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Dear Sir/Madam,

A Special Meeting of the **CABINET** will be held at in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton on Thursday, 22nd April, 2010, at 6.00 p.m.

The Press are invited to attend at 5.45 p.m. to ask questions about any item on the Agenda.

Public Consultation will commence at 6.00 p.m.

Yours faithfully,

CHRISTINE KERR

Chief Executive

To:	Councillor P.J. Gilbert	(Leader)
	Councillor N.G. Grant	(Environment)
	Councillor A.J. Burtenshaw	(Planning and Public Protection)
	Councillor B.J. Grant	(Resources and Support)
	Councillor M.P. Grant	(Customer Services)
	Councillor J. Waine	(Sustainable Communities)

AGENDA
PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. EVACUATION PROCEDURE
2. APOLOGIES - To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - To receive declarations of personal/prejudicial interests in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

Note: Following the adoption of the new Code of Conduct, members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their personal interests at the commencement of the relevant item (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a prejudicial interest the member must withdraw from the room unless dispensation has been given by the Standards Committee.

4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION - **Members of the public will be given the opportunity to speak on specific agenda items if notice has been received.**
5. RIVERSLEY PARK - NEW PLAY AREA - Report of the Environmental Services Director attached. **(Page 4)**

CORPORATE PLAN AIMS AND PRIORITIES

- Aim 1** - To improve the quality of life and social justice for residents so it is much closer to that enjoyed by the rest of Warwickshire.
- Priority 1 - To provide a choice of housing to meet the needs of the residents of the Borough.
- Priority 2 - To create a healthy, diverse and robust economy which provides employment opportunities for local people.
- Priority 3 - To work in partnership to improve health and reduce health inequalities for residents in the Borough.
- Priority 4 - To develop a confident, cohesive and diverse community.
- Aim 2** - To work in partnership to reduce the level of crime and disorder so that the community is and feels safer.
- Priority 1 - Dealing with anti-social behaviour by working in partnership and provide diversionary activities to engage with youngsters.
- Priority 2 - Environmental improvements and support for selective CCTV to reduce fear of crime.
- Priority 3 - Use of the Council's enforcement powers to support community safety initiatives.
- Aim 3** - To provide a pleasant environment for those living, working and visiting the Borough.
- Priority 1 - To create a greener and cleaner environment.
- Priority 2 - To lead in environmental issues addressing climate change and protection of the environment.
- Aim 4** - To provide quality services which represent value for money.
- Priority 1 - To continue to improve the performance and quality of key services.
- Priority 2 - To improve access arrangements for all Council services and the way that those who use them are treated.
- Priority 3 - To use value for money procedures to test the way all services are delivered.



CABINET

Report Summary Sheet

Date:	22 nd April 2010
Subject:	Riversley Park – New Play Area
Portfolio:	Sustainable Communities – Councillor J. Waine
From:	Environmental Services Director

Summary:	Construction of New Play Area – Riversley Park
Recommendations:	<p>That the plans and consultation exercise be noted and the project be approved.</p> <p>The equipment installation and landscaping works be tendered for, in accordance with the lower limit, as set out in paragraph 6.2.</p>
Reasons:	To ensure that quality children's play is available in Riversley Park
Options:	None

Subject to call-in:	Yes
Forward Plan:	Not included

Corporate Priorities:	Aim 1, Priority 2 and Aim 3, Priority 1
Relevant statutes or policy:	EU Procurement Rule

Equal Opportunity Implications:	N/A
Human Resources Implications:	N/A
Financial Implications:	Within Report
Health Inequalities Implications:	N/A
Risk Management Implications:	The contract will be carried out in full accordance with contractual procedures
Environmental Implications:	N/A
Legal Implications:	N/A

Contact Details:	John Pritchard, Head of Recreation Tel: 02476 376055.
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NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet - 22nd April 2010
From: Environmental Services Director
Subject: Riversley Park - New Play Area
Portfolio: Sustainable Communities – Councillor J. Waine

This is a Key Decision which has not been included in the Forward Plan as the need to bring forward the works has recently been established.

1. Purpose of Report

To outline the proposed plans for the development of a new play area within Riversley Park, Nuneaton.

2. Recommendation.

- 2.1 That the plans and consultation exercise be noted and the project be approved.
- 2.2 The equipment installation and landscaping works be tendered for, in accordance with the lower limit, as set out in paragraph 6.2.

3. Background

- 3.1 Riversley Park is an Edwardian era park gifted to the town in 1907. It is situated adjacent to the town centre and provides a valuable open space for residents and visitors alike.
- 3.2 The site has been identified as requiring a new children's play area within the Outdoor Play Strategy 2005 – 2012. As a Destination Park, Riversley is recognised as a borough-wide attraction and warrants a play area of sufficient size and play value to accommodate visits from a significant number of children.
- 3.3 The park also contains the Museum, Registry Office, bandstand, bowling greens and horticultural features. The river is an integral feature, running through the middle of the park. Pathways provide routes from George Eliot memorial gardens in the centre of the town to the Pingles Leisure Centre.
- 3.4 The old play area lay adjacent to the railway embankment in an enclosed area somewhat cut off from the main park. It has reached the end of its life and as a consequence of recent vandalism, deterioration of the wooden sleepers, together with play equipment failure, had come to present a health and safety risk. The area has been cleared and will be landscaped at a further date.

It is imperative that the new play area is in place as soon as possible in order to provide play opportunities, but a temporary play area will be in place during construction.

- 3.5 The new play area will be located on one of the two bowling greens, close to Lover's Walk, leading to Attleborough Road. This site was chosen because of its central location within the park. It is the view of Officers that this location is the ideal, in that it regenerates that area of the park, is easier to access and is easier to monitor for anti-social behaviour and, being less enclosed, provides a perception of safety. It is also the view that this location will assist in the acquisition of Green Flag status for Riversley Park, a nationwide indicator of quality open space.

4. Proposed New Play Area

- 4.1 A plan of the site (**Appendix A**), attached as a separate document, shows a number of play items adjacent to a major central feature, specially made for the play area. All the equipment is set within sand, aesthetically pleasing and safety compliant. The entire area is to be fenced, with the opportunity to be locked at night, and the provision of CCTV is strongly recommended.

- 4.2 The design ethos is to reflect the Edwardian character of the park, relocating the facility closer to the River Anker, a move supported by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. The original consultation results revealed a desire to locate the play area within mounded landscape thereby giving height and interest. As Riversley is within a floodplain such earth modelling would not be favoured by the Environmental Agency and therefore the architects brief was to achieve a similar effect by the use of the play equipment.

- 4.3 The choice of equipment reflects a departure from the hard steel and rubber so often used in play areas today and the main feature (marked P on the plan) provides a dramatic focal point. The equipment, water play, sand and the landscape and river backdrop should confirm this site as a premier play destination and hopefully act as a catalyst for further development of the park.

- 4.4 The play area will be maintained by the in-house play area maintenance team on a daily basis including weekends.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The design of the new play area was strongly influenced by the consultation carried out as part of the Heritage Lottery Bid submission in 2009, and the 2006 survey relating to parks throughout the Borough.

- 5.2 Highlighted below are the responses to the above and pertinent to the play area design.

- 5.2.1 The Heritage of Riversley Park is important to Nuneaton and should be reflected in the design.

%	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
All	56	30	8	3	0

5.2.2 Riversley Park is an important central point in Nuneaton for community recreation.

%	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
All	58	29	9	2	0

5.2.3 Satisfaction level of Riversley Park

%	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Riversley	8	39	32	16	6
All Parks	28	49	17	5	1

Riversley satisfaction rates are well below the average for all parks and gardens provided by NBBC.

5.2.4 Visitor rates

%	Every Day	Every Week	Most Weeks	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Riversley Summer	27	18	20	28	6	1
Riversley Winter	13	15	10	32	18	4
All Parks	9	14	13	17	35	9

Notwithstanding the poor satisfaction levels outlined earlier, Riversley Park's central location and status as the main destination park in Nuneaton means that visitor rates are much higher than the average for NBBC parks. Even among those who visit Riversley Park everyday, satisfaction levels are only slightly higher with 49% satisfied or very satisfied compared to 47% for all visitors. Satisfaction levels for those who travel specifically to visit Riversley Park are no higher than the average. This strongly indicates that very few current visits to Riversley are generated by 'pull' factors within the park such as facilities, attractions etc. It would appear that the current level of visitors is close to the minimum that would be sustained purely by keeping the space open to the public due to its location and other nearby visitor destinations.

5.2.5 Would you like to visit Riversley Park more?

%	Yes	No	No reply
All	85	10	4

The survey also gave residents the opportunity to identify the good and bad points of Riversley Park via open-ended questions. These responses were analysed and grouped into similar points to allow them to be ranked. The floral features were highest ranked by a large majority, with the museum being the second most positive element. The main negative aspect of Riversley Park was the former play area with visitors having a number of concerns including the limited play value, isolated location and the age and condition of the play equipment.

The complete list is below.

Negative Element	Number
Play Area	62
Rubbish in river	58
Rubbish in park	51
No/limited café/refreshments	41
Loutish behaviour/drinking	39
No/limited toilets	32
No paddling pool/water play	29
Little/Nothing to do	27
Not safe (after dark mainly)	27
River not used to potential	15
No/limited seating	14
Little/Nothing to do for children	13
No park attendants	13
Few/no activities/events	11
Bandstand underused	9
Limited/no car parking	9
Tunnel	8
Badly located/no picnic area	8
Dog mess	8
Condition of bowling green	7
Flooding of paths	7
Poor quality of grounds maintenance	7
Gangs on bandstand	6
No boats on Anker	6
Reduced size of park due to development	5
Area by Clinic Road	5
Dogs	5
Lack of definition of areas	5
Child safety by river (no fence)	4
Cyclists	3
Lack of identity	3
Skateboarders on War Memorial	3
Skateboarders	3
To many trees	2
Rats	2
Museum	2
Need to publicise bands in park better	2
No BBQ area	2
No aviaries	2
Condition of mini golf	2
Lack of trees/wildlife	2
Condition of bridges	2

5.2.6 In addition to the above, further on site consultation is taking place on the draft designs and proposed play equipment. This will give users the opportunity to comment on and if necessary, refine the sketch plans.

6. Project Implementation Timeline

6.1. Given the details of procurement, it is anticipated that work will commence on site in June, and will be concluded in August.

6.2 The equipment will be procured using the ESPO framework agreement. It is estimated that the equipment installation and landscaping will cost circa £120k. Normally, under contract procedural rules, this would require at least three tenders, using a select list. In order to provide the facility during the school holidays, it is recommended that the quotation procedure for contracts costing from £10k - £100k is used instead. This will require three sealed bids, and is a significantly shorter process. Given that the estimated cost of the works is only £20k greater than this upper limit, it would be within an acceptable tolerance.

7. Financial Information.

7.1. The project cost of £275k is fully funded by NBBC's Capital Programme, and is utilised as follows, as outlined in the Cabinet report of 24th February 2010.

7.2

Initial Budget	£275,000
Landscape/Consultancy Fees	£ 25,000
Contingency @ 5%	£ 12,500
Working Budget	£237,500

ALAN FRANKS