

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Play Refurbishment Update

1. Background

- 1.1 From 2017, the Parish Council has had a programme of refurbishment of play areas based on the condition of equipment, play value and potential costs of replacement.
- 1.2 For 2023, the Parish Council has resolved to complete two significant maintenance projects. These are
 - a) Removal of play equipment at Shaw Ridge play area – where the surface is degrading. Ground to be levelled and grass seeded.
 - b) Improvement of landscaping at Clay Pits off Cartwright Drive. To including removal of fencing, adding drainage and improving pathway access.

These projects will be executed by the Parish Team and will use existing skills and machinery for the most part. There may be costs for soil, drainage materials and grass seed. Both projects will be managed based on weather conditions and the availability of team resources.

2. 2023 Play Refurbishment

- 2.1 The Parish Council has had an independent inspection of all play areas completed in March and April 2023. The report flagged a range of minor faults but no major or urgent action is required.
- 2.2 **Bess Road Kickabout:**



In 2022, the Parish Council replaced the Bess Road toddler play area. At this time and in the past, there have been resident requests for an improvement to the play surface at the Bess Road kickabout. The current surface is macadamized surface and as a result can be overrun with grass and weeds.

The Parish Team are proposing that this is the focus of the 2023 play budget and that the single goal end is replaced with two multi sports ends and a new tarmac surface. It is likely that quotes for this will be in the region of £50-60,000.

Play Maintenance

- 2.3 Across 20 play areas there are routine maintenance demands throughout the year. There are a number of parts to replace this year for example;
- 3 x pivots on group swings costing £800 each
 - New ropes at Sparcells costing £1200
 - Potential new climbing frame at Whitehill park costing c. £12,000
 - Play grade woodchip costing c.£5,000

3. Financial Implications:

- 3.1 The Parish Council has allowed a budget of £12,000 for the category of play maintenance and £81,000 for play renewal. In previous years, budgets have been combined between two financial years to fund larger renewal projects. This often creates a greater discount from play manufacturers. If the Parish Council wishes to renew Shaw Ridge play area it is likely that a full year's budget would be a minimum spend.
- 3.2 The Bess Road Kickabout project could be scaled up or down depending on the budget. There is refurbishment work to be done at Eastleaze, however this is a play area excluded from leasing by Swindon Borough Council due to its potential for housing development. The Parish Council could confirm its resolve to continue to make low level improvements to this park in the short term.

4. Recommendations:

- 4.1 Councillors note the information in the report and
- a) Confirm the choice of Bess Road kickabout for play renewal
 - b) Confirm the scale of renewal for Bess Road and the budget allocated
 - c) Confirm the position of the Parish Council in relation to Eastleaze play area

Paula Harrison

Parish Manager

