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NEWS RELEASE

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A Bright Future For French Weir

Plans to apply for a £900,000 bid to the HLF/BIG Lottery for major improvements to Taunton's French Weir Park have been approved by Taunton Deane Borough Council's Executive. The Executive has accepted the use of up to £225,000 provided by the developers of new flats and houses in the area of the park to help towards securing the lottery bid. (This is Section 106 money from the developers allocated for recreational provision).

Council officers and members of the newly formed French Weir Friend Group have been working closely to develop a plan for improvements to French Weir Park. Ideas include improving the way the park is set out, building a new children's play area in a better location and extending the range of other facilities.

As Cllr John Clark, Executive Councillor for Leisure, Arts and Culture, Taunton Deane Borough Council said, "It is encouraging to see the increasing level of community involvement in the park and with the planned improvements it is hoped that it will attract more people to make use of the area".

The initial application will be to the Lottery for a Project Planning Grant, which will be used to fund the work required to prepare all the documentation necessary for a bid for 75% of the cost of carrying out the improvements. The main bid will be submitted in the summer of 2007.

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