

## RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010  
title: BRUNGERLEY PARK, CLITHEROE – IMPROVEMENT SCHEME  
submitted by: JOHN C HEAP - DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
principal author: GRAHAM M JAGGER – STREET SCENE MANAGER

### 1. PURPOSE

1.1 To bring members of Committee up to date on the progress being made on the improvements to Brungerley Park and

1.2 To consider the offer of funding for the previously recommended additional works in 2010/11.

1.3 Relevance to the Council's aims and ambitions: -

- Mission statement & vision shared with the Local Strategic Partnership
  - An area with an exceptional environment and quality of life for all sustained by vital and vibrant market towns and villages acting as thriving service centres meeting the needs of residents, businesses and visitors.
- Council Ambitions
  - To be a well managed Council providing efficient services based on identified customer needs.
  - To protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area.
- Council Objectives
  - To conserve our countryside, the natural beauty of the area and enhance our built environment.
- RVBC Environmental Charter
  - The promotion of public enjoyment and access to the countryside and to develop the most effective use of our own areas of public open space.
- Citizens Charter
  - We will cut the grass in our parks and open spaces regularly.
- Council Priorities
  - None

### 2. BACKGROUND

2.1 At the meeting of this Committee held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009 members considered a detailed report setting out a range of proposed improvement works for Brungerley Park in Clitheroe using funds originally provided for anticipated repairs to the collapsed lower path through the park. The report set out a detailed list of works to be carried out over two financial years with the work in 2010/11 being subject to

funding being made available in the capital programme or being obtained from external sources.

## 2.2 Members resolved at Min 502 that Committee: -

1. support the proposed list of work that would make significant improvements to Brungerley Park;
2. endorse the creation of the new Friends of Brungerley Park group, and;
3. recommend to Policy & Finance Committee that £25,000 be kept in the capital programme for 2010/11.

## 3. ISSUES

3.1 The final parts of the work planned for 2009/10 are virtually complete and in themselves have made a big difference to the appearance of the park. The majority of the work has been done by our own General Works and Grounds Maintenance staff over the winter and spring periods.

3.2 The Friends of Brungerley Park group are now formally constituted and working with us on taking the work done so far, further forward.

3.3 As the proposed capital programme for 2010/15 was unaffordable Policy & Finance Committee were unable to include the second phase of the work at Brungerley Park in the 5 year capital programme, unless external funding could be secured.

3.4 The Friends group made an application for financial assistance to the Lancashire Aggregates Levy Sustainable Fund. This funding comes from the Department of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and is targeted at compensating local communities for the impacts of aggregates extraction. The fund is managed by the County Council on behalf of DEFRA. The funding was for the work proposed in the second phase of the project in 2010/11.

3.5 I am pleased to be able to report that the funding application was successful and £25,000 has been allocated to the project to be spent this year. Subject to approval of this Committee therefore the remaining part of the project can be carried out this financial year. The work would be carried out as was the first phase by our own staff and with the help and support of the Friends group.

3.6 Prior to the funding being released more precise details of the work itself and a timetable have to be provided to the County Council by ourselves through the Friends group.

3.7 The Friends group have also secured an amount of funding from a local company to help improve the seating in the park. In addition they have carried out some bulb planting in various parts of the park.

## 4. RISK ASSESSMENT

### 4.1

#### Resources

- The work done in 2009/10 has been funded from the resources that were available within that financial year. Due to the shortage of resources in

2010/11, the securing of the external funding by the Friends group in the sum of £25,000 is to be welcomed. The majority of the work will be carried out by the Council's own General Works and Grounds Maintenance staff.

#### Technical, Environmental and Legal

- The work is within the technical capabilities of our own staff who are trained and experienced in the type of work to be carried out. The work will enhance the environmental quality of the park in line with the Council's Ambitions. There will be a need for a legal agreement to be prepared between the Council and The Friends of Brungerley Park to ensure that the funds they claim are paid to the Council in return for the work done.

#### Political

- There are no known political issues arising out of this report.

#### Reputation

- The long awaited improvements to the park and the ongoing positive engagement with the Friends group are likely to enhance the reputation of the Council following the loss of the popular riverside walkway due to its collapse in August 2007.

### 5. RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

5.1 Note the work done to date to improve Brungerley Park and

5.2 Agree to carry out the second phase of the improvement works using the funding obtained by The Friends of Brungerley Park from Lancashire Aggregates Sustainable Fund.

JOHN C HEAP  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Background Papers – Reports to Community Services Committee on: -

- 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008, Min 702
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008, Min 84
- 9 September 2008, Min 380
- 4<sup>th</sup> November 2008, Min 537
- 17<sup>th</sup> March 2009, Min 895
- 14<sup>th</sup> July 2009, Min 188
- 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009, Min 502

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