WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

28 JULY 2015

MAGDALEN HILL CEMETERY EXTENSION

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (POLICY & PROJECTS)

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RECENT REFERENCES:

n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

An extension to Magdalen Hill Cemetery received planning consent in April 2015 and it is hoped to start construction on site during the Autumn.

The extension is urgently required in order to provide new burial plots.

The scheme is currently subject to a tendering exercise but the cost estimate for the construction works and associated landscaping is in excess of the capital budget which was set several years ago.

This report sets out the additional funding which is likely to be required to enable the scheme to proceed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. That the Forum gives support in principle to release the capital expenditure to build the cemetery extension, subject to Cabinet Approval.
- 2. That the Forum agrees in principle to increase the overall scheme budget subject to Cabinet approval.

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1 <u>Introduction</u>

- 1.1. Magdalen Hill Cemetery extension as set out on the drawings appended to this report was granted full planning permission in April 2015. The extension will extend the use of the site by an extra 30-40 years.
- 1.2. The Forum is asked to give its support in principle, subject to Cabinet approval, to release the necessary capital expenditure in order to begin work on the site. There is a pressing need to bring the cemetery extension into use as soon as possible due to a dwindling supply of burial plots in the City. It is hoped to carry out building works over the autumn.
- 1.3. The current budget for the project is £135,000, however this was set some years ago and costs have since increased. Latest cost estimates including associated landscaping indicate that this needs to be increased by up to £40,000 subject to a tendering exercise which is currently being undertaken. The Forum is therefore asked to give its approval in principle, subject to Cabinet approval, to increase the overall budget allocation which will be confirmed by the current tendering exercise.
- 1.4. There is a requirement that the Council provides the extra burial space. Extending the existing cemetery into land the council already owns is therefore the most cost effective and efficient way to do this.
- 1.5. Plans of the site are included in Appendix 1.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- 2. COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND PORTFOLIO PLANS (RELEVANCE TO):
- 2.1. Extending the Magdalen Hill Cemetery has been a priority in the Portfolio Plans for a number of years. Successful completion of the project is needed to meet the needs of the community, as well as ensuring a high quality environment.
- 3. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:
- 3.1. The capital budget for this scheme is currently £135,000. Current scheme estimates including associated landscaping works indicate that the actual costs, subject to tendering will be in the order of £175,000.

- 3.2. The current capital budget of £135,000 is funded initially by the General Fund and repaid by the Winchester Town Account on an annual basis through depreciation over the life of the asset. It is proposed that any additional budget requirement would be funded on the same basis.
- 3.3. The 2015/16 income budget for Magdalen Hill Cemetery is £105,000. If works were not to proceed then the majority of this income would be at risk. Any additional capital costs will need to be analysed in the next review of fees & charges to ensure that the total income collected ensures the net cost of Cemeteries is minimised per the Town strategy.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES:

- 4.1. The budget estimates include a contingency for unforeseen site conditions.
- 4.2. There is a risk of a shortage of burial plots should the extension not be implemented.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

n/a

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Site and Layout Plans

Appendix 1



