
REPORT FOR: CABINET

Date of Meeting: 12th July 2018

Subject: Green Gyms - Reference from Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Key Decision: No – information report

Responsible Officer: Paul Walker – Corporate Director – Community Directorate

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Varsha Parmar – Portfolio Holder for Environment

Exempt: No

Decision subject to Call-in: No – information report

Wards affected: All

Enclosures: None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report provides Members with feedback in respect of the motion carried at the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 11 December 2017 to install further Green Gyms in deprived areas.

Recommendations:

To note actions taken and the programme to meet the scrutiny recommendations.

Reason:

To consolidate the Recommendations from the 2016 review and 2017 monitoring and provide results of the implementation of the carried motion.

Section 2 – Report

In June 2016, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the issue of community involvement in parks. The main aims of the Review were to:-

- Examine the current levels of community involvement in Harrow's parks and benchmark against parks in neighbouring boroughs.
- Develop an understanding of what residents want from their local parks.
- Explore innovative practices in the delivery of park services by other councils and other initiatives demonstrating community involvement and volunteering in parks.
- Identify ways in which Harrow Council can best deliver 21st century parks for residents.
- Inform the development of Harrow's parks and open spaces strategy 2016-19.
- Develop the park users' forum so it is inclusive and representative of all park users across Harrow.
- Inform the progress of the Project Phoenix and the commercialisation strategy for parks.

The Committee made a number of recommendations which were responded to at the Performance & Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting of 15 September 2016 and the annual monitoring report at the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting on 11 December 2017. The specific item regarding Green Gyms is set out in Table A below.

Options considered

Options considered included the creation of green gyms at :

- Artisan Place - this option was discounted because Artisan Place does not have a public area suitable for placement of a green gym
- Whitefriars Open Space - this was discounted as this site does not have sufficient path access to site and facilitate a green gym.
- Weald Village - this option was selected and the consultation has been undertaken at Weald Village and a green gym is scheduled to be installed in July 2018.

Background

Table A below sets out the background to this report and shows officer Responses, actions, year 1 monitoring and response to Green Gym motion from the Overview and Scrutiny Group deriving from the review on community involvement in parks.

TABLE A

Recommendation

We note the success and popularity of the “Green Gyms” and these should be expanded as appropriate and as funding is available with a specific focus on parks in the most deprived wards, especially near family homes without gardens

Response

The key objective is to promote health amongst those with potential cardiovascular, diabetes, mobility or obesity issues and also to promote social cohesion between differing groups of people who share a common desire to increase their fitness levels.

The Council will explore opportunities to expand Green Gyms focusing on need and ensuring a range of activities to include cardio-vascular, core body mobility, upper & lower body strength. Where Park User Groups exist the location will be agreed after consultation with the group.

December 2017 Monitoring

We have now installed 25 Green Gyms in total with two more currently being installed and one further linked to the Avanti School development at Whitchurch Playing Fields. This will conclude the Green Gym programme in parks; any further installations will be linked to commercial developments where there are events in parks and funding generated that can be re-invested in supplying green gym infrastructure.

December 2017 Motion

A Member stated that figures showed that life expectancy in Wealdstone Ward was 10 years less than in Pinner Ward. He proposed that green gyms should be installed in other deprived areas such as Wealdstone and Queensbury and specifically in the Whitefriars Open Space, Weald Village and the open space by Artisan Place area. He suggested that these could be funded from the 15% of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) which would be received from new development. The motion was seconded and carried.

June 2018 Response to Motion

Wealdstone

Exploratory work has been undertaken at the three specific sites:-

- Artisan Place does not have a public area suitable for placement of a green gym
- Whitefriars Open Space does not have sufficient path access to site and facilitate a green gym
- Consultation has been undertaken at Weald Village and a green gym is scheduled to be installed in July 2018

Queensbury

All parks in Queensbury and Edgware Wards have green gyms installed.

Risk Management Implication

Risk included on Directorate risk register? Yes

Separate risk register in place? Yes - as part of the capital programme

N/A

Procurement Implications

N/A

Legal Implications

The Council has statutory powers to install recreational facilities, including gymnasia, in its parks.

Financial Implications

There is a budget allocation of £38k for Green Gym / Play Equipment in the 18/19 capital programme. The cost of installing a green gym at Weald Village can be met from within this capital budget.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

N/A

Council Priorities

The actions reported support the following aspects of the Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

- Making a difference for communities
- Making a difference for vulnerable people
- Making a difference for families

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: ...Jessie Mann.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date:2 July 2018.....		
Name: ...Matthew Adams.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date:4 July 2018.....		

Section 3 - Procurement Officer Clearance

Name: ...Nimesh Mehta.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head of Procurement
Date ...3 July 2018.....		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO - it impacts on all wards
EqIA carried out:	NO – this is an update report on action relating to the Green Gyms review.
EqIA cleared by:	N/A

Call-In Waived by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	NOT APPLICABLE (Call-in does not apply – information report)
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