



Grounds and Environmental Services Committee

Date: 14th September 2020

Title: Investment in leisure facilities

Purpose of the Report: To ask Members to consider the recommendation from Policy and Finance Committee regarding the installation of public access table tennis tables in some of the Council’s parks.

Contact Officer: Ian Haynes – Head of Grounds and Environmental Services

Corporate Aim/s		Objective #45
Implications:		
Financial		£25,000 to be taken from 9024/950 with available funds of £80,474
Human Resources		None
Operational/Service delivery		None
Procedural/Legal		None
Risk/Health and Safety		None

- 1. RECOMMENDATIONS**
 - 1.1 Should Members be minded, to support the proposal to:-**
 - 1.2 To note the report.**
 - 1.3 To endorse the installation of 5 x Green Concrete table tennis tables with rounded corners on 4m x 8m concrete slabs with a maximum budget of £25,000 to be taken from 9024/950 with available funds of £80,474.**
- 2 BACKGROUND**
 - 2.1 In accordance with the Town Council’s objective #45, the installation of 4 x outdoor table tennis tables would increase the offering to young persons by investing in facilities across the parish and in fact would benefit the wider community.**

2.2 The proposed locations for phase 1 delivery are:

- Parson's Close Recreation Ground x 2
- Pages Park
- Linslade Memorial Playing Field
- Linslade Recreation Ground

2.3 With the potential for a second phase with four more sites or additional tables installed to the above sites excluding Parson's Close Recreation, subject to consideration by this committee at a later date.

3. AIMS

3.1 Table Tennis England noticed how popular outdoor table tennis was in Europe and China, so in 2009 they, supported by Sport England, installed 47 tables in 26 London parks to measure their impact and popularity.

3.2 The project was a success. The tables were quickly adopted by the communities they were placed in. Since then outdoor table tennis has been included as part of Table Tennis England's strategy to increase opportunities to play.

3.3 The key benefits for the Town Council installing outdoor table tennis tables could include:

- Very low maintenance costs after the initial high purchase cost
- The opportunity to engage the local community and encourage social cohesion
- Reduced anti-social behaviour in public spaces
- Opportunities to reinvigorate space in urban environments
- Added value to outdoor facilities
- Provides a family friendly activity that will increase visit times

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The installation of table tennis tables would have a myriad of benefits as set out in the **attached** reasons to play table tennis leaflet from Table Tennis England. Officer have spoken to Table Tennis England who are based in Milton Keynes and they would be excited to help promote such a bold and progressive installation programme, subject to Member approval.