

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 09 April 2018

Portfolio:	Streetscene
Subject:	Holly Hill Car Park Path
Report of:	Head of Streetscene
Corporate Priority:	Protect and enhance the environment

Purpose:

To agree to fund and construct an informal path to link the car park at Holly Hill Leisure Centre with the existing footpath that's leads to the entrance of Sarisbury Infant School.

Executive summary:

Prior to the opening of the new Holly Hill Leisure Centre parents predominantly used the Holly Hill Woodland car park when dropping off and collecting children attending Sarisbury Infant School.

Some parents are now using Holly Hill Leisure Centre car park to avoid crossing Barnes Lane. However, there is currently no direct path from the car park to the school entrance. This means parents and children sometimes get wet and dirty shoes when walking across the grass to the school entrance. The proposal is to provide an informal path to link the car park at Holly Hill Leisure Centre with the existing footpath that's leads to the entrance of Sarisbury Infant School.

There is no revenue budget available in Streetscene to cover the estimated £6,200 to construct the path. There is a capital budget of £36,000 for footpath improvements which is used to repair or replace existing footpaths on public open space and in cemeteries. It is proposed to fund the cost of constructing the path from this budget.

The path will be constructed of resin bound gravel and will require periodic works to maintain a level surface. The grass edges of the path will require trimming on a regular basis along with treatment of weed growth. These will be additional maintenance tasks for the Streetscene team to undertake with the cost funded from the existing Streetscene revenue budget.

A specialist Engineering Design Team has been consulted about the construction of the path and they have confirmed there is no requirement to undertake a formal risk assessment.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

It is recommended that the Executive agrees:

- (a) to construct an informal path to link the car park at Holly Hill Leisure Centre with the existing footpath that leads to the entrance of Sarisbury Infant School; and
- (b) that the estimated cost of £6,200 to construct the path is funded from the Footpath Improvements capital budget.

Reason:

To construct an informal path to link the car park at Holly Hill Leisure Centre with the existing footpath that leads to the entrance of Sarisbury Infant School.

Cost of proposals:

The cost to construct the path is £6,200. There is a capital budget of £26,000 for Footpath Improvements. This budget is used to fund repairs or replacement of existing footpaths on public open space and in cemeteries. £10,000 has been allocated in the current financial year with £16,000 remaining.

Appendices: **A: Plan Indicating Location of the Proposed Path**

Background papers: **None**

Reference papers: **None**

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	09 April 2018
Subject:	Holly Hill Car Park Path
Briefing by:	Head of Streetscene
Portfolio:	Streetscene

INTRODUCTION

1. Holly Hill Leisure Centre opened to the public in October 2016 and the adjacent Play Area opened in Summer 2017. The site is now very popular and the car park is heavily used by visitors to the leisure centre, play area and walkers enjoying the natural green space and woodland.
2. The car park is also used by the parents of children who attend Sarisbury Infant School. This report seeks approval to fund and construct a path, on Council owned land, from the Holly Hill Leisure Centre car park to the school entrance.

BACKGROUND

3. Prior to the opening of the new Holly Hill Leisure Centre, parents dropping off and collecting children attending Sarisbury Infant School, predominantly used the Holly Hill Woodland car park. This car park is located on the opposite side of the road from the school.
4. During peak times, the Holly Hill Woodland car park is very busy as it is also used by parents with children who attend the Woodlands Nursery, which is directly opposite. Although convenient, it does involve crossing Barnes Road via the pedestrian crossing.
5. Some parents are now using Holly Hill Leisure Centre car park to avoid crossing Barnes Lane. The peak times for school drop off and collection do not coincide with the peak times for the leisure centre so there is no real conflict as it stands.
6. However, there is no direct path linking up the car park with the footpath that leads to the school entrance. Parents park their vehicle at a point closest to the school and then walk across the grass, either to the school entrance or onto the existing footpath that leads to the school entrance.
7. At times, the grass becomes wet and muddy in places. Parents have written to the Council requesting a path is installed from the car park to the existing footpath adjacent to the school entrance to avoid parents and children getting wet and muddy shoes.

PROPOSAL

8. The proposal is to provide a path along the grass area running parallel to the car parking bays nearest the school entrance. The path will then go across the shortest point from the car park edge and link to the existing footpath to the school entrance. This land is owned by Fareham Borough Council. A plan indicating the location of the proposed path is contained in Appendix A.
9. The path would run immediately adjacent to the parked cars with regular access points from the car park onto the path. This is the only practical option that reduces the risk of parents and children walking through the car park.
10. The cost of installing a path with a blacktop surface is prohibitive but costs have been obtained to install a path constructed of resin bound gravel. This is similar to the type of informal path constructed in the Council's countryside sites. The estimated cost is £6,200.
11. The nature of the material used to construct the path, means that it will require periodic works to maintain a level surface. The grass edges of the path will require trimming on a regular basis along with treatment of the weeds. These will be additional maintenance tasks for the Streetscene team to undertake with the cost funded from the existing Streetscene revenue budget.
12. The Headteacher of Sarisbury Infant School has expressed support for the installation of the path. However, the school is not able to make a financial contribution to the cost as they have very limited budget and do not have spare funds available.

RISK ASSESSMENT

13. A specialist Engineering Design Team has been consulted about the construction of the path and they have confirmed there is no requirement to undertake a formal risk assessment.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14. There is no revenue budget available in Streetscene to cover the estimated £6,200 cost to construct the path. There is a capital budget for footpath improvements which is used to fund repairs or replace existing footpaths on public open space and in cemeteries. There is a budget of £26,000 and £10,000 has already been allocated for this financial year leaving a balance of £16,000. It is proposed to fund the works from this budget.

CONCLUSION

15. Some parents are using Holly Hill Leisure Centre car park when dropping off and collecting children attending Sarisbury Infant School. There is currently no direct path from the car park to the school entrance which means parents and children sometimes get wet and dirty shoes when walking across the grass to the school entrance.
16. The proposal is to provide an informal path to link the car park at Holly Hill Leisure Centre with the existing path that's leads to the entrance of Sarisbury Infant School.

Enquires:

For further information on this report please contact Mark Bowler. (Ext 4420)

Holly Hill Leisure Centre path

Appendix A

