

Report of	Meeting	Date
Corporate Director (People) (Introduced by the Executive Member for People, Councillor John Walker)	Executive Cabinet	12/11/09

PETITIONS: REDWING DRIVE PLAY AREA TATTON RECREATION GROUND SKATE PARK CHORLEY MOOR COMMUNITY CENTRE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To outline what action has been taken following the receipt of petitions relating to:
 - (a) Redwing Drive play area
 - (b) Tatton Recreation Ground skate park
 - (c) Chorley Moor community centre.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. Executive Cabinet are recommended to note the action, to date, and the planned action in order to bring matters to a satisfactory conclusion on these petitions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. The Council has received three separate petitions relating to:
 - (a) Redwing Drive play area
 - (b) Tatton Recreation Ground skate park
 - (c) Chorley Moor community centre.

The report outlines what action is planned against each petition.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

4. In the case of the Redwing Drive play area and Chorley Moor community centre, the recommendations will give local residents detail of what steps are being taken to resolve the issue. In the case of the Tatton Recreation Ground skate park, the recommendation will inform the petitioners what the Council's process is for considering maintenance and improvements on its play and open spaces.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. None.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES



6. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region		Develop local solutions to climate change.	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances		Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	
Involving people in their communities	3	Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	3

BACKGROUND

7. The petition letters are attached to this report, as appendices:

- Appendix A – Redwing Drive play area
- Appendix B - Tatton recreation Ground skate park
- Appendix C – Chorley Moor community centre.

The latter petition was considered at the last Council meeting. However, the Redwing Drive and Tatton petitions were considered by Council last December and should have been reported to Executive Cabinet before now. To ensure this is not repeated, it is being recommended that action on future petitions be reported to full Council.

Each of the petitions will now be considered in turn.

REDWING DRIVE PLAY AREA

8. The petition is shown in Appendix A. Both the Council and local residents have several concerns about the play area. As part of the Gillibrand development the developers, Taylor Wimpey, are required to provide a number of open spaces and play areas, footpaths, landscaping and, following agreement between all parties, a play area with landscaping and surfaced footpaths to the rear of Redwing Drive. These improvements are being implemented as part of the Section 106 agreement for the overall Gillibrand Development. This agreement is currently being varied to allow for the current position.
9. Council officers have previously been reluctant to accept landscape designs as they required an intensive/inappropriate maintenance regime and would not have met the required standard.
10. The site, being a former landfill, has a clay underlayer and this has resulted in water cascading down the site and across the highway. In conjunction with the developer and Lancashire County Council a solution is being sought to minimise any liability to the authority from this surface run-off onto the highway. Currently a bund is being proposed to direct rainwater in another direction. The developers have been invited to communicate this with the local residents.
11. Work is well under way and Taylor Wimpey's Technical Director has given assurances that it will continue until all issues have been resolved. Once completed this will allow the Council to approach the developer for the formal adoption process to commence.
12. Regular channels of communication are in place between all parties and the site will be monitored continuously until works are completed to the satisfaction of the authority.

TATTON RECREATION GROUND SKATE PARK

13. The petition is shown in Appendix B. As part of the preparation for the successful Green Flag application, a user survey was carried out at Tatton Recreation Ground. The user survey raised a number of possible improvements on the Recreation Ground that would need to be considered along with this request for improved skating facilities.
14. Officers are also carrying out an analysis of other play facilities across the borough. It is considered appropriate to look at this request alongside that borough-wide piece of work so that we ensure any resources that are available are used in the areas identified as being of the highest priority.
15. Given the petition has come from young people, in parallel to the work mentioned in the previous paragraphs, we have also put the young people in contact with the Young People's Service who have access to funds that require young people to lead on the funding application.
16. The petition also made reference to broken glass on the recreation ground. This service request was noted and appropriate action was taken.

CHORLEY MOOR COMMUNITY CENTRE

17. The petition is shown as Appendix C. The Group want to see the proposed community centre delivered, as quickly as possible. The delivery of the community centre is linked to the Section 106 agreement for the Gillibrand planning approval. A final agreement, that ties up all the outstanding issues, is currently being finalised. Within this agreement, the developers (Redrow/Taylor Wimpey) are required to submit a planning application within 30 working days of signing the agreement. If approved, the developer is required to commence construction within 6 months of obtaining planning permission. There could then be some flexibility on the construction period.
18. The Chief Executive and the Corporate Director (People) have met with representatives of the Group to tell them what we are doing, what is planned and estimated timescales. This was followed by a further meeting that has recently taken place with the developers. The Group told the developers why they would like the project to be delivered as quickly as possible. The Developers agreed to look at those areas that are within their control and plan to reduce the timescales, wherever possible. We also agreed to do some joint promotion to raise awareness of the project.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

19. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Corporate Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		No significant implications in this area	

COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS

- 20 The delivery of the Community Centre and Redwing play area within the Gillibrand development is part of the Section 106 and Development Agreement and remains a priority. The final agreement referred to above will provide both the Council and the developers with the certainty required to move forward with the delivery and implementation of all the improvements of this complex development and allow the Community Centre to be built as

required and the adoption of all the outstanding open spaces. We will keep Members informed of progress of the planning application and subsequent development.

JAMIE CARSON
CORPORATE DIRECTOR (PEOPLE)

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Jamie Carson	5815	27 October 2009	Petitions – Redwing, Tatton and Chorley Moor CC