



AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

HORFIELD AND LOCKLEAZE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

12 April 2016

Report of: Nicola Hazell – Operations Manager, Groundwork South

Title: The Vench Adventure Playground Enhancement Project – Phase 3

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Recommendation/ Decision:

- Approve funding request for Phase 3 of the Adventure Playground Enhancement Project at The Vench, awarding Groundwork South £100,000 S106 funding.

BACKGROUND

Groundwork South has a 15 year lease with Bristol City Council (BCC) to manage The Vench. Our priority for The Vench is to protect it as community resource, developing and enhancing its facilities so that they can continue to be enjoyed by the local community.

Groundwork South are responsible for the management and maintenance of the building and for all activities which take place within it with the exception of the current youth provision. This is delivered by Learning Partnership West (LPW) under a completely separate contract that BCC are responsible for. This contract was in place when we took on the lease, and runs until 2018. Groundwork South is not responsible for the youth provision.

We have been entrusted to look after this vital community resource for the Lockleaze community, specifically its young people. The age of the structure and ever increasing maintenance costs plus our desire to make The Vench a beacon of Youth Play for the city, means investment is required now to enable The Vench to realise its vision to:

- Be a magical place where children and young people can shape and develop their environment, meet friends and play all year indoors and outside.
- Provide a varied and interesting site with places to run, jump, roll, climb, balance and challenge all abilities.
- Provide places to do art, cooking, make and mend, build dens and use tools.
- Support access to the natural elements - earth, water, fire and air.
- Have places to act and sing.
- Have places to be quiet and concentrate.
- Have places to relax, play alone or with others, to negotiate, cooperate, compete and resolve conflicts.
- Have places to meet and interact with like minded children and young people, and those who are very different.
- Be a safe place where through exploring their imagination children prepare for real life.
- Help children and young people to challenge themselves and manage risk.
- Enable children and young people to be involved in creating it and being able to 'renew' it, change and adapt it, as time goes on.

A Steering Group was established and constituted in October 2015 to support us to achieve this vision. The Steering Group is mechanism to enable both the community and those with expertise in Youth Work to share knowledge and oversee the APG Enhancement Project.

The Vench Steering Group members are:

Councillor Estella Tincknell (Chair)

Councillor Gill Kirk

Pete Woods-Wetton – LPW

Sam Parker – BCC (Public Health)

Charlene Richardson- BCC (Senior Youth & Play Practitioner)

John Knowlson – representing himself

Ilanie Allen – Community Representative

Hayden Kroll– Youth Representative

In line with our priority to improve and enhance the facilities at the Vench, we sought funding to renovate the existing Adventure Playground (APG). Given the size of the APG, a phased approach was taken to the enhancement project. In January 2015 £50,000 of S106 funding was awarded to Groundwork South by the Neighbourhood Partnership for Phase 1 of the enhancement project. This saw in construction of a play facility for younger uses of the APG. The Hot Air Balloon structure was created with input from the children who took part in the play sessions run by LPW. The works were delivered by BCC Landscapes Team, and snagging works are still being carried out.

The BCC Landscapes team were the only respondents to the request for quotations for the capital works. The works started in May 2015 and were due to be completed 6 weeks later, but the structure wasn't finished until September 2015.

Below is a budget breakdown for Phase1.

INCOME	£
BCC S106	50,000
BUNZL Logistics	3,944
Groundwork South (GWS)	6,757
Total Income	60,701
EXPENDITURE	
Bristol City Council Landscapes Team (construction of air balloon)	50,422
GWS Project Management (Selina O'Sullivan & Tim Cooper)	4,160
GWS Landscape Architect (Mike Kemp)	6,121
Total Expenditure	60,701

In October 2015, Groundwork South secured a further £43,000 of S106 funding from the Neighbourhood Partnership for Phase 2 of the APG Enhancement Project. Following extensive input from the Steering Group and feedback from initial consultation work, the decision was made not to build a new large play structure at this stage, but instead to use some of this funding to repair and reinstate the two most popular features of the existing APG – the zip wire and the drop slide. Both of which had been out of action for some time as they had fallen into a state of disrepair. This revised request for expenditure was discussed and agreed with the Neighbourhood Partnership in December 2015.

Below is a budget breakdown for Phase 2.

INCOME	
BCC S106	£43,000
Total income	£43,000
EXPENDITURE	
SPLASH Projects	£34,500
Bristol Wood Recycling Project – removal of rotten wood	£270
GWS Project Management (Selina O’Sullivan & Nicola Hazell)	£2,025
Repairs to floodlights	£1,200
Total Expenditure	£37,995
Balance to rollover to Phase 3	£5,005

In addition to the physical work in Phase 2 we also carried out an extensive community consultation with users and potential users (8 – 19 year olds) of The Vench APG to canvass opinion on what features to enhance / add to the existing APG in Phase 3 of the APG Enhancement Project.

PHASE 3 CONSULTATION

The consultation process was carried out by the Project Manager (Selina O’Sullivan) in January 2016 and used three methods to obtain feedback on the APG enhancement project:

- Online Survey
- Drop in events
- Attendance at LPW run sessions at The Vench

Whilst our primary target audience for the survey was 8-19 year olds, we also sought responses from people working with children/young people in Lockleaze and local relevant adults e.g. LPW, residents living adjacent to the playground, etc.

Online Survey

The survey was electronic (via Survey Monkey) so was primarily distributed through online channels including our Facebook and Twitter accounts and website, the Love Lockleaze Facebook page and was emailed out to the Steering Group and all Groundwork South contacts. LPW also circulated it to their email contacts.

Schools

- Emailed all local primary and secondary schools with poster advertising survey and drop in sessions. Offered to go into schools to talk to children/young people.
- Phoned schools to follow up and ask them to advertise.
- Stoke Park.- delivered posters.
- Wallscourt Farm Academy included in email bulletin to parent/carers.
- Orchard School – advertised on their website, displayed on noticeboards, and sent to all tutors. LPW staff took to 4YP sessions.
- Filton Avenue – added to Schoolscomm email to parents.
- Fairfield – school added to website.

Libraries (at Councillor's suggestion)

- Emailed to Horfield Library.
- Emailed and dropped off posters at Eastville Library.

Emerson Square (at Councillor's suggestion)

- Posters displayed on Square.

Cheswick Estate (at Councillor's suggestion)

- Posters displayed.

Gainsborough Square (posters displayed)

- McColls
- Pharmacy
- The Hub
- Cameron Centre noticeboard

Social media

- GWS Facebook, website and tweeted.
- Love Lockleaze Facebook page.

Langley Centre

- Dropped in to employability session to talk to participants.

BCC Romney House

- Poster displayed at reception.

Local residents adjacent to site (Hogarth Walk, Romney Avenue, etc) who would be affected by building work were leafleted

- One local resident came to drop in session and later completed survey.

The poster and survey were also emailed to organisations who work with children and young people

- LPW
- St James Community Church
- St Werburgh's City Farm
- Charlene Richardson, Senior Youth and Play Practitioner, BCC
- Connect Lockleaze
- Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust
- BCC Neighbourhoods – Paul Griffiths, Caroline Hollies, Hayley Ash
- United Communities
- Studio 7
- North Bristol Advice Centre
- Places for People
- UWE
- Local PCSO
- Buzz Lockleaze
- EBE Church and North Bristol Food Bank

Drop in Events

Groundwork commissioned an initial design for the site with suggested photos of each of the proposed areas from Splash Projects. This site layout design was based on feedback from The Vench's Steering Group and from the children and young people who they had consulted with on a session in early October – this was then used at the drop in events to talk to people about what they might like any new or redesigned structures to look like.

Three drop in events were held:

1. The Hub – Thurs 14 January 1.30 to 3.30pm
2. The Vench – Weds 20 January 10.00 to 11.00 am
3. The Vench – Tues 26 January 2.30 to 3.30pm

Attendance at Youth Sessions

The Project Manager also formally attended the following youth and play sessions during the three weeks to talk to children and young people:

- Youth (one session)
- Play (four sessions)

- Studio 7 (one session)
- Girls Group – Wordsworth Centre (one session)

Again, the initial design was used to gain feedback from young people on what they might like any new or redesigned structures to look like.

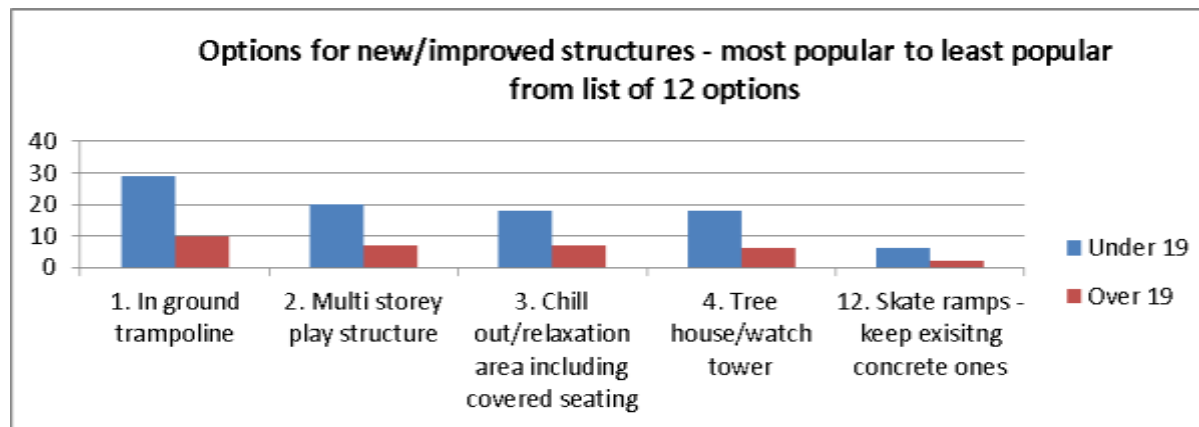
Survey Reach

We believe that at least 500 (potentially up to 800) people will have had the opportunity to take part in the consultation by either completing the survey and/or attending a drop in event because they either saw an email, social media post or poster, or attended a drop in event.

CONSULTATION RESULTS

In addition to copious amounts of verbal feedback and discussion, we received 59 completed surveys – giving us a response rate of 11.8%. The widely accepted expected return rate for external surveys is between 10 – 15%, so we were really pleased with this return rate.

Respondents were asked what features they would like to see in the APG, the chart below shows the top 4 and the least popular:



From previous consultations, we were aware that children and young people would like to see a trampoline and (particularly for the older ones) a chill out area. Both of these features were included in the original Phase 1 design for the APG but later had to be excluded from the final design on the grounds of cost (as the only tender that was received was £20K over budget).

The popularity of both of these features was borne out by findings at both the sessions and in the responses to the survey amongst all ages of respondents.

The least popular option was keeping the skate ramps. The children and young people who talked about the skate ramps stated that they didn't use them for skating but rather for playing on or for hanging out – this could be due to their elevated position at the furthest edge of the site.

COMMISSIONING

In line with our procurement policy, Splash Projects have been awarded an 'in principle' contract from Groundwork South for the delivery of Phase 3 of the APG Enhancement project – subject to funding for Phase 3 being secured. Quotations were requested against a project brief from several companies but the only quote we received was from Splash Projects. However, because we have successfully worked with Splash Projects before and know that they demonstrate excellent value for money, we are happy to work with them again on Phase 3.

Splash Projects are the preferred provider because of a proven track record in the UK and other countries of designing and building imaginative and robust structures. We are delighted to be working with Splash Projects again as we were really impressed with the work they carried out for us in Phase 2, finishing on time and to budget. There was minimal disruption to sessions during the build phase, and the team work tirelessly in pretty awful weather conditions to ensure deadlines were met. Since completion of the Phase 2 works, Splash have been back on site to advise us on how to stop the drop slide being accessed out of hours, and made improvements to the entrance to the structure.

A key factor in us appointing Splash Projects as the contractor is their ability to secure corporate involvement in the build phase of the project from BAE who will be providing at least 120 volunteers and potentially some additional funding. Splash are also able to offer local people free training opportunities during the construction phase which is great news for the Lockleaze.

PHASE 3

All findings from the consultation have been given to Splash, and they have used the feedback to inform the latest design for Phase 3. The design is not finalised, and will be reviewed and revised by the Steering Group and young people so the cost breakdown below is indicative and subject to change as the design evolves.

We will work closely with the Steering Group to finalise and sign off the design. We will also give young people (and ideally all respondents to the survey if time allows) the opportunity to review the proposed design.

Indicative budget for Phase 3:

INCOME	
BCC S106 – Phase 2 carry forward	£5,005
BCC S106 – Phase 3 Grant	£100,000
Total income	£105,005
EXPENDITURE	
Splash Project Fee including design, facilitation and training for apprentices or local community, pre project -meetings, H&S management, management of corporate participants, all Splash expenses, insurance, travel, accommodation Experienced Splash Project Managers, short 2 minute film of the build.	£90,000
GWS Project Management (Selina O’Sullivan & Nicola Hazell)	£10,000
Opening Event	£1,000
Training Course Accreditation (the training is free, but if we want to provide certificates there is a fee per head)	£2,000
Project Video	£2,500
Community Volunteer Expenses	£505
Total Expenditure	£105,005

We hope that we have demonstrated in this report our commitment to The Vench, and the extensive community consultation process that we have carried out in order to evidence the need for further enhancements to be made to the APG.

We therefore request that the Neighbourhood Partnership awards a further £100,000 of S106 funding to Groundwork South to enable us to complete Phase 3 of the APG Enhancement Project.

We would of course keep the Neighbourhood Partnership fully updated on progress and on the budget as it evolves during the final design stages. We are happy to agree a suitable reporting structure with Caroline Hollies to achieve this.

Not securing the funding at this stage would have an extremely negative impact. Not only would we lose the support and additional resources in terms of the corporate volunteers that Splash have lined up, but the numbers of children and young people would drop even further than they already have as the APG isn’t fit for purpose in its current state. As a charity, we don’t have the funds to develop the APG ourselves, and are therefore dependant on grant funding. There are fewer and fewer funds available for projects like this, therefore this S106 funding is quite literally the gold at the end of the rainbow for us, and securing it would have a hugely positive impact on the Lockleaze community. We have generated excitement and momentum through the first two phases of the APG Enhancement Project and

the consultation, not securing the funding now would mean we would lose that momentum, and will be unable to deliver the improvements in time for the summer holidays.

Timescale

If this request is approved, we will work to the following delivery timescale:

March	April	May	June	July
Award 'in principle' contract to preferred provider	Finalise design with Steering Group and users.	Opportunities for corporate and community involvement in the build.	Physical construction continues	Completion ahead of school holidays
	Plan and publicise opportunities for community and corporate involvement.	Contractor commences work on site (late May)	Opportunities for corporate and community involvement in the build.	Celebratory opening event
	Apply for planning permission (if applicable)		Progress Report to Neighbourhood Partnership	
	Agree reporting structure with Neighbourhood Partnership			
	Finalise budget for Phase 3			
	Order materials			