

## **OUTDOOR GYM**

### **Introduction**

On 15 May 2023, the Council approved the tender documents relating to the delivery of an outdoor gym in the Stone Meadow area of the Country Park and launched the tender in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulation and the timetable included in the invitation to tender document (ref. minute 23/88).

The Council noted at the time that grant funding would be sought for this facility and that the Council had successfully completed a Stage 1 application to the Valencia Communities Fund (formerly known as Viridor Credits). The submission of a Stage 2 application required a completed public procurement exercise. It had not been proposed to fund an outdoor gym via the Town Council's precept.

### **Valencia Communities Fund Decision**

On 5 October 2023, the Valencia Communities Fund informed the Council that their Funding Group was unable to support the project due to the limited funding available.

### **Future of the Facility**

The Section 106 agreement relating to the first 3,500 homes dated October 2010 contains an obligation for the East Devon New Community partners to deliver a trim trail to the index-linked value of £30,000. Plan 27, which forms an attachment to the Section 106 agreement and which records the agreed locations of all the play areas, shows the location of the trim trail near basin 2c in the Country Park. That location will also need to accommodate a neighbourhood equipped area for play (NEAP) and the bicycle pump track. Considering the significant enlargement of basin 2c in the near future to accommodate the drainage requirements resulting from the development of the town centre, there might not be enough space in that location to accommodate the trim trail as well.

Following those developments, the planning team had initially suggested that the trim trail could be relocated to the Ecology Park but there is no reason why it could not be relocated to the proposed location for the outdoor gym opposite Inner Westland in the Stone Meadow area of the Country Park:



Cllr Ray Bloxham, in his capacity as the chair of the Council's Planning Committee, and the Clerk are meeting with the Cranbrook New Community Officer on 7 November 2023 and will take the opportunity to discuss the above with him.

The trim trail had a trigger point of 2,000 occupations so is well overdue. Locating the facility in the Ecology Park would result in further delays to its delivery.

**Recommendation**

- a) To note the report.
- b) To support the relocation of the trim trail into the proposed location opposite Inner Westland in the Stone Meadow area of the Country Park.