

**Policy and Resources Committee
Monday, 15 July 2024**

PART I

**Use of S016 Funding for benches at The Horses' Field, Leavesden Country Park
(ADDCC)**

1 Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to use S106 funding to purchase 2 new benches for use outside of the conservation grazed area on The Horses' Field, Leavesden Country Park.

2 Details

2.1 During the summer months at The Horses' Field, Leavesden Country Park, cattle graze the internal area as part of the Council's alternative grassland management regime.

2.2 This area is open to the public, however, some members of the local community opt to remain outside of the grazed area for various reason and instead choose to walk the perimeter of the site away from the cattle.

2.3 A request has been made from the public for 2 benches to be installed external to the area where the cattle graze.

2.4 These benches will be installed in locations away from residential properties and with good visibility in order to prevent anti-social behaviour.

2.5 Benches will include arm and back supports for those with additional needs.

2.6 A Section 106 dated 15th June 2010 secured the payment of a "Recreation Contribution" of £400,000.00 (plus indexation) in respect of the majority of the land known as the Horsefield. The monies were given for "access and landscaping improvements, signage and commuted maintenance costs in relation to the Replacement Land (including pedestrian connectivity and accessibility improvements at Leavesden Country Park)". The benches will be placed on the Replacement Land. There is £749,415.29 S106 funding available in the "S106 Horses' Field – Abbots Langley" S106 budget for the site, which could be used to purchase the two benches.

2.7 The cost to install 2 benches would be £1,720.

3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 To agree the use of S106 funding for the purposes outlined in section 2.

4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

4.1 The recommendations in this report are not within the Council's agreed budgets.

4.2 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policies.

4.3 The recommendations in this report relate to the achievement of the following objectives within the Corporate Framework 2023 – 2026:

- Support and enable sustainable communities

4.4 The impact of the recommendations on this/these performance indicator(s) is:

- It will enhance the visitor experience at The Horses' Field

5 Financial Implications

5.1 Costs to install 2 DDA compliant benches is £1,720.

5.2 £1,720 could be used to purchase these benches from the S106 Horses' Field – Abbots Langley S106 budget.

5.3 There is £749,415.29 remaining in the S106 Horses' Field – Abbots Langley S106 budget.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 The Council's Planning Solicitor has confirmed that there is a balance of those monies that remains unspent and that the use of those section 106 monies to purchase two benches would be in conformity with the purpose for which those monies were given.

7 Equal Opportunities Implications

7.1 Benches installed would be DDA compliant with arm and back supports. Benches would not be installed in proximity to residential properties and would be within areas of natural surveillance to reduce the possibility of anti-social behaviour.

8 Staffing Implications, Environmental Implications, Community Safety Implications, Public Health implications, Customer Services Centre Implications, Communications and Website Implications

8.1 None Specific

9 Risk and Health & Safety Implications

9.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

9.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Leisure and Natural Infrastructure service plan. Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this/these plan.

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response <i>(tolerate, treat, terminate, transfer)</i>	Risk Rating <i>(combination of likelihood and impact)</i>
Benches may not be accessible to	Complaints from the local community they cannot use the	Ensure DDA compliant benches are installed with	Treat	2

all people	benches	back and arm supports.		
Increase in anti-social behaviour and a noise nuisance to residential properties	Complaints from the local community	Install benches in locations with good visibility and natural surveillance Install benches away from residential properties	Treat	2

Very Likely ----- Likelihood ----- ▶ Remote	Low 4	High 8	Very High 12	Very High 16
	Low 3	Medium 6	High 9	Very High 12
	Low 2	Low 4	Medium 6	High 8
	Low 1	Low 2	Low 3	Low 4
	Impact			
	Low ----- ▶ Unacceptable			

Impact Score

4 (Catastrophic)

3 (Critical)

2 (Significant)

1 (Marginal)

Likelihood Score

4 (Very Likely (≥80%))

3 (Likely (21-79%))

2 (Unlikely (6-20%))

1 (Remote (≤5%))

9.3 In the officers' opinion none of the new risks above, were they to come about, would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and are therefore operational risks. The effectiveness of the management of operational risks is reviewed by the Audit Committee annually.

10 Recommendation

10.1 That the proposal to request to use £1,720 of S106 funding to install 2 benches at The Horses' Field, Leavesden Country Park, as outlined in section 2, is approved and that budget should be made available by Council as part of the next budget monitoring report.

Report prepared by: Charlotte Gomes, Head of Leisure and Natural Infrastructure