

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of People and Places (Introduced by the Executive Member for People)	Executive Cabinet	15 August 2013

## ALLOCATION OF SAGAR HOUSE S106 EQUIPPED PLAY SPACE CONTRIBUTION

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To consider a request from Eccleston Parish Council for a grant of £77,000 towards the provision of a multiuse ball court with associated landscaping, paths and lighting on the recreation ground at Drapers Avenue, Eccleston.
- To agree that the remaining S106 balance (£8590) is to be spent on a Council owned site in or near to Eccleston which is recommended for improvement in quality.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That Members consider and approve the requests.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- A S106 agreement was signed on 1 September 2010 for Sagar House (Pontins) in Eccleston. Schedule 4 refers to Equipped Play Space Contribution, this money is for the provision layout and equipping of an open space in accordance with the Council's Planning Policy. It doesn't specifically state the money has to be spent in Eccleston. The Council is in receipt of £92,890, £7,300 of which has already been allocated to Eccleston Parish Council for a swing. Drapers Avenue Recreation Ground is owned and managed by Eccleston Parish Council.
- Eccleston Parish Council have been working with the Young People's Service, Football Club and Eccleston Open Space Committee who have identified a lack of provision for all weather sports in the parish. Consultation was undertaken with residents and the members of the youth club to draw up a specification of the ball court. The Parish Council went out to tender to provide an all-weather ball court (MUGA) on Drapers Avenue Eccleston. Five quotes were obtained and the lowest accepted. A company called Lightmain have been chosen subject to allocating the funding and obtaining planning permission. Eccleston Parish Council have approached Chorley Council to ask if £77,000 could be granted to them in order to deliver the project.

<b>Confidential report</b> Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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<b>Key Decision?</b> Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

### (If the recommendations are accepted)

6. There are currently no all-weather facilities in Ecclestone. The ball court will be a first for the village.
7. Drapers Avenue is the principal Neighbourhood Park/Recreation Ground in Ecclestone. It caters for all age groups and has buildings which house the young people's service, scout hut and football club. It has adequate parking and amenities to serve the community. The MUGA will be very well used in this prime location.
8. There is a clear need and desire for the ball court, as shown by the involvement of the young people of the village through the whole process from inception to completion.

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

9. To use the S016 funding for an alternative location in the Borough.

## CORPORATE PRIORITIES

10. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all	√	A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy communities	√	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	√

## BACKGROUND

11. Drapers Avenue Recreation Ground is owned and managed by Ecclestone Parish Council. Ecclestone Parish Council were approached by the Young People's Service, young people of the village and the football club in September 2013 to ask if they could have an all-weather ball court (MUGA) on Drapers Avenue Recreation Ground Ecclestone. Reasons for the request are:
  - a. During last summer holidays Chorley Council GUAG were holding activities on Drapers Avenue, the field was waterlogged for the majority of the time resulting in limited opportunity to play outside.
  - b. It would be possible to play a variety of sports on the MUGA including football, netball, basketball, dodge ball, tennis and handball.
  - c. It would be a safe place to play when dark outside, instead of playing on the streets or car park causing anti-social behaviours and annoying local residents.
  - d. It would be of use to the whole community
  - e. It would be a focus and meeting place for young people
  - f. The associated health and wellbeing benefits of being able to play out all year round
12. The young people put together a petition to prove the sincerity of the request throughout the community. They researched and visited ball courts at various sites across the area to decide what surface, size, lighting, line markings, fencing they would require and drew up a full specification.
13. The Parish Council agreed to go out to tender using the specification put together by the youth group. The location of the ball court was discussed with Chorley Council Officers within Parks and Open Spaces and Planning, local residents of Drapers Avenue and Ecclestone village residents. It is sited away from residential properties; lighting will be on a timer and will be directed at the ball court with minimum light pollution. The MUGA will be 28m x 14m with fencing to all four sides to a height of 3m. The surface will be tarmac. Steel fencing will be powder coated green. See plans appended to this document.

14. 5 competitive quotes were obtained and evaluated by the Parish Council and the preferred contractor/supplier chosen. The total cost of the all-weather ball court is £77,000. Eccleston Parish Council are not able to put in any match funding towards this facility but they are providing the land, have worked up the proposals and tender process, will submit the necessary planning application, will project manage the installation of the ball court and will provide the on-going maintenance and insurance of the ball court.
15. Referring to the Draft Chorley Council Play Area Strategy and KKP Open Spaces Study, Eccleston has three play areas. A small site on The Hawthorns providing springy animals for 2 – 6 year olds owned by Eccleston Parish Council, a small multi unit play area for 4 – 8 year olds on Middlewood Close owned by Chorley Council and the large neighbourhood park at Drapers Avenue which caters for all ages from 2 year old– adult. All sites are recommended to be protected. From the quantity assessment for Eccleston, the settlement is found to have a surplus of provision for children and young people and all of the settlement is within a 10 minutes' walk of a children's play area. Therefore no new play areas are required but existing sites can be improved if funding allows.

### IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

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

Finance	√	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	√	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

### COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

17. The use of the £92,890 S106 contribution is reflected in this Council's budgets as follows: £7,300 has been transferred to the revenue budget to finance the swing; and the balance of £85,590 is within the 2013/14 Capital Programme budget for S106-funded Play, Recreation and Public Open Space projects. Should members agree to the request from Eccleston Parish Council for a £77,000 grant towards provision of a multiuse ball court, it would be shown as a separate project in future capital programme monitoring reports. If the £8,590 balance of the Sagar House contribution is to be used to fund low value improvements to an existing Council-owned site, it could be transferred to the revenue budget in a later monitoring report.

### COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

18. There are no legal restrictions on making this grant.

JAMIE CARSON  
DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE AND PLACES

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
10/00866/REMAJ – Pointins Ltd, Sagar House, Langton Brow, Eccleston, Chorley	14 Dec 2010	<a href="http://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=20441">http://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=20441</a>	Website

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Lindsey Blackstock	5218	11/08/13	001