

Education, Culture & Sport Committee – 15 April 2010

Notice of Motion from Councillor Gordon Graham

“That this Council works with the youths of Middlefield to develop proposals to floodlight the football pitch at Manor Walk”

Officer Response

Background/ existing considerations:-

- The Middlefield Youth Flat is operated by the Middlefield Community Project, and funded in large part by the Fairer Scotland Fund. The City Council does not have any direct management or staffing involvement with either organisation, although the City Council does provide funding, through a Service Level Agreement with the Middlefield Community Project, to provide a range of services including youth engagement.
- The football pitch is located within an area adjacent to Manor Walk that is currently zoned for future residential development with the Aberdeen Local Development Plan Main Issues Report. The reason given is that:

‘This site lies to the west of land at the Haudagain Roundabout and would provide opportunities for housing replacement following the delivery of proposed junction improvements. The proposal is further linked to the Local Development Plan ‘Logie/ Haudagain’ Information sheet which also suggests this 1.74 Ha of Urban Greenspace be replaced within its boundary.’

- There is currently no budget identified to improve sports areas or provide floodlighting within the Middlefield neighbourhood.
- The new Manor Park 3Rs Primary School is currently being built close to Manor Walk, and is scheduled to open later this year. Within the new school there is an all weather pitch to be provided, though there is currently no floodlighting planned for this facility.
- A proposal to develop a floodlit multi-use games area within the Northfield Ward, which had been awarded Fairer Scotland Funding, recently failed, due to difficulties in attracting the necessary match-funding to bring this to fruition.

Consulting Middlefield Residents (including youth population):-

- Over the last year, a team of City Council Officers have been undertaking a city-wide Open Space Audit, including consultation on the development of a Strategy for the management, enhancement and development of open space provision. It is intended that this Strategy should be completed by the end of 2010, however it is quite clear that within the Northfield Ward, in which Middlefield is located, there are very limited facilities for formal and informal sports.
- Middlefield Community Project and the youth flat receive Aberdeen City Council funding to develop the skills and capacity of local people, including young people, and it would be appropriate to ask them to support young people to identify local needs and apply for funding for this purpose.

- During 2010, a member of the Neighbourhood Community Planning Team will be working to support Aberdeen Greenspace and Healthy Roots to develop a Landscape and Open Space Plan for the open space area between Heathryfold and Middlefield. As part of this work, consultation with residents and stakeholders will be undertaken, in order to seek their views on future open space provision and facilities in this specific area.
- In light of the zoning for future housing development, it is proposed that Officers could explore options and associated costings for interim measures for lighting the football pitch.