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**REPORT TO:** Overview & Scrutiny Commission

**DATE:** 21 September 2009

**DEPARTMENT:** Community Services

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Director of Community services  
*(Head of Parks & Open Spaces – Patrick Kilburn)*

**SUBJECT:** Valley Gardens Improvements

**WARD/S AFFECTED:**

**FORWARD PLAN REF:** N/A

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**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To advise the Overview and Scrutiny Commission of the works undertaken in Valley Gardens over the past 12 months as requested.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

2.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission receive the report.

**3.0 RECOMMENDED REASON/S FOR DECISION/S**

3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission requested a feedback report.

**4.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTION/S CONSIDERED AND RECOMMENDED FOR REJECTION**

4.1 None

**5.0 THE REPORT**

5.1 On 14 November 2007 a report was considered by Cabinet that looked at the options for Valley Gardens and whether or not a bid should be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund or not.

5.2 This report looked at the costs involved and the risks and subsequently Cabinet decided that the risks far outweighed the benefits at that time and that the funds available should be used to improve the facilities within the Valley Gardens.

The principal risk included:

- Expending between £50,000 and £75,000 on making a bid for lottery funding for which there was no guarantee of success thus minimising the amount of money available to spend in the gardens; and,
- Not spending the commuted sums by the deadline dates and having to repay them back to the developers.

5.3 Since then a considerable amount of work has been undertaken which has included the following:

<b>Amount (£)</b>	<b>What done</b>
13,530	Improvements to Crazy golf Area and repairs to other tarmac areas.
7,070	Improvements to the tennis courts including their repainting
176,270	Full refurbishment of the play area including the connecting up of a new CCTV coverage of the facility for added security. This has proved very popular with thousands of children and young people using the facility every week.
8,710	Refurbishment of planted areas predominantly the scree bed and surrounding shrub beds.
910	Provision of new litter bins.
<b>206,490</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

5.4 A short slide show will be made at the meeting showing the works undertaken

5.5 There are still £54,762 worth of commuted sums available for the gardens made up as follows:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>
Parks & Gardens	9,457
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace	2,824
Outdoor Sports Facilities	35,723
Amenity Green Space	635
Provision for Children & Young People	6,123

5.6 In addition a bequest has been made for £10,000 and it is expected that this money will be received in the near future.

## **6.0 FUTURE PROJECTS**

6.1 Staff are continuing to look at the issues and opportunities in the Valley gardens and projects that are currently being explored include:

- Continue with the improvements to the grounds with the refurbishment

of the New Zealand Garden

- The possibility of providing a skate park in Valley Gardens more often
- A new pavilion by the play area including toilet facilities for the parents and children.
- A new outdoor game facility “Disk Golf”
- Further repairs to paths and drainage works.

## 7.0 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 In summary a lot of work has been undertaken over the last 12 month plus and significant popular improvements have been made. It is intended to use the remaining Commuted Sums to continue in that work over the next 12 months.

### Background Papers –

**OFFICER CONTACT:** Please contact Patrick Kilburn, Head of Parks and Open Spaces, if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted at Brandreth House, St Luke’s Avenue, Harrogate HG1 2AA or by telephone on 01423 841106 or by e-mail – [patrick.kilburn@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:patrick.kilburn@harrogate.gov.uk)

### SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT/CRIME AND DISORDER

		Implications are		
		Positive	Neutral	Negative
A	Economy		x	
B	Environment		x	
C	Social Equity		x	
i)	General			
ii)	Customer Care/People with Disabilities			
iii)	Health Implications			
D	Crime and Disorder		x	

If all comments lie within the shaded areas, the proposal is sustainable