

<p>Title of Report:</p> <p>Brooke Park Bowling Pavilion</p>	<p>Officer Presenting: Director of Health & Community</p> <p>Author: Head of Community Development & Leisure</p>
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 To outline for Members the options in respect of Brooke Park Bowling Pavilion.
- 1.2 To update Members on further proposed consultation with the Bowling Club at Brooke Park and the governing body of sport for bowling.

2 Background

- 2.1 Members will be aware of the previous discussion on Brooke Park Bowling Club (HC229/20). The Bowling Pavilion at Brooke Park Bowling green is a stand-alone portacabin, which hosts club members and visiting teams during the bowling season. The bowling season runs from the beginning of April to the end of September on an annual basis.
- 2.2 Brooke Park Bowling Club has approximately 20 to 25 members who play recreational and competitive bowls. The club participates in the Northern Ireland Provincial Bowling League, in the two senior divisions. Their home matches are facilitated throughout the season with away teams visiting the greens and using the pavilion facilities.
- 2.3 The league has just recently permitted women to compete in the league. Club members have requested an extra changing room to host home and away participants.
- 2.4 The pavilion, in its current structure, has been in place for approximately 40 years. A new torch-on felt roof was fitted 3 years ago to the main structure of the building.
- 2.5 The meeting room can be hired by external clubs and organisations out of season, although this rarely happens so the building lies idle for approximately 6 months of the year.
- 2.6 Members had previously approved a sum of £60,000 towards works at Brooke Park Bowling Club (HC177/19).

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 The Provincial Bowling League only last year permitted women to play in their competitions. Club members have requested a new female changing room along with the two existing men's changing rooms to be considered in a new structure to cater for home and away and female players.
- 3.2 A traffic management report has highlighted a number of safety concerns due to regular congestion at peak times and a distinct lack of parking spaces for users of the Brooke Park facilities.
- 3.3 The current changing facilities accessed by sports clubs do not meet the current needs in terms of both size and standard.
- 3.4 Three options have been put forward with regards to the future of the pavilion.
- 3.5 Option One – refurbishment of the Brooke Park Pavilion at a cost of £60,000.
 - 3.5.1 A cursory survey of the existing structure has been completed by both Council's property team and a prefabrication specialist company with the aim of identifying suitable improvement options.
 - 3.5.2 Areas identified and requiring an investment of £60,000 to improve the current structure are attached at Appendix 1.
 - 3.5.3 Investment of £60,000 would extensively improve the current structure and allow Council time to investigate into a wider strategic plan to improve facilities within the Brooke Park grounds.
- 3.6 Option Two – a replacement port-a-cabin at a cost of approximately £200,000.
 - 3.6.1 As noted in 2.6 above, Members had previously approved a sum of £60,000. An additional sum of £140,000 would be required to purchase a new 'like for like' replacement structure. This would have to be found by Council and there is currently no budget for these works.
- 3.7 Option Three – a new permanent structure to facilitate the bowling club and enhance changing facilities for other sports clubs, together with infrastructural development to improve traffic management and parking facilities within the Brooke Park facilities.

- 3.8 A number of meetings have taken place to date with Council Officers and Bowling Club Members. Bowling Club Members have been clear that they do not want Council to consider options 1 and 2 and only want Council to consider a new permanent building. It is important to note that there are approximately 25 Members of the club and Council generates £850 per annum from the bowling operation.
- 3.9 It is recommended that Officers organise a final consultation exercise with bowling club Members and with Elected Members from the DEA. At this meeting, Officers from the Capital Working Group will also be in attendance outlining the stages involved in getting a project on the Capital Working Group Agenda, the projected timelines and resources involved and business case and capital development requirements.
- 3.10 At this meeting with the Bowling Club, the risks involved in this approach and also the timescale involved will be highlighted. Members will be aware of the number of capital projects that have been approved and identified as a priority but there currently is no money for.
- 3.11 A detailed Business Case will have to be developed in order to agree any funding for a project of this scale. An increase in the revenue budget (in addition to capital investment) will have to be provided for any such building, which will have to be found from a combination of rates monies and additional revenue generated from the bowling club. Again this will be highlighted to the club.
- 3.12 In the current climate this meeting will be organised via Webex.

4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs and other Implications

- 4.1 Income generated from the Brooke Park Bowling pavilion for both recreational play and league fixtures is estimated at approximately £850 per annum.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 That Members endorse the proposed consultation process with the Bowling Club at Brooke Park and also with the governing body of sport for bowling.
- 5.2 That Members note the proposed options as set out in Section 3 above, the details of which will be re-presented for approval following the consultation process.

Background Papers

Appendix 1: Brooke Park Bowling Pavilion Refurbishment Option

Mins Refs: HC177/19; HC229/20