

CABINET

21 May 2003

RELEASE OF OPEN SPACE FUNDS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL OF DENMEAD

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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RECENT REFERENCES:

CAB588 - Review of the Winchester District Open Space Strategy and Funding System - 19th March 2003:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report sets out the details of a new skatepark facility at the King George V playing field. The Parish Council has requested the release of Open Space Funds to purchase and install the equipment, safety surfacing and fencing. As the scheme is in excess of £10,000, Cabinet approval is needed. It is recommended that the amount requested be released.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 That £43,947 be released from the Open Space Fund to The Parish Council of Denmead for the provision of a skatepark facility.

CABINET21 May 2003RELEASE OF OPEN SPACE FUNDS FOR DENMEADREPORT OF DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICESDETAIL:1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Parish Council of Denmead has recently submitted details of an open space scheme at the King George V Field, requesting the release of £43,947 from the District Open Space Fund. As the amount will exceed £10,000, the release of funds requires Cabinet approval.

2 Details of the Scheme

- 2.1 In 1992, after conducting a survey of recreational needs with special emphasis on play provision, Denmead Recreation Advisory Committee produced a report on the sport and leisure requirements of the Parish. There was a significant request for skateboard and BMX facilities although at the time it was felt that such equipment was too noisy to be feasible. In the meantime demand has increased and advances in technology, particularly with regard to soundproofing, mean that it is now possible to install skateparks without unduly affecting local residents.
- 2.2 In 2000 Denmead Youth Club presented a video they had made on skateparks and their aspirations and requested the Parish Council to provide a facility. The Parish Council agreed to investigate their request and the Playground Project Committee (PPC) was reconvened to look at the matter. The PPC is made up of both parish councillors and members of other involved parties including a 'disinterested' member of the public. The skatepark project is a partnership between several youth groups in the village and the Parish Council.
- 2.3 Denmead has over a 1000 youths, a number of which are teenagers. There is a perception of teenage nuisance and problems in the village and while the Police do not think there is a major problem they believe that providing a focus for teenagers to congregate and occupy themselves is very much a priority. The Police feel that this facility is so badly needed they have given Youth Action Denmead a grant of £4,000 towards the skate-park.
- 2.4 The Parish, with the help of local users, have conducted quite thorough research into suppliers and equipment paying particular attention to surface materials. The conclusion has been a scheme by Eibe (UK supplier in Godalming, Surrey). Eibe surfaces are constructed from hardened polyester which skates well having the give of timber but is 100% weather resistant. The local testers in Denmead considered that the design of the angles of 'roll-in' and the give of the surface was the best they had encountered amongst the equipment tested.
- 2.5 With respect to siting, the Parish Council have considered all the land they own, and looked at access, unsupervised use / 'stranger-danger' and impact on neighbours.

The decision has been taken to site the skatepark to the rear of the Bowls Club on the main KGV field, keeping the site distinct from the children's playground and within view of the pavilion and the park manager. There will be minimal impact on local residents as this is the most central point of the park. The Bowls Club have been consulted and support the siting.

## 2.6 Funding

Youth Action Denmead		£4,000 (police grant)
Denmead Swings & Things		£16,000
Parish Council		<u>£12,500</u>
	total	£32,500
	Cost of scheme	£75,947
<b>Shortfall required</b>		<b>£43,947</b>

## 3 Officer Assessment

- 3.1 The schedule for Denmead in the Open Space Strategy 2003-4 recognises that there are large shortfalls in both play and sport provision and makes particular reference to the need for teenage facilities. The Strategy therefore proposes that teenage facilities should be provided.
- 3.2 The Open Space Project Officer has met with representatives of the Parish Council to discuss the details of the scheme and considers that the scheme is satisfactory in planning, cost and design terms and should be capable of implementation within the shortest possible time-scale.
- 3.3 There is currently £155,800 reserved in the Open Space Fund for use in the parish of Denmead and although some of this is earmarked for the new pavilion there is still sufficient available to implement this scheme.

### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

None

## 4 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 4.1 Supporting new and improved community facilities accessible to all within their communities
- 4.2 Ensuring that all new open spaces are designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities
- 4.3 Work with others to meet the needs of young people in the district.

## 5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 Available within current resource levels

### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDICES: Plan attached showing the location of the play area.