

# Handsworth Park Environmental and Recreational Improvements Project

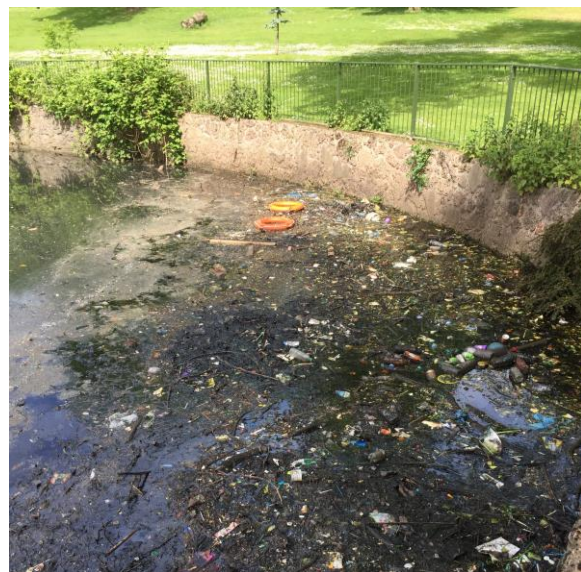
## Overview:

There is £165,000 worth of Section 106 money to be spent in Handsworth ward. Section 106 is a piece of planning law which requires developers to make a proportionate contribution towards replacing public amenities which are lost as a result of development. The nature of the amenity lost helps define what the money should be spent on, and in this case it is a mixture of sport, childrens' play, recreation and public open space.

Bob Churn, Head of Landscape and Development at the Council, gave a briefing on this issue at the second online Handsworth Ward meeting on 20th October, presenting 3 pieces of work in Handsworth Park which could be wholly or partly funded by the £165,000.



**1. Upper pool restoration:** Cleaning, clearing and de-silting the neglected and smelly upper lake (the one near the bandstand) – including the island with its overgrown sculpture. This would be the most expensive piece of work, with some of the costs being unclear until the work had started but is estimated at £100,000.



**2. Outdoor gym:** Creating this near the basketball court behind the Wellbeing Centre – installing and then maintaining perhaps 5 pieces of equipment. Depending on the choice of equipment, whether static or with moving parts this is estimated at £73,000 including a lump sum for future maintenance.





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**Air Walker**



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**Multi Purpose Fitness Frame**

**3.Tree trail enhancements:** Further development of the meadow which slopes down from the trees towards the cricket pitch at the North end of the park – planting of wild flowers and additional trees. This would be a quick win and is relatively cheap to deliver, estimated at £15,000 allowing for a maintenance contribution.



A consultation, seeking views on the suggestions and alternative ideas within the limits of the spend criteria, was then undertaken in the ward via the “Inside Handsworth” newsletter published on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020.

Following this, a further presentation was tabled at the online Handsworth Ward meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021 outlining costs and offering a couple of budgeted options for residents to choose from that could be implemented in the Spring, in anticipation of the possible easing of the current Covid19 restrictions .

## Options for implementation:

The following two options have now been selected for residents to vote on their preference. Both are achievable and will enhance the park in a positive way.

### Option 1:

- Install 1 x Outdoor Gym Area at cost of £73,000 near the Well-being Centre
- Contribute £92,000 to upper pool dredging, cleaning and aeration

Total project costs: £165,000

### Option2:

- Upper pool dredging contribution of £100,000
- Marginal planting to the lake to enhance bio-diversity and interest: £25,000
- Tree trail planting including new trees and wildflowers: £15,000
- A simple mini gym with static fitness equipment near the Well-being Centre: £25,000

Total project costs: £165,000