

Decision Session - Cabinet Members for
Environmental Services and Leisure, Culture &
Tourism

9 October 2013

Report of the Assistant Director (Communities, Culture & Public Realm)

Petition requesting the provision of a fence and additional dog and litter bins at Grange Lane Play Area

Summary

1. This report is in response to a recent petition received from 251 residents from across York. (See Annex 1)
2. The petition requests the installation of a dog deterring fence around the play area off Grange Lane and that more dog dirt bins and litter bins be provided close to the play equipment.

Background

3. The play area in question is sited within a larger open space accessed from Westfield Place and Grange Lane. It was installed in April 2011 and was funded through the PlayBuilder scheme and section 106 funding. Part of the PlayBuilder philosophy for new sites was that play areas would not be fenced off.
4. During June 2012 a number of litter bins were removed from across the city as part of the 12/13 budget process; this resulted in one litter bin being removed from this area, at the junction of Askham Lane and Gale Lane. There are, however, still two existing dog bins and one litter bin in Grange Lane and a dog bin at the Westfield place entrance (which is due to be replaced due to vandalism).

Consultation

5. In line with our Smarter York initiative, one of our Street Environment Officers has recently run an anti-dog fouling competition in conjunction with Foxwood Resident Association, at Westfield Primary school. Pupils from Westfield Primary school were invited to design a new plaque that will be put up around the area, including Foxwood, Cornlands Road, Grange Lane and Askham Lane. (See Annex 2)

Way Forward

6. There are no Council budgets available to fund this work; however, the Chapelfields Residents Association have agreed to add the installation of a fence to their list of potential schemes to be funded from the £9,500 allocated to the residents association each year to spend on local improvements. Any funding would be for 2014/15.
7. The Chapelfields Residents Association are also considering making a bid for funding from the Westfield ward committee, who have recently been given a further £3,326 from the Ward Credits Pot to fund community projects in the area. Any funding from this source would be during 2013/14. There would also be potential to bid for ward funding in 2014/15.
8. With regard to bins, there are two dog bins and one litter bin in Grange Lane and a vandalised dog bin due to be replaced at the Westfield place entrance. Funding is not available to service additional bins; however, we can reposition existing bins at the Grange Lane entrance and it is proposed to consult residents about the best location for the bins. As the waste from both dog bins and litter bins is dealt with in the same way there is no need to maintain separate bins (other councils have combined bins). Combined bins could be provided in this location to allow more flexibility for users. This could be treated as a pilot and the learning fed into future arrangements across the city.

Options

9. The principal options available are:
 - a. Officers from our Community and Equality team will support applications for the funding sources outlined above and actively pursue other funding streams if necessary.
 - b. To wait for other funding sources to become available.

Analysis

10. Option a) will give the most certainty about the scheme moving forward. The fence is estimated to cost 7.2k. Should there be any shortfall in the funding available officers will look for additional funding sources, for example from Section 106 funding, to close the gap.
11. Although PlayBuilder schemes did not envisage fencing, in this case there is a clear community demand and the fencing would be simply for deterring dogs; it would not be lockable.

Council Plan

12. Through the proposed measures we will support the following areas of the Council Plan
 - Build Stronger Communities – by talking to and listening to views.
 - Protect the Environment – maintaining a level of service required for each local area.
13. We will also continue to use the Smarter York initiative as a driver for change and improvement in services.

Implications

14. There are no financial, human resources, equalities, legal, crime and disorder, IT, property or other implications beyond those outlined in the report.

Risk Management

15. There are no known risks.

Recommendations

16. The Cabinet Member is recommended to:
 - i. Note the receipt of the petitions
 - ii. Approve option set out in paragraph 9a)

Reason: To support the requests from residents.

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**Report
Approved**

Date *Insert Date*

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Wards Affected: Westfield

All

For further information please contact the author of the report