

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education, Culture and Sport
DATE	28 March 2013
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
TITLE OF REPORT	Adventure Aberdeen – The Fairley Road Field
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/13/017

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides an update on proposals to renovate and create a adventure park on the field on Fairley Rd adjacent to Adventure Aberdeen.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a. Note the progress of this project.
- b. Instruct officers to develop a detailed costed proposal and report back to a future committee.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

At the current time there are no financial implications in relation to this report. It is anticipated that if the proposal progresses, the costs of development will be sourced from outwith the council. A future business case would consider how the costs of maintenance, upkeep and insurance could be met from additional income generated from the field

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications known at this time. It is anticipated this development will significantly contribute to the council's obligation to provide play and recreation space within the community contributing to healthy life styles.

5. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

Background and Context:

The Fairley Road Field is an informal playing pitch area, adjoining the Adventure Aberdeen base in Kingswells. The field has been out of use for many years mostly due to increasing drainage problems. The field for the most part is waterlogged to the point of being unusable. In recent years members of the community council have tried to bring the field back into use but plans have failed to materialise due to a variety of reasons.

Adventure Aberdeen, the Council's Service that leads on outdoor learning and outdoor education moved to the Fairley Road site in April 2010. The Service has recently successfully turned the small area immediately adjoining the building into an "Adventure Zone" for use by visiting groups of service users. This development used donated and reclaimed materials to create the Adventure Zone, incorporating a bike track, team challenge course, early years area, climbing wall and two small ponds. Ten different activities can take place within the Adventure Zone, each with a different set experiences and outcomes.

Adventure Aberdeen has identified potential for the use of the field, expanding the opportunities provided through the Adventure Zone, for the local community and Adventure Aberdeen client groups. Adventure Aberdeen has commenced discussions with the local community about potentially renovating the field into an adventure park that would be used by the community and Adventure Aberdeen.

It is intended to use a similar approach, and build on the Adventure Zone experience when planning for the development of the Fairley Road Field site.

Consultation

Consultation to date has been via a visioning group consisting of local elected members, the community council, the local voluntary youth organisations, representatives from the schools including students from Bucksburn Academy and local residents / interested bodies and the local village hall committee. This group has been facilitated by the Adventure Aberdeen Team Leader. Ideas and possible uses for the field were gathered from this group at an open meeting to the community, on 7 November 2012.

In addition to this piece of consultation the Adventure Aberdeen Team Leader visited Kingswells Primary School on 10 January 2013 and spoke to all the pupils in two assembly groups asking them to take part in a design competition for the field. 30 "winning" designs were selected from this process, and the successful pupils will come to Adventure Aberdeen on 27 March to develop their ideas further.

A senior/secondary age consultation event is being planned by two senior Bucksburn Academy pupils. This is to take place on 26 March 2013 at Adventure Aberdeen to canvas views, and supplement the other engagement exercises.

A key part of any project associated with the use of the field would be to continue meaningful engagement with representatives of the local community

Proposed Usage of Space

The aim is to create a space with a wide variety of facilities for a wide range of users including play equipment, activity facilities, open play space, trees, landscaping, trails and themed area for different age groups. The space will have costs allocated to upkeep and maintenance. There is no plan to restrict use at any time to any community members. Adventure Aberdeen are interested to explore ways to use part of the field's new facilities to attract the use of corporate development and leadership courses combining the indoor Adventure Aberdeen briefing rooms and facilities. It is envisaged that this will cover the costs associated with upkeep. A full business case will be created in due course.

It is also Adventure Aberdeen's intention to use the field during the school day with visiting school groups of all ages to expand its outdoor learning and outdoor education and early years play programmes.

6 Key Milestones in Project Plan

The following milestones indicate possible timescale.

Finalise consultation programme and draw up draft plans / costs	By end May 2013
Fundraising project team identified	End June 2013
Funds secured and contractor bids invited	Dec 2013
The project may happen in phased developments	
Project start on the ground	Spring 2014
Project complete	Summer 2014

7. IMPACT

Kingswells is presently undergoing a number of residential and industrial developments that are significantly changing the shape and nature of the community. Specifically the area local to Fairley Rd and Adventure Aberdeen is influenced by a development on the Old Main Road, a development at West 1, and an imminent development at Huxterstone East, directly East of Fairley Rd. The Prime Four development will have other significant impacts on the local area.

In view of these developments it is crucial that areas are reserved for play and activity. This project will provide such a space for a wide variety of groups and individuals. Play, and specifically adventurous free play, is increasingly being encouraged to develop young peoples' understanding of the benefits of energetic outdoor activity and how this can be used to develop creativity, risk awareness and avoidance and many other benefits associated to health and adventurous play and activity.

Play and activity spaces of this type are currently undergoing revolutionary thinking in terms of materials, design, innovation and opportunity. A showcase design is envisaged to demonstrate Aberdeen's commitment to create play and activity spaces that reflect modern trends and innovations.

Adventure Aberdeen would intend to use the area to further develop its activity programmes for Aberdeen City schools. One of the service's current growth areas is the visiting primary class for a day of multi activity. This work provides real opportunities and outcomes as required by the Curriculum for Excellence. A development of this nature would not only provide a first class resource for working with young people but it would also showcase how schools could develop their own area or use local woods and parks to enrich the curriculum

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are no specific background papers relevant to this report

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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