



Update to Community Assets Committee July 2023

Weirfield Play Area Refurbishment

An £80,000 budget allocation was agreed at Full Council on 19 June 2023 for the refurbishment of the fenced play area at the Weirfield. The site, originally installed by MonsterPlay is now around 15 years old. Currently this area contains a seesaw, roundabout, two ride-on springers, a central unit containing slide/climbing activities and a swing unit featuring two seats and two flat swings. The rubber soft surfacing is cracking and disintegrating. It has been repaired many times by the WPC Grounds Team.

Other play equipment for older age groups outside the fenced play area include a Kompan basket swing and Kompan Sky Carousel and are located on adjacent green space. A shelter, basketball hoop/football goal unit are also available nearby.

Members of the Play Area Working Party visited the site on Tuesday 13th June to review the existing equipment and surroundings and to be updated on scoping work undertaken so far by the Community Grants and Projects Officer. This has included discussions/and or site visits with a local resident who is a play equipment specialist, also Proludic, Sutcliffe and Kompan play equipment providers.

It is hoped that a replacement play area would be installed during the current financial year.

In line with WPCs current policy, a contract of this size would be subject to national tendering exercise (via the government endorsed 'Contract Finder' website.) Following the receipt of sealed bids, a selected number of Play Area Working Party representatives including the Clerk as Responsible Finance Officer and Chair of WPC would complete a contract scoring and selection process similar to the one undertaken to for the Thorney Park Play Area.

The Play Area Working Party are making the following recommendations:

Recommendations

1. Exploratory work is completed by the WPC Grounds Team within the next 2 weeks to ascertain the depth of the existing play area sub-base. (If the sub base does not meet current requirements more money will need to be spent by our chosen contractor on excavating and preparing the site.)
2. The Play Area Working Party are authorized to develop a high level outline specification for the replacement play area which will be brought to the next Community Assets or Full Council Meeting.
3. The Play Area Working Party contract specification details that existing fencing and play gates, subject to them being in a safe condition, are retained so that funds can be directed towards

play equipment. Existing benches, as currently, will remain external to the play area to maximise the available play space and safety fall zones.

4. The Play Area Working party contract specification focuses on the refurbishment of the currently fenced play area only.
5. The contract tender details a project cost of a maximum of £70,000 allowing for some contingency funds.
6. A public consultation relating to the play area proposal(s) takes place later in the year. This is publicised via the WPC website and social media feeds. QR codes will also be available for residents to access online consultation information whilst they are visiting the Weirfield.