

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive Forward Plan Reference	E2133
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Combe Down Stone Mines Project - Reinstatement of Firs Field

Decision maker/s	Cllr Francine Haerberling, Leader of Council
The Issue	Combe Down Stone Mines project planning permission conditions require a wall to be built to replace the existing chain link boundary fence to Firs Field. The wall is proposed to be built as part of the discharge of the Aftercare planning condition, subject to this decision. Following public consultation on alternative locations of the wall in relation to the existing boundary fence line of Firs Field, a decision on location is required
Decision Date	7 th June 2010
The decision	The Cabinet Member agrees that the wall should be constructed on the line of the existing boundary fence
Rationale for decision	<p>Building the wall along the existing fence line in such a way that protects the tree roots is the option that best addresses the issues.</p> <p>The LPA has advised that the wall was included in the planning conditions of the Combe Down Stone Mines Stabilisation Project as an enhancement in response to public wish to replace the existing fence, and is therefore required to discharge the condition</p> <p>Public opinion, as gauged by the consultation is fairly evenly balanced between the design options. Construction of the wall on the existing fence line is the recommended option that satisfies the practical considerations of parking and maintenance as expressed by Council officers responsible for highways and parks.</p> <p>The aim of the alternative design option that locates the wall 4m within the field was to avoid construction damage to the root zone of the trees. The overriding concerns of the parks department was that such benefit to the trees will not be realised if parking on the wide verge so created is not policed or physically prevented. Departments responsible for highways and parks wish to avoid the additional staff and maintenance costs that would arise from this option.</p>
Financial and budget implications	The tendered cost of the wall is £81,000; this is within the existing approved capital budget. The difference in the cost of the design options (excluding the 'do-nothing' option) is insignificant.
Issues considered	<i>Customer Focus; Sustainability; Property; Health & Safety.</i>
Consultation undertaken	<i>Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer</i>
How consultation was carried out	

Other options considered	Do not build a wall and retain the existing fence instead. Build the wall 4metres inside the existing fence line to avoid construction damage to the tree roots.
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Signatures of Decision Makers	
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Date of Signature	
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