non contract enhancement works. Funding request for up to three community payback sessions dependant on works required + any additional costs to deliver clean up.	£100- £150	
Fishponds Park – Entrance	Frome Vale	2 x hanging baskets to enhance the park entrance – will be installed on wall of public toilets. The Area Environment Officer will also work with local traders to encourage them to take part in Bristol in Bloom initiative at local level by entering Fishponds Rd & Straits Parade for Shopping Area/Street – this could involve Jubilee/Olympic theme.		