

### **13. Birchfield Area Residents Association (Executive Decision)**

Strategic Director:	Rina Singh, Strategic Director – Place and Performance
Assistant Director:	Martin Woods, Assistant Director - Communities
Service Manager:	Kim Close, Area Development Manager - South
Lead Officer:	Natalie Ross, Community Development Officer
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#### **Purpose of the Report**

To consider funding towards a piece of play equipment for the play area within Birchfield Park.

#### **Recommendation**

That members agree an award of £3,500 from the revenue grants budget.

#### **Background**

Birchfield Area Residents Association had their official launch in September 2009. The aim of the association is to facilitate a growing community spirit through the supporting of local residents/users in activities and initiatives to enhance life for all the community.

The group organised a very successful launch event that promoted not only the association but also other activities and help and advice open to members of their community. The group have also taken a proactive role in the design of the play area and helped the South Somerset District Council Play Officer to run the local consultation events.

#### **Project**

The play equipment in Birchfield Park in Yeovil is old and needs replacing. A steering group, consisting of elected members, council officers and community representatives, have been working on a project to redevelop the play area. Public consultation events have been held in the area and residents have contributed to the design of the new play area. Unfortunately, the budget available is quite small and steering group will be unable to install all the equipment the community would like.

Therefore, the residents association would like to buy and install an additional roundabout or other piece of play equipment to compliment the changes planned by the Play Officer. The group have applied to Yarlinton Housing Group for half of the cost of the equipment and this application is for the remaining amount.

This project has a great deal of local support. The play area is outside the local primary school and according to statistics this area of Yeovil has a high proportion of children, so a large number of children would benefit from the additional play equipment.

#### **Ward Members Comments**

Ward Members are fully supportive of this project.

## Assessment Scoring

Below is the summary table from the grant assessment form. It is recommended that funding is only awarded to projects scoring 22 points or more.

Category	Score	Maximum score
A Eligibility	Y	
B Target Groups	2	7
C Project	5	5
D Capacity of Organisation	14	15
E Financial need	3	7
F Innovation	1	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>37</b>

## Funding Breakdown

Funding Sources	% Funding of the Total Cost	Amount of Funding (£)	Status
Yarlington Housing	50	3,500	Requested
SSDC Area South Grants	50	3,500	This application
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7,000</b>	

## Financial Implications

The uncommitted 2009/10 budget stands at £8,276. If members agree this award of £3,500, it will leave a balance of £4,776.

## Corporate Priority Implications

The project contributes to the following Key Target Area:

3.20: Increase children and young people's satisfaction with parks and play areas.

## Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

None

## Equality and Diversity Implications

None

**Background Papers:** Birchfield Area Residents Association application file.