

Equality Analysis Report – Orrell Mount Park Masterplan

Details of proposal:

People are being asked for their views on the potential major redevelopment of a greenspace in Bootle.

Sefton Council is inviting residents, representatives, community groups and stakeholders in South Sefton to take part in a consultation exercise regarding the proposed re-development of Orrell Mount Park, Bootle.

This consultation, which is being run by FMG Consulting on behalf of the Council, is an opportunity for people to ask questions, share feedback on the proposals and gain a better understanding of the design proposals, timescales, and the benefits to the local community that the development will provide.

Ramifications of Proposal:

Subject to the outcome of the consultation, potential changes of use to the area would increase footfall at the park. These could include installing a fenced off 3G pitch on an area which is currently open grass. Also under consideration are improvements to the existing pavilion which could be redeveloped and therefore increase the number of users to the site. Other areas of the park under consideration including dog exercise area, nature trail, circular path, and increased site furniture (benches and bins for example).

The outcome could also be there are improvements to parking, with additional spaces as well as electrical vehicle charging points installed. Additional tree and shrub planting, along with improved lighting are also considerations as part of the consultation exercise.

Are there any protected characteristics that will be disproportionately affected in comparison to others?

No

The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are:

- *Age*
- *Disability*
- *Gender Reassignment*
- *Marriage and Civil Partnership*
- *Race*
- *Religion or Belief*
- *Sex*
- *Sexual Orientation*
- *Pregnancy and Maternity*

We are not aware of any disproportionate impacts based on the engagement that has taken place so far, however, should any come to light during or following the consultation, we will update this report accordingly.

Consultation:

The masterplan consultation commenced on Monday 30th July and will run until Friday 22nd July.

In order to secure funding from the Football Foundation for the proposed 3G pitch, planning permission is a condition of grant funding. The Football Foundation have made available £750,000 to support the proposed development. A planning application was made in October 2020 and followed the full normal planning process.

Residents in the immediate vicinity of the proposed site were consulted, along with other key stakeholders, and the application was open for public comment and objection. Feedback was received in relation to possible noise, parking and traffic issues and anti-social behaviour, and plans were adapted accordingly. Councillors on the planning committee consider all views expressed and in making decisions take care to balance local and national interests. Full details of the planning application document, and decision reports can be found on the planning portal at www.sefton.gov.uk/planning. You will need to enter reference numbers DC/2020/02027 for the main application and DC/2021/01276 for a supplementary one.

Is there evidence that the Public Sector Equality Duties will be met?

The Equality Act 2010 requires that those subject to the Equality Duty must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- 1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.*
- 2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.*
- 3. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.*

The Act explains that having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.*
- Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.*

- *Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.*

There are no planned restrictions on proposed site masterplan, should the 3G pitch go ahead there will be a cost for users and booking slots will be available through the proposed operator of the site, who would manage it on a not-for-profit basis.

The potential to bring back derelict areas of the site are elements under consideration as part of the masterplan. Opportunities to bring in further investment could be explored following the outcome of the consultation. Site improvements would allow new users to access the proposed facilities should any plans go ahead.

The consultation will seek views from a range of stakeholders including inclusion groups and youth assets in the area. Proposals of the site masterplan could ultimately lead to improved disabled access, including improvements to parking and paths.

What actions will follow if proposal accepted by cabinet & Council?

Include details of any mitigating action and ongoing monitoring to address any of the equality impacts highlighted above

Next steps will include a decision to be made following a report to be produced by FMG Consulting on completion of the consultation on 22nd July.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation this Equality Impact Assessment will be updated accordingly as the project evolves.