

## Agenda Item 12

### REPORT TO COUNCIL – 29 JANUARY 2014

### REPORT OF CABINET – 20 JANUARY 2014

Cabinet met on 20 January 2014. The minutes are published on the Council's website.

Present:

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Mayor Dorothy Thornhill | (Strategic partnerships/external relationships and community safety) |
| Cllr D Scudder          | (Deputy Mayor and Portfolio Holder for Strategy & Client Services.   |
| Cllr Crout              | (Community & Customer Services Portfolio Holder)                     |
| Cllr Sharpe             | (Regeneration & Development Portfolio Holder)                        |
| Cllr Watkin             | (Democracy & Governance Portfolio Holder)                            |

Also present: Councillor Bell (Labour)

The following included a recommendation to Council:

#### **55. UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF CASSIOBURY PARK HLF (HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND) PROJECT AND TO APPROVE FINAL STAGE 2 SUBMISSION & BUDGET**

Cabinet received an update on the progress of the Cassiobury Park project leading towards a Round 2 submission to the HLF/BIG 'Parks for People' programme in February 2014. The designs and associated plans for Cassiobury Park had developed and progressed since Round 1 and a decision to approve the final editions prior to submission was being sought.

The report outlined the design proposals in the park for both Landscape and Building works, related capital costs, proposed management & maintenance structure and associated costs and phased programme for construction.

Councillor Crout introduced the report and complimented officers on the considerable amount of work done. He also commented on the incredible number of detailed responses to the consultation exercise. He highlighted key proposals including a new landscaped entrance from Rickmansworth Road; re-location of the bandstand; the extension and refurbishment of Cha Cha Cha; refurbishment and reconfiguration of the Gade Car Park; improvement to the pools and establishment of a Hub Building containing changing rooms, a café, an exhibition area, a store for parks equipment and management offices for the Park Rangers.

The Environmental Services Client Manager (Parks and Streets) explained the concept of the proposals which was to create a park “hub” to bring the whole area together . HLF was very happy with progress; it was planned to submit the round 2 bid in February.

The Mayor said she welcomed the “soft” elements of the scheme such as landscaping which would enhance the area for years to come. She was aware that the Interfaith Group wanted a spiritual area for peace and meditation and that there were plans for a community garden. She congratulated officers on a very thorough piece of work which appeared to cover everything.

Councillor Watkin referred to the amount of work already being done by volunteers and was pleased that the scheme encouraged greater involvement and “ownership” of the park.

In response to a question by Councillor Bell regarding the height of the hub building, the Environmental Services Client Manager (Parks and Streets) advised that, whilst it would be two storey, looking down from the hill it only appeared as one. It had also been designed with the less attractive features such as services and utilities being concealed underground. Solar panels would also be of a reflective design so they were less apparent. A lot of thought had gone into the design.

Councillor Bell asked about the proposals for car park charging in the Gade Avenue Car Park. The Environmental Services Client Manager (Parks and Streets) advised that this would form part of a separate business plan. The car park was currently being used by commuters which was not the intention.

The Mayor commented that charging for the car park would hopefully encourage parking elsewhere; it was not a commuter car park. It was not unusual for authorities to impose a small charge for park car parks and the income could be used to cover expenditure.

In response to a further question from Councillor Bell, the Environmental Services Client Manager (Parks and Streets) confirmed that there was the possibility that a charge may be imposed for some events. The Mayor added, however, that there was no intention to charge for use of the pools.

## RESOLVED

that Cabinet:

1. approves the designs and plans presented for Cassiobury Park (Appendix A).
2. **recommends to Council** approval to increase the capital allocation to this project of £294,311 which has arisen through progress of the development stage from unallocated S106 funds.
3. approves the refurbishment of Gade Avenue car park and subsequent implementation of car-parking charges subject to a business case being developed.
4. approves the proposed phased programme of works for Cassiobury Park.
5. approves delegated authority to the Head of Corporate Strategy and Client Services in consultation with the portfolio holder for any future changes to the design and specification.

6. notes the contents of the report and the progress made to date and the Round 2 submission to HLF/BIG in February 2014.

**A copy of the report to Cabinet is attached**