

Date: 5 November 2019

Parsons Nose Teen Shelter

Executive Summary

To consider the future of the teen shelter at the Parsons Nose open space.

Recommendation to Council (11 November 2019)

That Members agree to remove the teen shelter at the Parsons Nose open space and not replace it, due to continued vandalism and arson.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 Members are asked to consider the future of the teen shelter at the Parsons Nose open space.

2. Background

2.1 Ash Parish Council owns and manages the open space known as the Parsons Nose which sits on a triangle of land between Winchester Road, Murrell Road and the Railway Line. It is also sometimes known as Heathcote Play Area.

2.2 The site has a teen shelter and five items of outdoor gym equipment. The teen shelter is regularly vandalised, set fire to and graffitied. Photographs of the teen shelter are shown in Appendix A. In May 2019 the shelter was partly dismantled and steel poles were stolen. This was reported to the Police on 17 May.

2.3 There are three options for the future of the teen shelter. These are to repair it, replace it or remove it altogether.

2.4 This item was deferred from the 28 October 2019 Amenities, Finance and Administration Committee for further information on the circumstances regarding the May 2019 vandalism.

3. Quotations

3.1 Indicative quotes have been researched to understand the implications of each decision.

3.2 The repairs required to the shelter include six new poles and fixings for the missing poles at an installed cost of £2,497.26 + £499.45 VAT = £2,996.71.

3.3 Alternatively, a replacement teen shelter in a similar size and format could be purchased and installed at a cost of £7,663.25 + £1,532.65 VAT = £9,195.90. This price includes a safety surface.

3.4 The removal of the old shelter and necessary ground works to make good could be completed in-house by the Groundstaff.

4. Options

4.1 Members may decide to:

- a) Agree with the Clerk's recommendation; or
- b) Agree an alternative course of action.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The indicative costs associated with each option are outlined in Paragraphs 3.2 – 3.4. Should Members agree to repair or replace the shelter, further quotations will be presented to the Committee for approval at a later date. An Insurance claim can also be made if relevant but it must be made before 17 November 2019 (six months since the vandalism event).

6. Implications on Crime and Disorder

6.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Section 17) requires a parish council to consider the crime and disorder implications of any decision. The teen shelter is subject to constant vandalism, graffiti and arson and therefore the recommendation in this report is to remove the item altogether. There is no CCTV camera at this site.

7. Implications on Biodiversity

7.1 The Natural Environment and Communications Act 2006 (Section 40) requires parish councils to consider the impact any decisions will have on biodiversity. There are no direct biodiversity implications arising from this report.

8. Background Papers

8.1 Amenities, Finance and Administration Committee: 28 October 2019 Minute 79.

9. Appendices

Appendix A Photographs of Existing Teen Shelter

