**The Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) - Cossington Recreation Ground**

The parts of your query that have requested information held or information held that may answer your question has been considered, and the information that the Council holds is as below. A small amount of data, e.g. names of junior council staff, direct telephone lines and email addresses has been redacted under EIR Regulation 13 – personal data, unless it was already in the public domain.

You may re-use the information under an [Open Government Licence](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/2/).

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write, explaining your grounds of appeal, to:

**Information Governance and Risk**

**Leicester City Council**

**Legal Services**

**4th Floor City Hall**

**115 Charles Street**

**Leicester   
LE1 1FZ**

e-mail: info.requests@leicester.gov.uk

**Response:**

1. Be advised that due to having not been forwarded minutes, I was incorrect with the dates stated. The actual date of meeting was Saturday 6th June 2020 and I learned of the meet through a phone call that I received late Thursday 4th June 2020. (NOTE – formal contact needed to have been made much earlier. As per documents signed by Piara Singh Clair on 6th May 2020 (forwarded in previous email), a formal address needed to have been made prior to signing of document). Where are the minutes to this alleged formal meeting?

Executive briefing, 11 October 2019, attached as Appendix 1.

Executive briefing, 22 March 2020, attached as Appendix 2.

Executive Decision report, 29 April 2020 attached as Appendix 3. All decisions are published on the Council’s website at the following link and there is a search facility at the beginning.

<http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk:8071/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx?XXR=0&&DR=10%2f02%2f2020-24%2f07%2f2020&ACT=Find&RP=0&K=0&V=0&DM=0&HD=0&DS=2&Next=true&T=20448076&NOW=23072020120629&META=mgdelegateddecisions>

The Cossington Street Access decision is at the specific link below:

<http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk:8071/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=1123>

Formal minutes are not taken for site meetings, is information not held and therefore cannot be supplied under EIR Regulation 12(4)(a). An internal summary from the site meeting on the 06 June 2020 was distributed to Councillors and officers as detailed in appendix 4.

1. The number of accidents and injury, as a result of falls, trips and/ or slips, as a direct result of persons cutting across the green area.

We do not have details of any recorded accidents. This is information not held and therefore cannot be supplied under EIR Regulation 12(4)(a).

1. The number of complaints regarding accidents and injury, as a result of falls, trips and/ or slips, as a direct result of persons cutting across the green area.

We do not have details of any recorded complaints. This is information not held and therefore cannot be supplied under EIR Regulation 12(4)(a).

1. The quantity of claims made against the Council due to injury as a direct result of persons cutting across the green area.

We do not have details of any claims. This is information not held and therefore cannot be supplied under EIR Regulation 12(4)(a).

1. Is the alleged result of the route being a rutted and bare area caused by walkers or cyclists or other forms of transport/ mobility?

We do not have details of the type of usage across the desire route. This is information not held and therefore cannot be supplied under EIR Regulation 12(4)(a).

1. To date, what are the costs of this alleged annual maintenance and what safety concern(s) are raised?

The average annual cost to repair the ground prior to the large scale events on site is £1,400 per annum. The Festival & Events team and Health & Safety Officers undertake a site visit prior to each event and have consistently raised concerns over the uneven surface caused by the desire line and the potential hazard it poses to visitors to the event.

1. What measures have been taken by the Council to repair this alleged rutted area. Through effective management of reactive repair work over time, what measures have been taken to prevent this alleged rutted area from becoming an area of risk?

The ground is infilled with topsoil to level the surface prior to each event. Previously this area has been top dressed and seeded, however this has not been a sustainable solution.

1. Has this alleged rutted area been purposely neglected and hence, allowed to deteriorate?

No, as explained above attempts have been made to reinstate the ground back to grass, but due to the level of use this has been unsuccessful.

1. Over what period of time has this “desire” line been caused/ created?

Aerial maps show that there has been a desire route cutting across the site for a number of years.

1. What maintenance has been carried out to repair this alleged rutted area in the last two/ five/ ten years?

The area is levelled on an annual basis as explained above.

1. How much has it cost the Council to repair the alleged rutted area per year and over what period?

See question 6 above, it is unknown over what period these costs have been incurred on an annual basis. This is information not held and therefore cannot be supplied under EIR Regulation 12(4)(a).

1. If it is your claim that high volume of pedestrian traffic, what evidence do you have to support this?

The level of ground erosion is evidence on continued ongoing traffic use, staff who work on the site have witnessed this usage.

1. If the high volume of cycling traffic, what evidence do you have of this?

We are not aware of high volume cycle traffic. This is information not held and therefore cannot be supplied under EIR Regulation 12 (4)(a).

1. If the alleged rutted area is a direct resultant of cyclists, what action/ measures have been considered and/ or implemented to discourage cycling crossing the grassed area, and to encourage the use of the hard surface paths?

Cossington Recreation Ground is included in the BYELAWS FOR PLEASURE GROUNDS, PUBLIC WALKS AND OPEN SPACES 2019. Section14. No person shall without reasonable excuse ride a cycle in the ground except in any part of the ground where there is a right of way for cycles or on a designated route for cycling.

1. What alternative measures have been considered (decorative railings / planting / park furniture) at the start and end of the alleged rutted area to discourage cyclists from using this green space?

Obstacles in terms of planting schemes, furniture and fencing have been considered, however we are restricted on what infrastructure can be installed on site due to general large-scale crowd safety control and imposing obstacles to emergency mass evacuation procedures for large scale events held on site.

1. How campaigns raising Public Awareness have been carried out to create awareness to discourage using the alleged rutted area and to encourage the use of the existing path networks?

We don’t have any records of any campaigns to discourage use, however the bunding alongside the pathway entrance from Burfield Street was installed to try and steer people to remain on the hardstanding pathways and prevent people taking the direct route across the site along the desire line.

1. How will the construction of the new path reduce the risk to park users’ safety?

By levelling the ground surface and removing the potential trip hazards.

1. What measures are to be implemented to reduce the risk to: Those using the new path and cycleway from the risk of being hit by balls from those playing ball games on the grassed areas?

The Recreation Ground offers a range of uses and users who coexist with each other. There is no formal sports provision on site and no sports bookings/markings are taken due to the nature of the site and the high footfall.

This potential risk remains unchanged as a result of the pathway being improved pedestrians have always had equal access rights to cross the park regardless of sports being played, as no sports area bookings provided or taken, each user has equal access rights.

Previous events booked to encourage female cricket stipulated the use of soft balls. Ad hoc enquiries requesting the installation of an artificial cricket wicket were not progressed due to residential context and ball safety considerations.

1. What protection will there be in place to safeguard Children running across the grassed area, across the path and cycleway from potentially speeding cyclists?

The footpath has been constructed with the aim of redirecting cyclists to the existing perimeter cycle paths, which have been resurfaced and in some places widened and will have clear cycling markings to encourage use, no cycling signs will be erected at the ends and central points of the new path.

1. Has the proposal been risk assessed in light of the above points?

No we haven’t risk assessed this site specifically to date, as the improvement work undertaken was to existing facilities, pathways are standard infrastructure items to parks and are covered by our suite of risk assessments applicable to parks and open spaces. It is not our usual practice to do site specific risk assessments unless they are required due to a significant change of use etc. This is information not held and therefore cannot be supplied under EIR Regulation 12 (4)(a).

1. And if so, what considerations are implemented to reduce the level of risks?

The resurfacing itself has removed the slip, trip and fall hazards associated to the poor state of the previous pathway network. Signage and floor markings are being installed across the pathway network to indicate appropriate usage and to encourage responsible usage by all. Cycling prevention measures are being installed for the new desire line pedestrian pathway.

1. What is the Councils policy in reference to the protection of sustainable green space within the City and for the Latimer Ward?

Planning Core Strategy (adopted 2014) Policy 13 ‘Green Network’ (see <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/media/179023/core-strategy-adopted-july-2014.pdf>) are used to assess proposals that affect green space within Leicester, however this project did not require planning permission, and is considered permitted development, therefore the local plan policies to protect and enhance green space cannot be applied.

1. How does the proposed path and cycleway resulting in the loss of 648 sqm valued green space meet the Council’s requirement to sustain existing green space?

See question 22.

1. Does the current level of available green space meet the current green space demand of the Latimer ward and adjacent Rushey Mead and Belgrave ward’s population in terms of acceptable levels of green space (living in a 10minute walking distance of Cossington Recreation Ground)

The council’s Open Space, Sports and Recreation study (2017) (See <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/media/183590/open-space-sport-and-recreation-study-report.pdf>) assessed the quantity, quality and accessibility for the different types of open spaces throughout the city. Cossington Recreation Ground falls within the ‘Park and Garden’ category of green spaces which lies within the Inner Area of Leicester. To this end, the study highlights the Inner Area has an overall sufficient supply of Park and Garden open spaces of 24.50 hectare, please note that the following the ward boundary changes several years ago the Latimer Ward was removed and Cossington Recreation Ground sits within the Belgrave Ward.

It is also worth noting that, alongside quantity, the council also considers the quality of open spaces. In this instance the access improvement project aims to increase the quality of Cossington Street Recreation Ground for its use as an open space.

1. Was any public consultation or surveying carried out with the local community and park users / visitors to establish how often the local community: Access Cossington Recreational Ground.

Cossington Recreation Ground is an existing facility which is known to be well used by the public for a range of recreational and access purposes, see point 27.

1. What are the most popular reasons (recreation purposes / health & well being / outdoor field games / passive recreation / other)?

Walking for exercise around the circular route which is now being marked with distance indicators along its length; general recreational sports including football, volleyball and similar; use of the play equipment by local children; use of the outdoor gym for exercise; local religious and other celebration events; large scale City celebrations reflecting Leicester’s cultural diversity; general use of seating for adult and youth social interaction.

1. The report states that Ward Councillors and local residents had highlighted the concerns. While there is widespread acknowledgment for the perimeter path networks to be improved owing to the extensive trip hazards, what consultation was carried out and what evidence led to the proposal of the need to construct a new path and cycleway, consequently leading to the loss of a much-valued green space to the local community?

As explained above at question 22 the work falls within permitted development and was deemed a health and safety improvement and therefore no formal consultation was undertaken. The following informal consultation was undertaken:

Project was subject to an article in the Leicester Mercury which was published on the 03 May 2020.

Openly promoted on site with notices displayed in the notice boards.

Mail drop letter and plan was hand delivered to all local properties on Cossington Street, Rendell Road, Rothley Street and the Health Centre, see attached appendix 5.

A number of onsite meetings with interested parties have been facilitated with local Ward Councillors and the Deputy City Mayor who is the executive Lead for Parks along with officers from the parks and highways teams.

* 1st Meeting - Ward councillors, Deputy City Mayor, Parks, Highways reps plus reps from both football groups and local residents.
* 2nd Meeting – Ward Councillors, Deputy City Mayor, Parks, Highways, sustainable transport, festivals and events, bike share scheme rep.
* 3rd Meeting – Ward Councillors, Deputy City Mayor, Parks, Highways, festivals and events and Holi organiser plus local residents.

Unfortunately we were not able to facilitate a pop up on site consultation due to Covid 19 restrictions, however the site has been very busy during lockdown with people being encouraged to exercise and enjoy public open spaces for physical and mental wellbeing and the Highways team working on site have confirmed that they have received a lot of positive feedback whilst they have been on site, especially from older people who welcome the hard surface path.

1. From the alleged 400,000 park users during 2019 indicating an average of 7,692 park users per week (seasonal variations likely due to weather and seasonal conditions with significant increases likely during the summer months) demonstrating how popular the limited green space is to the local community. What evidence has been collected to substantiate the need for the new path and cycleway?

The requirement for the new path is evidenced by the continued use of this short cut, which has established the desire line across the site.

An increasing number of people are choosing to cycle and walk for work, health & wellbeing. The perimeter pathways required improvement to bring them back to a safe standard. There are two perimeter pathways that have been increased by 0.5m to enable dual usage (walking & cycling) around the entire perimeter of the site.

There was already a marked cycling lane and enough width along the majority of the third perimeter pathway.

The decision to enhance the perimeter pathway to accommodate dual usage was to ensure cycling was still being catered for onsite, this was a compromise made resulting from the reduction in the desire line pathway width reduction to a single pedestrian route following consultation on site with interested parties.

This work was also undertaken to address the need to enhance sustainable transport routes throughout the city linked to the city’s climate emergency and sustainable transport plans. The site will also be one of 50 strategic city locations to accommodate a new electronic bike share scheme that aims to further aid and grow the city’s use of sustainable transport.

1. I have become aware of John Leach signing off on a Public Safety Team 2019 Update and 2020 Forward Plan in 2nd January 2020, authored by Govind Mandora. Where is the reference here to health concerns at Cossington Recreation and where are the proposals to lay this path across the green area?

The Public Safety Team 2019 Update and 2020 Forward Plan was presented to Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission on the 15 January 2020 (see <http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk:8071/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=943&MId=9572&Ver=4>), the purpose of this briefing was to make the Commission aware of the work undertaken by Leicester City Council’s Public Safety Team and to comment on issues raised on the 2019/20 interventions and proposed 2020/21 programme. The summary of the report states:

* + The aim of the Public Safety Team (PST) is to prevent and protect those working, living or visiting the city of Leicester from activities or events that could endanger their safety from significant dangers leading to injury, harm or damage.
  + Currently the PST is made-up of a Team Manager, 5 Environmental Health Officers and 1.6 FTE Enforcement Officers.
  + The PST regulates a wide range of regulatory legislation governing public safety including health and safety at work legislation, sports ground safety requirements, public health/health protection legislation, explosives/fireworks safety regulations, Health Act and Smokefree legislation, and local byelaws relating to invasive treatments.

The Public Safety Team would not be reporting on service improvements to address issues such as the Cossington footpath.

1. How many of those persons who have commented on the post in the past year; Have visited Cossington Recreation in past year?

<https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/leicester-news/cossington-recreation-ground-leicester-being-4098037>

<https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/leicester-news/city-council-missed-opportunity-work-4383829>

We do not have this data. This is information not held and therefore cannot be supplied under EIR Regulation 12 (4)(a).

1. Do they know where Cossington Recreation is?

We do not have this data. This is information not held and therefore cannot be supplied under EIR Regulation 12 (4)(a).

1. Do they live in this ward area?

We do not have this data. This is information not held and therefore cannot be supplied under EIR Regulation 12 (4)(a).

App 1

Neighbourhood &

Environmental Services

Deputy City Mayor Briefing

Date: 11 October 2019

To: Cllr Piara Singh Clair

Cc: John Leach,

From:

Tel/Ext: 0116 454

RE: Cossington Recreation Ground improvements

1. **Purpose of the report:**

To review the concerns of local Councillors and identify potential improvements, and ways to overcome some of the issues.

1. **History of the issues**

Cossington recreation Ground is a relatively small open space in the middle of very dense terrace housing, this means that the number of visitors to the site is high compared to its size. This situation is exacerbated because of the number of events which attract very large numbers.

Last year the site saw 400,000 visitors.

1. **Meeting on site 1st August – Local Cllrs and**

From this meeting various items were raised. Numbered bullet points were raised by Cllr Solanki in an email:

1. The removal of the skip from the park grounds – Your team is working with the events team to get this removed ASAP.
2. The cleaning of the toilets and the installation of new air fresheners – as agreed has chased this up
3. The park path – has forwarded on my original email to the Estates team.
4. The level of litter – You explained the park is cleaned on set days during the week however the recent events may have contributed to the level of litter. Although this was better than previous occasions it was still not great. As we discussed having signs in multi- languages to advise people not to drop litter and to use the numerous bins will be a starting point. I agree, there is a big education piece that we need to work with the community on. Can you please pass on the request of the signs to the relevant team.

Response from Parks and Cleansing to these items (same numbering):

1. Bin was removed from site
2. The air fresheners have been installed by EBS, the toilets also have an additional clean between 13.30 – 14.15pm each day
3. No response received from EBS team
4. The cleaning of the site via litter picking and emptying of bins will now be done on a daily basis (7 days per week) during the summer months (start April to end September) and revert to 3 times per week during the winter remainder of the year.
5. **Specific issues subsequently raised recently by Councillors**

Further email communication for local Cllrs has raised the items identified below:

1. **Resurfacing of the Path**: The entire path way, especially the section nearest to the Belgrave Health Centre and towards Harrison Rd entrance needs resurfacing.

As the pictures show there are sections where the roots of the trees are appearing on the surface potentially causing someone to trip or fall.

1. **The Bicycle path** markings have faded and require re painting
2. **Play area Equipment:** There is limited equipment for the number of children in the play area, the facilities should meet the needs of the community. You mentioned that the 106 funding could be used for this. Who is the contact for this?
3. **Cricket Pitch/ Practice nets** – Several communities have requested cricket practice nets or a cricket practice area for local groups to play and train on. It would be fantastic if Leicester City could provide this facility and promote this sport, especially after England recently won the world cup.
4. **Extra Bin near the Gym area** – As you saw from the pictures I took last week, the park could do with an additional bin near the gym.
5. **Don’t drop litter Multi lingual Signage**  – As you saw there was litter scattered around the park. We appreciate signage alone will not stop people dropping litter but it will help educate the community. Especially if signage shows that **dropping litter could lead to penalties**. We are happy to support any campaigns around this. We are already talking to communities about fly tipping and cleansing when we attend communities events.
6. **Cossington Sports Centre** – What are the plans for this and when is this likely to start.

**5. What has been done on these items to date**

1. Resurfacing of the Path

A capital bid has been prepared to facilitate the repairs and improvements to the paths on the site. Appendix 1 provides a plan showing detail.

The path network on this park has seriously deteriorated with numerous cracks caused by tree roots and ground movement. The surface tarmac has lifted in places, leaving uneven paths. There is a substantial desire line across the middle of the park which is across the grass area. The wear to this area is so significant that its created a groove which is a trip risk. This is more the case because of the large numbers who use the site, specifically for the various events which take place.

Also the markings for the pedestrian and cycle routes have completely worn away so there is no visible split in use.

The scheme will correct all of these problems.

1. The Bicycle path

As detailed above.

1. Play area Equipment

No additional play equipment is planned as there is currently no s106 funding available that can be used for this purpose.

This will be a priority project for any future s106 contributions secured within the local area however, as with all developer contributions, we are unable to predict when these are likely to be forthcoming.

1. Cricket pitch/ practice area

Sports services have listed the need for cricket nets on their S106 and capital investment programme with the thoughts to locate this adjacent to Cossington street leisure centre (see attached), which will we feel could address the location issues referenced (conflict with events on the park) and will also enable some operational management of the facility by the leisure centre. (Note: We are restricted on what fixtures we can install on the Recreation Ground due to its high level of use for key community events and the access and egress safety requirements)

As noted in No 3 there is currently no S106 money available for this park.

1. Extra bin near the gym area

The installation of an extra bin near the gym area has been added to our replacement programme and will be installed within the next 6 months. We will also review the other bins on the site and add extra bins, or exchange single bins for double sized units to double the capacity.

1. Don’t drop litter multi lingual signage

We do have a policy of not installing lots of posters and notices for issues such as littering, dog fouling, No BBQ, excessive bird feeding etc unless part of a time limited education programme, otherwise sites become cluttered and messy. I have spoken with the Parks management team and agreed that we will run an Autumn littering campaign in an attempt to get park users onboard with an improved litter management on site, we will also undertake a volunteer engagement exercise and include a community litter pick as part of this package. Once dates have been arranged for this we will be in contact to confirm.

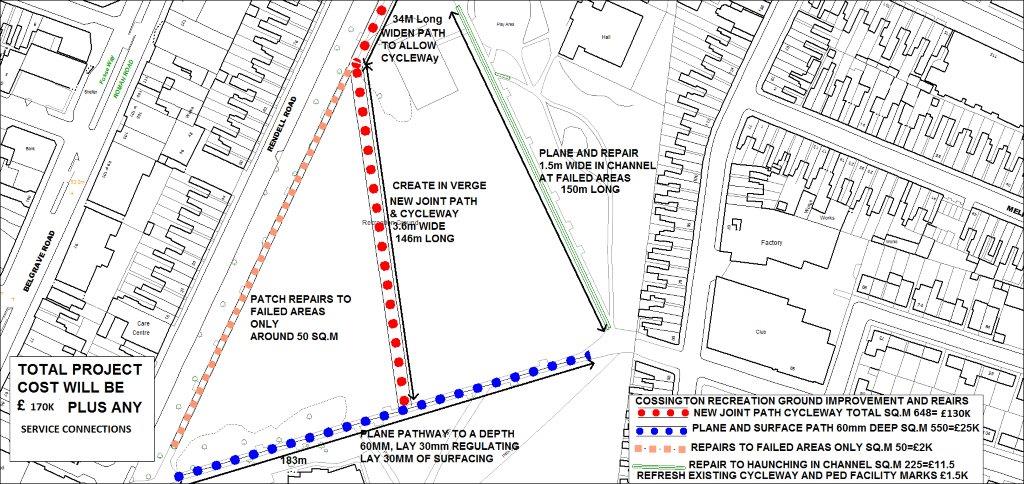
1. Cossington Sports Centre

Over the last few months Sport Services have been working with a contractor to provide cost certainty for all three capital projects.  Aylestone, Evington and Cossington.  Once costs have been identified then they will be presented to the capital board programme for approval. The service is hoping to attend the next board meeting, which is in October.

**6. Recommendations moving forward**

* Make the improvements proposed where the budget is available
* Organise local community volunteering session and litter campaign
* Await a decision on capital programme funding
* Provide updates to Councillors

Appendix 1



App 2

Neighbourhood &

Environmental Services

Deputy City Mayor Briefing

Date: 27 March 2020

To: Cllr Piara Singh Clair

Cc: John Leach

From:

Tel/Ext: 0116 454

RE: Cossington Recreation Ground path improvements

* + 1. **Purpose of the report:**

To seek approval to release the capital funds to improve access across Cossington Recreation Ground from the capital programme policy provision for People and Neighbourhoods.

* + 1. **History of the issues**

As set out in the previous briefing note dated the 11 October 2019, local Councillors had raised several issues about Cossington Recreation Ground. One of those was concern made by local residents and parks users about the poor condition of the pathways, identified as:

* + 1. **Resurfacing of the Path**: The entire pathway, especially the section nearest to the Belgrave Health Centre and towards Harrison Rd entrance needs resurfacing, including sections where the roots of the trees were appearing on the surface causing a potential H&S trip or fall hazard.
    2. **The Bicycle path** markings have faded and require repainting

Following this a capital bid was prepared to facilitate the repairs and improvements to the paths on the site. Appendix 1 provides a plan showing details.

The path network on this park has seriously deteriorated with numerous cracks caused by tree roots and ground movement. The surface tarmac has lifted in places, leaving uneven paths. There is a substantial desire line across the middle of the park which is across the grass area. The wear to this area is so significant that it has created a groove which is a H&S trip risk. This is more of an issue due to the large numbers of users who use the site, specifically for the various events which take place.

Also the markings for the pedestrian and cycle routes have completely worn away so there is no visible split in use, which creates confusion for users of the dual surface.

The scheme will correct all of these problems.

* + 1. **Current situation**

Last year Cossington Recreation Ground has approximately 400,000 visitors. It is a relatively small open space in the middle of a very dense terrace housing area and this level of usage puts pressure on the ground infrastructure. The footpaths are an integral part of the site and facilitate movement between the entrances. A number of large events take place which require good access arrangements.

This is linked into the manifesto - Improve our parks with enhanced landscaping and facilities (A City to Enjoy Commitment)

A capital bid for funding to undertake this work was submitted for the 2020/21 capital programme and was included within the build-up of the People and Neighbourhoods Policy provision.

* + 1. **. Recommendations**
* Approval is requested to release £170,000 (as identified in Appendix 2) of the People and Neighbourhoods capital programme policy provision for 2020/21 to undertake the surface improvement works at Cossington Recreation Ground. A formal published Executive decision will be required.
* Provide an update to local Councillors.
  + 1. **. Finance**

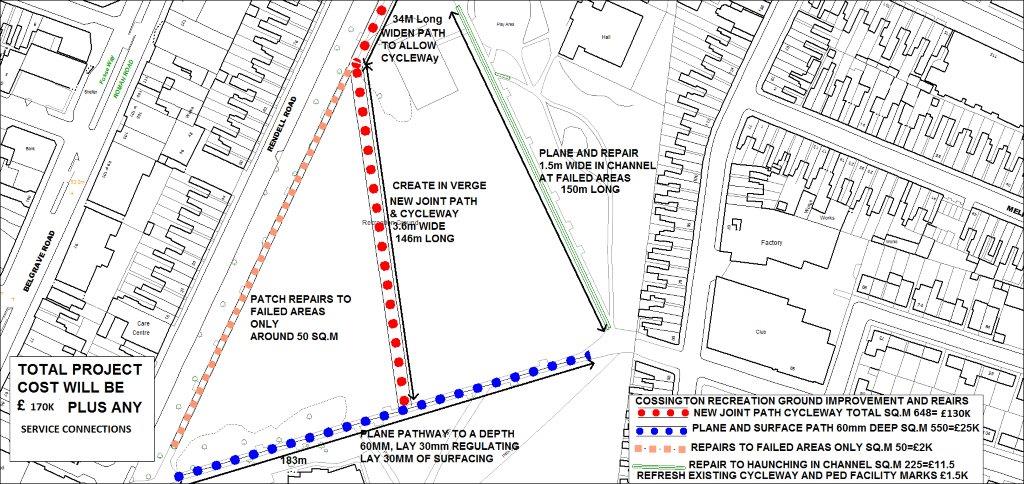
The report proposes to release £170,000 from the People and Neighbourhoods capital programme policy provision, for improvements to Cossington recreation ground.

Colin Sharpe

Deputy Director of Finance

Ext.

Appendix 1



Appendix 2

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cossington Recreation Ground cost breakdown** |  |  |  | **2020/21** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Path improvements | Number | Sq M cost | | Totals |  |
| New joint cycle / pedestrian route | 648 | £ 201 |  | £130,000 |  |
| To plane and resurface paths | 550 | £ 45 |  | £25,000 |  |
| Repair to failed areas | 50 | £ 40 |  | £2,000 |  |
| Repair haunching | 225 | £ 51 |  | £11,500 |  |
| Renew line and sign markings on paths for cycle / pedestrian routes | 1 | £ 1,500 |  | £1,500 |  |
|  | **total** | **£ 1,837** |  | **£ 170,000** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (all contingency costs included in individual items) |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

App 3

Executive Decision Report

**Cossington Recreation ground access improvements**

Decision to be taken by: Deputy City Mayor,

Culture, Leisure & Sport

Decision to be taken on: 29 April 2020

Lead director: John Leach

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

When completing any report for consideration by an Executive Lead or for submission to Executive Briefing, please ensure that this table is completed. Delete from the final report.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| IF THIS IS A KEY DECISION HAS IT APPEARED ON THE PUBLISHED FORWARD PLAN | No |
| ANTICIPATED DATE FOR DECISION (if required) |  |
| DATE OF RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMISSION – please detail name of commission(s) |  |
| DATE OF PAPERWORK ENTERING PUBLIC DOMAIN (note: if considered by scrutiny, this will be the scrutiny agenda publication date) |  |
| MEDIA CONSIDERATIONS:  Is a press release required?  Will this be proactive or reactive? | Yes, proactive |
| PLEASE INCLUDE DETAILS OF OTHER RELEVANT MEETINGS/BRIEFINGS AS PART OF DECISION/CONSULTATION PROCESS:  This should include details of discussions with relevant stakeholders and/or ward councillors. | Cllr Clair briefing 11 October 2019  Cllr Clair briefing 27 March 2020 |

**Useful information**

◼ Ward(s) affected: Belgrave

◼ Report author:

◼ Author contact details: 0116 454

◼ Report version number: 1

|  |
| --- |
| **1. Summary**  **History of the issues**  Ward Councillors had reported concerns made by local residents and parks users about the poor condition of the pathways on Cossington Recreation Ground, identified as:  **Resurfacing of the path**: The entire pathway, especially the section nearest to the Belgrave Health Centre and towards Harrison Road entrance needs resurfacing, including sections where the roots of the trees were appearing on the surface causing a potential H&S trip or fall hazard.  **The bicycle path** markings have faded and require repainting  Following this a capital bid was prepared to facilitate the repairs and improvements to the paths on the site. Appendix 1 provides a plan showing details.  The path network on this park has seriously deteriorated with numerous cracks caused by tree roots and ground movement. The surface tarmac has lifted in places, leaving uneven paths which are a trip hazard. There is a substantial desire line across the middle of the park which is across the grass area. The wear to this area is so significant that it has created a groove which is a health and safety trip risk. This is more of an issue due to the large numbers of users who use the site, specifically for the various events which take place.  Also the markings for the pedestrian and cycle routes have completely worn away so there is no visible split in use, which creates confusion for users of the dual surface.  The scheme will correct all of these problems.  **Current situation**  Last year Cossington Recreation Ground had approximately 400,000 visitors. It is a relatively small open space in the middle of a very dense terrace housing area and this level of usage puts pressure on the ground infrastructure. The footpaths are an integral part of the site and facilitate movement between the entrances. A number of large events take place which require good access arrangements.  This is linked into the manifesto - Improve our parks with enhanced landscaping and facilities (A City to Enjoy Commitment).  The cost can be met from the People and Neighbourhoods capital programme policy provision. |

|  |
| --- |
| **2. Recommendations**  Approval is requested to release £170,000 (as identified in Appendix 2) of the People and Neighbourhoods capital programme policy provision for 2020/21 to undertake the surface improvement works at Cossington Recreation Ground. |

|  |
| --- |
| **3. Supporting information including options considered**:  None |

|  |
| --- |
| **4. Details of Scrutiny**  None. |

**5. Financial, legal and other implications**

5.1 Financial implications

|  |
| --- |
| The report proposes to release £170,000 from the People and Neighbourhoods capital programme policy provision, for improvements to Cossington recreation ground.  Colin Sharpe  Deputy Director of Finance  Ext. |

5.2 Legal implications

|  |
| --- |
| As the work are being undertaken inhouse there are no legal implications arising from the report from a contracts/procurement perspective.  - Solicitor, Ext |

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

|  |
| --- |
| The implications of these works are likely to be limited, however if the resurfacing work involves any removal of tree roots care should be taken to ensure no trees are lost as a result, or are replaced with more than one for each tree lost if this were unavoidable. Additionally any waste arising from works should be recycled wherever possible.  , Sustainability Officer, Ext |

5.4 Equalities Implications

|  |
| --- |
| When making decisions, the Council must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) (Equality Act 2010) by paying due regard, when carrying out their functions, to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a ‘protected characteristic’ and those who do not.  In doing so, the council must consider the possible impact on those who are likely to be affected by the recommendation and their protected characteristics.  Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.  The proposal seeks approval to release £170,000 to undertake the surface improvement works at Cossington Recreation Ground. The planned resurfacing and improvement works designed to repair and improve the current paths and bicycle path will have positive impacts on users and the community from across all protected characteristics.  Equalities Officer Ext |

5.5 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

|  |
| --- |
| None |

**6. Background information and other papers:**

None

1. **Summary of appendices:**
2. Plan of site.
3. Estimate of costs.

**8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?**

No

1. **Is this a “key decision”?**

No

1. **If a key decision please explain reason**

**In determining whether it is a key decision you will need consider if it is likely:**

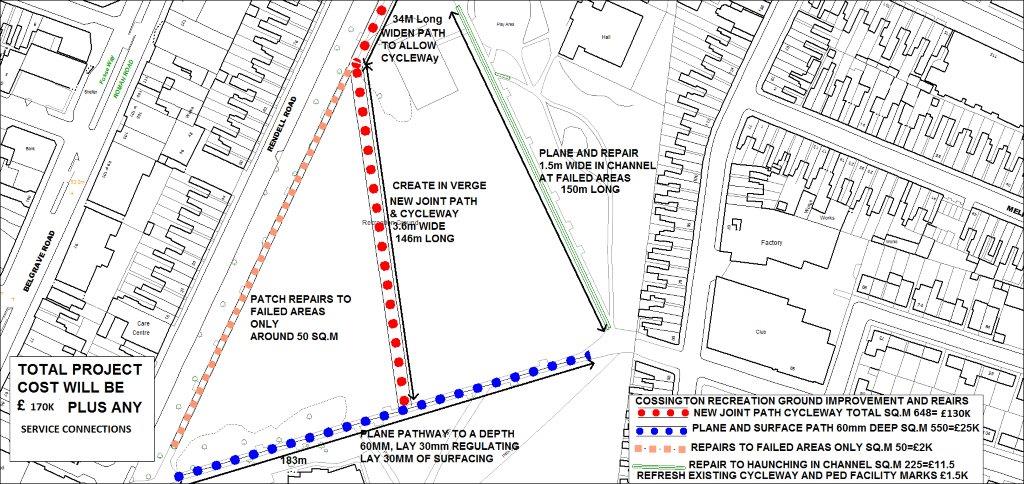
* to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or function to which the decision relates.
* to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working *in two or more wards in the City.*

Expenditure or savings will be regarded as significant if:

1. In the case of additional recurrent revenue expenditure, it is not included in the approved revenue budget, and would cost in excess of £0.5m p.a.;
2. In the case of reductions in recurrent revenue expenditure, the provision is not included in the approved revenue budget, and savings of over £0.5m p.a. would be achieved;
3. In the case of one off or capital expenditure, spending of over £1m is to be committed on a scheme that has not been specifically authorised by Council.

In deciding whether a decision is significant you need to take into account:

* Whether the decision may incur a significant social, economic or environmental risk.
* The likely extent of the impact of the decision both within and outside of the City.
* The extent to which the decision is likely to result in substantial public interest
* The existence of significant communities of interest that cannot be defined spatially.
* Appendix 1



Appendix 2

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cossington Recreation Ground cost breakdown** |  |  |  | **2020/21** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Path improvements | Number | Sq M cost | | Totals |  |
| New joint cycle / pedestrian route | 648 | £ 201 |  | £130,000 |  |
| To plane and resurface paths | 550 | £ 45 |  | £25,000 |  |
| Repair to failed areas | 50 | £ 40 |  | £2,000 |  |
| Repair haunching | 225 | £ 51 |  | £11,500 |  |
| Renew line and sign markings on paths for cycle / pedestrian routes | 1 | £ 1,500 |  | £1,500 |  |
|  | **total** | **£ 1,837** |  | **£ 170,000** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (all contingency costs included in individual items) |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

App 4

**From:**   
**Sent:** 06 June 2020 13:44  
**To:** Cllr Piara Singh Clair <[Piara.SinghClair@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Piara.SinghClair@leicester.gov.uk)>; < [@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20@leicester.gov.uk)>; < [@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Prafull.Shukla@leicester.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Cllr Nita Solanki <[Nita.Solanki@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Nita.Solanki@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Padmini Chamund <[Padmini.Chamund@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Padmini.Chamund@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Mahendra Valand <[Mahendra.Valand@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Mahendra.Valand@leicester.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Todays Meeting - Cossington Rec

Dear Councillors

Please find attached a summary of the amendments agreed upon today, excuse the format but it at least captures simply the amendments.

will price up the additional ground works required and send to Piara and myself hopefully there may be some section 106 funding available to help cover the overspend expected.

The Holi concrete square proposed by councillors will require further funding, its final location will need to be agreed with as Parks Development Manager, will again provide quote.

If funding to cover the cost of this can be obtained maybe able to incorporate installation of this into same work schedule, if not it may have to be re booked in for a later date.

As always we will need to check with Festivals and Events that its final proposed location wont impact on the sites annual large events programme delivery.

Public notice letters to local residents informing them of the work will go out this week via ’s team in Highways and will arrange for a copy to be placed into the onsite notice boards.

I think were all pleased to be able to work around the tree rather than remove and to reach a compromise that suits the majority.

In case you didn’t see it, I thought I would include the link to the Leicester Mercury article from the beginning of May about the pathway improvement project below.

<https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/leicester-news/cossington-recreation-ground-leicester-being-4098037>

I look forward to seeing the finished scheme and working with you all in the future.

Yours Sincerely

Parks & Open Spaces

0116 454

[www.leicester.gov.uk](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/)

Amended Scheme Proposal – Site Visit with Councillors & Residents 06/06/20 @ 11.00am



Key

New Footpath Installation Line

Shelter to be relocated further along same pathway, near to Tree No 31

Grass Bund/raised bank to be filled in to encourage people to utilise new pathway,

Rather than continue to use the exiting desire line .

Small triangle of grass between old and new pathways to be tarmacked and bin re-sited centrally with this area.

Additional Work Quote request for concrete Holi Square to be installed within this area.

App 5

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Please ask for: Prafull Shukla  Direct line: 0116 454 4972  Email: prafull.shukla@leicester.gov.uk  Address: 90 Leycroft Road, LE41BZ  Our ref: PTED/PNS/HM/H&BMT/Cossington St. Rec  Date: 10th June 2020 |  |
|  |  |

To: The Occupier

**COSSINGTON STREET RECREATION GROUND – PATHWAY IMPROVEMENTS & INSTALLTION**

Your local City Councillors have made park improvements a key priority in Belgrave.

Capital Funding has been secured to construct a new 2metre wide tarmac pathway in place of the current natural desire line, also widen and surface the existing pathways to a width of 3.5metres making them useful for joint pedestrian and cycleway usage.

These existing paths which runs alongside Rendell Road and to the main path which leads to Harrison Road including the repair of other existing pathway network on site. (See attached plan of the full works).

City Highways will commence pathway construction and improvement work on 15th June 2020 for a period of up to six weeks. In order to carry out this work safely, we shall place a metal heras fence around the new pathway being installed and place warning signs on the fence relating to the current COVID 19 pandemic.

The work will involve excavating the line of the desire line pathway to a depth of around 200mm, laying edgings either side of the new path, installing a stone foundation which is then finished with two layers of Tarmac.

We shall also install 4 new lighting columns along the newly constructed pathway to increase user safety when using the path as the evenings draw in.

Repairs and resurfacing will be undertaken across the existing pathway network to complete the onsite improvements and provide safe walking and access routes for all.

As part of these works, we shall construct a concrete pad for readiness of the future HOLI festival, size of the pad and its exact position of the pad to be determined. There will be also be a bicycle docking station planned near the Harrison Road entrance.

No waiting cones will be placed opposite number 70/72 so that the construction vehicles can gain access to the park. Parking either side of the temporary access shall be prohibited during this period to enable safe working.

Inevitably there will be some noise and disruption to your routine from time to time during this construction period; however, we will strive to keep this to a minimum.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding these work’s, please contact me on the number provided.

Yours faithfully,



Prafull Shukla

Highway maintenance group

Highways & Bridge Maintenance Team

