

## **WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Sparcells Development Play Area Report**

#### **1. Background - S/18/0460 Sparcells Drive**

- 1.1 West Swindon Parish Council raised objections to Planning Application S/18/0460 in respect of parking provision and the proposed removal of the toddler play area on Sparcells Drive.
- 1.2 Swindon Housing Development Company have submitted a request to West Swindon Parish Council as set out below. It is unlikely that there would be any new insurance implications arising from the proposed relocation of the new play area.
- 1.3 In respect of Option 1 or Option 2, Swindon Borough Council is finalising the lease and demises of the existing play areas to the Parish Council so it would be timely to finalise and agree the demise for Sparcells. In respect of maintenance, the play team are already visiting the site so it would be straight forward to include the new play area within the existing inspection programme. The Parish Council is currently commissioning refurbishment works to four play areas and could add a fifth to the programme or could adopt the play area on completion.

#### **2. From Adam Gatier, Swindon Housing Development Company**

*The Swindon Housing Development Company (SHDC) submitted a planning application for 6 new houses on the site of the demolished Community Centre and adjacent car park off Sparcells Drive in March 2018.*

*In the course of the planning application consultation, a number of objections to the loss of the infants play area and equipment were raised. In recognition of these objections, SHDC are now proposing to amend the planning application to include the relocation of the play space adjacent to the existing play area to the north of the site. The proposals follow the recommendations of Swindon Borough Council (SBC) planners and Landscape Architects in seeking their input, as SBC Streetsmart officers responsible for play spaces in the Borough.*

*The equipment will be all new and more suitable for the target age group. It will be attached to the existing play space and connected to it by gates so that children in each space have their own area for play. It lies as close to the current play space as possible whilst keeping as far away from surrounding houses as possible. Some additional planting has also been added for a*

*degree of shelter and privacy upon the recommendations of SBC Landscape Architects.*

*In order to secure the completion and continual maintenance of the play space, SHDC is making the following recommendation:*

- *Option 1 - SHDC provide a cash payment of the estimated costs of £35,000 be made to the Parish Council for it to commission and build the play space; or*
- *Option 2 - The new play space is commissioned and built by SHDC as part of the housing development works*
  
- *Maintenance - Once in place, SHDC wishes to request that West Swindon Parish Council will take on the maintenance of the play space from the date of completion.*

*It is hoped that this request is met with WSPC approval, along with the support of Ward Members, in order to alleviate the concerns raised around the play area. If any further information is required prior to the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018, SHDC would be happy to oblige.*

Many thanks.

Adam.

**Adam Gatier**

**Project Director**

The Swindon Housing Company Ltd

Tel: 07392 109967

### **3. Recommendations:**

- 3.1 Councillors note the information in the report.
- 3.2 Councillors consider the options proposed by Swindon Housing Development Company and agree a preferred option.

Paula Harrison  
Parish Manager