

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – CALLENDAR
PARK NATURAL PLAY PROJECT**
Meeting: FALKIRK COMMON GOOD SUB COMMITTEE
Date: 31 March 2016
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & HOUSING SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An application has been received from Falkirk Community Trust for funding towards the development of a trail within Callendar Park which leads into the wider park featuring natural play and adult exercises. The features would provide opportunities for families to walk together and play and exercise at the same time.
- 1.2 The development of the natural play trail follows consultation with the community and Local Members on a management plan for Callendar Park looking at changes over the next five years that will encourage more people to use the park more often.
- 1.3 The project to improve the Park facilities is split into two areas; the natural play trail and the replacement of existing play equipment. This application covers the development of the natural play trail. The revamp of the existing designated play area (Castle Callendar) is not covered by this application. The Trust has already secured £12,000 from the Bags of Help Scheme run by Tesco after winning a public vote, which will be used to update and install new play equipment in this area. This will be redesigned to suit young children who require high levels of parental supervision.

2. NATURAL PLAY TRAIL

- 2.1 The application to the Common Good Fund covers the development of the adventurous, natural play trail, extending the age range for play and encourage families to take healthy exercise together .
- 2.2 It is proposed that the new play trail will incorporate improved surfacing, benches, way marking, interpretation, and approximately eight new interventions in the landscape designed to encourage a range of play opportunities. Natural adventure develops physical strength, balance, co-ordination, problem solving skills and confidence. Encouraging families to walk the trail together also helps family social groups to become stronger. The “equipment” is designed to be used flexibly for a range of needs and by a wide age spread. For example a wooden beam can be used for a toddler to build balance skills and also by an adult to develop core strength and add variety to a running route. It is anticipated that the area will be fully integrated and children with additional needs can play alongside other children.

- 2.3 Callendar Park is centrally located and directly services the community within the high density housing surrounding the park. The improved play area will encourage more young families and local residents to use the park as a social meeting point, strengthening their communities and build supportive networks.

3. PROJECT COSTS AND FUNDING

- 3.1 The cost of the whole project is in the region of £70,000, with circa £40,000 for the natural play trail. Funding of £30,000 has already been approved by Falkirk Environmental Trust towards the natural play trail. One condition for this funding is that £3,000 is also received from an external source. This application is being made to the Common Good Fund for £3,000 to “unlock” the FET contribution.
- 3.2 The Community Trust is contributing to the project through staff time in terms of project development, management and delivery. In addition they will be engaging with local school children through the “Magical Woodlands Project” which involves a programme of activities and consultation on the exact design of play and exercise features.
- 3.3 The improvement to the existing designated play area will be funded using the £12,000 received from Tesco. In addition an application has been made to the Robert Barr Charitable Trust for £30,000, which will be used for both the natural play trail and new equipment in the designated play area.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The balance of the Falkirk Common Good Fund is currently £705,000 after commitments still to be paid for Dollar Park Tennis Courts, Camelon War Memorial, Falkirk War Memorial and Falkirk Steeple Restorations. This sum includes interest and rentals for the financial year 2015/16.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 That Members consider awarding £3,000 from the Falkirk Common Good Fund towards the development of a natural play trail in Callendar Park.

Director of Corporate & Housing Services

Date: 23 March

Contact Officer: Hilary MacArthur (01324 506354)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. The application received 26/02/16 from Pauline Barnaby, Team Leader Fundraising, Falkirk Community Trust.