

To receive a report on the Saltash Waterside Improvement Project and consider any actions and associated expenditure

A Full Application for the fourth round of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is currently being prepared as approved at the last Services Committee meeting. However, due to the nature of the project (brief overview):

1. Replacement of the play park equipment – Waterside Green
2. Interactive boards – Waterside Green
3. Information board – Jubilee Green
4. Sensory Gardens, picnic benches, BBQ area, tidy of grass/weed areas – Jubilee Green

It was important to meet with the relevant Cornwall Council Officers due to ownership of the Waterside being Cornwall Council to discuss the project and seek their support.

The meeting was very positive, and Cornwall Council Officers showed their passion and commitment to play parks and open green spaces in Cornwall. It is unfortunate that Saltash isn't on Cornwall Council's list of improvement works this year and future years are unknown.

Cornwall Council Officers provided their in-principal support for Saltash Town Council to improve the area (as above) for our residents and visitors to enjoy, whether that be through funding awarded (CIL) or Town Council budgeted funds.

The replacement of the play park is under Cornwall Council's ownership, and they have confirmed should Saltash TC be successful they will need to take control of the procurement process with little to no input from Saltash TC. Not only will this make the process harder for both parties it will naturally create delays in the project.

The existing play equipment is rotten and will be cordoned off as soon as Cornwall Council receive a report to confirm the area is dangerous (unknown timeframe). The play park is still used to this day.

Two of Saltash Town Council's Strategic Priorities supports the project very well:

Health and Wellbeing:

To support the Saltash Healthcare Action Group in improving our local NHS provision. Support improvement to mental health, fitness facilities, educational wellbeing of children and opportunities to access a high level of quality learning for young people.

Recreation and leisure:

To continue to provide, improve, and support in Saltash, play parks, open green spaces, library service, cultural activity, leisure and sport facilities, and to acknowledge our unique position on the Tamar and Lynher Rivers.

Further to the priorities, the Town Council has recognised on more than one occasion the importance of the town's play parks and open green spaces, especially during what can be difficult times for our residents. The Town Council has also recognised the potential to increase footfall in the town through play. The Saltash ferry is proving successful, having a tidy welcoming destination will only increase visitors to Saltash and support the ferry service in the future.

For Saltash Town Council to have control of the play park procurement process and improvements to the area (points 1-4 above), Members are asked to consider delegating to the Town Clerk to work with Cornwall Council to obtain a Management Agreement/Lease with a reasonable length tenure, to allow Saltash Town Council to undergo the above works followed by Service Delivery undertaking future maintenance, with the intention to take through the Devolution process within a five year period (similar to Victoria Gardens).

It is my duty to ensure the Town Council is aware that there is a possibility the CIL funding application is not successful, we won't know this for sure until around November 2024. Therefore, today's decision needs to consider the Town Council investing in the area using its own budget funds should the CIL funding application not be successful.

It has taken some time to build a good working partnership with Cornwall Council where they trust we can and will deliver a high standard of work in the town and by doing so follow the correct procedures.

My professional advice is to take up Cornwall Councils offer of a Management Agreement/Lease that allows the Town Council to improve the areas listed for all to enjoy.

Potential Available Budgets

1. Budget Code: 6278 CIL Planning / Budget Availability: £12,879k
2. Budget Code: 6280 Town Vision / Budget Availability: £9,950
3. Budget Code: 6571 Saltash Recreation Area / Budget Availability: £48,805
4. Budget code: 6279 EMF restart business support grant / Budget Availability: £7,5814 (subject to the Finance Officer clarifying the spend criteria)

End of Report

Town Clerk/RFO