

TITLE:	Gordon Street, Thorn Bank/Bath Street Playgrounds, Bacup
TO/ON:	The Cabinet / 25th January 2006
BY:	Head of Street Scene & Liveability
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Liveability
STATUS:	For publication

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To seek approval for the removal of two poor quality playground facilities at Gordon Street and Thorn Bank/Bath Street, Bacup and fulfil demand with a single facility, with a larger catchment area at the more appropriate location of Gordon Street Bacup.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That both sites are decommissioned and a new improved facility is provided at the more suitable location of Gordon Street.
- 2.2. That as part of this project the site at Thorn Bank/Bath Street be landscaped in accordance with the council grounds maintenance specification.

3. REPORT AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS AND TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1. An application has been made to the Council for improvements to playgrounds in the Bacup area, from Groundwork Rossendale Acting on behalf of the Blackthorn Residents.
- 3.2. The proposal, following the recommendations arising from the Councils recent open space audit is to improve one out the two play areas local to the Blackthorn area.
- 3.3. The preference from the two sites would be Gordon Street improved to a NEAP (Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play) standard, which would create a catchment area of 1500m radius, therefore including the area already covered by Thorn Street/Bath Street – a much poorer example of a failed LEAP (Local Equipped Area of Play) which at present is fairly low quality suffering from poor access and constant vandalism.

- 3.4. The Thorn Bank/Bath Street location is already inside the catchment radii of the nearby, recently improved play areas at Hawthorn Rd and Rosendale Crescent.
- 3.5. The proposal for Thorn Bath/Bath Street is to remove all items of equipment and bases and reinstate with grading of slopes, top soiling, seeding, planting of wildlife hedge species and some tree planting.
- 3.6. The table below indicates the cost of the project

Gordon Street, Bacup - Groundwork's Rossendale

CODE	DESCRIPTION	QTY	PRICE
PZW525	Inclusive play Unit w/o roof	1	£12,500.00
SWD100	Dish Roundabout	1	£744.00
SSB200	Inclusive Ladybird Springie	1	£523.00
SSW062	Style Swing 1.8m high 2 seat c/w Pod's and a/w	1	£1,604.00
SMB.E.55.11	4m high Space Net	1	£5,638.00
KK44248	K&K Spring Seesaw	1	£740.00
KK40710	K&K Single Point Swing	1	£4,163.00
	Equipment Total		£25,912.00
	Flat bar Backless Bench	2	£440.00
	Round bar Litter Bin	2	£649.00
	Installation of the above		£4,895.00
	Groundworks including: Site setup and marking out Break out and remove existing equipment and bases Create level area to centre of site Supply and lay PCC edgings central area Supply and Lay MOT type 1 to depth of 150mm		£13,345.20

Excavate out for link paths and spread arisings
on site
Supply and lay PCC edgings to perimeter of
link paths
Supply and lay Bitmac base and Bitmac
wearing course
Regrade slopes to create even gradients
Make good any area disturbed by works
Site Security

Supply and Lay Wetpour:	£10,100.56
21m2 @ 20mm	
163.5m2 @ 40mm	
75m2 @ 80mm	
Ancillaries Total	£29,429.76
Sub Total	£55,341.76
Carriage at 2.5%	£647.80
Discount @ 15%	£3,886.80
Grand Total Exc Vat	£52,102.76

- 3.7. Funding is already available to improve Gordon Street and for the re-landscaping Thorn Bank/Bath Street. with a construction budget of approximately £52,000.
- 3.8. Groundwork have indicated that they have brought forward this project in response to ELEVATE feedback from Blackthorn residents, and subsequent action group meetings.
- 3.9. This site is one of the sites originally identified in the Groundwork/BCT managed SRB Bacup Greening project, and has some SRB money earmarked for it. ELEVATE funding will complement the SRB funding.
- 3.10. Consultation with residents included 100 forms delivered to houses in the immediate area. From those 100 houses, 16 returned the questionnaires, and the results were 8 in favour of the development and 8 against.

4. CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

4.1. FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

4.2. There is a budget for maintaining both areas, which will be sufficient for any future increased maintenance of the Gordon Street site; therefore the project has no increased financial burden for the council.

4.3. **MEMBER DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS**

4.4. None

4.5. **HUMAN RESOURCES**

4.5.1. N/A

5. **ANY OTHER RELEVANT CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

5.1. The council is committed to improving the areas of open space within the Borough and as such this project contributes to that priority.

6. **RISK**

6.1. Groundwork Rossendale have secured funding for the project which must be spent before end of February 2006. Should there be a delay in the commencement of the project it is possible the funding will be withdrawn and the project will be cancelled.

7. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM THE REPORT**

7.1. N/A

8. **EQUALITIES ISSUES ARISING FROM THE REPORT**

8.1. StreetScene & Liveability is committed to making sure that our greenspace remains accessible for every user regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, ability or disability.

9. **WARDS AFFECTED.**

9.1. Irwell and Greensclough

10. **CONSULTATIONS**

10.1. Groundwork Rossendale has carried out consultation with residents.

11. **Background documents:**

11.1. None

For further information on the details of this report, please contact:

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