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**Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2021**

**Report of the Interim Director of Public Realm**

**Bernard Oakley Memorial Garden Project**

**Purpose**

1. To inform the Management Committee of progress relating to the Bernard Oakley Memorial Garden Project.

**Recommendations**

2. It is recommended that:-
  - The Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee note the content of the report.

**Background**

3. Following the Committee meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> April, the Parks Development Team have worked with Cllr Phipps to organise a community meeting. The initial meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and there has also been a subsequent meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022. These meetings have been well attended by members of the community and there is a desire to form a Friends of Bernard Oakley Memorial Gardens.
4. At the first community meeting the play area improvement scheme was presented and discussed. It was felt that the current play area is adequate for the community's needs and only requires refreshing with a coat of paint and a clean. The group were happy to volunteer and assist the Council with this task.

5. Following the two initial meetings the newly formed group are now looking to become constituted to put themselves on a more formal footing and they will be working with DCVS to develop their constitution.
6. The group feel that funding would be better allocated towards improving the bins within the site, installing new benches, notice boards, improving the entrance off Highfield Crescent and creating a circular tarmacked path around the site.
7. The Parks Development Team are working with the group to develop a plan and a costed wish list for the site. The plan will be progressed once the group become fully constituted, as the group will need to apply for external grant funding to support their aspirations.
8. Once the group have been constituted and they have formally agreed their plan and wish list, a further report will be presented at a future committee meeting.

### **Finance**

9. The current available amount of funding is £17,219, which is made up of £12,311.44 from the Bernard Oakley Trust Fund (Charity No. 226493) and £4907.57 from the Bernard Oakley Gardens Memorial Fund (Charity No. 509354).

### **Law**

10. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides Councils with the general power of competence to do anything that individuals generally may do, subject to Sections 2 to 4, and Section 105, 117-123 of the Charities Act 2011 gives power to authorise dealings with charity property (as amended by the Charities Act 2022).

### **Risk Management**

11. There are no material risks presented by this project.

### **Equality Impact**

12. The proposals contained in this report are consistent with the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy.

## **Human Resources/Organisational Development**

13. None applicable to this report.

## **Commercial/Procurement**

14. Any procurement of goods or services made by the Council will comply with the Councils Contract Standing Orders and governance arrangements in place which could include submission of options to Procurement Management Group (PMG).

## **Council Priorities and Projects**

15. This decision will improve the quality of the green spaces.

*Developing Green Space: Providing a framework of good quality and accessible community space, parks & nature reserves with interconnecting green networks.*

16. This proposal is not anticipated to have any implications for current activity.



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**Interim Director of Public Realm**

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## **Appendices**

*None.*

## **List of Background Documents**

*None.*