

## **APPENDIX 4 – Update on Action Taken and due to be taken to Implement Recommendation Three**

**Recommendation 3: the Council look to maximise the benefits of parks and green spaces in Redditch by introducing more informal games areas and additional equipment to help increase sporting participation and physical activity in the local area**

### ***Installation of Table Tennis Tables:***

Following the previous update provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee there were a number of delays with regard to this scheme due to the suppliers' lead in times for delivery being extended. Unfortunately this led to the tables being installed across a period of two weeks rather than as planned in one day but more significantly all the tables were finally fitted by the week commencing 9th September 2013.

The net effect of these supplier issues is that one table each was fitted at Morton Stanley Park and Arrow Valley Park at the back end of the summer holiday and then the remaining tables were fitted as detailed above. Officers have written to the supplier to express their concerns and await a response.

At present the circular table remains outstanding following a communication issue within Leisure and Cultural Services. Officers have reviewed this situation and will ensure for the Easter Holidays in 2014 that this table is installed and operational.

Should the provision of tables prove to be successful and should suitable funding streams become available Officers will look, with the Portfolio Holder, at the possibility of rolling in more tables at suitable locations.

### ***Installation of Badminton/Volley Ball Courts:***

The provision of Volley Ball courts has not been progressed at this stage. It was placed on hold until the success of the sports grids was understood as there was an option to include the volley ball layout within the sports grids.

However following discussions with the team it has been agreed that the areas do need to be separated as originally suggested and that we should trial one set of Volley Ball posts at both Arrow Valley and Morton Stanley Parks given their prime locations and high level of usage.

The posts and line markings will be installed within the 2013/14 financial year and be available for use as from April 2014.

### ***Installation of Softball/Rounders Diamonds:***

Following a review of this concept and the implications with its introduction it was decided that the Rounders/Softball lay outs could be included with the sports grids that were being established and thus avoid additional costs whilst achieving the same objective for the schemes.

Interpretation signage is currently under review for the sports grids and this activity will form part for the indicative sports and games that can be played with the grids.

***Installation of Giant Chess/Draughts' Boards:***

Due to the need to install this element of the scheme in a controlled environment or staffed provision this element of the project has unfortunately had to be shelved as a suitable location and agreement could not be reached.

With the Committee's approval Officers would wish to change the emphasis of this section of the project and introduce up to four (dependent upon final costings) individual chess/draughts tables based on the Central Park concept in New York. At this stage locations have not been reviewed but Officers would suggest that we use large areas with higher footfalls in order to maximise usage.

Should Members be comfortable with this approach, this can be discussed with the Portfolio Holder and implementation could be completed by the end of the financial year.

***Sports Grids/Multi-Use Games Zones:***

These grids were marked out in the early period of the summer holiday as a trial to see what sizes and shapes were the most appealing to people. Unfortunately due to capacity issues Officers did not review these areas as much as could have been wished. However based on the anecdotal evidence provided through internal reviews and conversations and discussions with colleagues Officers have come to the conclusion that these sports grids need to be a minimum of 60m by 40m in order to allow more than one game to be played at any one time (potentially more). The grids need to be marked every 10 metres and have no markings other than the grid lines. Interpretation signage to support and demonstrate what they can be used for is essential as they can appear slightly confusing.

Based on the above learning, and Officers' experience of play pitch markings, these grids will be rolled out in a limited number of areas (based on size requirements) and monitored to see if further roll out would be beneficial. This will include the signage that was discussed with Members at a previous meeting of the Committee as this is key to the project's success.

These works will be undertaken prior to the Easter Holidays 2014 to ensure as much usage as possible within the summer season.

As part of this project, and to accompany and enhance the actions agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group, officers have also developed additional schemes to ensure the objectives outlined in the original recommendations are delivered, these include:

**a) *Disc Golf:***

Members received a full update on disc golf at the previous meeting when this matter was considered in July 2013. However, based on feedback from users we are implementing some improvement to the course to increase its usability and ensure the concept is better explained to those not familiar with this activity.

Additional works include increased signage, course markings and revising ground maintenance work to support the course within the wider park. These will be undertaken and completed by the end of November 2013.

As part of this work we will also create links from the Council's website to the suppliers' website to allow the down loading of score cards and course information.

**b) *Orienteering:***

The team have progressed this matter and are in the process of finalising two courses based on a family and young children beginners' course and a more detailed and difficult course for more advanced participants.

Once the final course designs are agreed they will be reviewed with the local Orienteering Club and implemented by the final quarter of 2013/14.

These courses will then be supported by an online marketing campaign and suitable onsite signage as well as through the local club and national governing body to increase Redditch's exposure at a regional level.