

# **PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

**21 June 2021**

## **Filham Park Masterplan**

At the last meeting of this Committee it was agreed Officers and our Parks consultants, should commence work on more detail of the Masterplan. This work has been mostly funded by some seed money already agreed from the S106 allocations.

Taking account of the feedback from the survey shared at the last meeting, the following is a balanced proposal including the priorities of the public from their responses, and the general improvements that are needed to raise the quality of the Park and to deliver the facilities the public would expect.

Initial discussions with South Hams District Council (SHDC) with regards to the scope and scale of the funds available have been very promising and we are at the stage now where we need to submit detailed proposals in order for the allocation to be made formally and approved by the local SHDC Members. Once this is done we can start to deliver the projects.

This is a very big opportunity for the Park and we as Officers are excited to bring to you these proposals for your consideration and approval.

### **Phased Approach**

On discussion with SHDC, a phased approach is preferred by them. This will also fit with our capacity and allow things to start happening extremely quickly this summer.

### **Master Plan**

The attached document 'Master Plan' gives a high level layout of the new and improved features. A digital version can also be viewed here: <http://bit.ly/filhamplan>

### **Phase 1 and Bike Track – Starting in Summer 2021**

This phase includes many of the smaller projects that are relatively quick to deliver, but will have a good impact. The attached sheet 'Filham Park Masterplan Phase 1 Costings' and the 'Project development narrative' document give detail on what is included in Phase 1.

Running alongside Phase 1 would be the Bike Track Project. This is to allow the extra funding required to be sought by the Filham Bike Track Group, working with us as the lead organisation. This will be beneficial as we manage the site, and so we can coordinate the project in conjunction with other aspects of the site in mind. We will also be able to reclaim any VAT on the works too.

The Bike Track needs to get underway as the funding process will take some time and so the sooner we can secure the initial S106 funding the project will become more fundable by external sports bodies.

## **Phase 2 – From April 2022**

This phase includes some of the bigger aspects of the improvements that will need some more time for design and detailing.

The main items here are the public toilets which would feature in a building that will also include some space for the Parks team – a ‘Ranger Station’ incorporating storage, garaging, and welfare facilities for them and their volunteer work parties. The design of the toilets will have to be clearly thought through – for security and low maintenance. There will be a budgetary impact when they are in place in terms of cleaning and possibly locking/unlocking staffing time. However, these facilities are a number one priority for the public. It will also massively improve the accessibility of the park for young families and people with differing needs.

The other major addition in this phase are the wooden rain shelters which will be beautiful natural wood structures using our own timber from Long Timber Wood. This will not only be a sustainable way to create them, they will serve a practical purpose for the public and for volunteers working in the park.

The attached sheet ‘Filham Park Masterplan Phase 2 Costings’ and the ‘Project development narrative’ document give more detail on what is included in Phase 2.

### **Other funding required**

You will see from the Phase Costing sheets that the S106 money cannot cover all the projects. SHDC would require funds to be coming from additional sources.

Some items such as tree and biodiversity projects would most likely find funding from elsewhere and so would not require the S106 money at all. Some require some S106 but will then attract partial funding from elsewhere. Some will be delivered by volunteer work parties and that time will count as match funding.

The toilets and ‘Ranger Station’ building is not likely to be attractive to funders and this item is likely to need significant contribution from the Town Council itself. It is recommended that Councillors consider investigating if the capital funds currently invested can cover this aspect. This investment money is restricted and can only be used on capital works such as this, it cannot be used for any other reasons. Once this Committee have a more detailed plan, this request will need to be taken to Full Council for approval.

### **Next stage**

If on considering the attached proposals this Committee agree with the outlined proposals it is **recommended** that the Town Clerk is delegated to work with our Parks consultants to submit an application on this Council’s behalf to SHDC for S106 funding for Phase 1 as detailed and also begin work to develop Phase 2 proposals to bring to committee more detail so that it can be at a point ready to deliver Phase 2 projects from April 2022.

It is also **recommended** that a Working Group is set up with the Bike Track Group, the Town Clerk, our Parks consultant and the Chair of Parks to develop the project and start to formally seek external funding and for the Town Clerk to be delegated to

work with our Parks consultants to submit a separate S106 bid to SHDC for the bike track.

Jonathan Parsons - Town Clerk