

Report on	Railway Park, Dungannon; User Safety Works
Date of Meeting	8 th November 2018
Reporting Officer	Terry Scullion - Head of Property Services
Contact Officer	Eunan Murray, Grounds and Cemeteries Manager

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek members' approval to carry out extensive tree and foliage removal, and Lighting enhancement along pathways in Railway Park to improve user safety.
	Background
2.1	Railway Park is one of a number of small to medium urban parks owned and maintained by Council. Located in Dungannon, Railway Park covers an area of 20 acres including the 6.5 acres of land recently purchased by the Council in 2017. The original linear greenway was developed by the Council in the 1980's and follows the line of the former Railway. Railway Park can be accessed from the surrounding residential areas through numerous routes and by visitors using the Park's main car park located at Railway Road. Several businesses including Tescos, Newell Stores, Ballysaggart Business Park Complex, the STEP Community centre 'Junction' complex and the Bus Station 'back' onto the Park.
2.2	The site is managed by Parks and maintained by Property Services. A singular lit tarmac path, accompanied by seating and bins, approximately 3 metres wide runs the length of the original linear greenway. This path is surrounded by areas of open green space particularly in the central area of the Park. Other sections of the park are quite densely planted with mixed broadleaf tree species.
2.3	A recent request has been made to carry extensive tree and foliage removal along a number of sections of pathway, approximately 200 metres in total, and lighting improvements.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	As a result of increased antisocial behaviour and Councillor representation a Designing Out Crime audit was conducted the PSNI in conjunction with Council Officers. See Appendix 1 for further detail. The audit identifies a number of recommendations including, “ <i>Planting should not impede the opportunity for natural surveillance and must avoid the creation of potential hiding places such as the area behind The Junction and the closed off pathway leading to Railway Road/Linfield Street as well as the area close to the Old Eglish Road</i> ”.
3.2	<p>Works proposed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree and foliage removal along three specific sections of the Park to remove tightly packed vegetation which now encroaches the main pathway to improve visitor visibility and safety. It also improves soiling and making good the respective areas of approximately 200 linear metres – approximate cost £17,345 • Upgrade of 14 number pathway lights from 250 watt metal Halide to 11 watt LED fitting at a cost of £4,480. This will enhance lighting quality and support safety improvements while also resulting in energy consumption improvement with a payback less than 12 months.
3.3	<p>The benefits of the works will see the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Access and Movement - clear paths that provide for convenient movement without compromising security. • Visibility - Walkways that are publicly accessible, overlooked and well lit. • Activity - Safe walkways that generate increased users that the level of human activity is appropriate and creates a reduced risk of crime and sense of safety at all times. <p>By carrying these works it will have a very positive outcome for the local community of Railway Park and its users. It will not only enhance the area but by ways of looking to design out crime it will reduce their fear of crime and improve the health and wellbeing of users.</p>
3.4	Consequences of not doing the work would see anti-social behaviour levels increase and deter people using the area for recreational activities.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>These works are considered to be facility user safety enhancement and upgrade, rather just than planned or reactive maintenance. Therefore, funding is requested from Council revenue reserves. The investment required is £21,825 which includes labour and materials.</p>

	<p>Human: Officers time in preparing and managing the scheme and coordinating the work programme with Parks to minimise the impact on access while work is underway.</p> <p>Risk Management: Mid Ulster Council has a duty of care under the Health and Safety at Work Order to its staff and the public who use the facility to provide a safe and secure environment. This project will help mitigate that risk by providing enhanced lighting, better access and movement within the Park, and allow for greater security.</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>None.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>None.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to approve the release of £21,825 plus 10% contingency, (i.e. £24,008) from revenue reserves to undertake Tree clearance, foliage removal and lighting upgrade as outlined at Railway Park using approved Council procurement framework Contractors.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – Designing Out Crime Audit