
PARC CEFN ONN PROJECT

Purpose of report

1. To provide with background to the Parc Cefn Onn Project, enabling Members to scrutinise the delivery of this project.

Background

2. A Parks Partnership Programme was approved by Cabinet in February 2004 as a means of providing a strategic approach to the leverage of Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funding into public parks over a ten year period. The programme focussed on six parks; Bute Park; Roath Park; Parc Cefn Onn; Cathays Park; Forest Farm and; Splott Park.
3. In 2008, Bute Park was awarded a £3.1m HLF contribution toward a £5.6m four year project. A commitment was also made to prioritise Parc Cefn Onn as the next park to receive focus for funding and HLF bids.

Parc Cefn Onn

4. Parc Cefn Onn is a Grade 2 listed country park located in north Cardiff, in the electoral ward of Lisvane. The park originated in private ownership and was not open to the public until acquired by the Council in 1944 for £7,500. The park now

contains a number of waymarked woodland walks, a wildlife explorer trail for children, links to Caerphilly Ridgeway walk and a picnic field.

5. The park has an active 'friends group' – Friends of Parc Cefn Onn (<http://www.friendsofcefnonn.org.uk/wp>). This voluntary group meets monthly to undertake various work throughout the park, assisting Cardiff Council Parks Department, developing and distributing promotional material and compiling records of plants and animals within the park.
6. In July 2016 it was announced that Parc Cefn Onn has been awarded a £459,900 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of its Parks for People programme. This aims to support valued green spaces at the centre of communities to make places better to visit, live and work in.
7. A Cardiff Council press release reported ¹ that the money had been granted to undertake the following:
 - Develop the historic summerhouse as a garden feature using it to interpret the story of the historic gardens.
 - Upgrade the historic Dingle rockery, including the restoration of historic views.
 - Upgrade the main pond in the park.
 - Make access improvements including upgrading paths to be suitable for mobility scooters; providing ramped, wheelchair friendly access to the upper picnic lawn and providing 4 x 4 electric mobility scooters (and charging points).
 - Develop links with local health providers to encourage local use of the park to improve management of chronic health conditions.
 - Improve seating provision to accommodate the less mobile.

¹ http://cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/r/13093/historic_cardiff_park_awarded__459_000_heritage_lottery

- Upgrade toilet facilities in the park.
- Carry out nature and biodiversity improvements.
- Provide new interpretation and education offers including improved signage information, creation of an outdoor classroom area and new interpretation and educational materials to encourage access by educators, therapists and carers.
- Enhance the maintenance regime of the park.
- Create a 3 year part-time Ranger post to support the management of the site based mobility scooters.

Directorate Delivery Plan

8. The City Operations Directorate Delivery Plan contains the following Service Commitments in order to support the Improvement Objective 'Cardiff has a high quality city environment that includes attractive public space and good supporting transport infrastructure' :

- Parks Partnership Programme - Review programme, commence delivery of second park and determine future priorities for improvement.
- Progress the Parc Cefn Onn Project (Access & Health 2016-19) through the Parks for People Heritage Lottery Fund Funding stream.

Way Forward

9. Councillor Bob Derbyshire, Cabinet Member: Environment has been invited to attend and may wish to give a statement. Jon Maidment – Operation Manager Parks & Sport and Rosie James – Principal Landscape Officer will also be in attendance to deliver a presentation and to answer Members' questions.

Legal Implications

10. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

11. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that

goes to Cabinet/ Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

Recommendations

12. The Committee is recommended to give consideration to the information attached to this report and received at this meeting and to submit any recommendations, observations or comments to the Cabinet Member.

Davina Fiore
Director, Governance and Legal Services
2 December 2016