

Report

Report subject: Allotments & Churchill Gardens Management Plans

Report to: City Area Committee (Community)

Date: Tuesday 25th March 2008

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1. Introduction:

- 1.1. The Committee will be aware that management plans for the future of the main parks and facilities in Salisbury are currently being drawn up.
- 1.2. Approval for this process was given under minute 191 (15/11/05) with a commencement date of April 2006.
- 1.3. In line with the original recommendation, an existing member of the Parks team was seconded to undertake the role with a part time back fill post appointed to cover. This has subsequently been superseded by a staffing re-structure within the Parks team which has allowed an alternative means of achieving the Committee's original wishes.

2. Background:

- 2.1. The management plans for Victoria Park, Queen Elizabeth Gardens and Hudson's Field were adopted by the Committee during 2007. Victoria Park has subsequently been the subject of a successful Heritage Lottery project planning grant application. All three sites also now have fully constituted, operating "Friends" groups who are meeting regularly to discuss the management plan outcomes.
- 2.2. The Allotments and Churchill Gardens draft plans were completed recently and distributed for further comments as follows:

Churchill Gardens:

- 2.2.1 Ward Councillors - 28th February
- 2.2.2 All City Area Committee members - 13th March
- 2.2.3 Salisbury Journal press release - 13th March
- 2.2.4 Publicly available at the Guildhall - 11th March
- 2.2.5 SDC website - 11th March

Allotments

- 2.2.6 Allotment Cllr Rep (Cllr J Walsh) - 14th February
- 2.2.7 All City Area Committee members - 20th February
- 2.2.8 Salisbury Allotment Association - 20th February
- 2.2.9 Salisbury Journal press release - 6th March
- 2.2.10 Publicly available at the Guildhall - 6th March
- 2.2.11 SDC website - 6th March



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- 2.3. Over 253 consultee forms were received from the public for Churchill Gardens and 251 from tenants for the Allotment plan, as well as a considerable amount of further information from a whole range of 3rd parties.
 - 2.4. As of writing the report, very little further comment has been received and nothing which questions or queries the fundamental content of the drafts.
3. Overview of Plan (Churchill Gardens):
 - 3.1. The draft plan is a large document running to just over 57 sides, along with a number of appendices.
 - 3.2. The work and resource plan on pages 56-57 collates all the various issues arising from the consultations etc and will form the basis for future reports and actions in determining the future shape of the field.
 - 3.3. It is intended that the plan will be a constantly evolving document, changing as actions and projects are agreed and implemented.
 - 3.4. Unlike all the other Management plans, the Churchill Gardens plan also forms part of one of the Salisbury Vision strategic projects (project 24). It is interesting to note that all of the detail issues identified for Churchill Gardens by Gillespies, the Salisbury Vision consultants, have been identified by residents and users consulted with as part of the Management plan process undertaken by the Parks section.
 4. Overview of Plan (Allotments):
 - 4.1. Again, the draft plan is a large document running to just over 54 sides, along with a number of appendices.
 - 4.2. The work and resource plan on page 53 collates all the various issues arising from the consultations etc and will form the basis for future reports and actions in determining the future shape of the facilities.
 - 4.3. Key to taking the allotment service forward will be close liaison with the Salisbury Allotment Association
 - 4.4. It is intended that the plan will be a constantly evolving document, changing as actions and projects are agreed and implemented.
 5. External Funding:
 - 5.1. Neither the Allotments nor Churchill Gardens qualify for Heritage Lottery Funding.
 - 5.2. It is possible, though not certain, that alternative external funding streams may be identified in due course.
 6. Finance:
 - 6.1. Virtually all the aspects highlighted in the work and resource plans for both plans are likely to need funding from the city special expense account.
 - 6.2. If so, then the committee will be required to fund up to an estimated £190,000 if all aspects of the work and resource plan are actioned at Churchill Gardens. This figure could rise significantly however if the patio area opposite the Salisbury College is fully re-vamped as is suggested.
 - 6.3. The sum required for the Allotment issues is more difficult to put an estimated cost to as there is a direct link to the fees charged. However, it would be prudent to consider a figure approaching around £80,000 if all aspects of the work and resource plan are implemented.
 - 6.4. In principle, these sums can be met from the committee's reserve account and in addition, it is highly likely that any expenditure will be spread over 2 years, commencing late 2008/09
 - 6.5. The committee should also be aware that upgrading Churchill Gardens in this way is likely to lead to a higher revenue requirement than is currently in place though this will be determined by future decisions taken and will not be required till at least 2009/10.
 - 6.6. There may also be a requirement for an increased revenue budget for the Allotment service though again this will be determined by future decisions taken. Any increase is, however, likely to be relatively small and again will not be required until 2009/10
 7. Recommendations:

It is recommended that

 - 7.1. The draft Churchill Gardens management plan be formally adopted
 - 7.2. The draft Allotments management plan be formally adopted
 8. Implications:

- 8.1. Financial: At this stage nil. However the committee should be aware of the potential financial requirements placed upon it in the future as outlined in the report
- 8.2. Legal: None at this stage
- 8.3. Personnel: As outlined in the report
- 8.4. Community Safety: None at this stage
- 8.5. Environmental: None at this stage
- 8.6. Human Rights: None at this stage
- 8.7. Ward(s) Affected: Virtually all within the City