

WARDS: Sedgley

AGENDA ITEM NO.

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NORTH DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE - 13 JULY 2004

REPORT OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

BMX TRACK - SEDGLEY HALL FARM PARK

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 .To consider a proposal to develop a BMX track on Sedgley Hall Farm Park.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members will recall that at its meeting held on 23 October 2003 the Committee considered the Council's recently adopted Borough Strategy for the provision of Skate/Wheeled Sports, and agreed to set up a working group to consider how to progress the issue in North Dudley.
- 2.2 Similarly the Committee will be aware of the complaints received from residents of the area regarding inappropriate use of Alder Coppice Wood for BMX biking activities. Young people had self-constructed a BMX track in the area and it was considered to be both an inappropriate use of the ancient woodland site and also a health and safety hazard given the nature of construction. Consequently the equipment has been dismantled and the activity ceased.
- 2.3 Following a site visit with the Area Youth and Community Team Leader a meeting was convened involving the young people and officers of the Council, at which it was agreed that Alder Coppice wood was an inappropriate site and that they would dismantle the equipment and re-instate the site to its original condition.
- 2.4 Following further consultation exercises an alternative site has been identified at Sedgley Hall Farm Park upon which a BMX track could be sited and a series of preliminary drawings have been developed involving potential users, in order to take this matter forward.
- 2.5 This proposal was reported to the Area Committee Anti-social Behaviour working Group during discussions on diversionary activities for young

people, specifically the issue regarding provision of skate/wheeled sports facilities in the area. This proposal is considered the most appropriate way of responding to the local demand that is evident in the North Dudley area.

- 2.6 It is proposed that a fully costed scheme and technical appraisal be conducted for this scheme in order that it can be taken forward to the stage of a full planning application at which point the Area Committee will be asked for its views on the proposal. The costs of this work will be met from the Council's capital budget for community leisure facilities.

3.0 PROPOSAL

- 3.1 That the Committee recommends to the Lead Member for Leisure, the proposal to provide a BMX facility on Sedgley Hall Farm Park.
- 3.2 That a full technical appraisal of the site be conducted, to incorporate an accurate scheme costing for submission to the Council's Development Control Committee in due course.

4.0 FINANCE

- 4.1 It is estimated that the cost of developing this scheme to the point of planning application submission is £2500 and this can be met from the Council's Community Leisure Facilities Capital Budget.
- 4.2 Potential sources of funding for the facilities include the respective Area Committee's capital allocation budget, any appropriate 106 funds and other external funding possibilities in addition to the Council's own capital budget for Community Leisure Facilities.

5.0 LAW

- 5.1 Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976 enables the Council to provide recreational facilities.
- 5.2 Under Section 2 of the Local Government Act, 2000, the Council may do anything which it considers is likely to achieve the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 6.1 The proposals in this report comply with the Council's policy on equal opportunities.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That the North Dudley Area Committee approves the proposals contained in section 3.0 of this report.

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Acting Director Directorate of the Urban Environment - John B. Millar

Contact Officer: Duncan Lowndes Ext: 5500