

Play Area Report – Actions needed following Inspection

The Recreation group met up (via zoom) to discuss the finding of the latest inspection of the Play Area. We discussed all the points raised and what actions are needed.

The fencing by the river and the main road have been highlighted as inadequate so we are seeking quotes to replace these with bow-top fencing to match the existing new fence around the play area. A deep water sign has been advised to be placed on the fence.

We discussed the advice to relocate the small pedestrian gate further away from the main road. This has been looked into before and there is no legal requirement to move the gate. The gates have been installed the wrong way round so that it is harder for children to get out of the play area, thus slowing down their exit. The gate does not open directly onto a road and there is a barrier at the road side. We discussed alternative locations for this gate and the only option would open onto the swings, which in itself is not ideal for health and safety. Therefore the recreation group proposed to leave the gates where they currently stand and to seek the appropriate documentation to support this. The gates however do need the springs tightening, this is being addressed.

The tree branches need removing from the tree close to the substation – the power company agreed to do this but needs chasing.

One bench by the road entrance sits too close to the fence, this bench is in the process of being relocated to the other side of the substation. This is to be done when the new WI bench is installed in the play area and two existing benches are moved into the shelter.

Protective corner pieces are missing around the table tennis table – we have previously asked Ken Hussey to replace them but they have not been done. We are seeking costs to buy new corner pieces.

Following the recent installation works the grassed area in-between equipment is now quite uneven, it was proposed to ask whether the volunteers could help address this with new topsoil/turf and a compacter if needed.

A 'Volunteer Day' was suggested in warmer weather (April/ May?) where we close the play area and a group of volunteers including parish councillor's, recreation group and parents could help repaint the old equipment and install new bars on the trim trial.

The areas around the old equipment now look very tired and are uneven so surfacing quotes are being sought to resurface around the old equipment (balance beam, jeep, trim trial and roundabout)

We also discussed improving the basketball hoop, to increase the base area as requested at consultations. Also whether there was anything we could have behind the goals to stop the balls being lost in the hedge behind when children play football on the field. The recreation group is looking into options to report back to the council.

Actions

Quotes we are seeking:

- New fencing from substation, along roadside and along the river edge.
- Sign warning of deep water
- Surfacing around older equipment
- Corner pieces for table tennis table
- Basketball hoop revamp
- Trim trail bars

Work to ask volunteers to do:

(some of this could be done on the proposed Volunteer day)

- Level grassed areas
- Repainting of old equipment
- Fill in gaps around surfacing and apply seed grass

Items to chase:

- Power company – remove branches from tree by substation
- Sutcliffe – zip wire seat
- Sovereign to request ID badges for the new equipment