

Enterprise Resources
Executive Director **Colin McDowall**

Mr Robert Freel
Secretary
Stonehouse Community Council
75 Lockhart Street
Stonehouse
ML9 3LX

Our ref: SC/EW
Your ref: -
If calling ask for: Steven Clark
Phone: 01698 453555
Date: 18 December 2009

Dear Mr Freel

Play Equipment
Alexander Hamilton Memorial Park (AHMP)

I refer to your letter of 25 October 2009 addressed to Mr Norrie Anderson, Executive Director, Community Resources relative to the above and the subsequent email you received on 12 November 2009 advising that your letter has been forwarded to myself to respond.

Firstly, from the letter you received from Mr Norrie Anderson, on 9 October 2009 you will be aware that £34,500 has been secured from a developer as a result of the planning process. I must highlight however that this money has been received as a consequence of the Council's Residential Development Guide as the developer sought to make a financial contribution towards the improvement of existing community facilities rather than providing their own play facilities within their site. This, in many instances, secures improvements for the wider community. This money is held by the Council, with Community Resources ultimately responsible for spending it in the area local to the development.

In response to your questions I would provide the following comments:

- a) Financial contributions are mainly sought from applicants associated with major developments, for example wind farm or mineral developments.
- b) Applications where financial contributions are negotiated as part of the planning process, are usually presented to Committee for consideration. As a result the requirement for a financial contribution is recorded in the report presented to Committee. Should consent be granted for the proposal the decision notice is either not issued until the money has been paid or if a number of other issues require to be addressed (e.g. contributions to off site road works) it is released following the conclusion of a legal agreement with the applicant. This is recorded by office management and the money requested at the agreed time.
- c) The money is either paid prior to work commencing on site or during the construction of the development. Each application is considered on its merits taking into account the scale of the proposal, the requirement for enabling works and other material considerations.
- d) Community Resources have responsibility for spending the money and I understand that discussions take place with local members in this regard.

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- e) Prior to any financial agreement being concluded, the timeline for obtaining the money is agreed. In this regard it is an agreement between the Council and the respective developer and as a result there is no uniform timetable for the payment of money. Any money received by the Planning Service will be held in a suspense account and the relevant Resource advised of the fact e.g. Community Resources if the money relates to the non provision of play facilities or Roads and Transportation Services if the monies relate to specific off site road works.

The South Lanarkshire Local Plan has a policy dealing with developers' contribution; STRAT10 Developers' Contribution Policy. As you will note from the policy, the Council intended to bring forward Supplementary Planning Guidance to provide detailed guidance to all stakeholders. However, work on this was suspended when advice was released by the Scottish Government suggesting that Authorities should be mindful of the economic recession and the impact the requirement of developers' contributions could have on the construction industry.

I hope the above clarifies the matters raised in connection with planning issues. As any specific installation/replacement of play equipment is a matter for Community Resources. I have copied them in on this response so they can advise you further, if necessary.

Yours sincerely

Colin McDowall
Executive Director

cc Norrie Anderson, Executive Director, Community Resources, Almada Street, Hamilton

Distribution List