

## Park Play

1. To receive a report on ParkPlay - a group looking to organise weekly free park games sessions in Northstowe.
2. To decide whether to approve NTC working with ParkPlay and committing to up to £11,000 funding of this project over a period of 3 years.
3. To decide on using S106 Community Endowment Fund to fund this, contingent on Homes England agreement to this being a suitable use of these funds.

Motion from: Cllr Owen

### Background information

ParkPlay is a non-profit organisation which brings activities and sports to parks across the UK. Starting in 2018 with support from Sport England and National Lottery funding, it is currently operating play sessions weekly in 33 parks across the UK. They train paid "Play Leaders" and volunteers from the local community to run park games sessions weekly for children and adults who attend, and provide equipment for use in the sessions. In this way, they facilitate sessions to be run every Saturday morning throughout the year, free to participate in for the whole community.

Park Play itself has funding in place for 18 months - 2 years, with further legacy funding being sought for it to continue past this point. As part of their remit, they help publicise events and work with the play leaders to coordinate and run sessions.

Please see attached slides from their presentation and email detailing required engagement from NTC to bring this forward.

For them to operate in Northstowe, they would need the following:

- Assistance from the Town Council / community in securing a location to use for the sessions - in the Phase 1 Open Spaces Steering Group meeting on 12th May, Greenbelt agreed to Western Park being used for this. Over time, other locations (E.g. Northstowe Secondary College fields) may be used depending on use of facilities by organised sports groups.
- Publicity and assistance in finding and recruiting a suitable "Play Leader" from the community.
- Assistance in funding for the "Play Leader" to run sessions.

From the point of agreement, Park Play estimate that sessions would start after 10-12 weeks. If agreed here, that would mean August 2022.

### Financial details

Model for financial engagement is as follows:

Setup costs: £2,000 for training, background and DBS checks of Play leader and provision of equipment. This cost is covered by Park Play themselves, with support from Sport England and National Lottery grants.

Ongoing cost: £5,000 per year for payment of the Play Leader (4-6 hours per week to run the session plus admin).

Year 1:

£2,000 setup funding from Park Play - covers training, equipment, insurance and safeguarding.  
£2,500 contribution from Living Sport (+ staff support setting it up).

£1,500 from SCDC.

This leaves £1,000 outstanding to complete funding in Year 1.

Years 2-3: £5,000 each year required for continued operation - can apply for grants (e.g. Community Chest fund) to cover some of this.

Total cost over 3 years to NTC (if no other funding source found): £11,000.

Options for funding from NTC:

1. Phase 2 S106 Community Endowment Fund (pending agreement from Homes England to use this fund for this purpose)
2. Grant applications (Community Chest, other grants from Sport England / Living Sport).
3. General reserves / precept.
4. Partnership with Longstanton Parish Council to help fund (pending motion at their next full council meeting) - the location at Western park is as accessible for Longstanton residents as for Northstowe.

I propose that we engage with this as a 3 year project, to be reviewed in late 2024 to decide whether to continue. The funding to be committed over this time would support this running from Summer 2022 - Summer 2025, giving us plenty of evidence as to whether it is worth investing in long term for our community.