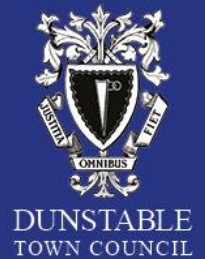


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Paul Hodson Town Clerk and Chief Executive

Date: 3 March 2023

Dear Councillors

A meeting of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee will be held on **Monday 13 March 2023 at the Council Chamber, Grove House commencing at 7.00 PM**. Members of the public and press are welcome to attend, either online via Teams or in person. Anyone wishing to attend is asked to notify their intention to attend by emailing democratic@dunstable.gov.uk by 10 March 2023.

Yours faithfully

Paul Hodson
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence
2. To agree as an accurate record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 16 January 2023 (copy previously circulated)
3. Specific Declarations of Interest
4. To receive the minutes of the Meetings of Plans Sub-Committee held on 24 January and 14 February (see page 3)
5. Creasey Park Community Football Centre and Bennett's Splash Park – information report (see page 8)

Members are reminded when making decisions that the Public Sector Equality Duty 2010 requires Members to have due regard to the need to: Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act, advance equality of opportunity between people who share a characteristic and those who don't, and to foster good relations between people who share a characteristic and those who don't.

6. Cemetery, Allotments, Recreation Grounds, Town Centre Gardens, Ranger Service - information Report (see page 12)
7. Outdoor gym equipment in green spaces – Report (see page 19)
8. Reports from Outside Organisations –

CBC Development Management Committee - Councillors Sid Abbott and Gloria Martin
9. RECOMMENDED In terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following items will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and it is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded.
10. Future Use of Luton Road Bowling Green and Associated Sports Pavilion – (report to follow)

To: All Members of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee: Councillors Liz Jones (Town Mayor), Lisa Bird (Deputy Town Mayor and Chairman), Greg George (Vice-Chairman), Sid Abbott, Matthew Brennan, Mark Cant, Alan Corkhill, Philip Crawley, Pamela Ghent, Kenson Gurney, Gladys Sanders, Johnson Tamara and other Members of the Council for information

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PLANS SUB-COMMITTEE

HELD AT GROVE HOUSE, DUNSTABLE

ON TUESDAY 24 JANUARY AT 7.00 P.M.

Present: Councillors Phil Crawley (Chairman), John Gurney (Vice-Chairman), Lisa Bird, Greg George and Liz Jones (substituting for Cameron Restall)

Apologies: Councillors Wendy Bater and Cameron Restall

In Attendance: Becky Wisbey (Head of Community Services)

Public: Nil

1. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no specific declarations of interest.

2. PLANNING APPLICATIONS – RECEIVED UP TO 13 JANUARY 2023

The Sub-Committee considered all planning applications submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council in respect of Dunstable since the last meeting of this Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED: that the following comments be forwarded to Central Bedfordshire Council in respect of the applications indicated:

1 CB/22/04676/FULL: 36-36A High Street North

Proposal: Listed Building: Conversion of ground floor in to, 2 restaurant, hot food takeaway units with extract system. Conversion of offices/storage upper floors to 5 residential flats with reinstatement of windows and loft conversion with rear facing dormer window

Comments: Object. Members have concerns about waste storage due to commercial and residential properties. There is no provisions for bicycles.

2 CB/22/04692/FULL: 36-36A High Street North

Proposal: Conversion of ground floor in to, 2 restaurant, hot food takeaway units with extract system. Conversion of offices/storage upper floors to 5 residential flats with reinstatement of windows and loft conversion with rear facing dormer window

Comments: Object. Due to over development and not in keeping with the Street scene in a conservation area. Another food takeaway.

3 CB/22/04875/FULL: 17 Kingscroft Avenue

Proposal: First floor side extension

Comments: No objection

4 CB/22/04925/FULL: 19 Ullswater Road

Proposal: Proposed single storey rear extension, pitched roof over side shower room and pitched roof to front porch and garage.

Comments: No objection

5 CB/22/04586/FULL: 12 Harvey Road

Proposal: New detached bungalow

Comments: No objection

3. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Sub-Committee noted the decisions of Central Bedfordshire Council in respect of recent planning applications.

4. LICENSING APPLICATIONS

None received.

The Meeting Closed at 19:20

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PLANS SUB-COMMITTEE
HELD AT GROVE HOUSE, DUNSTABLE
ON TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.00 P.M.

Present: Councillors Phil Crawley (Chairman), John Gurney (Vice-Chairman), Wendy Bater, Lisa Bird, Pam Ghent (substituting for Cameron Restall), Kenson Gurney (substituting for Greg George) and Johnson Tamara

Apologies: Cllrs Cameron Restall and Greg George

In Attendance: Lisa Scheder (Head of Finance and Responsible Financial Officer)

Public: Nil

1. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lisa Bird declared a non-pecuniary Interest to planning application No. 10 as a relative lived at the premises.

2. PLANNING APPLICATIONS – RECEIVED UP TO 6 FEBRUARY 2023

The Sub-Committee considered all planning applications submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council in respect of Dunstable since the last meeting of this Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED: that the following comments be forwarded to Central Bedfordshire Council in respect of the applications indicated:

1 CB/23/00070/FULL: 34 First Avenue

Proposal: Loft conversion with rear dormer and rooflights to front elevation. Existing hipped roof changed to gable end. First floor side extension. Removal of existing rear extension and new single storey rear extension added

Comments: No objection

2 CB/22/04914/FULL: H K Trading, 318 High Street North

Proposal: Installation of hand car washing and valeting facility

Comments: No objection

3 CB/23/00028/FULL: 10 Carlisle Close

Proposal: Erection of single storey front extension

Comments: No objection

4	CB/22/04922/FULL:	Unit 29, Verey Road
	Proposal:	Proposed change of use: to Unit 29 to secure a flexible range of uses (within Classes E(g)(iii), B2 and / or B8) together with refurbishment works and physical alterations including reducing the building's overall footprint to increase its servicing yard and to provide a new access road to its rear car park, and all other associated works
	Comments:	No objection
5	CB/22/04954/FULL:	12 Tibbett Close
	Proposal:	First-floor side extension and internal alterations
	Comments:	No objection
6	CB/23/00152/FULL:	65 Borough Road
	Proposal:	Erection of single-storey side and rear extensions
	Comments:	No objection
7	CB/23/00012/FULL:	27 The Avenue
	Proposal:	Single storey front extension with pitch roof. Single storey rear extension to the rear with glazed balcony above with access from two bedrooms on to roof terrace. Two new side rooflights. General improvement to insulation and weathering to property with external rendering to selected external brick façade
	Comments:	No objections
8	CB/23/00098/FULL	55 Bibshall Crescent
	Proposal:	Pitched roof to front and garage conversion
	Comments:	No objection
9	CB/23/00013/FULL:	5 Carlisle Close
	Proposal:	Single storey side/rear extension and garage conversion with new pitched roof
	Comments:	No objection
10	CB/22/04736/FULL:	Ryecroft, 198-200 West Street
	Proposal:	Single storey side extension with new front entrance lobby and alteration works
	Comments:	No objection
11	CB/23/00014/FULL:	Priory Academy, Britain Street
	Proposal:	Demolition of existing changing block and erection of two classroom extension
	Comments:	No objection

12	CB/23/00280/FULL:	9 Poynters Road
	Proposal:	New pitched roof to existing front porch and re-location of front door
	Comments:	No objection
13	CB/23/00233/FULL:	35 Maidenbower Avenue
	Proposal:	Single storey rear extension following removal of outbuilding
	Comments:	No objection
14	CB/22/04890/FULL:	10 Meadway
	Proposal:	Reconfiguration of existing ground floor plan including side and rear ground floor extension, first floor side extension, installation of one roof window to rear roof slope, and chimney removal
	Comments:	No objections
15	CB/23/00334/FULL:	25 Capron Road
	Proposal:	Single storey rear extension.
	Comments:	No objection
16	CB/23/00316/FULL:	7 Lancot Avenue
	Proposal:	Demolition of existing single storey rear extension, and erection of single storey rear and side extension, and pitched roof to existing side extension.
	Comments:	No objections

3. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Sub-Committee noted the decisions of Central Bedfordshire Council in respect of recent planning applications.

4. LICENSING APPLICATIONS

None received.

The Meeting Closed at 19:13

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL**GROUND AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE****MONDAY 6 MARCH 2023****CREASEY PARK COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE AND BENNETT'S SPLASH
UPDATE**

Purpose of Report: To provide a progress report on operations at Creasey Park Community Football Centre and Bennett's Splash Park and a review of options for the Splash Park café.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides the Committee with a summary account of performance to date.

2. ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCHES (ATP) & GRASS PITCHES

- 2.1 A recent condition survey on ATP1, reported that after 11 years the pitch is still in a good state. If the correct maintenance continues, the pitch carpet will not need replacing for another 18 – 24 months.
- 2.2 The table below shows average monthly attendance of AFC Dunstable (AFC) and Dunstable Town FC (DTFC) first team home matches.

	AFC	DTFC
August 22	178	198
September 22	115	202
October 22	141	439
November 22	142	210
December 22	136	239

	AFC	DTFC
January 23	170	148
February 23	104	185
March 23		
April 23		

- 2.3 AFC Dunstable's long-standing chairman is stepping down at the end of this season. The club have advertised for a replacement and a further update will be provided in the next report.

- 2.4 The table below shows the monthly ATP player usage and total monthly usage in hours:

Month	Players	Usage (hrs)	Month	Players	Usage (hrs)
Apr-21	4,155	356	Apr-22	5,473	371
May-21	4,653	374	May-22	4937	399
Jun-21	4,175	451	Jun-22	4040	345
Jul-21	5,316	586	Jul-22	4880	424
Aug-21	4,776	499	Aug-22	5366	456
Sep-21	5,131	474	Sep-22	5131	348
Oct-21	5,776	444	Oct-22	6150	413
Nov-21	5,132	368	Nov-22	4106	328
Dec-21	3,802	275	Dec-22	2587	191
Jan-22	4,429	314	Jan-23	2867	270
Feb-22	5,597	385	Feb-23	3577	316
Mar-22	5,552	402	Mar-23		
TOTAL	58,494	4,928	TOTAL		

- 2.5 In partnership with Luton Town FC Community Trust, Creasey Park hosted a Premier League Primary Stars Tournament. There were 12 teams competing from Greater London, Norwich and Ipswich. It was a superb event organised by Luton Town FC Community Trust. Also in attendance was the Premier League Trophy itself.
- 2.6 The February school half term was busy with three full day football festivals totalling 50 teams, over 600 players and countless spectators. Luton Town FC Community Trust held a week-long school holiday programme and there were 2 days of pay and play which brought in over 200 young people.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

3.1 Creasey Park Bar & Catering takings comparison EX VAT

	2019/2020	2021/2022	2022/2023	Variation- 2022/23 2019/20
April	£16,930.69	£5,777.67	£26,214.44	£9,283.75
May	£12,645.83	£6,550.14	£11,707.16	-£938.67
June	£8,409.83	£4,275.74	£11,719.35	£3,309.51
July	£9,609.22	£12,461.16	£15,778.52	£6,169.30

August	£10,065.36	£7,393.47	£14,258.79	£4,193.43
September	£11,255.73	£12,279.17	£17,253.67	£5,997.95
October	£17,084.33	£24,398.98	£27,633.45	£10,549.12
November	£13,010.83	£14,722.55	£21,242.31	£8,231.48
December	£7,384.00	£14,013.20	£10,095.39	£6,628.80
January	£10,813.40	£14,247.17	£12,404.74	£1,591.34 (19/20) -£1,842.43 (20/21)
February	£9,557.72	£16,781.51	£19,040.88	£9,483.16 (19/20) £2,259.37 (20/21)

- 3.2 The table above shows in January although exceeding income from the same period in 19/20 it -£1,842.43 against 21/22. This is due to the cancellation of fixtures due to weather, highlighted in the last report and knock on effect it has on secondary spend. February's income is far more positive and shows the result of rescheduled games and busy school half term bookings.

3.3 Creasey Park End of Year Summary of Forecast and Actuals vs Budget

Service Area	Budget 2022/23	Actuals to Date	Year-end Forecast	Forecast Year- end Variance
Income: Creasey Park -Football	201,022	263,987	260,122	59,100
Costs: Creasey park - Football	-75,528	-94,239	-118,661	-43,133
Income: Bar & Catering	210,000	213,662	241,442	31,442
Costs: Bar & Catering	-349,118	-324,173	-380,457	-31,334
Sub Total	-13,624	59,327	2,446	16,070

- 3.4 The year-end forecast is currently showing a £2,446 surplus which is a £16,070 positive variance against budget. This has decreased from last report due in part to losses suffered from the poor weather cancellations.

4. OPERATIONAL & BUILDING UPDATE

- 4.1 There is no current contract update.

- 4.2 Organised by our Older Peoples Support Service team, Creasey Park held a successful Rock & Roll event with 58 people attending.
- 4.3 In the February school half term, our Young Peoples service team held a Family Fun day at Creasey Park.
- 4.4 The Town Mayor held a very successful 24hr Dart-a-thon event. The event was very well attended bringing new people to the centre thus raising the profile of Creasey Park. The event not only generated a huge amount of money for the Mayoral charities, but also additional bar & catering income for Creasey Park.

5. BENNETT'S SPLASH & SPLASHSIDE CAFE

- 5.1 Preparations are underway for upcoming season, including recruitment for a Splash Park Manager.
- 5.2 Works are ongoing to improve the sewage and waste system before next season.

6. AUTHOR

- 6.1 James Slack - Sports and Leisure Facilities Manager
james.slack@dunstable.gov.uk

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL**GROUND AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE****MONDAY 13 MARCH 2023****CEMETERY, ALLOTMENTS, RECREATION GROUNDS, TOWN CENTRE GARDENS,
RANGER SERVICE - INFORMATION REPORT**

Purpose of report: - To update the Committee on the management and maintenance of the town's cemetery, allotments, recreation grounds, town gardens, floral displays, play areas and Ranger Service.

1. DUNSTABLE CEMETERY

- 1.1 Burial activity has remained ongoing, and the table below provides a comparison for the period 3 January 2023 to 28 February 2023 against the same period for the previous year:

	Jan 2022 – Feb 2022	Jan 2023 – Feb 2023
New earth grave	15	10
Re open earth grave	5	9
New ashes	2	2
Reopen ashes	4	3

- 1.2 At the time of writing this report, 388 burials will have taken place in the lawn section of the cemetery extension since February 2016.
- 1.3 The Friends of Dunstable Cemetery continue to meet on the first Tuesday and third Friday of the month to carry out light grounds activities. Their support is greatly valued and they will be meeting the Green Flag judges later in the year.
- 1.4 Winter maintenance activity is ongoing alongside grave digging operations and the grounds team have recently commenced grass cutting. The low crescent wall at the front of the cemetery will shortly be cleaned by the Ranger Team to compliment the recent stonework repairs and cleaning to the chapel and in preparation for the Green Flag judges visit.
- 1.5 Based on recommendations from the Council's tree surveyor, pruning and felling has been carried out on a number of trees in the Cemetery.
- 1.6 Cemetery expenditure and income as at the end of January 2023 is provided at Appendix 1. The overall positive variance can largely be attributed to over achievement on income and some underspending on expenditure. The high expenditure against profile in April is attributed to the annual rates bill of £10,604 being paid in that month.

2. ALLOTMENTS

- 2.1 At the time of writing this report there are a total 259 people on the waiting list, as detailed in Appendix 2, which is comparable to figures reported to this Committee in January 2023.
- 2.2 Officers are currently chasing up tenants who have not yet paid their invoices for the year ahead. To date, 4 tenants have given up their plots and these are being offered to the next people on the waiting list.
- 2.3 Allotment inspections will be carried out in mid-March to ensure that tenants are beginning their cultivations and keeping their plots, at the very least, clean and tidy.

3. RECREATION GROUNDS

Play Areas, Grove Skate Park and BMX

- 3.1 Since the last report to this Committee there have been no incidents of vandalism to play equipment.
- 3.2 Works at Frenchs Avenue public open space, funded by the CBC Estate Regeneration budget and proposed by CBC Ward Councillors, have largely been completed. New safety play surfacing has been installed under some play equipment in the play area. The installation of the new bow top fencing is completed and the motorcycle inhibitor has been scheduled for early to mid-March.
- 3.3 Following a request received from a resident, an additional bench was installed at Ridgeway Avenue Recreation Ground.
- 3.4 The lighting at Grove Skate Park has been serviced and a damaged information board has been replaced.
- 3.5 Following recent spending approvals by this Committee orders have been raised for the installation of the new play equipment at Mentmore Recreation Ground and the purchase of the new dumper truck for the Cemetery. The anticipated delivery of the play equipment is the middle of March, and the dumper is scheduled for November 2023. The replacement gate at Newton Recreation Ground has also been installed.

Sports Pitches and General Grounds Maintenance

- 3.6 Hedge cutting has been almost completed at all sites. Preparations are in hand for the forthcoming 2023 grass cutting season and will take account of lessons learnt in 2022 on differential mowing regimes.
- 3.7 The 2022/23 football season is now in its second half and the grounds staff continue to regularly overmark and prepare pitches for play.

- 3.8 Following the deadline for tender submissions on the 31 January, two companies presented their proposals for the MUGA and play area refurbishment at Kingsbury Recreation Ground, to the working group. Taking account of the recent consultations with young people, the working group unanimously decided that its preferred partner to take the project forward would be Play Innovation Ltd. The next step in the project is to secure planning consent for the works and it is anticipated that the new facilities can still be completed in time for the summer school holidays.

MENTMORE TREE PLANTING PROJECTS

- 3.9 On Saturday 11 February 2023, the Council held a community planting day to create a new hedgerow at Mentmore Recreation Ground. The hedgerow has been supported and part funded by the Woodland Trust's MOREhedges Scheme and is an element of the ongoing plans to improve the site at Mentmore.
- 3.10 Around 40 residents participated in the planting event and approximately 900 young trees were planted with the help of the local community, the grounds team and the Parks and Green Spaces Development Officer.
- 3.11 The grounds team will implement further works during March to realign an adjacent grass footpath and to extend the planting length of the new hedgerow. These works will be completed by the end of March 2023.
- 3.12 Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) have indicated that they are willing to fund a new fence on the boundary adjacent to the hedgerow and have also indicated that they are open to supporting revised copse tree planting proposals to extend existing copse areas at the site. Officers are in contact with CBC with a view to submitting the revised proposals and making a further grant application by end of March 2023. If successful, it is envisaged that delivering these aspects of the improvement works will happen during the 2023 / 2024 planting season.



4. TOWN RANGER SERVICES

- 4.1 The Rangers continue to undertake good work across the town and in the upcoming months they will be cleaning litter bins and carry out periodic pressure washing of pavements in addition to their other routine maintenance works.

5. TOWN CENTRE

- 5.1 Bedding plants and floral displays have been ordered for summer 2023. The plants will be grown under contract and delivered for planting in early June 2023. Work is currently in hand to determine where best to place the many containerised floral displays. Many of the basket, trough, pole and tiered planters will be red, white and blue displays in this Coronation year.
- 5.2 Winter works have been completed in Priory and Grove House Gardens in preparation for the spring and future Green Flag and In Bloom judging.
- 5.3 The design works for the six annual bedding borders, which have been identified for permanent planting, have been completed and planting will take place towards the end of March.
- 5.4 The Council has submitted Green Flag applications for Priory and Grove House Gardens, Dunstable Cemetery and Bennett Memorial Recreational Ground. The existing management plans have been updated and a new management plan was created for Bennett Memorial Recreational Ground. Judging will most likely take place during late April or early May 2023.

6 DUNSTABLE IN BLOOM

- 6.1 The Council continues to work with Dunstable in Bloom to prepare for the 2023 In Bloom campaign when the town will again be entered in the Anglia in Bloom competition. This year's theme will be 'Grow Your Own' in recognition of King Charles III's love of plants, growing and organic gardening.
- 6.2 Dunstable in Bloom will again be offering free floral displays including thirty hanging baskets and twenty large planters to local businesses at Westfield Road, High St North, High St South, West St, and Langdale Rd. These will be planted up by volunteers and delivered to shops and businesses during May and June 2023.

7 ST MARY'S GATE - PLANTING IMPROVEMENTS

- 7.1 Works to improve the shrubbery at St Mary's Gate have now been completed. Council officers held a community planting day on 2 February 2023 and were assisted by volunteers from Dunstable Baptist Church and Dunstable in Bloom to plant and mulch the area. The Rangers completed the works by creating a woodchip footpath and installing new seating adjacent to the scented planting. Images of the completed works are shown below.



7. AUTHORS

Mary Dobbs, Cemetery Manager
mary.dobbs@dunstable.gov.uk

Dimitrisz Sopisz, Grounds Operations Manager
dimitrisz.sopisz@dunstable.gov.uk

Katherine Doyle, Parks and Green Space Development Officer
katherine.doyle@dunstable.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – Cemetery Income and Expenditure

Cemetery Profiled Income and Expenditure Report as at 31 January 2023													
	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	TOTAL
Budgeted Expenditure	£9,846	£9,846	£9,846	£9,846	£9,846	£9,846	£9,846	£9,846	£9,846	£9,846	£9,846	£9,846	£118,146
Actual Expenditure	£19,457	£6,773	£6,664	£8,517	£8,027	£5,914	£5,776	£12,649	£7,614	£5,008			£86,399
Variance	-£9,612	£3,073	£3,182	£1,329	£1,819	£3,932	£4,070	-£2,804	£2,232	£4,838	£9,846	£9,846	£31,747
Budgeted Income	£15,425	£15,425	£15,425	£15,425	£15,425	£15,425	£15,425	£15,425	£15,425	£15,425	£15,425	£15,425	£185,100
Actual Income	£15,135	£24,814	£21,195	£17,254	£25,339	£29,986	£7,792	£19,864	£11,205	£27,173			£199,757
Variance	-£290	£9,389	£5,770	£1,829	£9,914	£14,561	-£7,633	£4,439	-£4,220	£11,748	-£15,425	-£15,425	£14,657
Overall Variance	£57,563												

Appendix 2 – Allotment Waiting List

Waiting list	Total	Resident	Non-Resident
Willing to accept any plot/site	51	44	7
Specific plot/site requested	199	196	3
Second plot requested	5	5	0
Offer made - not yet accepted	4	4	0
TOTAL	259	249	10
Added to list since last report (included in above total)	8	8	0
On list but do not want plot yet (included in above total)	0	0	0

Site	Catchacre	Hillcroft	Maidenbower	Meadway	Pascomb Road	Westfield	ALL SITES
Total available plots on site	21	19	24	112	15	86	277
Vacant plots	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Notice to Cultivate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Notice To Quit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plot under offer	0	1	0	2	0	1	4
Plot Given up	1	3	0	2	0	1	7
Inspection Dates	Next inspection to take place in March 2023						

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

GROUND AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

MONDAY 13 MARCH 2023

OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT IN GREEN SPACES

Purpose of Report:	To seek Member approval for the installation of gym equipment on open spaces in line with a specific Corporate Plan (2020 to 2023) action.
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1. ACTION RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 That Members approve the installation of four pieces of outdoor gym equipment at Olma Rd Recreation Ground and four at Downs Rd Recreation Ground.
- 1.2 That Members approve the use of in year revenue savings of £5,400 as match funding to complete the identified Corporate Plan action.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2020 to 2023 includes a specific action to install a gym trail in either Grove House Gardens, Olma Rd Recreation Ground or Downs Rd Recreation Ground by December 2023.
- 2.2 The Council has recently been provided with the opportunity to secure Central Bedfordshire (CBC) Ward Councillor Grant Funding for the installation of outdoor gym equipment and there is £5,400 available from the fund to support this project.

3. MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan update presented to this Committee in January 2023 noted that this specific action was not yet completed as no funding had been secured to undertake the works.
- 3.2 The CBC Ward Councillor Grant Scheme has £5,400 of available funding provided that the amount can be match funded with a further £5,400 from the Town Council or other source. The match funding implications are detailed more fully in section 4 of this report.
- 3.3 The notification of available funding was received on 28 February 2023 and the deadline for submission of applications to the fund was 1 March 2023. The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services has therefore submitted an application, based on the Corporate Plan action, to ensure that the opportunity to secure funding is not missed.
- 3.4 The application makes reference to the Corporate Plan and the Town Council's desire to create additional gym trails. In particular, the application includes details and costings on the purchase and installation of eight pieces of gym equipment. Details are provided at Appendix 1. The outcome of the application should be known by the time this report is discussed at this Committee.

- 3.5 With regard to suitable locations for outdoor gym equipment, the Corporate Plan already identifies Grove House Gardens, Olma Rd and Downs Rd sites as potential locations. Whilst the Olma Rd and Downs Rd sites would be suitable for outdoor gym equipment, it is felt that Grove House Gardens already has many facilities available for people to use and the site could become somewhat cluttered if new gym equipment was to be installed. It should be noted that the Olma Rd and Downs Road sites do not currently have any equipment for play or physical activity.
- 3.6 Members are therefore asked to approve the installation of four pieces of outdoor gym equipment for each of the sites at Olma Rd Recreation Ground and Downs Rd Recreation Ground.
- 3.7 Furthermore, Members are asked to approve the use of in year revenue savings of £5,400 as match funding to complete the identified Corporate Plan action.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 If the application for grant funding is successful, the Council will need to match fund the grant with a further £5,400.
- 4.2 Officers have identified that it will be possible to provide the match funding element from in year revenue savings this financial year.

5. POLICY AND CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The actions outlined in this report will ensure that the Council is able to deliver an identified Corporate Plan action.

6. HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The installation of the outdoor gym equipment will be undertaken by competent play and fitness equipment installers and would be subject to a post installation inspection.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE, LEGAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IMPLICATIONS.

- 7.1 None

8. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The proposal to install outdoor gym equipment will help improve free access to physical activity opportunities for all.

9. APPENDICES

- 9.1 Appendix 1 - Details of gym equipment

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Completed grant application form.

11. AUTHOR

- 11.1 John Crawley, Head of Grounds and Environmental Services

Appendix 1**Outdoor Gym Equipment in Green Spaces in Dunstable**

Proposed installation of gym equipment at two sites. Eight pieces of equipment in total with four at each site.

2 x Double Pull Up £1408



2 x Double Sit Up Bench £1550



2 x Bicycle £1484



2 x Double Slalom Skier £1680



Total for equipment	£6,122
Installation (estimated TBC)	£4,000
Associated signage	£ 678
<u>Total Project Cost</u>	<u>£10,800</u>