

SCARBOROUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28 SEPTEMBER 2011

INGHAM PLAY PARK, SLEIGHTS – COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION

1. Background

- 1.1 On 18 July 2011, Cllr Tim Lawn submitted a Councillor Call for Action Request (see form at Appendix A) in respect of the Council's support for a local community group, the Ingham Play Park Committee (IPPC), to deliver a new Play Park in Sleights. On 27 July, the Scrutiny Committee determined to add the Call for Action to its work programme.
- 1.2 The IPPC formed in 2007 with the aim of refurbishing the village play park, which had become run down and had suffered vandalism, for the benefit of the children and young people of Sleights (see article at Appendix B). Members of the IPPC worked hard to plan carefully every detail of the play park and to submit applications for both large and small grants to pay for the redevelopment. The Borough Council assumed the responsibility of accountable body and project manager for the project. During 2008 and 2009, the IPPC submitted a total of 15 applications to ten different funding bodies. In April 2010, the committee was awarded £100K by the Community Spaces Lottery programme. £36K was successfully obtained from the North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER programme. Further funding has come from Eskdaleside Cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council, the Northern Area Committee, the Mayoress' Community Fund and Cllr Herbert Tindall. The IPPC has also liaised with the local parish council and the Borough Council to negotiate the long term maintenance of the play park through a Service Level Agreement. The IPPC pay for the insurance of the facility and the parish council reimburses the Borough Council for the cost of annual and monthly safety inspections.
- 1.3 The Play Park finally opened in April 2011 and has been an undoubted success. Although the Borough Council has supported the scheme, which could not have gone ahead without its assistance, the IPPC has encountered many frustrations when dealing with the Council and continues to do so. Cllr Lawn therefore believes that there are many lessons the Council can learn from this project and a Call for Action will enable this debrief to take place. Matthew Smartt, Landscape Architect in Parks and Countryside Services who project managed the scheme has provided a bullet point summary of some of the issues which arose for him during the delivery of the project (Appendix C).
- 1.4 The review to be undertaken by the committee centres on trying to answer three main questions:

- What were the frustrations which the community group encountered when dealing with the Council?
- What are the weaknesses in the way the Council supports community groups to deliver such projects?
- What lessons can the Council learn from Ingham Play Park in order to improve the way it supports community groups?

2. Procedure

- (i) Cllr Lawn presents his case for the review
- (ii) Members of the Ingham Play Park Committee put their case as well
- (iii) Council officers are given an opportunity to respond
- (iv) The Committee questions Cllr Lawn, the members of the IPPC, and council officers and debates the issue
- (v) The Committee reaches its conclusions about the issue. There are three options open to the Committee:
 - Determine that there is no viable solution to the issue and choose not to make any report or recommendations
 - Determine that the issue is too complex for determination today, and that it requires further investigation
 - Make recommendations to be drafted in a report by the O&S Manager. The wording to be agreed in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee.

3. Witnesses

Ward councillor

Cllr Tim Lawn

Ingham Play Park Committee

Alyson Elder
Lisa Ward

Council officers

Matthew Smartt, Landscape Architect, Parks and Countryside Services

St John Harris
Overview and Scrutiny Manager