

Crewe Town Council

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CREWE
TOWN COUNCIL

11th July 2023

To: Members of the Operations and Improvements Committee

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the **Operations and Improvements Committee** to be held at **6:00pm on Tuesday 18th July 2023**. The meeting will be held at the **Crewe Town Council offices, 1 Chantry Court, Crewe, CW1 2DL**.

In the interests of maintaining safety, adherence to guidance and to facilitate appropriate public access, the meeting will be recorded and shared on the Crewe Town Council youtube.com channel.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Turner
Town Clerk
Crewe Town Council

Agenda

- 1** To elect a Chair of the Operations and Improvements Committee.
- 2** To elect a Vice Chair of the Operations and Improvements Committee.
- 3** To receive apologies for absence
- 4** To note declarations of Members' interests
- 5** To confirm and sign the minutes of the Operations and Improvements Committee meeting held on the 7th March 2023 (**attached**).
- 6** Public Participation

A period not exceeding 15 minutes for members of the public to ask questions or submit comments in relation to the published agenda items. Any member of the public wishing to participate should email support@crewetowncouncil.gov.uk by 4.00 p.m. on the day of the meeting, providing their name, email address and an indication of the subject of their question

or comment. Alternatively, your comments or questions can be submitted in advance and read to the committee at the meeting by the clerk.

Attendance at the meeting in person is permitted, but space is limited. Please feel free to contact the office to discuss this in more detail if you would like to.

- 7 To note the year-to-date financial position for the Operations and Improvements Committee **(attached)**
- 8 To receive an update and consider matters related to the Heritage Delivery Plan for 2023/24 **(attached)**
- 9 To consider matters related to the Regeneration Delivery Plan for 2023/24 **(attached)**
- 10 Member Item: To consider matters related to adoption of devolved services **(attached)**
- 11 To consider matters related to Parks and Play areas- Frank Webb Avenue and further play area investment. **(attached)**
- 12 To consider matters related to allotments **(attached)**.
- 13 To consider matters related to the Business Improvement District project. **(attached)**
- 14 To consider and inform the draft budget for 24/25 **(attached)**
- 15 To note the proposed date of the next meeting: **Tuesday 3rd October at 6pm.**

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CREWE
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Operations and Improvements Committee Meeting 7th March 2023

Agenda

Present:

Cllr Clark, Cllr Palin, Cllr Straine -Francis, Cllr Coiley, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Walton, Cllr Cosby
Regeneration Manager, Heritage Manager.

O&I/1 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from: Cllr Messent and Cllr Wye.

O&I/2 To note declarations of Members' interests.

No interests were declared.

O&I/3 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Operations and Improvements Committee meeting held on **31st January 2023**

The minutes were duly signed.

O&I/4 Public Participation

A period not exceeding 15 minutes for members of the public to ask questions or submit comments.

No questions were received.

O&I/5 To note the year-to-date financial position for the Operations and Improvements Committee. The Year- to date position was **noted**.

O&I/6 To receive an update and consider matters related to the Delivery Plan for 2022/23.

Resolved:

4/6/i To note existing approved Earmarked Reserves as listed.

4/6/ii To approve creation of Earmarked Reserves for projects to be completed.

4/6/iii To recommend to council that approval is given for the Regeneration Manager to seek quotations for shop window and hoarding decorations up to the value of £21,280 in line with financial and procurement regulations.

O&I4/7 To receive an update and consider matters related to Heritage.

Resolved:

4/7/i To approve the request to transfer £3,685 from 465 4277 Christ Church Project to 350 EMR Christ Church to support community engagement activity.

4/7/ii To approve the proposal to spend £5,000 from 473 4281 Heritage Working Group 2023/4 Business Delivery Plan to develop a heritage workshop for schools.

O&I4/8 To receive an update and consider matters related to the Knife Angel.

Noted:

4/8/i The deposit of £4000.

4/8/ii The additional Insurance cover required and excess of £50,000.

4/8/iii To note the purchase of barriers £489 from 473 4721 Public realm.

O&I4/9 **Noted:**

The date and time of the next meeting

Tuesday 30th May 2023 at 6pm

Councillors expressed their thanks to members who have served on the committee, and would not be putting themselves forward for election for another term: Cllr Cosby, Cllr Walton and Cllr Palin.

The meeting closed at 6.25pm

Chair : Cllr Dawn Clark

Clerk : Lindsay Lewis

O&I 1 18.07.23 item 7 ytd expenditure

06/07/2023

Crewe Town Council Current Year

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Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 06/07/2023

Month No: 3

Committee Report

	Actual Current Mth	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
Operations and Improvement								
<u>307 Town Centre Maintenance</u>								
4170 Equipment Purchase/Repair/Hire	0	539	10,000	9,461		9,461	5.4%	
4180 CCTV	0	0	34,500	34,500		34,500	0.0%	
4184 Rangers Service	0	316	187,469	187,154		187,154	0.2%	
4186 Regeneration Projects	0	8,530	21,000	12,470		12,470	40.6%	
4188 Enforcement Officer	0	0	33,242	33,242		33,242	0.0%	
Town Centre Maintenance :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>9,385</u>	<u>286,211</u>	<u>276,826</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>276,826</u>	<u>3.3%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>(9,385)</u>	<u>(286,211)</u>	<u>(276,826)</u>				
<u>310 Floral Schemes</u>								
4181 Contractors - Services	0	62	35,000	34,938		34,938	0.2%	
Floral Schemes :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>34,938</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>34,938</u>	<u>0.2%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>(62)</u>	<u>(35,000)</u>	<u>(34,938)</u>				
<u>320 Parks and Allotments</u>								
4179 Play Area Improvement Scheme	0	0	100,000	100,000		100,000	0.0%	
4420 Parks & Allotments	0	0	7,000	7,000		7,000	0.0%	
Parks and Allotments :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>107,000</u>	<u>107,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>107,000</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(107,000)</u>	<u>(107,000)</u>				
<u>473 Town Promotion</u>								
4721 Public Realm	0	8,948	25,000	16,052		16,052	35.8%	7,633
4723 Town Centre Promotion	10,823	14,086	0	(14,086)		(14,086)	0.0%	14,086
4727 Heritage Projects	22,710	22,710	20,000	(2,710)		(2,710)	113.5%	
Town Promotion :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>33,533</u>	<u>45,743</u>	<u>45,000</u>	<u>(743)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(743)</u>	<u>101.7%</u>	<u>21,718</u>
Net Expenditure	<u>(33,533)</u>	<u>(45,743)</u>	<u>(45,000)</u>	<u>743</u>				
6001 plus Transfer From EM Reserves	10,823	21,818						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(22,710)</u>	<u>(23,925)</u>						
<hr/>								
Operations and Improvement :- Income	0	0	0	0			0.0%	
Expenditure	33,533	55,190	473,211	418,021	0	418,021	11.7%	
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(33,533)</u>	<u>(55,190)</u>	<u>(473,211)</u>	<u>(418,021)</u>				
plus Transfer From EM Reserves	10,823	21,818						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(22,710)</u>	<u>(33,372)</u>						

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Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 06/07/2023

Month No: 3

Committee Report

	Actual Current Mth	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
Grand Totals:- Income	0	0	0	0			0.0%	
Expenditure	33,533	55,190	473,211	418,021	0	418,021	11.7%	
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(33,533)</u>	<u>(55,190)</u>	<u>(473,211)</u>	<u>(418,021)</u>				
plus Transfer From EM Reserves	10,823	21,818						
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(22,710)</u>	<u>(33,372)</u>						



REPORT STATEMENT Item 8

Meeting: Operations & Improvements Committee 18 July 2023

Report Purpose: To provide an update on the Heritage Business Delivery Plan for 2023/24

Version Control: v1

Author: Heritage Manager

1. Report Summary

This report updates members on progress against the heritage activity in the Business Delivery Plan for 2023/24. The report also includes nominations for the roles of Chair and Vice Chair of the Heritage Group and two spend requests from the community for consideration.

2. Background

Heritage activity is focusing on delivering Crewe Town Council’s *Heritage Strategy for Crewe* which seeks to celebrate, promote and protect Crewe’s unique history and heritage for the future. Work is being developed in three areas:

- (i) Making heritage visible
- (ii) Building community
- (iii) Protecting heritage assets

3. Position

Crewe Town Council Heritage Group

In line with resolution O&I22/2/8.2(ii), the Heritage Group is required to make nominations to the role of Chair and Vice Chair for the Civic Year 2023/24.

Since its formation in 2018, Peter Kent has chaired the group overseeing the development of a *Heritage Strategy for Crewe* and identifying the need for a dedicated officer role. Peter informed us of his intention to step down earlier this year and agreed to take the role of Vice Chair to ensure a smooth transition. The Heritage Group would like to formally record its thanks to Peter for his guidance and leadership.

The nominations for the role of Chair and Vice Chair are therefore:

- Chair – Rob Wykes
- Vice Chair – Peter Kent

Making heritage visible

The allocated budget for making heritage visible is:

Code	Budget Line	Amount	Notes
473 4281	Plaque Scheme	£1,500	Note additional £800 in 345 EMR
473 4281	Heritage Engagement Resources	£5,000	Proposed for Town Centre Interpretation.
473 4281	Heritage Learning Offer	£5,000	
345 EMR	Heritage	£800	Plaques
345 EMR	Heritage	£1,500	Engagement Resources

345 EMR	Heritage	£5,000	Schools & Community Needs Assessment
345 EMR	Heritage	£10,000	Valley Brook Interpretation
345 EMR	Heritage	£10,000	Match Funding for Crewe Works Exhibition
345 EMR	Heritage	£4,500	Heritage Resources for Schools

473 4281 & 345 EMR Plaque Scheme (£2,300): The Heritage Group has been tasked with developing public engagement with the scheme. The group is now scoring the people register and identifying gaps as well as devising a mechanism for public nominations. The group is considering whether theming the plaques to strengthen the town's heritage narrative would be helpful and will bring nominations for the £1,500 allocation to O&I in January 2024. The £800 in 345 EMR is allocated for plaques to Ada Nield Chew and Wilmot Welch.

473 4281 Heritage Learning Offer (£5,000): Francesca Chinnery won the commission to produce a school's workshop for delivery at the Heritage Centre. Consultation with teachers is underway to inform the workshop with trials proposed for the autumn term.

345 EMR Engagement Resources (£1,500): Francesca Chinnery won the commission to rework and produce new town walking trails. Three trails have been identified and will be unveiled as part of our Heritage Open Days offer.

345 EMR Match Funding for Crewe Works Exhibition (£10,000): *Forging History: 180 years of Crewe Works* opened at the Heritage Centre on 1 July 2023. The installation includes significant input from the community including object loans, content development and display construction. As part of work to support the Heritage Centre trustees, the Heritage Manager has helped develop and train a new museum guide role to welcome visitors to the exhibition. Feedback from the first weekend and preview opportunities has been positive, noting the different feel in the hall. The exhibition is supported by a programme of events including theatre, art, craft and dance. Promotional activity continues and the arrival of *1054 Coal Tank* from the Bahamas Society in early August will bring a new audience to the Centre.

345 EMR Heritage Resources for Schools (£4,500): Francesca Chinnery won the commission to produce three learning resource packs for use in schools. The packs will focus on Crewe Works, Migration to and from Crewe and the development of retail in the town. Consultation with teachers is underway to inform the packs which will be trialled in schools during the autumn term.

Building community

The allocated budget for building community is:

Code	Budget Line	Amount	Notes
473 4281	Memberships & Conferences	£200	
473 4281	Expenses	£300	
473 4281	Heritage Community Support	£5,000	
473 4281	To be allocated	£3,000	

Heritage Open Days (M&E Budget £8,000): The Crewe Heritage Open Days offer is being finalised. At present there are 18 confirmed events and 12 in development. There are also currently 26 organisations who have requested to take part in the Crewe Heritage Fair on 9 September. Crewe Town Council is coordinating 44 organisations to deliver the offer. Crewe Town Council hosted the national Heritage Open Days team in April and has featured in the national blog as part of the promotional campaign for the festival.

473 4281 Heritage Community Support (£5,000): Two requests have been received from the community for support in developing heritage activity.

The first request is from Cheshire Wildlife Trust in relation to activities for the Heritage Open Days Festival. Following a successful grant from Crewe Town Council to restore a wildflower meadow beside Queen’s Park, Cheshire Wildlife Trust would like to restore half an acre of wildflower meadow on the other side of Queen’s Park. The proposal would see members of the community come together to prepare the meadow in workshops to learn the heritage skill of scything. The community would also help with the spreading of green hay from the original meadow and planting 135 plug plants. The plants would commemorate the 135th anniversary of Queen’s Park which is celebrated in 2023. In addition, Cheshire Wildlife Trust would run further activities including seed bomb making and bug hunts.

The full costings are as follows:

EVENT		
Salaries	Nextdoor Nature Project Officer	£0 (In kind from CWT)
	Additional staff member to cover staff member for event and preparation	£265 (+VAT)
	Other capacity covered by volunteers.	£0
Equipment	Wildflower plugs (270 total) 135 per meadow	£270
	Seed bomb workshop materials	£180
Activities	Scythe Workshop	£342
	TOTAL COST	£1110

The second community request is from Cheshire Womens Collaboration on behalf of “A statue for Ada” which is in the process of applying for charity status. The group is aiming to erect a statue to Ada Nield Chew and more details about the proposal are located in Appendix A. The group is asking for a contribution towards the £5,000 educational and awareness campaign. The campaign would include delivery of talks in schools and community groups using the Crewe Town Council produced heritage learning resources which focus on Ada. Writing workshops would also be offered. The group would also like to work with Platform Theatre to produce short plays and interactive readings of Ada’s letters. Finally, the group is aiming to translate Ada’s letters into other languages spoken in Crewe.

Additional work to build community:

The Heritage Manager has:

- Met with York Civic Trust, the UTC, Cheshire Connect, the LCEP and the HS2 Engagement Team to develop partnership opportunities
- Discussed loans of objects with the Bahamas Society, Alstom, Locomotive Services Limited and Crewe Alexandra
- Supported CAMRA, the 100th anniversary of St Peter’s Church, the residents of Gaffers Row, Cheshire Womens Collaboration, Crewe Historical Society, Wheels of War, Survive, the Friends of Queen’s Park, OCEAN, Cheshire East Council Wayfinding Project and Crewe YMCA

Protecting heritage assets

The allocated budget for protecting heritage assets is:

Code	Budget Line	Amount	Notes
334 EMR	Railway Cottages	£7,976.21	Repaint of Lamps & Railings – COMPLETE Development of Heritage Strategy
345 EMR	Heritage	£2,000	Project Scoping – conservation & significance assessments
350 EMR	Christ Church	£6,685	

334 EMR Railway Cottages (£7,976): Final comments have been sent to the consultant in relation to the Heritage Strategy and the document is expected to be finalised by the end of July.

Additional work to protect heritage assets:

- The Heritage Manager continues to support the Crewe Heritage Centre Trustees in key areas. The trustees have introduced a new meeting structure to separate the operational management from strategic development. Recruitment of seven new trustees is underway, alongside a wider volunteer recruitment campaign. The Centre has registered for Gift Aid and roll out of this has now begun. A EMR has been created to move forward projects including Health & Safety, security, collections care and a constitutional review. A Collections Development Policy and Collections Information Policy are under development. Volunteer consultation has begun to develop an emergency plan and environmental sustainability opportunities.
- A tender has been developed to appoint consultants to begin scoping a Conservation Area(s) for Crewe.

4. Equality Impact

The *Heritage Strategy for Crewe* highlights the importance of developing narratives for the town which represent all who live here. The proposals to explore Crewe Works, migration and trade all provide opportunities to uncover and tell stories not usually considered in Crewe’s heritage narrative. These projects would include working with communities to tell stories in their own words and in a way that is right for them. The Schools & Community Needs Assessments will ensure heritage activity is appropriate and sensitive to all.

5. Sustainability Impact

Heritage activity is being delivered in partnership and looking to strengthen sustainability through collaborative delivery. Activity looks to equip participants to discover heritage confidently and independently. External funding will be explored to establish where support can be achieved.

6. Community Impact

The development of the heritage forum and the Heritage Open Days Festival enable wider community engagement. Developing narratives that focus on sense of place helps deepen pride and cultural identity. Heritage activity is also proven to improve health and wellbeing ratings.

7. Governance

Crewe Town Council Corporate Strategy
 Crewe Town Council Heritage Strategy for Crewe
 Crewe Town Council Community Plan
 Crewe Town Board Town Investment Plan
 Cheshire East Council Cultural Strategy for Crewe

8. Financial Impact

All projects within allocated budget and grants or requests from earmarked reserves. Where appropriate, grant funding will be explored.

9. Resource Impact

Officer time and budget allocation.

10. Consultation/Engagement

Activity is based on consultation undertaken for *A Heritage Strategy for Crewe*, the Town Investment Plan, the Local List Project and Heritage Resource evaluation.

11. Wards Affected

All wards are able to engage with heritage activity, especially through the heritage resources, *Forging History: 180 years of Crewe Works* exhibition and the Heritage Open Days festival.

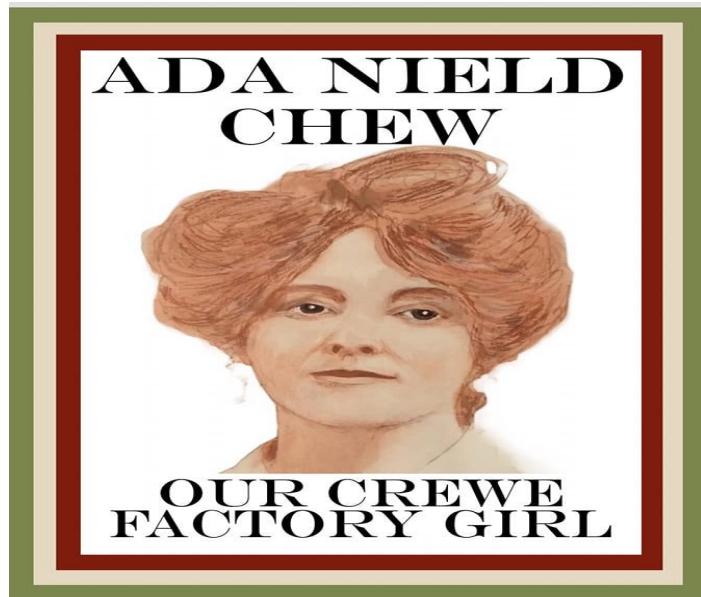
12. Conclusions

As resolved by O&I22/2/8.2(ii) the Heritage Group has submitted nominations for the role of Chair and Vice Chair for consideration.

The paper also highlights that visibility of heritage activity in the town is building and providing more opportunities for the heritage community to feel confident in developing activity, both independently and collaboratively. This is evidenced by the two requests for consideration. Community development and delivery strengthens the impact of activity and the ability for more local residents to access the town's heritage, as well as increasing the resource available to deliver it.

13. Consideration Sought

- (i) To approve the Heritage Group's nominations of Rob Wykes to the role of Chair and Peter Kent to the role of Vice Chair.
- (ii) To consider the request from Cheshire Wildlife Trust for funding of £1110 to run activities for the Heritage Open Days Festival from 473 7281 Heritage Community Support.
- (iii) To consider the request from Cheshire Womens Collaboration on behalf of the "A statue for Ada" group for a contribution to the £5,000 required for an educational and awareness campaign from 473 7281 Heritage Community Support.



Proposal

Who is Ada Nield Chew ?

Ada is known in the history books as “The Factory Girl” Ada is known for writing to Crewe Chronicle about the working conditions in the factory that Ada working in, in Bridal Road.

Ada also campaigned about equal pay for both men and women. All of Adas letters were signed off as Crewe Factory Girl.

Later in life Ada became a prominent suffragist and campaigned for the right for womens vote.

Ada also lead the way in so many ways, she was a vegetarian, was one of the first women of her time to go with a double barrel name once married. Ada also went on to be a successful entrepreneur.

Who we are ?

We are a collaboration of Women - "Cheshire Womens Collaboration" who are in the middle of setting a charity up called " A Statue for Ada". We currently have a bank application in once confirmed we can send in a full Charity application to charity commission, this will have a board of trustees which include:

Kate Blakemore - Motherwell Cheshire

Freya O Brien - local Cheshire Resident

Susan Monroe - Also from Elizabeths group in Congleton

Amy Barns - Adas great, great niece.

What work have we done so far?

As a collaboration we have produced a large touring exhibition that will be launched on 22nd July starting at Crewe Market Hall, then will be touring other areas in Crewe, to include:

UTC college

Cheshire College - Crewe Campus

Crewe Library

Nantwich Museum - a smaller exhibition for this venue.

The idea of the exhibition is to showcase the inspiring story of Ada so people get to know her story, her mission and our mission.

What's our overall aim?

Over the next two years we will be fundraising and applying for funding towards a statue of Ada to be erected in Crewe. We have already commissioned Hazel Reeves who was the sculptor for both Emmeline Pankhurst and Elizabeths statue in Congleton.

We are currently working closely with Cheshire East to find a suitable place for the statue to be placed as part of the generation.

What support do we currently need?

We are currently working towards raising £5000 towards our educational and awareness campaign.

Before we start campaigning for the statue we are aware that we need people to understand the inspirational story of Ada.

We would like to deliver talks in schools and also local community groups using the toolkit produced by Crewe Town Council and also offer writing workshops in partnership with the open University. The writing workshops will be based on the writing that Ada did.

Ada also lends herself to many other creative work that we would like to take into the community such as:

Campaigning

Education on the suffragist movement

Fashion

We would also like to work with the local theater company Platform Theatre to produce short plays based in Ada and also interactive readings of Ada letter to make them fully inclusive. We would also like to her letters translated into Polish, Ukraine and Afgan for all local families to enjoy.

What will be the impact?

We feel the impact of this project will be:

Increased sense of community pride

Local community working together to on a community focus

Younger generation understanding local history

Younger generation understanding the power of a voice

Increased tourism into Crewe

REPORT STATEMENT**O&I Committee Item 9 Delivery Plan Update**

Meeting: Operations and Improvements Committee 18.07.23

Report Purpose: To provide an update and request approval for further activities in the delivery plan for 2023/24

Version Control: v1

Author: Regeneration Manager

1. Report Summary

This report sets out the delivery plan based on the approved budget for 2023/24, the Crewe Town Council Corporate Strategy and direction from committee.

This paper provides an update and seeks further guidance on expenditure which has not yet been fully defined.

2. Background

The 2023/24 budget was approved by council on 6th December 2022 and was further informed by O&I meetings in January and March 2023.

The start of the new financial year and new council administration coincided with delivery around bringing the Knife Angel to Crewe. This led to the first meeting of this committee in May being cancelled. Some projects have been in abeyance when focus had to be given to the anti- violence project. Despite this, work did continue on BID delivery, park improvements and cultural activity along with support of longer – term projects.

The tables in section 3 outline agreed activity and highlight requests which are further defined in section 4.

3. Position

Activity continued form 2022/3, with associated funding is as follows:

Item and budget code	Status		comments
Business Improvement District 353 EMR £33,204	In process with target completion March 2024		See item 13
CCTV EMR 362 £21,500	Additional cameras installed for Cleaner Crewe project.		Note £2340 in EMR for data costs
Knife Angel EMR 362 £21,500 Regeneration Projects and M&E	Project delivered May 2023		
Play area equipment	In progress		Autumn installation

Frank Webb Avenue. 359 EMR £100,749			planned. See item 11.
356 EMR Town Capital Projects	<p>Rolling programme of improvements identified and approved in July 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree lighting scheme Victoria St. <p>Contract awarded to Lite Ltd. Installation by August 2023 and project delivered.</p> <p>Out -standing items awaiting delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re- paint phase 3 under way. Additional paving repairs and maintenance – quote awaited. Heritage light restoration including viability and costing 		<p>Completed</p> <p>under way.</p> <p>quote awaited.</p> <p>Highways testing of heritage light awaited.</p>
Repurposing the High Street 358 EMR Hoardings and Frontages £21,487	Images being collated for shop window designs to decorate up to 5 properties.		Finalise images, designs and permissions. Advertise and Award contract to supply. £21,487.

The budget and delivery plan for 2023/24 is as follows:

Item	Budget	Definition	Comments/Status
Operations			
Equipment Purchase/Repair/Hire	10000	Expenditure on resources for Ranger activity etc.	On- going as required.
CCTV	34500	3- year contract expires 31 st March 2024 for delivery by Cheshire East Council CCTV unit. Maintenance of new cameras mobile cameras including Wifi for q1 2024 onwards.	£32,160 for CCTV support, plus additional costs for maintenance or additional movement of the mobile cameras (additional contract

		Plus EMR of £2340 contribution to Data costs	requires further definition). Additional mobile camera purchase may be feasible within budget to support Cleaner Crewe or Town Centre security.
Ranger Service	187469	Service Level Agreement with ANSA to provide for 4 rangers, dedicated to Crewe and responsible to Crewe Town Council, supported by 2 vehicles (2 transit style flat- bed vans) Increased service with associated costs.	On- going
Enforcement officer	33242	Contribution to Cleaner Crewe Project. Total Cost £36,176 See Public realm re shortfall.	To be reviewed by committee- measuring value and future recommendation to council.
Floral Scheme	35000	Provision of the floral schemes through Ansa contract and additional planting enhancements – Summer and Winter displays.	To approve purchase of additional pole planters to enable winter displays to be prepared and established ahead of installation. £3000
Play Area Improvement Scheme	100000	With reference to Parks Strategy: Delivery of capital improvement to play area(s). Working in partnership with ANSA in delivery.	To be considered for approval when detailed proposals are completed. See item 11
Allotments	7000		
Regeneration			
Public Realm	25000	Design services and purchase of Street furniture, signage, painting, lighting and equipment to be defined, to support the town centre regeneration and activities	Request approval : To investigate and support improvements to Victoria Square £10,000

		to support environmental improvements Cleaner Crewe support – contribution to Enforcement Officer Role £2934.	Wildflower meadow interpretation £ 800
Regen Projects	21000	Improving visitor and trading environment in town, with support for short – to medium term actions identified through BID development: May include: Purchase of data. Town Animation and Cultural activities including: Christmas Animation £5000 Tackling empty properties and engaging with landlords. Shop front improvements. Branding and marketing support or training, Town Signage or banners Security measures. Community involvement in regeneration projects and environmental improvements. Alleyways – creative activities £1500 Wildlife projects £3000 to be further defined	Request £6000 half term animation and cultural activity . £250 Match funding for Arts council application by Bent Architect.
Total O&I Committee 23/24	473211		

4.0 This section provides detail on proposed new activity in line with the delivery plan:

4.1 Floral Schemes

40 Pole Planter baskets were purchased in 2022 using Government Welcome Back Funds. The new baskets are more sustainable and ‘self watering’ and enabled a new winter scheme to be planted as the baskets are less liable to frost damage. Following a successful growing season, the baskets had to be taken down and emptied before a new summer display could be planted, leaving a gap in late May and early June. The new summer displays also had a shorter window than displays in other towns to establish. To make good use of resources

the winter perennial plants were distributed to community groups or re-planted in public spaces, but there was a time restraint on this as the plants had been up – rooted and stored before distribution.

Following two successful seasons with the new – style baskets, it would assist the Ansa team and the Rangers if an additional set could be purchased. This would allow winter displays to be brought on and established before being put out in the autumn; extending the summer display period and improving the quality of the winter and following summer displays. In addition, baskets currently placed on railings by the library are being moved to railings on Delamere Street, ahead of demolition of the old library. The railings along Delamere St extend to approximately 80 metres and there is room to accommodate more baskets than re being moved.

It is requested to make up to £3000 available to buy additional baskets for the pole planters and railings to support improved floral displays.

4.2 Public Realm

Wildflower meadow interpretation.

The Heritage manager has requested support to fund a Wildflower Meadow scheme and demonstrations at Queens Park. This would complement a meadow planted last year and extend the environmental benefit to the area. The scheme sits close to, and has synergies with, the Valley Brook Corridor with its environmental improvements to which the Town Council has already earmarked £10,000 for interpretation. It also provides an opportunity to educate not only the community involved in the meadow planting but also to inform visitors to the purpose and benefits of the scheme.

To capitalise on this link, members might like to consider adding interpretation boards. It is estimated that purchase and installation would be around £800.

Victoria Square

The main focus for expenditure on public realm improvements is around the Town centre. Over the last two years the council has invested in a scheme of improvements including a re-paint of existing street furniture and the purchase of new items to improve the town's appearance. Members also agreed that attention should be given to Victoria Square.

The area sits in the middle of the Victoria centre and remains un-touched. The space has not been improved since being opened in the 1980s and being faced with empty properties, appears unkept and unsafe.

Despite this the square is part of a well-used route and creates an approach to Victoria Street where a number of small new businesses have been forming. The square forms part of the public highway and the remainder sits under the maintenance of Asda.

The Regeneration Manager has made initial approaches to Asda and also had some discussion with Cheshire East Council's economic development team to investigate potential to make improvements. At the moment it is uncertain whether they will be able to provide additional funds to an improvement project, however they do have the opportunity to

support the opening of new uses for the empty properties through the Towns Fund. The Town Council may like to consider making a sum available to make changes and encourage additional collaboration to add value and improve the environment for the community and potential new tenants of the properties.

The regeneration manager has also spoke to the principal of the UTC who agreed it may be possible to work with the college to create some learning opportunities: by collaborating on design or even creating items for the square.

Members are asked to consider investing up to £10,000 from public realm funds for this project.

4.3 Regeneration Projects – cultural activity

Half term Activity

The O&I committee has over the last few years invested in animation activities at Christmas and Easter, but has never previously considered animation in the Autumn. However during the BID development process, stakeholders have expressed interest in more activity to attract visitors and animate the town centre, and have suggested that the October half term would be an ideal time to trial new activity and to allow local businesses to get involved as a precursor to a BID developing. The opening of Lyceum Square also provides an opportunity to test out new ways of animating the town centre, making use of the space and potentially providing opportunities for the cultural community to become more involved. If approved, the Regeneration Manager will work with partners to define and develop activity such as performances and walkabouts or installations to animate the town.

Members are asked to consider making £6000 available for cultural activity over the Autumn half – term.

Keep on Keepin’ On – theatre project.

The Town Council has been approached by an established theatre company, Bent Architect, to request support for a project they hope to deliver around the country. The production weaves a story around the Northern Soul music culture which formed part of Crewe and other northern and midland towns in the 1960s and 70s and would make use of empty premises in the town centre.

Their proposal is in appendix a and an extract given below.

They have requested an offer of £250 in match funding from a number of towns. This match is being used to make an application to the Arts Council to develop the production and would only be payable if the application is successful. If the project receives the funding, they will the work with each town and a host theatre to provide a week of performances and engagement activity.

Additional funding may be required to meet any additional local costs estimated to be under £5000, which would be discussed and agreed ahead of the production.

The Lyceum has offered to be the host theatre in Crewe, providing any technical support,

rehearsal space etc to the project.

Confirmation was required of the match funding to meet a June application deadline and the amount falls within delegated limits, therefore the Regeneration Manager has agreed this with the Town Clerk.

THE PROJECT

TOURING TO NORTHERN SOUL STRONGHOLDS IN PRIORITY PLACES

We want to tour the show to non-traditional theatre spaces, such as empty shops and shopping centres in Northern Soul strongholds across the North and Midlands which connect to ACE Priority Places.

EXPLORING MUSICAL HERITAGE AS A KEY ASPECT OF PLACE & IDENTITY

There is real potential for the involvement of music agencies and groups of as the play is about the power of past and present, musically, culturally and politically too, exploring how the music has evolved for the younger generations today. This play is not in any way a nostalgia fest or a museum piece, it is about now.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE REINVIGORATION OF LOCAL HIGH STREETS

Siting the play and connected participation and engagements activities in an empty shop ties the venue directly into the setting of the play itself – Eugene’s second-hand shop. It also supports the reinvigoration and revitalisation of the high street in each area, helping to test new ways of animating and differentiating shopping centres and the town centre offer, and providing a more experiential offer to entice visitors back.

4. Equality Impact
Services delivered across the community, creating learning and cultural opportunities, and improvement to the environment.
5. Sustainability Impact
Provision of a business delivery Plan ensures clarity of work schedule, transparency of council projects and services and provides the maximum amount of time to facilitate delivery.
6. Community Impact
Approval of a business delivery plan allows for efficient delivery of services to the community.

7. Governance
Crewe Town Council Corporate Strategy;
A town to enjoy, A town to work in, A community with Pride
8. Financial Impact
The business delivery plan allows for the delivery of services within the approved budget. Unallocated sums will be returned to council or delegated committee for approval once defined and agreed.
9. Resource Impact
Approval of the business delivery plan reduces the time burden on members, committees and officers.
11. Consultation/Engagement
All projects requiring engagement will meet their obligations and record and report accordingly
12. Wards Affected
All
13. Conclusions
The proposed activities are intended to benefit the local community and businesses through enhanced public realm, educational material and cultural activity.
14. Consideration Sought
 - i. That approval is given to purchase additional self – watering baskets up to £3000 from 310 4180 Floral Schemes.
 - ii. That approval is given to support the Cheshire Wildlife Trust wild flower project at Queens park to purchase and install interpretation materials up to the value of £800 from 473/4721 public realm.
 - iii. That approval is given to support investigation and development of improvements to the Victoria Centre Public Realm in collaboration with Asda and Cheshire East Council, up to the value of £10,000 from 473/4721 public realm.
 - iv. That approval is given to support animation and cultural activity in the half term £6000 from 307 4186 regeneration projects.
 - v. To note an offer of £250 match funding should an Arts Council application by Bent Architect be successful for a performance project in empty properties - from 307 4186 regeneration projects. Also to support additional

development and realisation costs, subject to further approval if the application is successful.

BLANK

KEEP ON KEEPIN' ON
WRITTEN BY MICK MARTIN

Keep On Keepin' On tells the story of a northern soul family in contemporary Wigan. It's a sequel to Mick Martin's 2003 play, [Once Upon A Time In Wigan](#), developed in partnership with Contact Theatre, Manchester and presented nationally between 2003 and 2018 to sell-out audiences & critical acclaim:

"A northern classic."

Yorkshire Post

"George Orwell meets Nick Hornby, but with a plus..."

★★★★ The Observer

"All good fairy tales begin with 'Once Upon A Time', and this celebration of the heyday of Northern Soul is no exception."

The Stage

"A deserved cult hit. If you could take the essence of the evening and bottle it, you'd make a fortune."

★★★★ The Guardian

You can read a BBC interview with Mick from when the play was being staged at Contact Theatre [here](#).

The initial research and development of **Keep On Keepin' On** was ACE supported in 2019/20, but then covid kicked in. ACE remain keen to support its continued development to bring it to fruition and have encouraged our plan to take it on tour to Northern Soul strongholds that connect to ACE Priority Places.

Work is now underway to develop an ACE bid around partnership development with a view to identifying, place partners, tour venues and co-creation / engagement opportunities in each area.

THE PLAY

Eugene and Maxine are veterans of Wigan Casino and the all-nighter scene from way back. They have been married and divorced twice, and now live apart. They have a son, Liam who is gay and whose life has been a drug fuelled rollercoaster of its own. Their daughter, Siobhan, is mixed race. Though Eugene is not her biological father, he is most definitely her dad, whether she likes it or not. Siobhan has been to a southern university and lost her accent, is multi-cultural Britain to a tee. Maxine works in urban regeneration; Eugene sells records and second-hand washing machines. She has moved on; he is unable to.

The play is very much about a working class 'left behind' town now, a working-class northern family, about growing up gay and growing up mixed race in a town where almost everyone is white. It's about failing to grow up at all, and about beginning to grow old. It is full of humour, music, dancing and love. Above all else it's about family, class, race, Britain and our big northern souls in all their forms.

THE PROJECT

TOURING TO NORTHERN SOUL STRONGHOLDS IN PRIORITY PLACES

We want to tour the show to non-traditional theatre spaces, such as empty shops and shopping centres in Northern Soul strongholds across the North and Midlands which connect to ACE Priority Places. These include Blackburn, Blackpool, Wigan, Huddersfield, Stoke on Trent and Wolverhampton.

EXPLORING MUSICAL HERITAGE AS A KEY ASPECT OF PLACE & IDENTITY

There is real potential for the involvement of music agencies and groups of as the play is about the power of past and present, musically, culturally and politically too, exploring how the music has evolved for the younger generations today. This play is not in any way a nostalgia fest or a museum piece, it is about now.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE REINVIGORATION OF LOCAL HIGH STREETS

Siting the play and connected participation and engagements activities in an empty shop ties the venue directly into the setting of the play itself – Eugene's second-hand shop. It also supports the reinvigoration and revitalisation of the high street in each area, helping to test

new ways of animating and differentiating shopping centres and the town centre offer, and providing a more experiential offer to entice visitors back.

ESTABLISHING PLACE PARTNERS & CREATING OPPORTUNITY

We are looking to establish Place Partners in each area of the tour to support consultation work, venue liaison, audience development, local marketing and box office.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY TIES THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT

We will seek to engage young people and community members of all ages in the co-creation aspect of the piece. We want to work with local partners in each town and be responsive to specific local needs and imperatives that connect to the main themes of the play around race and identity, LGBTQIA+, mental health and working-class culture.

DEVELOPING CREATIVE PEOPLE & SUPPORTING THE LOCAL TALENT PIPELINE

The play will be produced in partnership with the [Old Courts](#) in Wigan before going on tour with support from artists local to each Place Partner. In addition, the core artistic team will offer training and mentoring to local artists. We will also look to provide opportunities for young people in each place to shadow the creative and technical team to gaining valuable skills and experience.

ABOUT MICK MARTIN

Mick Martin is from and lives in Bradford, and has written for theatre, TV and radio. He has been commissioned by West Yorkshire Playhouse, Bolton Octagon, Hull Truck, Manchester Contact, Exeter Northcott, Chester Gateway, Wakefield Theatre Royal, Red Ladder, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Mind The Gap, Pilot Theatre and Liverpool Everyman, to write a series of mainhouse, touring and community pieces. He is also one half of Bent Architect, creating innovative site specific and touring work both nationally and internationally.

Most recently, Bent Architect's [Full English](#) explored working class identities, using first hand testimonies of those who were 'brought up white' whilst being mixed race. It won Best Production 2021 at the [Asian Media Awards](#).

"I don't remember seeing anything that made me think so hard about the nature and challenges of a mixed heritage upbringing, and how a person navigates not only the history of that stretching out behind them but also their own situation, and that of their children into the future." Audience Feedback for Full English

Mick's [This Space Is Occupied](#) took over a derelict pub in Bradford to recreate an early 70's communal squat occupied by a radical arts collective. This site-specific production included both professional & community performers and was developed in partnership with city centre regeneration agencies.

"The highlight is arguably how a long empty pub has found a new life and is once again an important part of Bradford's cultural scene. The Old Crown is a character in itself in this play, and shows how any venue can become a stage when you think outside the box."

★★★★ Telegraph & Argus

"This is the audience for Bent Architect's *This Space is Occupied* and they have a treat in store. The pub has been transformed – with awe-inspiring attention to detail by production designer Jude Wright – into a 1970s squat occupied by a radical arts collective."

★★★★ Yorkshire Post

He is currently developing a new community-focussed project for Rochdale - [Cotton Famine Road](#) - exploring the town's abolitionist heritage whilst working alongside Priority Place partners and the Levelling Up leaders in the town.

ABOUT BENT ARCHITECT

Since 2006, Bent Architect has created a range of national tours of original new theatre, touring to numerous theatre and non-theatre venues and delivering a wide range of educational activities alongside. In addition to this, we have always worked successfully with partners to deliver our work, often those who would not otherwise engage creatively in the subject matter. We are interested in exploring issues of the voiceless, those who society feels uncomfortable with.

Projects include: Full English; Women of Aktion; This Space is Occupied; The Northern School; England, Arise!; The Wonderful World Of... ; Darwin's Worms; Frog Man.

Although our work sits on the fringes of traditional theatre, we have worked closely with a number of artistic partners, including Manchester's Contact Theatre (Darwin's Worms residency & performance), Brick Box Collective (Wonderful World Of... residency and performance), Lawrence Batley Theatre (England, Arise! R&D residency and showcase).

As individuals, we have also written, directed, produced and/or delivered a wide range of tours, productions, festivals and projects including:

It's in the Blood, Rochdale (2018)

Magna Carta on Trial, Freedom Studios (2015)

Choices, Peace Museum UK (2015)

Home & Tagore, Festivals, Arts at Dartington (2013/4)

The Flame Haired Dynamo, main house production, Hull Truck Theatre (2013)

Broken Time, national tour (2011)

Interplay Theatre, core funding project (2011)

The Lock In, strategic tour (2010)

Once Upon a Time in Wigan, national tours (2003 to 2005)

CONTACT

Mick Martin

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Jude Wright

jude.producer@gmail.com

Meeting: Operations & Improvements Committee (18 07 2023)
Report Purpose: Member Item – 10 Devolution of functions to the town council
Version Control: v1
Author: Cllr S Yates

Introduction

Over the life of the Town Council a number of policies have been introduced to increase the role that the Council provides in serving the community. On all occasions these interventions have been a response to an obvious need to improve the experience that our residents have living and working in the town.

This paper proposes that as part of implementing the Corporate Strategy the Town Council now considers what other functions and services the Town Council should seek to provide.

Context

1. The Corporate Strategy is now well established having been developed by the Town Council, elected in 2019 and seeks to improve the everyday experience of Crewe people and those who come into the Town for work or leisure purposes.
2. The Manifesto of the ruling Group at Cheshire East proposes the devolution of functions and services to Parish and Town Councils
3. Previous experience in persuading the primary Local Authority to devolve functions and services has not been a particularly positive one e.g., a former CEC Administration taking 6 years to transfer the allotments, a refusal to consider transfer of street cleansing – which resulted in CTC establishing the Ranger service
4. 4-year Council terms pass very quickly so any proposal to transfer functions and services will need to be developed as soon as possible
5. Functions and services are transferable. Shrewsbury has proved to be a good example where devolution is real and more locally a previous CEC Administration transferred street cleansing, parks, greenspaces, markets and town centre management to Congleton Town Council some years ago

Issues to be considered

1. Which functions and services could be devolved e.g., Street cleansing, markets, pocket parks and green spaces
2. Transfer of budget from CEC equal to the current base line of expenditure
3. Additionality provided by CTC to improve services
4. Collaborations with ANSA etc.
5. Direct provision v contracted provision
6. Collaborations with smaller Parish Councils
7. Further devolution by CTC to residents groups e.g., Allotments Federation and Railway Cottages

Proposal

1. The Town Council agrees with the principle of seeking to devolve functions and services currently provided by CEC
2. The Town Council informs CEC that it wishes to enter into discussions
3. The Town Clerk identifies those functions and services which could be considered for devolution



REPORT STATEMENT O&I 1 Item (11)

Meeting Operations and Improvements Committee 18.07.23

Report Purpose: To provide an update on investment in Frank Webb Avenue Play Area and to offer considerations for the next area for investment.

Version Control: v1
Author: Regeneration Manager

1. Report Summary

Crewe Town Council has invested in two play area improvement schemes; Lansdowne Road play area was replaced in 2022. Frank Webb Avenue was selected in 2022 and will be completed in 2023. A further site was suggested for 2023/4 by the previous council. This paper provides an update on the current scheme and seeks direction from committee for the next investment.

2. Background

Frank Webb Avenue was nominated for works which will commence in Autumn 2023.

Following consultation with residents and pupils from Leighton Academy which is the closest school to the park, the information was included in a brief to suppliers on the Ansa procurement framework. Designs were subsequently submitted and these have been circulated to members for comment.

The preferred option from Ansa was the design submitted by Kompan. (see Appendix a). This has been supported by Councillors who have commented and Ansa have been instructed to proceed subject to signature of a grant agreement. Some improvements have been suggested by members and the regeneration manager is working with Ansa and Cheshire East to include these where possible namely:

Crewe – specific graphics on tarmac. The train has met with positive comments but Ansa will challenge the supplier to create something bespoke.

Retain tree in the proposed tarmac area: the tree bark has been damaged and therefore will be checked for viability before proceeding. Should the tree no longer be viable, Ansa will seek to plant three replacements in a suitable space to offer shade and visual amenity.

More rubbish bins: This is being considered with concern over resources to purchase and empty. The litter situation in the park has been reiterated by the regeneration manager.

Seating: It has been proposed to remove some carved wooden benches which are at end of life. However this provides valuable amenity for people wanting to meet, therefore the Regeneration Manager has recently contacted the manager of Parks and open Spaces to ask if additional funds can be identified for a seating and/or picnic area. An area of hard standing which was for a previous play area has been identified along with the wooden play equipment area to create a space. Response is awaited.

Football posts:

There have been requests for goal posts to be installed on the green space. Ansa have raised concern that this would in effect signal that the space is reserved for football without consideration for other park users, particularly when there is a pitch in the multi – use games area. It is also possible to use temporary markers to suggest goal areas for anyone wishing to use the grass as a pitch. The posts are outside of current scope and budget therefore it is suggested that should members wish to invest further in the park, that this could be informed by more specific consultation on the use of the grass area. This might also include options for a dog walking area which has also been requested.

Work on the play area will commence in the autumn with anticipated completion in November, subject to delivery lead times for equipment, which are estimated to be 12 weeks. It may be possible to complement the works with further improvements such as litter picking, bulb or tree planting etc.

3. Position

Frank Webb Avenue

Improvements to Frank Webb Play area are in process, with completion in the Autumn. The area is subject to vandalism and recent acts have subject to investigation following the installation of CCTV. The Camera has been installed on the request of the police with Safer Streets funding and in collaboration with Crewe Town Council to reduce anti- social behaviour. The Community Plan Committee have contracted Everybody Leisure to organise activities in parks and they will hold some activities over the summer to increase engagement and positive use. On the request of the community officer, clean – up equipment is being ordered to enable community clean ups to take place at the end of activities in all of the parks, and the regeneration manager will encourage support from fire and police services to conduct further engagement.

A small budget is held in earmarked reserves for volunteer support and it is requested that this be approved to spend on additional activity around the installation or as match to fund additional seating.

New Play area investment 2023/4

Members are asked to consider the following options:

Option 1

The previous O&I committee nominated future investment in a play area off Claughton Avenue. The play area is situated between two allotment sites. It has been subject to vandalism over a long period and the equipment is outdated and in poor condition. The Council is keen to invest in play areas but also ensure that where ever possible these can be maintained and the investment protected by supporting provision on sites which are safe for users, for example being over – looked by houses and where they can be covered by CCTV.

Officers have visited the site and some concerns have been raised over the security of the location. The site is bordered by secure allotment fences on two sides. The back gardens of two houses overlook the site directly with the rest of the site boundaried by the allotments. The park

is approached via a long path with little lighting and no visibility from the road. When the play area was first built it is possible that it was more clearly visible, but the site is now quite isolated . The play area is a four -to -five minute walk away from Pebble Brook play area which is classed as 'average to good' by Ansa's technical team.

It is difficult to recommend the site at this point as it is unlikely that resources would be available to continue to repair or replace equipment if subjected to the same level of damage.

Site survey is located in *appendix b*

Option 2

Additional investment in Brookhouse Drive Park. The park is also located in the south of Crewe, a few minutes away from Cloughton Avenue. The area is quite large and the condition of the existing facility is classed as average to good by Ansa.

Site survey is found in *appendix c*

Option 3

An alternative suggestion for consideration is to provide improved sensory and accessible play equipment in Queens Park

Queens Park is a valuable space for the Crewe community and well – used. However comments have been received about the shortage of accessible equipment for children with disabilities with an example below:

" As we walked round the childrens' play area I had to say NO 'we can't go on that' 14 times because that is the number of accessible play equipment available to children who are able & mobile."

The parks officer for Ansa has suggested that additional sensory and accessible play could be designed for the benefit of all children, and that this may be an opportunity to work with families and children to design an enhanced area, using available funds.

As the park is enclosed and has recently upgraded CCTV, it is potentially a more secure area for equipment and could be better- managed in terms of additional features such as sensory planting scheme and other items giving visual, sound and touch experiences.

The Parks manager has suggested that a designer could be employed to create a site- specific proposal and with additional survey work for up to £2000. This would provide an opportunity to test ideas with the community and to make additional funding applications with a costed project.

Whilst efforts are made to include accessible play in the pocket parks, the offering is generally limited, whilst this would provide a space with a broader offering and experience for the diverse community and needs.

Option 4

To fund one of the play areas in 24/23 (One from South or Queens Park) and nominate a further play area for 24/25. This would provide time to plan and organise consultations and design options for 24/25 as early as possible.

4. Equality Impact

Provision of play equipment which is free to use for all of the community.

Focus on accessible play would benefit children with disabilities as well as other children.

5. Sustainability Impact

Consideration of site location and sense of safety/security is intended to support longevity and more considerate treatment of equipment. Each site has different levels of security.

Retention of existing equipment and surfaces where possible maximises return on investment and use of resources.

6. Community Impact

Play facilities contribute to improved activity, health and well-being of children and young people.

7. Governance

Town Council Strategy 'A town to live in, a town to enjoy'

8. Financial Impact

Investment of agreed budget

Where additional funding is applied for or support in kind, this potentially adds value.

9. Resource Impact

Officer time – consultation and development of plans

Partner resource – planning and project management

Investment in spaces to then be managed by CEC and Ansa

10. Consultation/Engagement

Consultation with residents, including teenagers and schoolchildren for Frank Webb Avenue.

Consultation with residents and young people will be carried out relevant to selected site.

11. Wards Affected

Crewe St Barnabas – Frank Webb

Crewe South – Claughton Av/Brookhouse Drive

Crewe West – Queens Park

12. Conclusions

The Town Council is in the process of delivering its second play area development, and has the opportunity to consider further how it would like to focus resource to its best use in this financial year. Delivery of the next scheme would be subject to consultation and development over the summer and early autumn with a target installation by early 2024.

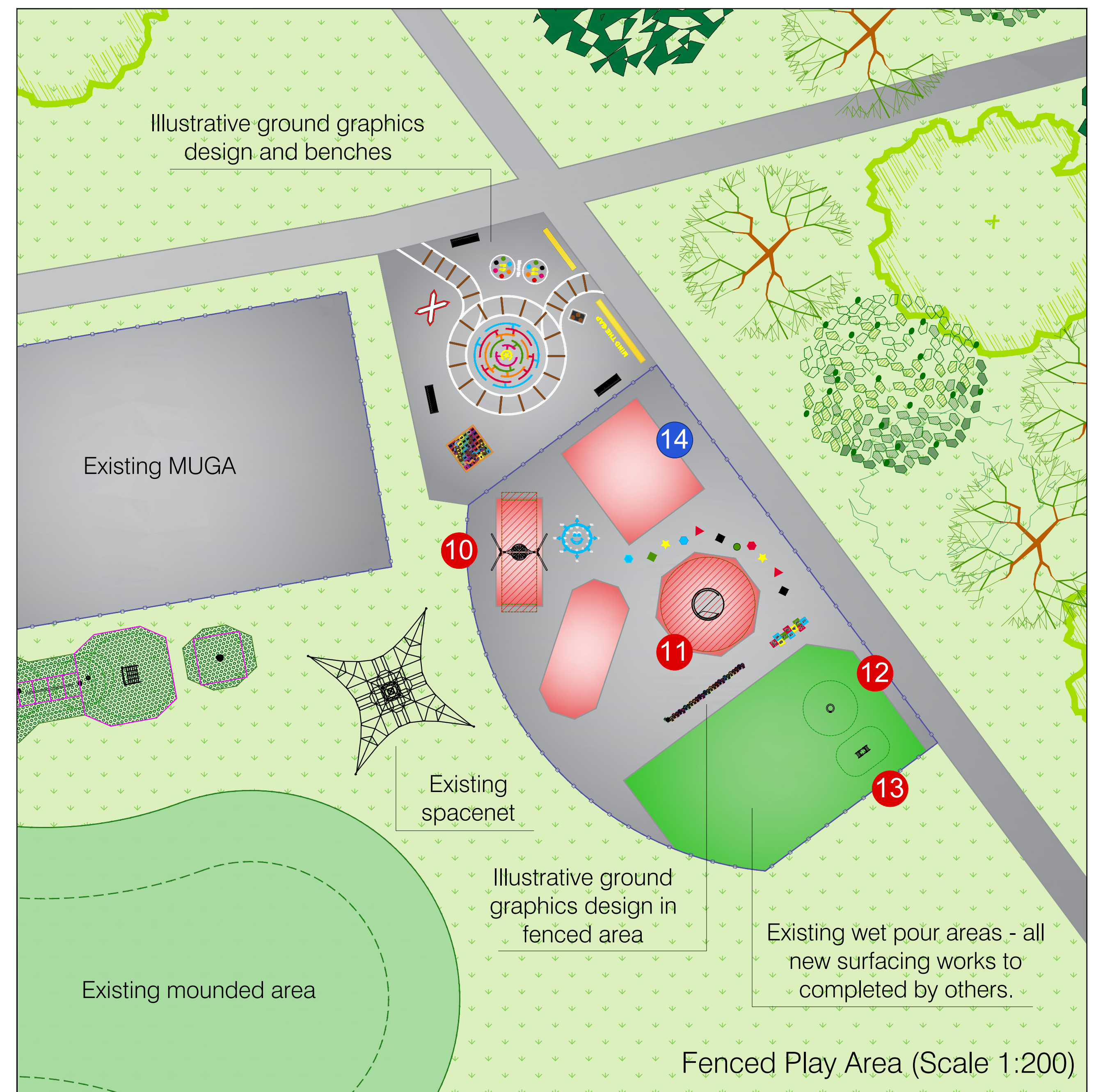
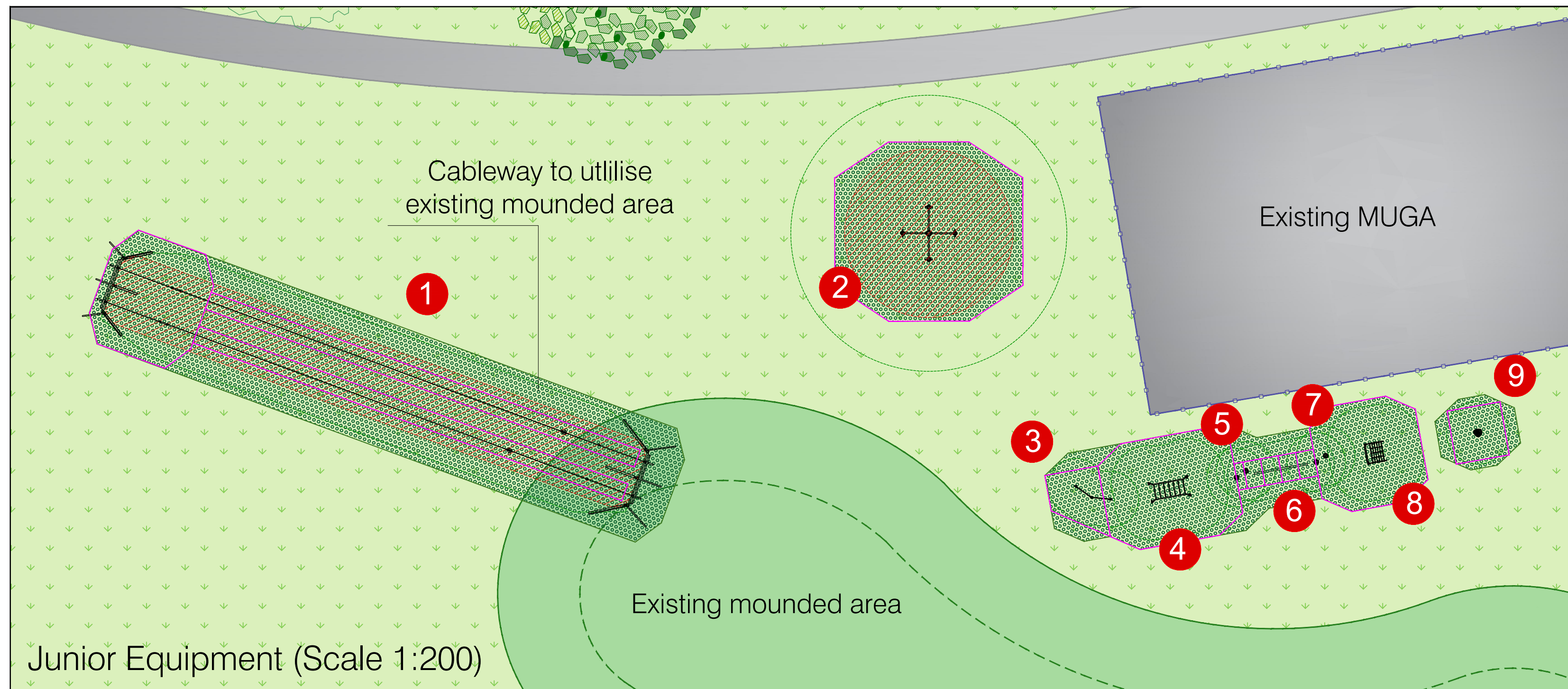
13. Considerations Sought

i. For Frank Webb Avenue: To note the selection of Kompan design and equipment, and installation by Ansa.

- ii. To delegate use of earmarked reserve of £771 to Regeneration manager in consultation with Ward Councillors for community activity or contribution to seating at Frank Webb Avenue.
- iii. To provide guidance on the selection of park for investment or priority for the next two years:
 - Option 1 – Claughton Avenue
 - Option 2 – Brookhouse Drive
 - Option 3- Queens Park
 - Option 4 – Queens Park and a park in the South ward over the next two years

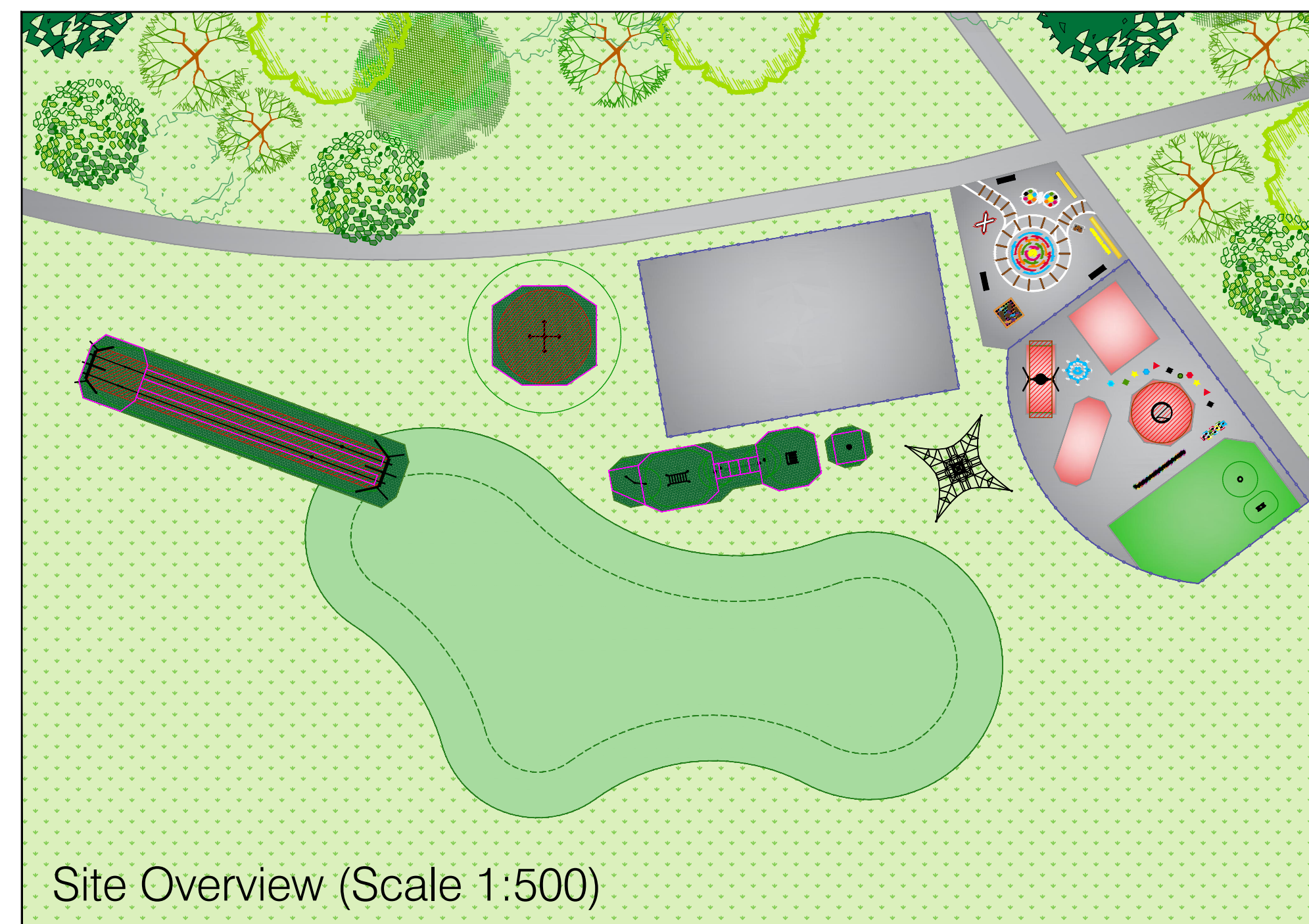
FRANK WEBB AVENUE PLAY AREA

ANSA Environmental Services

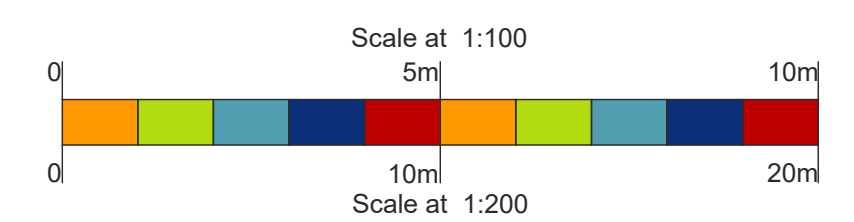


NEW EQUIPMENT:

- | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | <p>1. Double Cableway
Ref M88111-3817
Total height 397cm
Fall height 100cm
Age range 4+ years
DDA Accessible</p> | | <p>2. Saturn Carousel with Four Seats
Ref GXY958000-3817
Total height 253cm
Fall height 150cm
Age range 6+ years
DDA Accessible</p> | | <p>3. Double Somersault Bars
Ref PCM802-0902
Total height 170cm
Fall height 148cm
Age range 4+ years
DDA Accessible</p> |
| | <p>4. Overhead Ladder
Ref FPW20500-CUSTOM
Total height 240cm
Fall height 233cm
Age range 8+ years</p> | | <p>5. Stepping Pod, 600mm (x2)
Ref M87403-3617
Total height 60cm
Fall height 60cm
Age range 3+ years
DDA Accessible</p> | | <p>6. Balancing Beam
Ref KPL819-0601
Total height 30cm
Fall height 30cm
Age range 4+ years
DDA Accessible</p> |
| | <p>7. Stepping Pod, 300mm (x2)
Ref M87402-3617
Total height 30cm
Fall height 30cm
Age range 3+ years
DDA Accessible</p> | | <p>8. Vertical Net & Wall
Ref FPW21600-CUSTOM
Total height 240cm
Fall height 233cm
Age range 8+ years</p> | | <p>9. Spica 1
Ref GXY801421-3417
Total height 169cm
Fall height 100cm
Age range 6+ years
DDA Accessible</p> |
| | <p>10. Shell Swing Seat, installed onto existing frame
Ref SW990081-06
Age range 3+ years
DDA Accessible</p> | | <p>11. Inclusive Carousel
Ref PCM157-CUSTOM
Total height 70cm
Fall height 100cm
Age range 1+ years
DDA Accessible</p> | | <p>12. Spinner Bowl, Greenline
Ref ELE400024-3717DT
Total height 60cm
Fall height 100cm
Age range 4+ years
DDA Accessible</p> |
| | <p>13. Two Seat Springer
Ref KPL121-0402
Total height 66cm
Fall height 60cm
Age range 3+ years
DDA Accessible</p> | | <p>14. You&Me Swing Seat installed onto existing frame
(Optional Extra)
Ref SW990121-00
Age range 1+ years
DDA Accessible</p> | <p>Design assumes the site will be levelled by other (max. gradient 1:100), free draining and with good access
Quotation and design is submitted site unseen, we reserve the right, following a full site survey to amend the design appropriately.
Areas and dimensions shown are critical for compliance with European safety standards EN1176 & EN1177, if in doubt ask.
Grass areas should be well established prior to grass mat safety surfacing being laid.</p> | |



- Proposed surfacing to be completed by others:
- Option 1: Grass mat, fully surfaced areas
Single layer mats @ 371m². Mats with shockpad @ 75m²
 - Option 2: Grass mat, wear areas where possible
Single layer mats @ 207m². Mats with shockpad @ 75m²



KOMPAN Let's play

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Project FRANK_WEBB_AVENUE_PLAY_AREA	Date 20/04/2023	Designed by C.O
Client ANSA_ENVIRONMENTAL_SERVICES	Scale 1:100/1:500@A1	Revision -
Drawing No. CAS-216085-M2Q1C5		

Claughton Avenue Play Area

CW2 6EY

Crewe South



Site Condition – Poor to Average

The site would be suitable for funding, the only concern would be a lack of visibility if vandalism occurred.

Funding Requirements

4 / 5 new pieces of equipment, safety surfacing, signage and potentially seating.

Funding Amount

Circa £50,000 (2021 prices)

Site Images







Brookhouse Play Area & Muga

Artle Road, CW2 6NF

Crewe South



Site Condition – Average to Good

Short Term, the site is in adequate condition with solid play equipment, Multi-use Games Area and Equipment in the Grassed Area. The shelter is quite tired.

Can envisage more significant funding in 2/3 years to replace some of the equipment, maybe focus on access to the play equipment on grass with new pathways & more exciting equipment for older children in this area. Drainage could be a concern.

Funding Requirements

Short Term - Basket Swing Repair (Maintenance), Long Term - Exciting Play Equipment for older children in the grassed area, considering access & Drainage.

Funding Amount

In the next number of years - £100,000

Site Images











REPORT STATEMENT

Meeting: Operations and Improvements Committee (18 07 2023)
Report Purpose: Work associated with allotments
Version Control: v1
Author: Clerk

1. Report Summary

The report provides an update on the position with regard to allotment leases and management, engagement and works

2. Background

Crewe has 11 allotment sites. 3 are grouped together in a federation known as the Crewe West End Allotments. The remaining 8 were to be joined under the Crewe Town Allotments Federation. After unsuccessful attempts to achieve a sustainable allotment federation for the 8 sites it was resolved that the sites will be individually leased from the council by the site associates of each site.

Engagement on this basis began in 2022 with several positive and open meetings with the sites resulting in an agreed draft lease based on the template lease of the National Association Society. The leases were sent to all sites in May 2023.

Until the leases are signed the 8 allotment sites remain the responsibility of the town council, although they are all effectively locally managed by their site association.

3. Position

- i. West End Allotments – operating proactively and positively. Responsive and positive in engagement with the council.
- ii. Crewe Town Allotments – all sites have functioning site associations, which are operating positively and are supportive of self-management and the completion of leases. There are some slight lease amendments that are site specific. A meeting has been arranged with all sites invited to attend to seek to finalise the leases and complete this phase of work.
- iii. Site maintenance – Effectively all the sites remain the assets of the town council and we have a responsibility to ensure proper maintenance. The site associations are responsible for day to day maintenance and ensuring the sites are tidy and looked after, but the council will always have the liability for the boundaries and on site infrastructure (eg roadways and pipework such as drainage)
- iv. The council has intervened in practical terms in the form of boundary management (tree and hedge trimming), weed control and tree felling.
- v. The ranger service has supported some aspects of site maintenance, for example clearing waste that has accumulated on legacy plots that have been occupied for some years.

4. Equality Impact

All services are delivered within the council's diversity policy framework as well as national regulation and statute

5. Sustainability Impact

Allotments are seen as environmentally sustainable in terms of provision of open greenspaces as well as preserved natural drainage (not hard landscaped)

Allotments also provide social sustainability in terms of opportunities for community building on site and the added value of gardening in relation to positive physical and mental health benefits.

Allotments provide a financial sustainability as plot rents are relatively low, the lease rent to the council is peppercorn and notional. The risk to financial sustainability is the potential capital liability for infrastructure repair, maintenance and replacement over time.

6. Community Impact

Allotments provide a consistent and positive community asset and Crew eis well served with 11 sites

7. Governance

Localism Act 2011

Small Holdings Allotments Act 1908

8. Financial Impact

There is a current annual budget attributed of £7,000 to seek to address early interventions associated with capital maintenance and repair costs.

9. Resource Impact

The administration of the lease agreements has been a prolonged and involved task that draws significant amount of officer time. Direct management would be an unsustainable level of officer time at current capacity

10. Consultation/Engagement

Meetings with the 8 town sites have been ongoing and positive

Informal communication with the West end federated sites is positive and ongoing.

11. Wards Affected

All

12. Conclusions

- i. The West End sites remain a low administrative burden on the council but a positive asset to the town. We are working with them on potential projects they have identified and associated funding that they are seeking from external sources
- ii. The aim is to complete the lease agreements for the 8 non-federated sites. There should be no obstacle to this as the lease has been developed in open and joint consultation with all sites, but the completion is dependent on each site signing their respective lease.
- iii. If a site does not complete their lease it will be necessary for the council to take over site management and all the associated admin, which is not a preferred outcome for either the council or the site associations.

13. Consideration Sought

To note the report and provide any associated feedback or direction.



REPORT STATEMENT O&I 1 Item 13

Meeting Operations and Improvements Committee 18th July 2023

Report Purpose: To Provide an update on the Crewe Business Improvement District project

Version Control: v1

Author: Regeneration Manager

1. Report Summary

This report provides an update on the current BID development process and next stages, including information obtained so far on business responses to the consultation on a draft plan.

2. Background

Groundwork have been progressing plans to develop a Business Improvement District for Crewe. In early January work started in earnest, setting up a BID steering group of local stakeholders and a draft business proposal was developed. The plan had been published and shared with potential BID members to ensure that this reflects their priorities and would represent a plan for activities and expenditure which businesses would be prepared to support at ballot.

Work is also progressing to ensure that the legal and technical requirements of developing a BID are met. The Regeneration Manager and Groundwork Business Director have had meetings with officers from Cheshire East Council to monitor progress toward the notification of the ballot and to ensure that all necessary information is provided to inform Cheshire East Council's actions and decisions. Cheshire East Council has produced a baseline Schedule of services delivered in Crewe and the Regeneration Manager is preparing the same. This is to ensure that the BID would pay only for additional services to those already provided.

3. Position

A draft business plan has been produced and shared with businesses for feedback. The plan focuses on three key priority areas:

Theme 01.

A Better Crewe Experience

Theme 02.

Cleaner, Greener, Safer

Theme 03.

Connecting Crewe's Business Communities

The consultation for a BID in Crewe was launched on the 1st June for a 3 week period for companies and stakeholders to respond. There is an online copy of the business plan on the web site along with a response portal

All eligible premises were written to, an email data base was utilised to announce the consultation and four consultation sessions (online and in person) were promoted to companies.

Companies were offered the opportunity to respond to the consultation in person, over the phone or through attending one of the four consultation sessions.

1-2-1 visits were delivered during this period, with copies of the draft BID proposal distributed and flyers handed out to encourage a response.

Due to a low response rate from companies by the close of the consultation on the 22nd June, additional resource has been utilised to further follow up with companies, which has generated a significantly stronger response. Up to 8th July, responses have been received representing 56 premises. Further engagement activity is planned for week commencing 10th July, which is expected to provide additional responses.

A range of responses have been secured, including M&S, Boots, Tesco, Wilko as well as a range of smaller premises.

- 98% of respondents have stated that the three themes are the right priorities for focusing improvements across the proposed area for the BID.
- 84% of respondents have stated they would support the proposal for a BID at the planned Ballot in November 2023.
- To date 66% of responses are from Crewe town centre, 4% Grand Junction and 30% from Nantwich Road, Mill Street or Edleston Road.

The timeline of next actions is as follows:

Consultation	June/July 2023
Steering group and sub group meetings to make recommendations about the management/governance model for the BID body and to review the findings of the consultation.	July 2023
Finalisation of Baseline Service Statements – CTC and CEC	End July 2023
Final Text version of BID Proposal	Aug 2023
Submission of a proposal for a BID to Cheshire East Council for approval.	August
Submit final ballot listing	
Issue 42 day notice of ballot to hereditaments by Ballot Holder.	October 2023
Issue of ballot papers by Ballot Holder to hereditaments	Oct/November
Provisional day of the ballot	End of November

If the proposal is supported at ballot then the BID steering group will form a board and the BID would commence in April 2024.

4. Equality Impact

Project designed to enable and empower local businesses to work collectively to improve the

trading situation and connections between Nantwich Road, Grand Junction Retail Park and Crewe Town Centre.

5. Sustainability Impact

A BID would provide support activities for businesses trading within the area, with self-generated funds which would be guaranteed for the 5 year life of the BID. A re-ballot would enable businesses to decide whether they wished to continue for a further 5 year period.

6. Community Impact

Growing a community of local and nationally owned businesses within the BID area.
Improved experience for Crewe residents and visitors.

7. Governance

Corporate Strategy:

A town to work in
A community with pride.

8. Financial Impact

Cost of project within earmarked reserves from 20223/23 budget.

9. Resource Impact

Officer time

10. Consultation/Engagement

All businesses within the proposed BID area have/will be contacted and encouraged to respond to consultations and join stakeholder meetings. All potential levy payers will be given a ballot.

11. Wards Affected

BID locations: Crewe Central and St Barnabas, Crewe South and Crewe East.

All wards affected by any improvement or losses in trading offering.

12. Conclusions

Through this project the Town Council is seeking to enable businesses to organise themselves through a legally defined process and use the resources raised through a levy to improve the trading situation according to their identified priorities. For a BID to be active in financial year 2024/25, the ballot must take place before January 2024. Further detail should be available on the overall response and direction of the proposal by the time of the O&I meeting.



REPORT STATEMENT Item 14

Meeting: Operations and Improvements Committee (18 07 2023)
Report Purpose: Committee budget considerations
Version Control: v1
Author: Regeneration Manager

1. Report Summary

This report presents proposed budget for 2024/25

2. Background

Crewe Town Council sets its precept requirements at the December meeting of council. Prior to this members and committees are asked to inform the budget setting process at committee level as well as members expressing views individually.

Through the process the budget drafts develop and are shared with the Finance and Governance Committee for oversight prior to reporting to Council. The committee associated budget for Operations and Improvements in 2023/24 is £473,211.

3. Position

The revised budget proposal is as follows:

	2023/24 Budget expenditure	2024/25 Draft Budget Expenditure
Operations		
Equipment Purchase/Repair/Hire	10000	10000
CCTV	34500	37456
Ranger Service	187469	206215
Enforcement officer	33242	37277
Floral Scheme	35000	35000
Play Area Improvement Scheme	100000	100000
Allotments	7000	7000
Regeneration		
Public Realm	25000	25000
Heritage Projects	20000	20000
Regen Projects	21000	21000
Total O&I Committee	473211	498948

This current draft represents an increase of £25,737 (5.4% increase) on the 23/24 budget, and accommodates increases in external contractor costs associated with the Town Ranger Service, CCTV

provision and the ongoing support of the dedicated Community Enforcement Officer

There are no other proposed increases, although members may choose to consider if the areas of work are aligned with corporate aims.

4. Conclusions

Continuation of projects which support environmental improvements or maintenance such as Cleaner Crewe Project (Enforcement Officer), Ranger Support, floral displays and play area improvements – with benefit across the community.

5. Consideration Sought

- i. Members may choose to consider all the areas of work associated with the committee and the strategic direction.
- ii. Consideration of ongoing pressures on non-statutory services currently delivered by CEC may be timely
- iii. The above is a draft that will be reported to (subject to committee amendment) to the Finance and Governance Committee before including of the full council draft budget being present to council in September as an update on budget setting progress
- iv. All increases in costs will impact on the level of precept required and the potential increase that might lead to for council tax payers in Crewe.