

KILKERRAN PARK – MEMORIAL GARDEN

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to assess the use of the former Kilkerran play area site and consider a proposed use from the local community.
- 1.2 Following the development of the new play area located at Hall Street/Kilkerran Road, replacing the Kilkerran play area site. Members will be aware of the improved play area developed, and the void this leaves at the site of the old play area.
- 1.3 There have been requests within the community to create a memorial garden/picnic area at the location of the previous Kilkerran play area. This would allow for families to donate memorial benches in memory of loved ones and allow for a location for the gathering of thoughts..

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That members consider the content of this report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The community in conjunction with the Council raised sufficient funds and through a successful tender process have provided a new play area at the Hall Street/Kilkerran Road location within the town of Campbeltown. This new play area facility replaces the aged facility at the previous Kilkerran site. The new play area has been created and is now in use.
- 3.2 The Kilkerran site is now an open space amenity area, which Amenity Services are obliged to continue with the grassland maintenance regime. Throughout the area, there are a number of concrete bases where the previous play equipment was sited. The site also contains a number of litter bins.
- 3.3 Currently there are a number of memorial benches sited throughout the town of Campbeltown, with the proposed CHORD project affecting these benches. These benches are purchased by families, who also contribute towards the installation costs.
- 3.4 The ground at the site of the old Kilkerran play area is contaminated land and a previous examination carried out, stated that the risks were low. It would be the intention to use the existing foundations and not to disturb the surface in carrying out any future installation of street furniture. Amenity Services would have a further examination of the ground carried out to ensure suitability.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 In the event of the memorial garden being approved, the proposed maintenance for the benches will be addressed within a new policy which is currently being compiled. The costs of purchasing the bench and installation will be met by the applicant.
- 4.2 On approval, full consultation would be required with families of individuals named on the existing memorial plaques, where it is possible to make contact. There would also be full consultation with the CHORD board, ensuring a balance in the siting of street furniture throughout the town, this joined up approach is essential to offer families who wish to provide donated benches in the future, the options of various locations throughout the town.
- 4.3 On-going maintenance relating to grassland, hard standing, litter bin maintenance and the current stock of memorial benches are tasks currently being carried out by Amenity Services and listed within our assets.

5. IMPLICATIONS

POLICY:	A policy for memorial benches is required to deal with the maintenance and replacement.
FINANCIAL:	None, in respect of maintenance and installation of benches. All installation costs would be recovered.
PERSONNEL:	None
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:	None
LEGAL:	None

Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services – 3rd July 2013

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