

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 04 June 2018

Portfolio:	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Provision of Overflow Parking for Burridge Village Hall
Report of:	Head of Leisure and Corporate Services
Corporate Priorities:	Leisure Opportunities for Health and Fun

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek Executive approval to allocate funds for the provision of overflow parking for Burridge Village Hall.

Executive summary:

Burridge Village Hall is a popular community facility in the village of Burridge. It contains two large rooms which are well-hired by various community groups and by members of the community for private functions. Adjacent to the Hall is a car park, containing 28 spaces, that is designated for use by visitors to the Village Hall and the neighbouring recreation ground and play park.

Many of the hirers of the Hall have minimal parking requirements. However, at times when both the large rooms are hired for private functions, demand can easily exceed the number of parking spaces available.

Public opinion is currently being sought to determine support for the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order for the car park to prevent identified space-blocking by vehicles associated with the nearby Cherry Tree Industrial Park. Although this action would remedy day-to-day concerns regarding parking availability for the Village Hall, the Chairman of Burridge Community Association has expressed a view that only the ability to access additional parking would enable the Hall to meet the parking needs encountered by hire of the Hall for private functions.

Until the beginning of 2018, the Village Hall had been unofficially allowing visitors to park their vehicles on the gated rough track to the pond, on the perimeter of the recreation ground, at peak times of parking demand. However, in January, following damage to the recreation ground from this unauthorised access, the Village Hall was reminded that they had no permission to access the track, and must discontinue this practice.

This report proposes that the installation of official overflow parking spaces to the southern side of the track to the pond, managed by the Hall through a formal agreement, would provide a swift resolution to the parking availability concerns while ensuring the protection of the recreation ground.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

It is recommended that the Executive approves:

- (a) a budget allocation of £12,000 from the Whiteley Capital Receipts to fund the installation of the overflow parking spaces; and
- (b) the drafting of an agreement with Burrige Community Association to formalise expectations of management by the Village Hall of access to this overflow parking.

Reason:

To continue to support local community centres to meet the needs of their hirers, increasing the accessibility of these facilities by members of the community.

Cost of proposals:

£12,000 funded from the Whiteley Capital Receipts.

Appendices: Appendix A: Map of the proposed overflow parking

Background papers: None

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	04 June 2018
Subject:	Provision of Overflow Parking for Burridge Village Hall
Briefing by:	Director of Finance and Resources
Portfolio:	Policy and Resources

INTRODUCTION

1. Over the last year, Burridge Village Hall has experienced continuing problems with restricted access to parking. The car park next to the Hall, designated for use by visitors to the Village Hall, the Recreation Ground and the play park, has only 28 parking spaces, between 4 and 9 of which are used by vehicles relating to the adjacent Cherry Tree Industrial Park each day. On days when the community centre has both its large rooms booked, once or twice per month, this leads to insufficient parking availability for visitors.
2. The owner of the Industrial Park has been approached and is supportive of the Council's concerns. He is explicit that he expects his tenants to accommodate all vehicles related to their business within their unit. He has previously written letters to his tenants advising them of this expectation, and will be able to assist in future with disseminating information.
3. The Council is currently determining community opinions regarding the introduction of Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) for this site, which will reduce the misuse of the car park by the vehicles from the Industrial Park.
4. Further to discussions about the parking issue at the Burridge Community Association AGM in April, investigation has taken place into additional options available to resolve the issues being experienced. At the AGM, few objections to the proposed introduction of TROs on this site were voiced. The opportunity was taken to collate details on the interested parties, user groups and sports associations that are being formally consulted regarding the TROs.
5. However, at the meeting, the Chairman of the Burridge Community Association expressed concerns that the introduction of TROs would not provide the increase in parking spaces required by the busy Hall, particularly as a new Scout Hut is due to be constructed on this site this year. His over-riding complaint has been that, following the damage to the Recreation Ground from unauthorised parking earlier this year, the Council has specified that the Hall does not have permission to use the track to Burridge Pond as overflow parking, which the Chairman advises that the Hall had been

doing unofficially for many years.

6. Previously, a project to extend the car park at the Hall by 10 spaces had been costed at £28,000. This option is expensive, particularly given the sporadic nature of the parking problems, and would require the replacement of an area of green space on the perimeter of the football pitch with tarmac.

POSSIBLE SOLUTION

7. Following the comments by the Burridge Community Association, a further option has been investigated which would entail the installation of 'Grasscrete' surfacing (a sturdy plastic mesh through which grass can grow) along an area on the southern side of the track to the Pond. A bank is currently located in this area, which was only constructed to dispose of the spoil resulting from the creation of the pond.
8. This option would provide 8 additional overflow parking spaces which would be managed by the Hall through a formal agreement, in which specific clauses would be drafted regarding overseeing the parking, protecting the Recreation Ground and liability for any damage caused by cars. A further 3 parking spaces already exist at the bottom of the track next to the pond, which would also be able to be incorporated in any agreement, providing a net gain of 11 overflow spaces.
9. This option reduces the impact of the removal of an area of open space, keeps the additional parking as only accessible in times of need via a locked gate, and also formalises arrangements with the Hall regarding their responsibilities for protecting the Recreation Ground from damage. In addition, the creation of a parking area would ensure that access to the pond via the track is maintained at all times for the Southern Water control box, next to the pond.
10. A further benefit is that this improvement can be carried out in advance of the completion of the TRO process, which is scheduled to take approximately 3 months to fully conclude. This timeframe is due to the consultation period required, and the official decision-making process. The proposal for the Regulations currently is for a 4 hour parking time limit, with no return in 12 hours, although the full details of the Regulations proposed will be determined following the current public consultation. Any overnight parking would also be regulated, with the Village Hall and Sports Clubs being provided a limited number of parking permits to enable their visitors and members to leave their vehicles for periods longer than 4 hours, if required.

COST

11. The overflow parking option has been estimated at costing £12,000, and would be able to proceed quickly, if funding is approved.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Claire Benfield or Emma Watts. (Ext 4495 or 4440)