

Applications for WAC Neighbourhood Capital Investment Programme

Application No.1 (Internal): Usworth Park Plan
(Lead: SCC Community Resilience Service)

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total NCIP requested
£9,000	Nil	£9,000
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
12 months	January 2021	December 2021

The Project

The Washington Area Committee has supported and invested in Usworth Park and has invested £55,000 in producing the Usworth Park Development Plan - £30,000 of that funding is has been awarded to SCC community Resilience to achieve some of the quick wins and small scale improvements identified in the Plan. A detailed report with regards to progress and refurbishment was provided to the last Neighbourhood and Community Board.

In addition to the improvements implemented, Washington North Councillors hav also supported the initial security requirements from their Washington Improvement Project and SCC has recently agreed to cover the costs of 1 year Security contract, which is due to end January 2021.

The Development Plan always envisaged a Friends Group would be established in order to help with the locking and unlocking of the gates and that group of volunteers would be supported by the Community Resilience Service and the VCS Support Project (WAC funded) to grow and take on further responsibilities to develop Usworth Park as a community park. Pre Covid 19 and lockdown, some progress was made with community meetings and members of the local community were coming forward asking to be involved. Events were held in the park, some small-scale refurbishment was carried out, some additional planting and landscaping, and plans were determined to improve the tennis courts.

Unfortunately since then the park has been subjected to constant vandalism and numerous ASB incidents. Security has had to be increased in an effort to discourage this. Another WAC funded project, the Washington Outreach Project has the park as a key hotspot and visits on multiple occasions to speak to and move on young people as appropriate. However vandalism continues and a security response is required to continue to tackle this. Tackling the ASB/vandalism is required before we can encourage community involvement. It is clearly disheartening for that community to see and support the work to deliver the Develop Plan, to then see that work undone by a minority.

The cost of the current security offer is approximately £744 per month (based on 62 visits (lock and unlock each day) at £12/visit. Total for year £8928.

Area Committee is requested to approve £9,000 Neighbourhood Capital Investment funding to be added to the 'Delivering the Usworth Park Development Plan' budget to confirm security arrangements for another 12months, commencing January 2021.

Officer recommendation: Approve

Application No.2 (Internal): Washington Tree Management
(Lead: SCC Environmental Services)

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total NCIP requested
£28,800	Nil	£28,800
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
6 months	January 2021	June 2021

The Project

WAC approved £30,000 for a Tree Management Pilot in Washington South - Mallard Close and the Turnstone Plantation. Airedale Forestry were procured and are carrying out work on the plantation to the rear of Mallard close, Blackcap Close and Stonechat close. The team are receiving positive comments from the residents.

The Neighbourhood and Community Board agreed to recommend further programmes included in the original survey be considered. Environmental Services have received the following quotes (SCC Procurement Framework):

Kirkham Plantation, Washington Central.

Fell a 4meter clearance of trees to the rear of houses in Kirkham and a 3 meter clearance from Parkway, thin out plantation of all dead, diseased, dying and self-seeded trees, crown lift remaining trees.

The majority of this work is dismantling trees over the houses which are in Kirkham or over the footpaths and the main road, Traffic Management costs are included. All branches to be chipped and Chippings left on site

Quote is £12,800.00

Shepard Way Plantation, Washington East.

Clear fence line to the south west side of allotments (C2C footpath), the remaining perimeter of allotment site clear approximately 4 meters from fence line including the removal of all dead, fallen/hung-up trees, diseased and dying trees.

The majority of this work requires dismantling trees over the allotments as they are woodland boundary trees which have grown searching for light. There is no way of pulling the majority of them back into the woodland as it's far too dense for semi- mature/mature trees to pass through the woodland canopy without causing major damage to the remaining trees. All branches to be chipped and Chippings left on site.

Quote is £16,000.00

For both the above jobs SCC to confirm status of any TPO's, conservation areas or felling license requirements.

Both quotes are considerably less than those provided in the original survey.

Area Committee is requested to approve £28,800 Neighbourhood Capital Investment funding to SCC Environmental Services to deliver the remaining activity included in the Tree Management Survey.

Officer Recommendation: Approve

Application No.3 (Internal): Encampment Mitigation Measures
(Lead: SCC Neighbourhoods Directorate)

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total NCIP requested
£62,000	Nil	£62,000
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
12 months	January 2021	December 2021

The Project

SCC Officers provided an update to the September Area Committee with regards to the City's Unauthorised Encampments Policy and site activity in 2020 and the associated financial and service impact. Area Committees were requested to review the sites in their area that have been used in the past 3 years and consider any mitigation measures on sites in their area from Area Committee budgets.

Following further discussion at the November Neighbourhood & Community Board, Washington Area Committee is requested to consider approving funding to mitigate as follows:

Location	Suitability of Site	Regularity of Use	Potential actions	Indicative costs
James Steel Park	Low – site is used regularly by local community and is highly visible to all passers-by. Safe as not near busy roads	High	7 Barriers to car parks	£32,775
Bonemill Roundabout (*see Rickleton / Harraton Park below)	Not suitable, encampment on grass verge alongside road, roundabout and visible to passers-by.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape scheme formation of mounds introduction of trees and spring bulbs, wildflowers 'birds mouth' fencing 	£11,500
Rickleton / Harraton Park	Low – site is used regularly by local community and is highly visible to all passers-by. Safe as not near busy roads	High	Proposal as above for Bonemill Lane. Option for birds mouth fence and vehicular barrier to manage access via Village Centre	£1,725
Staithes Road Car Park, Washington	Low – site is used regularly by local community and is highly visible to all passers-by. Safe as not near busy roads	High	Barrier to car park / trench and bund to adj highway verge	£4,600
Shepherds Way Washington	Low – site is used regularly by local community and is highly visible to all passers-by. May be unsafe depending on exact location used due to road	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barrier to car park entrance Post and wire fence to car park perimeter 	£5,750
	Repair & Maintenance			£5,650
				£62,000

If approved Officers will provide programme details re implementation to the Neighbourhood & Community Board

Area Committee is requested to approve £62,000 Neighbourhood Capital Investment funding to SCC Neighbourhoods Directorate to deliver mitigation measures as detailed above

Officer Recommendation: Approve