

## **LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

### **1. Shelfinch Play Area**

- 1.1 At a of this Committee on 15 July 2020, Councillors considered community feedback regarding the youth shelter at Shelfinch play area. Some residents reported concern regarding anti social behaviour, drug dealing and smoking cannabis. Perceptions as to the regularity of the behaviour differed and opinion on whether the shelter should be removed was mixed. The Committee determined to leave the shelter in place and review again.
- 1.2 Subsequently, there have been periods of lockdown where play areas were out of use and generally levels of activity across our play areas have been lower than what we might have been used to.
- 1.3 Since the report in July 2020, the Parish Council has had two residents raise concerns about the use of the youth shelter with enquiries about the future plans for its removal.
- 1.4 As at 03.02.21, Sgt Stefan Telford confirmed that the Swindon and Wiltshire police intelligence systems had not logged any reports relating to the youth shelter in the last six months.
- 1.5 In summary, there does not appear to be an escalation in problematic behaviour since the last report. There is possibly a decrease in negative behaviours, however, this may relate more to the restrictions imposed by the lockdowns. Generally parks and open spaces do experience some degree of drug misuse.

### **2 Recommendation:**

- 2.1 That the Shelfinch Youth Shelter is kept in situ, but remains on the watch list, with a report to update the Committee in early Autumn.

### **3. Whitehill Park**

- 3.1 Whitehill park play area (beside Oliver Tomkins school) has had the double swing seat removed due to structural problems. It is proposed to replace the swing with a similar model.
- 3.1 The costings for an exact replacement are in the region of £2,000. We are seeking alternative prices before making a purchase.
- 3.2 It is recommended that this Committee gives approval for expenditure up to £2,000 for a replacement swing set.

#### **4 Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications for the retention or removal of the Shelfinch youth shelter.

4.2 Costs of the replacement swing set for Whitehill park can be contained within the play refurbishment budget.

#### **5 Recommendations**

5.1 That the Leisure and Amenities Committee considers and approves both recommendations in the report:

- That the Shelfinch Youth Shelter is kept in situ, but remains on the watch list, with a report to update the Committee in early Autumn.
- That this Committee gives approval for expenditure up to £2,000 for a replacement swing set.