



# Northumberland

## County Council

COMMITTEE: TYNEDALE LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

DATE: 15 JANUARY 2019

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### **Petition requesting that a new all weather footpath be provided around the outside of the football pitches at Eastwood Park, West Wylam**

Report of the Executive Director of Place, Paul Johnston

Cabinet Member: Councillor Glen Sanderson, Environment and Local Services

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#### **Purpose of report**

To acknowledge the recently received petition and seek the views of the Local Area Council on the request of the petitioner.

#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that members consider the report and make officers aware of their views on the petitioners request so that this can help inform, along with other consultation and stakeholder feedback, the Council's decision as to whether to support (subject to the availability of resources) the construction of a proposed new all weather footpath at Eastwood Park.

#### **Link to Corporate Plan**

This report is relevant to the "We want you to love where you live" priority included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2018-2021.

#### **1. Key issues**

1.1 Eastwood Park is a valuable local green space owned and managed by the county council in the east of Prudhoe. It comprises football pitches, a changing pavilion (which is currently being improved and extended), a car park and a new children's play area, as well as tennis courts and a currently unused bowls pavilion that is about to be improved and brought back into community use by the Friends of Eastwood Park.

1.2 The proposed path would be in excess of 500m in length in order to provide a circular route that follows the full perimeter of the park.

1.3 To date no consultation has been undertaken with other park users to gain their views on the proposal.

1.4 The project has not been fully costed but recent projects of a similar nature suggest a scale of cost of approximately £100,000 to construct a new 500m long path and to improve the existing 180m long path to a width of 2.2m wide, to provide a path suitable for walking and running. No cost has yet been estimated for lighting of the path.

## **2. Background**

2.1 An e-petition was received in October 2018 from Ms Holly Kelleher. The petition seeks support for the construction of a new footpath around the football pitches at the park. The wording of the petition request was:

*'Prudhoe Plodders Running Club have just started a junior club, the only children's running club in Prudhoe, and use the park to train.*

*The park is heavily used by families and dog walkers, however there is only a partial path running along two sides of the park. We would like a lit footpath running along the perimeter of the park to allow people to continue to use the park in the early evening winter months. It is hoped this could double up as a running track to allow the running club to expand and be able to take more children as Prudhoe Plodders has been unable to secure a lit place to train over the winter.*

*There has also been evidence of antisocial behaviour in the park, increasing in the winter months such as dog fouling on the football pitches, littering, evidence of alcohol and drug misuse. By providing a few extra hours of light, it is hoped this will reduce.'*

2.2 When the petition closed on 10 December it was supported by 274 signatories.

2.3 The council has not yet fully assessed the likely cost of the project but estimates that the cost of the path alone would be not less than £100,000.

2.4 Currently no county council resource has been identified for investment of this nature or scale at Eastwood Park.

2.5 The Council's medium term financial plan includes a capital allocation of £150,000 for park improvement projects across the county in 2019-20 for which proposals have already been developed. A similar allocation was been agreed for 2020-21 for which proposals have yet to be determined, however wherever possible other sources of match funding should be sought by project sponsors.

2.6 Over recent years the council has made a significant investment at Eastwood park and is continuing to invest in the current year. In 2017 over £80,000 was invested in the provision of a new children's play area (in partnership with the Town Council) and since then further improvements to the tennis courts have been undertaken. In the current year funding of £20,000 has been made available to

undertake improvements to the old bowls pavilion to make it available for community use. In addition an investment of in excess of £600,000 is being made in improvements to the car park and changing pavilion at Eastwood Park, and the development of new football pitches on the nearby former Eastwood School site.

### **Implications**

<b>Policy</b>	None at this stage
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	None at this stage
<b>Legal</b>	None
<b>Procurement</b>	None
<b>Human Resources</b>	None
<b>Property</b>	NCC owns the park.
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	None
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	None
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	The petitioner considers that improving the path and lighting would assist in reducing the risk of anti-social behaviour at the park during winter nights.
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	The report is in response to a local petition raised through the council's e-petitions web page.
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	None
<b>Wards</b>	Prudhoe South

### **Background papers:**

None

**Report sign off.**

	initials
Monitoring Officer/Legal	N/A
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	N/A
Relevant Executive Director	PJ
Chief Executive	N/A
Portfolio Holder(s)	GS

**Author and Contact Details**

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Eastwood Park - Possible Path Improvement

