

Extract from minutes of –

PARKS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

14th FEBRUARY, 2008

“McCrorry Park

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

‘Relevant Background Information

The Committee may recall that the development of a playground facility at McCrorry Park has been ongoing from April 2000 when the former Parks and Amenities Sub Committee agreed to acquire the land from the O’Donnell’s GAC at no cost to the Council. The funding for the project has come from three sources, Belfast Regeneration Office; Creating Common Ground consortium and Lloyds TSB. This has been a protracted project with delays in acquiring title and funding.

The Council has agreed to manage and maintain the facility once completed.

The project is nearing completion, March 2008. However, a request has now been received from the Community in relation to the landscaping of a piece of land adjacent to the facility and indicated on the drawing at Appendix A. The piece of land was not included in the original lease from the O’Donnell’s GAC; however discussions with the Club and local residents have indicated that both were under the impression that the land had been included.

The work was not included in the original tender; however discussions with the contractor have indicated that the work can be undertaken. The Belfast Regeneration Office has also advised the Council that it would be willing to meet the additional cost of the work providing the council is willing to revise its lease with O’Donnell’s.

Key Issues

Key Issues for consideration

The Committee is asked to note the following points

1. The Committee is being asked to agree to extend the current lease from O’Donnell’s GAC to incorporate the additional area of land;
2. The BRO is willing to fund the additional work providing it is undertaken prior to end of March 2008;

3. Formal confirmation has been sought from O'Donnell's GAC in relation to the transfer of the land;
4. It is anticipated that the lease will be in line with the existing agreement and will be at nil cost to the Council;
5. The work will enhance the environmental and aesthetic appearance of the area

Resource Implications

Financial

The acquisition of the land will have revenue implications in terms of ongoing maintenance.

Human Resources

There are no significant human resource implications.

Asset and Other Implications

The additional work will enhance the appearance and attractiveness of the area.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee agree in principle to accept the acquisition of the additional land at nil cost to the Council subject to the entering into an appropriate legal agreement between the Council and O'Donnell's GAC. It is further recommended that the Committee agree to accept the management and maintenance of the area and carry appropriate public liability insurance in respect of the facility.'

The Committee adopted the recommendation, subject to notification, in accordance with Standing Order 60, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee."