

Playground Maintenance Working Group Update

09 March 2023

OVERVIEW

The Playground Maintenance Working Group met on 06 March 2023.
Present: Cllr Carpenter, Cllr Moore, Clerk

MEMBERSHIP

1. The Working Group currently has 4 members – 2 councillors, 1 member of the public, the Clerk.

FUNDING

1. **Donations**
Donations have been received from members of the public to help fund phases 2 and 3 of the refurbishment programme.
The Working Group propose that the Council advertise to the community that they would welcome donations to assist in the refurbishment programme.
2. **Grant awards**
The donations will enable the Council to look at match-funded grant opportunities.
Cllr Leffman has indicated that she would support an application to the 2023/24 Cllr Priority Fund – The council will need to approve this application request.
When the Council have approved phases 2 and 3 of the refurbishment programme, the Clerk will be able to apply for grant funding.

PLAYGROUND WORKING PARTY

1. The Working Party task list has been updated.
2. Volunteers will be asked to help with the tasks.

PHASE 1 WORKS

Replacement of the toddler multi-play unit and the agility trail

Update

Works have started to remove the old toddler multi-play unit and agility trail. The contractor will also remove the tyre swing support and surface, the old boat swing, and the old picnic benches – total cost £1340.

Council needs to ratify approval for the removal works.

The installation plan has been agreed with Caloo.

The installation works are scheduled to take place w/c 20th March.

The Council will need to purchase and spread play bark around the toddler multi-play unit. (Play bark will also be purchased to top up the two swing areas).

The playground has been closed whilst the refurbishment works take place.

The Clerk will purchase the two replacement picnic tables.

Some areas will require grass reseeding once the works have been completed.

PHASE 2

Working Group proposal

To refurbish the remainder of the toddler area, and extend the agility trail

TODDLER AREA

To include:

- Removal of the carousel and surface
- Removal of the seesaw rocker and surface
- Removal of the three static vehicles
- Installation of a new safety surface for the area
- Installation of a replacement item for the carousel
- Installation of a replacement item for the seesaw rocker
- Installation of replacement items for the static vehicles

AGILITY TRAIL

To include:

- More challenging items suitable for older children – these may require safety surfaces

COSTS

- It has been estimated that these works could cost £41,000

PHASE 3

Working Group proposal

To refurbish the central area

To include:

- Removal of the rope roundabout and surface
- Removal of the climbing pyramid and surface
- Installation of a more challenging installation for older children, for example a range climber
- Replacement of boundary fence

COSTS

- It has been estimated that these works could cost £30,000

EXTRA WORKS

Working Group proposal

To edge the play bark filled areas

Edging the play bark filled areas (toddler multiplay unit and two swing areas) with wood will help contain the play bark and improve the appearance of the areas. Estimate for this work will be sought.

To remove the buried tunnel

Safety issues were listed in the 2022 RoSPA report. Contractors have been contacted but have not been able to provide suitable solutions. The item is not compliant with current standards, and the RoSPA report suggested removal if the safety issues could not be resolved.

The side of the entrance way by the slide is deteriorating.

The Working Party propose that the tunnel be removed and area backfilled with soil, and a quotation for this work has been obtained.

To remove the wooden chain pull beside the slide

The wooden chain pull is deteriorating. Nails are starting to protrude from some supports. Some supporting soil is missing This item is not compliant with current standards, so could be repaired, but not replaced.

The Working Party propose that the wooden chain pull be removed, and a quotation for this work has been obtained.

The slope to the right hand side of the slide could be used as the main way to access the slide.

Playground entrance

The playground entrance is damaged and in need of repair.

The Land Registry record has been checked, and this area is not in Council ownership. The Clerk entered the entrance damage onto FixMyStreet.

Flower and vegetable growing area

A proposal was put forward to create a flower and vegetable growing area. It was agreed that a scheme needs to be drawn up, to be put to Council for consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL

- To approve the Clerk to apply to the 2023/24 Cllr Priority Fund for a grant of £1000 for phase 2 of the refurbishment works.
- To approve that the Working Group advertise that they would welcome donations to assist in the refurbishment programme.
- To ratify approval of the removal of the toddler multi-play unit, agility trail, tyre swing support and surface, old boat swing and picnic tables – cost of £1340.
- To delegate authority to the Clerk to purchase play bark for the multi-play unit area, and the two swing areas.
- To consider removing the tunnel, and backfilling the area with soil.
To delegate authority to the Clerk to organise the removal of the tunnel and back filling the area with soil – an indicative cost of £300 has been received.
- To consider removing the wooden chain pull beside the slide.
To delegate authority to the Clerk to organise the removal of the wooden chain pull beside the slide – an indicative cost of £50 has been received.
- To consider undertaking phase 2 of the refurbishment works
To agree a budget for the phase 2 works
To request the Clerk obtain quotations for suitable options for the phase 2 works, following further Working Party discussions, to bring to Council for consideration
- To consider undertaking phase 3 of the refurbishment works
To agree a budget for the phase 3 works
To request the Clerk to obtain quotations or indicative prices for suitable options for the phase 3 works, following further Working Parity discussions, to bring to Council for consideration