

Chichester District Council

Cabinet

5 October 2021

Proposal to deter unauthorised vehicle encampments on CDC land.

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the release of £69,930 from reserves to fund vehicle incursion deterrent measures at both New Park and East Broyle open spaces, as set out in appendix A.
- 2.2 That Cabinet note the positive engagement approach used for this work and the positive feedback received.

3. Background

- 3.1 At Cabinet meeting 7th September approval was given for officers to prioritise deterrent measures at East Broyle and New Park open spaces and approved officers to commence resident engagement activities for these areas.
- 3.2 Officers were tasked with collating resident feedback and developing deterrent schemes for both sites. These in turn were to be costed and brought back to Cabinet for approval to proceed with the projects.
- 3.3 Two very successful resident engagement sessions were arranged. East Broyle on 8th September and New Park on 14th September. Both sessions were very well supported by residents, members and officers.
- 3.4 After having the opportunity to discuss different aspects of deterrents, residents were encouraged to complete a feedback form such that these comments could be collated and subsequently reviewed. 38 responses were received for New Park and 54 for East Broyle.
- 3.5 Many of the comments received provided excellent feedback from a more local perspective. Many of these have now been included in the proposed schemes.
- 3.6 The CDC planning department had previously been engaged to ascertain the type of deterrent's that could or could not be supported from a planning perspective. Further engagement will now happen as the schemes become more finalised.

4 Outcomes to be Achieved

- 4.1 To demonstrate to local residents that CDC, with local resident input, are taking action to achieve the right local balance to deter traveller incursions but maintain the spaces as parks for the enjoyment of all.
- 4.2 To provide an increased level of deterrent in key sensitive sites by end March / early April 2022.
- 4.3 That any deterrent measures installed do not significantly restrict the current functionality of the space and wherever possible is in keeping with the current 'look and feel' of the site and complies with any relevant planning requirements.

5 Proposal

- 5.1 The schemes proposed for both New Park and East Broyle green spaces are shown in Appendix A.
- 5.2 New Park.
 - 5.2.1 In conjunction with the existing and well established trees acting as natural barriers to install earth bunds along the west and north boundaries. These bunds will be profiled to create a more aesthetic solution. Bunds cannot not be located too near to established trees as root damage may occur. Pedestrian access points will be provided at different points along the perimeter. The bunds will be sown with grass which will, during the summer months be allowed to grow, creating a higher visual barrier.
 - 5.2.2 In the NE corner an access point will be installed which will include a metal fabricated gate and hard standing to allow a vehicle to park off the road whilst the gate is being opened..
 - 5.2.3 Along the southern boundary, which border a WSCC cycle path, bunds will be similarly employed as well as upgrading the existing bollards.
 - 5.2.4 The estimate to complete this work is £31,130 . A top level breakdown of the estimate is included in Appendix B
 - 5.2.5 On the assumption that planning permission will be required it is anticipated work could commence in March 2022 and be completed in April 2022
- 5.3 East Broyle
 - 5.3.1 East Broyle has a very large perimeter. The original scheme discussed with residents included a combination of bund and post. There are however a number of premises that have no direct vehicle access without using the village green (of particular concern for delivery and removal actions). The proposal is now to bund the entire perimeter leaving space between the green and houses that could facilitate a delivery vehicle without providing direct access to the green. Similar to New Park, the bunds will be shaped and sown with grass.
 - 5.3.2 A similar access point as described in 5.1.4 will be installed in the south corner

5.3.3 The estimate to complete this work is £ 38,800 A top level breakdown of the estimate is included in Appendix B

5.3.4 On the assumption that planning permission is not required for East Broyle work could commence end November for completion in 2021

6 Alternatives Considered

6.1 Do nothing:- Members and officers will be aware of the recent strong representations from many residents about the impact of recent unauthorised encampments During covid the Courts eviction process have been significantly delayed, meaning incursions may happen again and for potentially longer periods. These factors lead to a view that this option is inappropriate to the harms caused.

6.2 Protect all sites: Considering many of these sites have some low level or no protection already and have not had an incursion onto them, to protect these sites would not be good value to the public purse. This can be reviewed at a later date should other incursions at other sites happen which practical prevention methods would have stopped

6.3 There exists many different deterrent schemes that could be implemented at both New Park and East Broyle. The proposed scheme(s) has the support of residents and in officer view provide good value solutions to meet the objectives.

7 Resource and Legal Implications

7.1 The contract will be managed by existing staff with support from external contractors.

7.2 Planning applications will require support from the planning department.

7.3 Legal challenge to the proposed works is possible as in any matter where the Council is balancing matters which impact upon the lives of different groups. By actively considering the rights of all affected parties through the consultation process that risk of challenge will be transparently managed.

8 Consultation

8.1 To support the development of the schemes input has already been received from the local community. Further opportunity for resident consultation will happen as part of the planning process. Other organisations such as, but not limited to, Sport England, Chichester City Council and resident associations as well as a traveller representative group will also be consulted at the appropriate time.

9 Community Impact and Corporate Risks

9.1 It is hoped the measures proposed will reduce the negative impact that traveller incursions have on the communities that are in close proximity to them.

9.2 It should be noted that the travellers themselves could be considered part of our community and any deterrents that restrict their nomadic lifestyle will have a negative impact on them. Which should be considered against the impacts upon the settled community set out in the report above.

10 Other Implications

Are there any implications for the following?		
	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder – potential positive impact by restricting illegal or unauthorised access to CDC land and as such prevent potential crime and dis-order that may follow such incursions.	x	
Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation		x
Human Rights and Equality Impact – All decisions will need to be taken considering the duties of all sections of the community – residents in particular neighbours, legitimate users of the park as well as travellers and their Article 8 rights.	x	
Safeguarding and Early Help		x
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		x
Health and Wellbeing – by preventing some incursions this will have a positive impact to the wellbeing of local residents.	x	

11 Appendices

A: - Estimated Cost breakdown(s)

B: - Proposed Scheme(s)

12 Background

None.

Appendix A – Top level cost estimates

New Park Road				
	Unit £	Volume		
Labour (assume 10 days work)				£6,500
Cast Iron bollards	126	20		£2,520
Drop Down cast iron bollard	150	1		£150
Subsoil (tn)	50	200		£10,000
Top soil	50	160		£8,000
Galvanised steel barrier	1600	1		£1,600
Grasscrete surface (m2)	60	36		£2,160
Grass sees				£200
				£31,130
East Broyle				
	Unit £	Volume		
Labour (assume 10 days work)				£6,500
Hardwood bollards	100	30		£3,000
Subsoil (tn)	50	350		£17,500
Top soil	50	200		£10,000
Galvanised steel barrier	1600	1		£1,600
Grass sees				£200
				£38,800
Total				£69,930