

<b>Report to:</b>	Carshalton and Clockhouse Local Committee	<b>Date:</b>	24 September 2019
<b>Report title:</b>	Report on Petition for Sports Facilities in Carshalton Park		
<b>Report from:</b>	Mary Morrissey, Strategic Director, Environment, Housing and Regeneration		
<b>Ward/Areas affected:</b>	Carshalton Central and Carshalton South and Clockhouse		
<b>Chair of Committee/Lead Member:</b>	Councillor Amy Haldane		
<b>Author(s)/Contact Number(s):</b>	Mark Dalzell, Head of Parks and Open Spaces Tel.: 0208 770 4695 Ian Wolstencroft, Contract Officer Tel: 0208 770 4653		
<b>Corporate Plan Priorities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being Active</li> </ul>		
<b>Open/Exempt:</b>	Open		
<b>Signed:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	30 August 2019

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 To consider a report relating to the petition on Sports Facilities in Carshalton Park submitted by e-petition to the council on 20 May 2019.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Carshalton & Clockhouse Local Committee is recommended to:
- 2.2 Consider the petition and the budget estimates for the requested provision.
- 2.3 Encourage the petitioner to consider an alternative funding streams, either through an external funding stream or Public Realm allocation.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 Mairead Agnew submitted a petition on 20 May 2019 and closed on 27 August 2019. The closed petition has been referred to the Carshalton and Clockhouse Local Committee for consideration.
- 3.2 The petition has 597 eligible signatures and the petition prayer is set out below:

**Statement:**

- 3.3 We the undersigned petition the council to agree to re-purpose one of the five underused tennis courts in Carshalton Park, Ruskin Road into a free to use Netball court with potential for a second multi-sports court on the same site. This would leave three remaining tennis courts.

**Justification:**

- 3.4 Within the borough there are a great number of sporting facilities which are primarily aimed at male dominated sports such as basketball and football which are, of course, predominantly used by men and boys. There are currently no free to use Netball courts or other facilities for traditionally female sports or activities within the borough. This would address this imbalance whilst also providing full sized courts for netball, football and basketball. This request is to offer improved sports facilities for community groups, Girl Guiding groups, Sutton's London Youth Games participants as well as schools and individual women and girls, not only in Carshalton but across the borough, improving opportunities to promote health and well-being to all.

In accordance with Part 4E of the council's Constitution, in paragraph 34.5, the Scheme for dealing with petitions and e-petitions states that the spokesperson may talk to the petitioner for up to five minutes and the petition will then be debated.

**4. Issues**

- 4.1 Neighbourhood Services (Parks) does not have a budget allocation to fund this installation and cannot agree to make the changes requested
- 4.2 The Council supports the promotion and inclusion of sport for all. Existing facilities within the Council's control have been provided to satisfy the demand for different sports in different locations.
- 4.3 Given the success of the recent Netball World Cup, the Council acknowledge that there is an increase in the demand for Netball courts and other multi use areas.
- 4.4 There are a number of local organisations already offering netball facilities on a charged-for basis including: Carshalton Boys Sports College; Carshalton High School for Girls; Wallington High School for Girls; Westcroft Leisure Centre; Pulse (Carshalton College).
- 4.5 On receipt of the petition, officers have obtained budget estimates for installing netball facilities in Carshalton Park, which are as follows.
- To supply netball posts only - £3,450
  - A netball court with fencing (2.75m High) - £6,630

- A court with nets including resurfacing and colouring of the existing court £14,338
- To provide a netball court and a second ball court (this is the basic removal of existing netting, surfacing repairs and remarking, new posts) - £4,000 per court. Additional costs if fencing in between courts is required £6,400 for two runs of fencing.

4.6 There is no current budget provision for any of these changes. However, should funding become available, either through an external funding stream or Public Realm allocation, then it is recommended that the petitioners return to the Local Committee to seek approval for new facilities in Carshalton Park which the Council would be happy to support.

## 5. Options Considered

A - Do nothing - The facility will continue to be used as tennis courts.

B - Convert an existing tennis court by installing netball hoops and markings.

Pros - This will provide an alternative sporting option within an existing sports area for use by the community.

Cons - There will be a cost to convert to a new use.

C - Install a netball court with fencing - If a fence is installed it is likely to affect the run-off area on the adjoining court which, although the courts are not provided to a high playing standard is a safety concern.

D - Install a separate netball and a ball court without fencing - Pros - This would provide a netball facility that is free to use. Cons - There is no guarantee that it will be available and that others will not be using it for sport other than netball. Football courts generally have side fences because the ball can stray from the court at speed, potentially affecting play on other courts.

## 6. Impacts and Implications

### Financial

- 6.1 Neighbourhoods Services is unable to adopt new facilities at present that require additional revenue expenditure. However the revenue cost of netball posts and court markings is not expected to exceed the current cost of maintaining the tennis nets and courts they would be replacing.
- 6.2 The addition of a ballcourt to the proposal would increase revenue costs, especially if it included high side panels. This additional cost cannot be met from existing revenue budgets.
- 6.3 As previously stated the Authority has not made provision within its capital programme to accommodate the expenditure related to the change of use of the tennis court.

- 6.4 The petitioners could seek funding, either through an external funding stream or a Public Realm allocation in order to make the changes proposed.

Legal

- 6.5 Should the Council decide to proceed with options B-D outlined in this report, part 1 of the Localism Act 2011 applies a general power of competence to local authorities which would include the provision of free to use netball facilities which would promote and/or improve the social and environmental well-being of their area.
- 6.6 There is a duty under Sections 3 and 4 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 to ensure the health and safety of users of the new facilities, so far as is reasonably practicable.
- 6.7 Under S.2 of the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957, the Council owes a duty of care to all visitors, and should ensure that any new netball facility is reasonably safe, particularly when in use by children.
- 6.8 The Council will need to consider identifying and putting in place terms and conditions relating to hire with users of the new facilities and ensure adequate insurance arrangements are in place.
- 6.9 This project will support the equality of opportunity for community netball in the borough.

**7. Appendices and Background Documents**

Appendix letter	Title

<b>Background documents</b>
Quotes were obtained by parks for various options as listed in 4.4. Copies are kept on file in Office.

<b>Audit Trail</b>		
Version	Draft	Date: 28 August 2019
<b>Consultation with other officers</b>		
Finance	Yes	Solomon Akuffo
Legal	Yes	Rowenna Warburton
Equality Impact Assessment required? (see <a href="#">intranet guidance</a> )	No	N/A

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