

## BCR NP parks update for NP meeting 10 October 2016

(NP members are reminded that Parks priority projects have been listed as appendices to the NP plan.)

From the NP plan priority projects, we wish to bring forward the following for funding from the NP funds at this meeting. We ask that this is taken as part of the NP Parks working group allocated budget ( £50K applied for but not confirmed)

### **ACTION:**

NP is asked to approve expenditure of up to £3500 to cover supply and fixing of signage on shared use paths in Ashley Down Green, Horfield Common and Redland Green.

NP is asked to approve expenditure of up to £3500 to cover supply and fix of two notice boards in Ashley Down Green

NP is asked to approve expenditure of up to £11k for refurbishment of benches in Cotham Gardens and Lovers' Walk.

NP is asked to note projects which are being brought forward which currently are unpriced

- > Bench refurbishment projects in Redland Green
- > Refurbishment of playground in High Kingsdown
- > Refurbishment of playground in Cotham Gardens

### **1. i) Signage for shared routes** in 3 of our NP parks : in accordance with NP priorities as detailed below.

no pricing has been done by BCC parks: perhaps we need to show we have the money allocated before officer time to working up schemes will be assigned, we would therefore like the NP to approve expenditure of up to £3500 (approx. £100/ sign) – this will include making new signs and fixing them in place, or spraying signage onto existing paths.

#### **Ashley Down Green, NP Priority:**

b) ensure that existing safe use of paths and walkways for pedestrians (including dog walkers) and small children on scooters etc. is maintained; promote safe shared use with cyclists, with continued priority for pedestrians and small children on the paths within the ADG area

Signs at 2 entrances to greenspace and at 2 entrances to fenced area.

#### **Redland Green, NP Plan priority:**

rationalise signage to improve safety of shared footpaths and cycle ways in the Green

This has been discussed with the Parks officer on a number of occasions and there is support in principle but there has been no action. We would like to allocate funding to encourage BCC to take this forward.

Signs at entrances to greenspace and at junctions and pinch points- up to 16 locations.

#### **Horfield Common NP Plan priority**

1. Signage making clear that the path next to the play area is 5mph (2mph ideally) & a dead end from Kellaway Avenue entry.

2. Resolve ongoing shared path issue with garage users/install signage asserting that pedestrians have priority/2mph/speed bumps/wooden bollards (similar to those next to track outside Horfield Lodge) down either side of track

Signs at entrances to greenspace and at junctions and pinch points- up to 12 locations.

### **1.ii) Ashley Down Green notice boards.**

All existing parks have notice boards which are used by the community. Provision of Notice Boards for Ashley Down Green was not included in the s106 funded scheme design. The NP is asked to approve funding for this at this meeting

Supply and install 2 no parks notice boards at approx. £1.5K each

### **Cotham Gardens and Redland Grove greenspace:**

RCAS have done an audit of all the benches in the park and along Lovers' Walk.

Benches are supposed to be maintained under the contract including regular cleaning. This has not happened. Slats have been replaced where they are broken but unfinished bench slats are dirty and when graffitied are impossible to clean. Benches along the northern section of Lovers' Walk have no concrete base slabs so grass and weeds grow up through the slats and around the supports. Ride on grass mowers cannot get close to the structure to stop this and Parks dept have stopped weedkilling or strimming round benches. In the upper park (southern section) the benches were refurbished and concrete bases installed but the condition of the benches is poor.

A complete refurbishment programme is proposed, including replacing a bench on Lovers Walk which was removed earlier this year, and replacing two benches in upper Cotham Gardens which are very popular.

RCAS is happy to support this work but asks NP to match fund the project. Detailed costing will be done in discussion with BCC parks, and it is proposed to look at using Community Pay Back and Park Work for the project if possible, as an alternative to a commercial contractor.

Use of Community Pay Back and Park work will mean that a greater input from BCC/NP/RCAS will be required to monitor and supervise work so we have been advised that this could carry unseen costs for BCC which may not be found.

“As for a cost I would recommend submitting a bid for a total of 18K plus a 20% contingency for repairs/ reinstatement around the benches using an outside contractor”

We are therefore asking for funding of up to £11K for benches in Cotham Gardens and Lovers Walk. RCAS will be asked to match this funding. If RCAS cannot match the funding a reduced scheme would be worked up.

If BCC is able to offer officer time to work with Park Work and /or Community Pay back, if we can break the project up into chunks to allow for their way of working, and if we can provide a local location for storage of materials, we may be able to reduce the costs significantly, perhaps to as little as £ 11K in total.

## **2. Projects currently being worked up**

### **Redland Green bench refurbishment.**

RGCG have carried out a bench audit for their park where similar issues exist. The need for improvements to benches has been noted by RGCG, RCAS and the parks officer for many years but there has been no budget available for this.

There are 21 benches which need repainting, a number which require repair of seat with replacement slats, and 12 which need new or refurbished concrete bases under the seats.

Based on costings for Cotham Gardens, it is possible that a similar amount of money would be needed.

### **3. Future funding required subject to further discussion with BCC**

#### **High Kingsdown playground.**

Plans for High Kingsdown have been drawn up and are approved by BCC parks. Funding of £77K has been approved by CCCE NP before boundary change. The High Kingsdown group has applied for charitable funding but organisations will not fund the playground because it is owned by BCC. The only way they can get the funding is to take a lease on the playground. The terms of the lease can be agreed so as not to be too onerous on the local residents but no progress has been made on this.

The group needs help to progress this; or we can decide to support them using NP funds. The scheme involves replacing the hard-surfacing with grass and shrubs and replacing aging play equipment.

Two schemes have been worked up, The most expensive design is costed at £160K. There is a cheaper one at £103k but this one compromises a lot. The shortfall is therefore between £26K and £83K.

#### **Cotham Gardens playground equipment.**

Cotham Gardens was not included in the recent £5million playground improvement capital funding pot. Equipment at Cotham Gardens was paid for by local residents approx. 20 years ago and is now reaching the end of its safe life. Some parts of the equipment can be refurbished and some replaced.

BCC is carrying out an audit of the play equipment and starting to identify possible replacements. There is no s106 available, so money will have to be found from BCC funds or BCR NP fund.

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22 September 2016