



AGENDA ITEM:

CABINET: 15th January 2019

Report of: Director of Leisure and Environment

Relevant Portfolio Holders: Councillors Y. Gagen

**Contact for further information: Mr S. Kent (Ext. 5169)
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SUBJECT: USE OF SECTION 106 MONIES IN THE PARISH OF HALSALL

Wards affected: Halsall ward

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consider a proposal regarding the use of Section 106 (S106) monies for the enhancement of public open space provision in the Parish of Halsall.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the use of up to £5,500 of S106 monies be approved, as outlined at 5.2, to enable improvements to be made at Shirdley Hill Village Green, Halsall.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Under policy EN3 of the West Lancashire Local Plan 2012-2027, developers must provide open space facilities as part of housing developments. Where developments are less than 20 dwellings or on sites where it is not reasonable to expect a development to provide on-site facilities, and where there is a deficiency of open space, the Council can require a commuted sum for the provision of new or the enhancement of existing areas of public open space within its area.

3.2 In accordance with the decision of the Planning Committee on January 10th 2002 the views of the relevant Parish Council/Ward Members have been sought in

respect of the potential use of S106 allocations from development of land at the rear of 114 Summerwood Lane, Halsall.

- 3.3 An Officer working group was established in February 2011 to co-ordinate the receipt of S106 commuted sums and report to Cabinet on the use of the funding. A function of this group is to establish levels of uncommitted S106 funds across all wards and liaise with Ward Members and Parish Councils as to how this funding could be best utilised in line with the requirements of the S106 agreements.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The funding from a particular development can only be used in accordance with the terms of the related S106 agreement. The Council currently has unallocated monies from the S106 agreement from the rear of 114 Summerwood Lane in the Halsall ward totalling £30,926. Following consultation with Ward Members and Halsall Parish Council there is one new proposal being made for Halsall ward.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 Shirdley Hill Roadside Environmental Workers (SHREW) is a voluntary group of local residents who undertake environmental improvement projects in the Shirdley Hill area. They have worked with a local landscaping firm to produce plans for a small sensory garden for Shirdley Hill Village Green, to replace the previous sensory garden developed in conjunction with the Borough Council in 2009. The new project will be located on the same site as the original scheme.(see appendix 2 – Shirdley Hill Sensory Garden site plan)
- 5.2 The sensory garden will involve raised beds containing a variety of plants to stimulate the senses of smell, touch and sound. Access to the beds will be via a surfaced path linked to the existing perimeter path around the site to allow access for wheelchair users.
- 5.3 A local contractor will undertake the construction works with the volunteers from the SHREW group carrying out the planting. SHREW will also take on the responsibility of the on-going maintenance of the facility.

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 These improvements will contribute towards making Shirdley Hill Village Green a more attractive, accessible and enjoyable place to visit for the residents of the Parish of Halsall. It will also further the aims of community engagement in the management of our parks and open spaces.

7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The bid from SHREW is for up to £5,500 from S106 funds, which can be made available from the allocations received from the development of land rear of 114 Summerwood Lane, Halsall (£30,926)

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 Implementation of these improvements will be a great asset to the local community but will have to be maintained effectively to continue that benefit. SHREW is a local volunteer group that has been in operation for several years and has undertaken several previous projects, helping to foster the feeling of ownership of the local environment, whilst also promoting access to the wider community. They have a proven ability of maintaining the projects that they have implemented.
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Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is a direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is required. A formal equality impact assessment is attached as an Appendix to this report, the results of which have been taken into account in the Recommendations contained within this report.