

15 March 2016

Brighton &amp; Hove City Council

**DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting of the Council for the hearing of depositions from members of the public. Each deposition may be heard for a maximum of five minutes.

Deputations received:

- (i) **Deputation:** Deputation to support the offer of funding for a children's playground in Stanmer Park.

Presently, Brighton's largest park does not have a children's play area, despite it being very popular with young families. There are also now a number of young children living in Stanmer Village. In the 2013 Consultation held in the park, support for a play area was one of the top four comments.

Funding to provide equipment and surfacing for one has recently been offered to the Council. The funding would come via the charity, Fields in Trust, formerly the National Playing Fields Society, so as to attract Gift Aid. FiT asks landowners receiving a donation to make a Deed of Dedication, so that the play area remains as a "public playing field and recreation ground". This enables the landowner to change the recreational mix. The Deed would not protect play equipment, but the land on which it is placed would be protected for public recreation.

Initial response from the Council is positive, but the Legal and Property teams have raised some comments. One is about the suitability and future maintenance of the equipment, as the Council needs to ensure it is in keeping with the Estate and addresses future expenditure. This can be resolved by ensuring that the equipment would be looking towards more natural forms of play, which is also lower in maintenance. Discussions could commence on the future maintenance liability. There could be an agreement for a level of allowance over a specified period of time. The design of the play area would be informed through consultation with children visiting and living in the park. An initial possible design has been produced and is circulated to Members today. It incorporates, where possible, playground equipment which is inclusive such as the Cradle Swing and the Orbit (roundabout), suitable for children with access difficulties. This design costing comes within the funding offered. As this Committee is aware, the People in Parks HLF Stage 2 bid is due to be lodged this August. Whilst the proposal for a play area is not part of the Grant sought, a Master Plan for the Estate will be submitted to support the bid. A children's play area included in this Master Plan could only help the application. It is therefore asked that the principle of a play area is included and that discussions be commenced as to the most suitable place, so that it can be included in the Masterplan.

It would appear that if the above concerns can be answered, then the Council's Legal Team can draft a Deed of Gift, which would legally set out the terms of the agreement between the benefactor, Fields in Trust and the Council.

I understand that Parks Projects are happy to bring this matter before the next Environment Committee meeting on June 28th, which will be the final such meeting before the PiP HLF bid and Masterplan is submitted. The purpose of this Deputation is to inform this Committee and also request that the above discussions, including a draft Deed of Gift, proceed now so that at the next Committee meeting the Members

are fully informed of the proposal and can either approve or otherwise. If approved, the wish is that the play area is in place within 12 months. This would give park users an early indication that the Park's regeneration was happening. A win-win for both the City and park visitors!

Deputation by:

Jamie Hooper (Lead Spokesperson)

Paul West

Michael Shrimpton

Izzy Elliott

Vic Hancock Fell

Lynda West

John Scroggins

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