

Briefing Officers: Steve Law- Estate Management Paul Nicholson-Physical Regeneration Steve Lewis- Environmental Regeneration
Meeting; St. Matthews/Birchills/Leamore LNP
Date of meeting: 31 st July 2006
Briefing: <p>The LNP has requested a briefing note on the future of the vacant playing fields at Adams Street, Birchills.</p> <p>The land in question currently contributes to the statutory playing field provision for Birchills JMI, notwithstanding that the school has not used the facility for a number of years and has no plans to do so.</p> <p>At present, the area is being used as a temporary site compound for the contractors working on the Town Centre Transport Package, having been identified as being the only suitable site available around the route. The consent of the school and the DfES was obtained for this use prior to occupation. A separate planning permission was not required as its use as a site compound is covered by the existing consent for the TCTP.</p> <p>The contract for the road works is expected to run for up to two years, following which the long term future of the site shall be addressed. At present, disposal for residential development purposes is an option, which the Urban Design Framework report elsewhere on this agenda recognises.</p> <p>In the event that the site comes forward for disposal, the consent of the DfES is likely to be required, the process of applying for which involves a period for local consultation on the proposal. Planning permission would also be required, affording the local community a further opportunity to comment on any proposals.</p> <p>With regards to the Urban Design Framework for A454, this work has been developed following approval of Cabinet in mid-2005, as part of the Council's wish to improve its strategic corridors and gateways, through:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved public realm• Establishing design guidance for private development• Stimulating regeneration opportunities <p>LNP's are being asked for their comments on the draft Design Framework and these will be used to inform the final draft, which is to be presented to Cabinet on 18th October.</p>

The playing field in question has been identified as part of the priority section of the corridor between Arboretum island and Pleck Road junction, where major renewal projects (such as Waterfront, Smiths Mill and the new College) are located and being promoted jointly by the Council and Walsall Regeneration Company.

The LNP is being encouraged to make comments on the draft and could ask Cabinet to consider their concerns about the need for play facilities within the Birchills area.

Steve Law Ext 2075
Paul Nicholson Ext 2489
Steve Lewis Ext 2534