

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Date:	2 April 2019
Title:	Splash Pad Project
Contact Officer:	Janine Sparrowhawk, Asset Manager

Purpose of the Report:

1. To provide a written update on the progress of the Splash Pad Project.

Update:

2. At the Full Council meeting of 22 January 2019 the following resolution was made: *'the allocation of up to £60,000 from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards the Splash Pad project at Southern Road Recreation Ground be approved, subject to further detailed feasibility / operational analysis.'*
3. A meeting was held with SMS Environmental Ltd. (SMS) on 22 February 2019 to further investigate the proposal. The meeting was attended by the Town Clerk, the Asset Manager, Cllr. Jones, Cllr. Stiles and apologies from Cllr. Dixon. There was a separate pre-meeting of the Town Council Officers / Councillors.
4. Both meetings were wide ranging and all the questions raised at the Council meeting on 22 January 2019 were considered.
5. The meetings established further operational and feasibility information as well as confirming the proposed sponsorship by SMS. Detailed costs were also discussed, with the most significant operational costs being water and toilet provision.
6. A target maximum cost to the Town Council of £2 per session per child was suggested and if costs were to exceed this, then the project be abandoned.
7. The current view is that the project is operationally feasible, although further detail is still being established, which could still cause abandonment. One particular issue is whether the toilet will need an alarm facility.
8. Views were sought from other Town Councils that had installed Splash Pads. All were bigger than Thame (in terms of population), all very different installations and all reported overall positive outcomes. This has established that if installed, Thame would again be punching above its weight.
9. It is envisaged that the splash pad installation would take approx. 2 months to complete and a timeline for the project is being provided by SMS. It is still hoped that the installation could be achieved by the Spring Bank Holiday although the passage of time is making that less likely.

10. SMS will be arranging a site visit to Hinskey Park, Oxford to meet the client (Oxford City Council) of a similar facility that was installed by them 10+ years ago to further understand the operational and visitor requirements etc.
11. A site meeting was held with SMS to investigate location, electrics, drainage, water etc. on 4 March 2019. Further investigations regarding drainage are being undertaken by SMS.
12. SMS have given assurances regarding maintenance, callouts etc. and a draft contract and service agreement is awaited for review by the Town Clerk.
13. The Community Services Manager is obtaining quotations for the operation of the disabled toilet for the users of the facility during its operation.
14. Additional seating, picnic tables and litterbins will be required in close proximity to the facility.

Action Required

15. To note the report.