

Rother District Council

COUNCIL MEETING

20 February 2023

MEMBER QUESTION 1

(Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 11.2)



Question to Councillor Oliver from Councillor Coleman

Question

Sports in Sidley

When I was elected to Council in 2019, Sidley was deprived of sporting facilities. Our cricket club played in Hastings, our football club played in Hooe, the nearest skate park was unsafe, the BMX track was in serious need of improvements and the old changing rooms on Sidley Rec sat closed. Can the Leader of the Council outline for the record what improvements have been delivered to sports provision in Sidley since this administration took office?

Answer

Bexhill BMX and Skate Park - £870,00 approximately

Designed in consultation with the BMX and skateboarding community and with the support of a range of funders including the Heart of Sidley and Sport England, this project delivered a new skatepark and improved BMX facilities (race track and jump park) at Sidley Recreation Ground. Skateboarders, scooter-users, BMX-ers and in-line skaters from novice to experienced riders can now access challenging but safe modern facilities on their doorstep. The town's long-running BMX Club is now able to expand its coaching programme and can once again hold BMX events locally drawing in visitors from around the southeast and beyond. The Council continues to work with the users to maximise the benefits of the new facilities to the community including providing training local skateboarders to coach beginners. Additional paths, lighting and tree planting enable the community to better use and enjoy the site.

Parks Levelling Up Fund - £85,000

Improvements to the public open space at Sidley House are being planned for delivery in 2023 funded through the government's Levelling Up Parks Fund. The Council was amongst 85 local authorities eligible for the funding targeted at the most deprived urban neighbourhoods. The project will deliver improvements to the children's play area and improve the usability of the green space to the community through the provision of seating, tree planting and improved access.

Levelling Up Funding – Sidley Recreation Ground

This project will deliver community facilities at Sidley Recreation Ground, based on the community consultation undertaken by Heart of Sidley (HoS).

The site is mainly grassland and sits next to the recently restored and reopened

BMX track. Heart of Sidley made a significant financial contribution to Rother District Council's (RDC) refurbishment of the BMX track galvanizing a successful RDC, HoS partnership.

The vision of this component is to connect Sidley with the De La Warr Pavilion (also in receipt of LUF) and the town centre, to provide wider routes to education and employment.

It will:

- Make Sidley Rec the hub of local life and the community
- Provide a 3G pitch for local clubs to use
- Improve toilet facilities to be disabled access, parent friendly and better quality
- Upgrade changing room facilities to improve offer for local and visiting events
- Provide a sustainable community space for local residents and community organisations, to host workshops and training sessions.
- Increase local resident services and activities by increasing available community space
- Create a long-term legacy for Sidley

As the facility will be a long-term legacy for the local community, the build will be constructed in an eco-friendly, low carbon, energy efficiency manner where possible.

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