

CABINET

3 March 2004

RELEASE OF OPEN SPACE FUNDS FOR NEW ALRESFORD TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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RECENT REFERENCES:

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report sets out the details of a new skateboard facility in Arlebury Park, New Alresford. As the scheme is in excess of £10,000, Cabinet approval is needed. It is recommended that the amount requested be released.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That, subject to planning permission being obtained, £41,869 be released from the Open Space Fund to New Alresford Town Council for the provision of a new skateboard facility.

CABINET3 March 2004RELEASE OF OPEN SPACE FUNDS FOR NEW ALRESFORD TOWN COUNCILREPORT OF DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICESDETAIL:1 Introduction

- 1.1 New Alresford Town Council has recently submitted details of an open space scheme at Arlebury Park recreation ground, requesting the release of £41,869 from the District Open Space Fund to go toward a new skateboard facility. As the amount will exceed £10,000, the release of funds requires Cabinet approval.

2 Details of the Scheme

- 2.1 New Alresford Town Council (NATC) has committed itself to the provision of a skatepark for the youth of New Alresford. This commitment follows several years of demand for such a facility by the residents and youth of New Alresford. The provision of such a facility was also highlighted in an independent survey prepared by the Winchester Detached Youth Work Project, which looked at the needs of young people.
- 2.2 Various locations within the Town have been considered for their suitability for a skateboard park. Arlebury Park was chosen as being the most suitable location. The park is in NATC ownership and is freehold and is already a well-used and accessible recreational facility with floodlit tennis courts, two football pitches and a large children's play area. The Town Council and the youth of New Alresford support the siting of a skateboard park in Arlebury Park.
- 2.3 Following research into different types of skatepark construction and materials, a pre-cast concrete solution has been selected. The prime reasons for selecting concrete over steel were: relatively low noise generation when in use; relatively lower maintenance revenue costs; and a proven performance record from an experienced design and build contractor.
- 2.4 Concrete skateparks have inherently low noise generation when in use. However, to improve on this important factor still further, NATC commissioned an Acoustic Engineer to investigate the skateboard park proposal and advise the council how it might achieve a reduction in the noise pollution to an acceptable level. The resultant report was presented at a NATC open meeting where both the residents and councillors were able to discuss the noise issues associated with the scheme. In summary the report recommended constructing earth bunds to screen three sides of the proposed skatepark. The Town Council accepted the report recommendations.
- 2.5 To complete the design, NATC have commissioned a Landscape Architect to develop a landscape design that will enable the skatepark site to integrate into the park and surrounding countryside. The final scheme design will be made available for public viewing and comment prior to entering into the contract phase.

- 2.6 The scheme has been offered financial support by the following organisations:  
 County Youth Service  
 Police  
 Rotary Club of Alresford  
 Alresford Pigs Association  
 Hampshire Playing Fields Association  
 Alresford Precept

### 3 Officer Assessment

- 3.1 The schedule for New Alresford in the Open Space Strategy 2003-4 recognises that there are inadequate facilities for teenagers and that there is strong demand for a skateboard park.
- 3.2 The Open Space Project Officer has met with representatives of the Town 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 this year.
- 3.3 There is currently £41,869 reserved in the Open Space Fund for use in the parish of New Alresford which will all be released for the skateboard facility if Cabinet approves the proposal.
- 3.4 As the project exceeds 200 cubic metres in capacity Permitted Development rights are not available to the Parish Council and an application has therefore been made to the Planning Department. This will go before the Planning Committee on either Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> or Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March.

### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

#### 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