

## SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

## CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY



**SURREY**  
COUNTY COUNCIL

**DATE:** 31 JANUARY 2023

**REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER:** DENISE TURNER-STEWART – CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

**LEAD OFFICER:** MARIE SNELLING – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR CUSTOMER AND COMMUNITIES

**SUBJECT:** YOUR FUND SURREY APPLICATION – FRIENDS OF KENYNGTON MANOR PARK UPGRADE

**ORGANISATION STRATEGY PRIORITY AREA:** EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

<b>Purpose of the Report:</b>
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This report sets out the Your Fund Surrey application from the **Friends of Kenyngton Manor** for the consideration of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety.

The vision of YFS is to bring community-led and place-making projects to life, with a focus on wider community benefit that leaves a real legacy.

<b>Recommendations:</b>
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**It is recommended that the Cabinet Member :**

- 1. Approve funding from Your Fund Surrey for project CF172 Friends of Kenyngton Manor Park Upgrade for the full amount requested of £190,176.**

<b>Reason for Recommendations:</b>
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This application has been the subject of a rigorous assessment process by officers, as set out in the body of this report. Officers consider the project to meet the aims and published criteria of the fund and to satisfy the requirements to award funding.

<b>Executive Summary:</b>
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1. Friends of Kenyngton Manor Park are seeking funding to improve the local playground at Kenyngton Manor recreation ground, Sunbury on Thames. This proposal is in the electoral division of Sunbury Common, in the borough of Spelthorne. In this division, 28% of the population live in flats or maisonettes, most of which have no, or limited, outdoor space. Sunbury Common Ward has a population of 8,386, including 1,575 children aged between 0-14 years. Kenyngton Manor recreation ground runs alongside the large Beechwood/Keywood housing estates.
2. According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), the division is in decile 4 out of 10 (decile 1 being in the most deprived 10% nationally and decile 10 being in the least

deprived 10% nationally). For the Surrey Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) it falls in decile 1, meaning it is in the most deprived 10% in the county.

3. The Friends of Kenyngton Manor Park group was formed in early 2020 during the Covid lockdown. Due to the restrictions during lockdown, the group started exploring the outdoors and their local area. They found that their local park, Kenyngton Manor, was unsuitable for young children and lacking in age-appropriate play equipment.
4. The current playground is dated, underused and not easily accessible for pushchairs and wheelchairs. The proposal is to extend the current play area to allow groups of all ages to benefit. A new path will be created linking the play area to the main recreation ground, picnic benches added and a wildflower meadow created.
5. They created a Facebook group, used the Nextdoor App and engaged with the local community, local schools, youth clubs and childcare providers about improving the playground. It was designed with input from a wide variety of groups within the local community and included a 'Design a Park' poster where the children created drawings of their ideal park.
6. The group set themselves up as a community interested company (CIC) in order to access Your Fund Surrey and this approach supports the Council's work around empowering communities and enabling residents to drive change locally.
7. The chosen contractor, Hags, was one of five recommended by Spelthorne Borough Council (SBC). They use top quality renewable recyclable materials and are invested in research and development to set up efficient manufacturing processes that reduce the impact on the environment.
8. The recreation ground is owned and maintained by SBC and planning permission is not required to extend the playground. SBC support the project and have contributed £34,000 CIL funding. A further £9,308 from SBC will contribute towards new bins, benches, picnic tables and creating the new path. SBC will provide ongoing support by conducting the maintenance, ongoing inspections and including the new equipment in its play equipment insurance policies.

## Details

### Description of project benefits

9. The project aligns closely with several of SCC's ambitions, particularly that all children and young people are safe, and feel safe and are confident.
10. The key benefits of the project include:
  - i. Greater accessibility leading to increased physical activity and improved mental health
  - ii. Supporting the wellbeing of young people and parents/carers
  - iii. Encouraging biodiversity by planting trees and creating a new wildflower meadow
  - iv. Reducing vehicle movements with improved local facilities
  - v. Meeting area to promote a greater sense of belonging and reduce social isolation

### Project Timeframes

11. The project timeframes are approximately 8 weeks, comprised of:
  - Playground groundworks
  - Installation of new play equipment

- Installation of new bins, picnic benches and benches
- Creation and installation of a new pathway

### Management of the project

12. The project will be managed by members of Friends of Kenyngton Manor Park and the Parks and Open Spaces Officer and Parks Manager from SBC.
13. Once installed, different elements of the playground will be covered by varying warranties ranging from lifetime to two years. SBC will undertake ongoing routine inspections and maintenance in line with their policies and procedures. The play area will be also be checked once a month by SBC's contractor.

### Project Lifespan

14. Different elements of the playground all have their own warranties and will be maintained and replaced as required. Overall, the provider of the equipment provides warranty for up to 15 years, and, with good maintenance, the equipment can be expected to last for at least 20 years.

### Financial and Value for Money Implications

15. Table 1: Financial Summary details the total project cost of £234,484.
16. Table 2: Project Cost Breakdown and Grant Utilisation, itemises the allocation of YFS grant against specific works.
17. As with all applications, there is a risk that construction and purchase costs will increase between application and approval. This is mitigated by the contingency (which will only be released if there is demonstrated need). The applicant has secured quotes that support their costing, and will ultimately be funded based on evidenced, actual spend, up to the amount awarded.

**Table 1. Financial summary**

Amount applied for:	£190,176
Total project cost:	£234,484
Percentage of cost against total:	81%
Have other funding sources been secured?	Yes
Other funding:	£34,000 SBC CIL funding £1,000 Arnold Clarke Grant £9,308 funding from SBC <b>Total £44,308</b>
Volunteer contributions	£4,649
Is there a commercial element to the project?	No
Amount suggested for funding:	<b>£190,176</b>

**Table 2. Project Cost breakdown and Grant Utilisation:**

Activity	Total Cost (Excluding VAT)	YFS Contribution
Groundworks and repair	£6,485	£0
Playground equipment design and installation	£209,148	£178,033
Pathway	£2,658	£0
Benches & picnic benches x 2	£5,650	£0
Bins x 2	£1,000	£0

Evaluation & publicity	£1,100	£0
VAT	£36,000	£0
Discount	-£39,700	£0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>£222,341</b>	<b>£178,033</b>
Contingency	£12,143	£12,143
<b>Total</b>	<b>£234,484</b>	<b>£190,176</b>

### Assessment of the application against the criteria for the fund:

#### Advisory Panel Comments

18. The role of the YFS Advisory Panel is to review shortlisted applications following the assessment and scoring of bids by Officers, and to advise and inform the final officer recommendations to the appropriate decision-maker on the proposed funding awards to be made.
19. The YFS Advisory Panel were supportive of the project and recognised the effort which had gone into the application from the local group of residents. The panel sought additional clarification in relation to the layout and design of the play area and questioned how older children would be catered for. They also sought reassurance that ongoing maintenance and safety checks would be carried out by the Borough Council. Responses were provided to Panel members after the session.

#### Consultation

##### Summary of Support

20. Considerable support has been demonstrated with the project receiving 261 comments on the Have your Say website. Letters of support have been received from:
- Principal of Kenyngton Manor Primary School
  - Local resident and founder of Legally Powered
  - Spelthorne Borough Councillor for Halliford & Sunbury West, Sandra Dunn
  - Home School Link Worker, Kenyngton Manor Primary School
  - Staff at Kenyngton Manor Primary School
  - Chair of Friends group for Strawberry Valley Park
  - MP for Spelthorne, Kwasi Kwarteng
  - Local Parents and Grandparents

21. In early conversations, the former Divisional Councillor, Alison Todd, fully supported the project.

#### Section 151 Officer commentary:

25. Although significant progress has been made to improve the Council's financial position, the financial environment remains challenging. The UK is experiencing the highest levels of inflation for decades, putting significant pressure on the cost of delivering our services. Coupled with continued increasing demand and fixed Government funding this requires an increased focus on financial management to ensure we can continue to deliver services within available funding. In addition to these immediate challenges, the medium-term financial outlook beyond 2022/23 remains uncertain. With no clarity on central government funding in the medium term, our working assumption is that financial resources will continue to be constrained, as they have been for the majority of the past decade. This places an onus on the Council to continue to consider issues of financial

sustainability as a priority in order to ensure stable provision of services in the medium term.

26. The long-term sustainability of the projects funded by Your Fund Surrey is a key factor in assessing their suitability. Certain projects are relatively straightforward, as is the case with this application, where ongoing sustainability relies only on identifying a modest and reasonably secure source of funds to maintain an asset. This has been identified.
27. The borrowing costs associated with the fund have been fully built into the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

**Legal implications – Monitoring Officer:**

28. The report sets out the information and steps for the consideration of the application further to the Council's governance arrangements for Your Fund Surrey.
29. Further to those arrangements, if approved, the Council and the organisation will enter into a comprehensive funding agreement which will include the performance measures that will be put in place to ensure the funding is used as intended as well as clearly describing any support or additional conditions agreed as part of the funding award.

**Equalities and Diversity:**

30. Your Fund is designed to provide investment in schemes that encourage community participation, reduce isolation, and develop the potential for social wellbeing and economic prosperity. As such it is anticipated that it will have a positive impact on the local community and particularly those with protected characteristics that may be more likely to experience social and economic exclusion.
31. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been produced for YFS and was circulated as an Annex to the YFS Cabinet Report 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**Other Implications:**

32. The potential implications for the following council priorities and policy areas have been considered. Where the impact is potentially significant a summary of the issues is set out in detail below.

**Table 4: Implications for council priorities and policy areas**

<b>Area assessed:</b>	<b>Direct Implications:</b>
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No direct implications
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children & adults	SBC have their own safeguarding policy in place.
Environmental sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New path will be created linking new playground to main recreation ground which will encourage greater accessibility</li> <li>• Use of recycled and sustainable materials</li> <li>• Re-seeding the ground and using excess soil to level out other areas of the park.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Company is invested in R&amp;D to set up efficient manufacturing processes that reduce the impact on the environment.</li> <li>• Use of powder coated paint application which has less impact on the environment</li> </ul>
Public Health	The project has a positive impact on wider health outcomes, with young children and those with disabilities being encouraged to use outdoor space and increase their physical activity.

#### What Happens Next:

- Following Delegated Officer approval of the funding a notice of the records of decisions taken under delegated power, will be published within 3 days of the decision being made. A note of this decision will be included in the YFS Decision Tracker.
- Officers will prepare the relevant schedules and funding agreements to enable payment of funds and monitoring and evaluation of the project against its outcomes.
- The YFS Team officers will then issue a provisional offer of funding to the applicant, including a copy of the draft Funding Agreement incorporating any additional conditions.

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#### Report Authors:

Shaista Salim, [yourfund@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:yourfund@surreycc.gov.uk)

Nikki Tagg, [yourfund@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:yourfund@surreycc.gov.uk)

#### Consulted:

Division County Councillor

Corporate Finance – Surrey County Council

#### Sources/background papers:

YFS Criteria

YFS Governance Document