



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park
Date:	15 April 2010
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Alex McNeill, Parks Manager East

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to seek Members' approval to:

- (i) erect a 1.2m fence around pitches 1 and 2 at Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park, and
- (ii) apply to the Alpha Programme for funding to erect the fence.

Relevant Background Information

The Committee is asked to note there have been a number of complaints relating to dog fouling on pitches at Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park from Elected Members and park users over the past several months. These complaints have also been highlighted in the media.

Several meetings have taken place with the East Belfast Soccer Junior football Club, Elected Members, Dog Wardens, and Parks Managers to identify and implement procedures which would monitor and reduce dog fouling within the site. Emerging from the discussions was a recommendation to erect a fence to prevent access and fouling by dogs on the pitches.

Key Issues

It is proposed that installation of a 1.2 metre high fence around pitches 1 and 2 would help reduce dog fouling on the pitches and would also potentially;

- improve community relations by reduction of conflict between site users;
- allow provision for better and safer facilities to the public; and
- reduce the number of complaints received at the Park.

The erection of a fence would be welcomed by the current facilities management agreement holders; the East Belfast Football Club and East Belfast Junior Football Club.

The Alpha Programme, of which the Council is a steering group partner, distributes funding in the form of landfill tax credits to projects within a ten mile radius of the Mullaghglass landfill site. It is proposed that an application is made to the programme for funding under the following category:

Projects which provide, maintain or improve a public park or other public amenity in the vicinity of a landfill site, and which promotes positive land management and community involvement e.g. creation of wildlife habitats or play areas.

The Alpha Programme operates quarterly, with applications assessed at the end of March, June, September and December, so the next opportunity to apply will be by the end of June.

Resource Implications

Financial

The total cost for supply and erection of the fence is estimated at £26,500 with 90% of the cost being provided by the Alpha fund if successful. It is proposed that the remaining 10% will be provided from the property maintenance budget.

Human Resources

There are no additional human resource implications.

Asset and Other Implications

It is proposed that the fence will greatly enhance the existing soccer pitches at the park.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- (i) approve the erection of the proposed fence subject to funding being obtained from the Alpha Fund, and
- (ii) authorise officers to apply to the Alpha Programme for funding to erect the fence.

Decision Tracking

A further report will be brought by the Parks Manager to inform Members of the outcome of the application to the Alpha Programme, once notification has been received which is anticipated to be no later than September 2010.

Key to Abbreviations

None.

Documents Attached

None.