

## Western Area Committee

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# REPORT

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## RELEASE OF “R2” FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN MERE FOR NEW RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

### Report Summary:

The purpose of the report is to seek Members’ approval to release developers’ contributions associated with new residential development in Mere and collected under the terms of policy R2 of the adopted Salisbury District Local Plan.

Committee approval for the release of funds is required for the proposed project because the amount sought exceeds the £5000 limit for monies to be released by officers under delegated powers.

### The proposal

Mere Parish Council have requested that the available contributions be used to pay for architect fees, a bowling green, a multi-use games area and refurbishment of changing rooms at the newly leased Recreation Ground extension site. Architect’s (Quartley Hodges Hood) have already completed a site survey, feasibility study, adaptations, formulation of specification and tendering exercise. A further report for funding will be presented at the February Western Area Committee for renewal of a cricket wicket. The parish council have leased part of the playing fields and the old changing rooms from the Duchy Secondary School in Mere. The works will involve constructing a bowling green, installing a multi-use games area on a redundant tennis court and refurbishing the existing school changing rooms. Also being constructed on-site is a dual-purpose pavilion, which will be positioned between the cricket pitch and bowling green. The pavilion is being paid for by a grant from the Salisbury District Council Central Capital Program and does not affect this application for R2 funding.

At least three quotes were obtained for each part of this project and the preferred suppliers of the parish council are:

Provision of bowling green – A. Bailey & Sons at a cost of £65,386.00.

Refurbishment of changing rooms – P.F.Parsons Ltd at a cost of £53,930.89.

Provision of multi-use games area - A. Bailey & Sons at a cost of £20,646.68.

Architect fees – Quartley Hodges Hood at a cost of £4312.00.

These were the lowest quotations given by contractors tendering for the various parts of this project. After studying the quotes provided, we concur with the parish council’s choice of contractors.

It is considered that the proposed scheme is an appropriate use of 'R2' contributions. In accordance with policy R2 it will provide outdoor recreation facilities that are publicly available for use by children, teenagers and adults. The parish council has designed these facilities with all age ranges in mind.

### **R2 funds available**

Financial contributions have been received from a number of separate residential developments in the parish. There is approximately £149,183.89 (plus accrued interest) of children and youth adult money available for expenditure on appropriate off-site recreation facilities because the relevant developments have started.

The total cost to purchase and install the equipment (including payment of architect fees) is £144,275.57. The parish council has requested that the available R2 monies be released for this scheme.

### **Recommendation**

**It is recommended that £144,275.57 of the 'R2' contributions be released by this Council to assist the funding of the recreation scheme outlined above, and that the release of the monies be made following receipt of invoices for the works undertaken.**

### **Background Papers:**

Salisbury District Local Plan Adopted June 2003 Policy R2.

### **Implications:**

**Legal:** None.

**Financial:** There are no budgetary considerations for the Council as the works will be 100% financed from Developer Contributions.

**Personnel:** None.

**Environmental:** None.

**Human Rights:** None at this stage.

**Council's Core values:** Excellent Service; Fairness and Equality; open, learning Council and a willing partner; Communicating with the public; Supporting the disadvantaged.

**Consultation Undertaken:** This proposal is being put forward by the Parish Council.

**Parish Affected:** Mere Parish Council.