



# B O S T O N

## B O R O U G H C O U N C I L

REPORT TO: BOSTON TOWN AREA COMMITTEE

DATE: 02<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2019

SUBJECT: BTAC ASSETS – TOUR OF OPEN SPACES

REPORT AUTHOR: HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATIONS

EXEMPT REPORT: No

### **SUMMARY:**

Following a tour of BTAC public open spaces on 21 August 2019, members requested an update on matters arising during the tour in order to progress improvements and for consideration to be made for future developments.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That this committee:

- i) Note the update
- ii) Refer any future improvements identified to the BTAC working group for Open Spaces to investigate and report back options to a future meeting of BTAC meeting

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To provide information to members in order that informed decisions can be made in respect to open spaces and play facilities.

### **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

None

## **REPORT:**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION:**

- 1.1 Members attended a tour of BTAC open spaces and play facilities on 21 August 2019. The tour reviewed the improvements carried since the last tour in June 2018 and identified potential future improvements.
- 1.2 The following areas were visited; Central Park, Broadfield Lane; Woodville Road; Garfits Lane; St John's Park; Burgess Pit and Shelton's Field.
- 1.3 Details of specific discussions held during the tour is included in Appendix A.

### **2.0 DEVELOPMENTS IN CENTRAL PARK**

- 2.1 The former bowls pavilion will be removed to facilitate the Multi Use Games Area and skate park. Building control consent has been obtained and planning permission has been applied for. Officers are awaiting a Decision Notice by Planning before works can commence. Members noted recent vandalism to the buildings and due to health and safety concerns, the buildings will be removed as soon as practicable and it is not recommended that the buildings be sold for dismantling. The demolition work will be carried out the grounds maintenance team and within existing budgets.
- 2.2 CCTV. Phase I of the CCTV project completed on 02 September, installing three new infrared CCTV cameras in Central Park. Phase II of the project is due by the end of 2019/20 which will install a 4-way infrared static camera system at Park Gate. Appendix B shows images, which compare the quality of cameras before and after replacement. The new cameras provide the Council with enhanced capability to detect crime and antisocial behaviour in the park. Members receive information about CCTV performance as part of the quarterly performance report.
- 2.3 Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and Skate Park. The tender for the procurement of a MUGA is being prepared following consultation with the community. Funding for the MUGA and skate park is as follows; i) £37,000 BTAC; ii) £269,000 Community Migration Fund total £306,000. A funding application has been submitted to the Co-Op for £35,000 and officers are further investigating funding opportunities from Sport England. A decision on the MUGA and skate park will be made by the BTAC Sub Group after considering all consultation and securing the maximum amount of funding.
- 2.4 Community Garden. The creation of a new landscaping scheme designed to celebrate Boston's maritime heritage is being commissioned from a local artist and Transported Arts. This new scheme will replace the existing community garden will support the Buoy project. Funding secured for this scheme is as follows; £6,000 previously allocated funds by BTAC for natural enhancements to open spaces and £10,750 grant from the Ministry of Housing &

Communities & Local Government. In addition, Transported Arts are seeking to develop a funding application for up to £10,000 to support this project.

### **3.0 OTHER MATTERS**

- 3.1 Members asked if improvement could be made in the cleansing regime for the public conveniences. Public conveniences in the town centre are currently cleaned throughout the day using a mobile team, visiting each site in turn. A service review to be implemented in October 2019 is expected to have a positive impact on the standard of cleanliness with more direct inspection and supervision.
- 3.2 A trial to keep public conveniences open 24 hours each day began on 2<sup>nd</sup> September; unfortunately, this has resulted in vandalism, attempted arson, rough sleeping and evidence of drug activity overnight. This impact of the extended opening will be monitored daily.
- 3.3 Members noted a quantity of litter on the field at St Johns recreation and commented on this being unacceptable. Currently litter is collected each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday by two grounds maintenance operatives using litter pickers, sacks and a van. Each visit generates two to three black sacks of litter. Additional visits are carried out by one street cleansing operative each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This operative uses a van, litter picker, sacks, empties the litterbins, and collects any discarded litter.
- 3.4 Increasing litter collection resources would require extra resources and funding. As an alternative, Officers will initially trial a period of enforcement action taking proportionate action where offences are observed.
- 3.5 Members are asked to note the consultation responses in Appendix C including a 'wish list' of further improvements requested by the consultees.
- 3.6 Members noted the play areas visited during the tour have received significant investment by BTAC and other funding partners in recent years. The play areas are high quality and offer a wide range of facilities for users. Members may want to consider prioritising future funding into sites where they receive maximum benefit to the community, such as Central Park, or to divert investment plans into other priorities such as community events.
- 3.7 Any proposed improvements identified by this report should be considered by the BTAC open spaces working group to investigate and report options to a future meeting of BTAC meeting.
- 3.8 Any future improvements agreed by BTAC will be subject to contract procurement rules and any expenditure over £10,000 will be subject to Cabinet approval. Once approval is granted, works will be issued to a relevant service provider so they can be delivered as soon as practicable.

## **4.0 Conclusion**

- 4.1 Members were pleased with the progress of improvements already carried out on BTAC open spaces and felt these had made a significant contribution to improving the quality of those spaces provided in the town and that the plans discussed for further development will encourage greater more positive use of public open spaces.
- 4.2 It is anticipated that a future report will be submitted to BTAC by the sub group to provide cost details in relation to those improvements identified for 2019/20.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The financial implications are outlined in 2.3, 2.4 and 3.8 of this report.

### **LEGAL & EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

The Council is required to meet requirements of the EU Procurement Directive and its own Contract Procurement and Procedure Rules - Part 4 (H) of the Constitution.

Local Council Powers and Duties to provide public space include; Open Spaces Act 1906; Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976; Public Health Act 1906; Local Government Act 1972

The Council is required to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty. A full equality impact analysis will be undertaken at the appropriate time to ensure new equipment will consider the needs of all individuals.

### **ANY OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

None

### **CONSULTATION**

Consultation on this proposal has taken place with the Chairman of BTAC.

**APPENDICES**

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

<i>APPENDIX A</i>	BTAC tour of open spaces – details of matters discussed and identified during the tour.
<i>APPENDIX B</i>	CCTV images
<i>APPENDIX C</i>	Open Space Consultation 2019

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

**CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT**

None