

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**Play Area Refurbishment Update****1. Play Refurbishments 2018**

- 1.1 Work is underway at Clayhill Copse and is beginning at Claypits play area week commencing 12 November. Camden Close has been delayed slightly but is due to start also week commencing 12 November. No date has been given for Middleleaze.

2. Refurbishment/Renewal Programme

- 2.1 The majority of play areas in West Swindon have been installed as part of the housing development. A number have had upgrades in recent years, these included Middleleaze multi games area, Whitehill park, and Mead Park. Considerations for renewal and refurbishment include
- Life span of existing equipment
 - Play value
 - Likelihood of ongoing and future repairs
 - Local needs
- 2.2 Generally, partial upgrades can be achieved within a budget of £25,000. Full upgrades of larger play areas are likely to require a budget of £40-£60,000 depending on the play surfaces. The annual budget currently allocated to play refurbishment is £91,000. There may be an underspend in 2018-19 to carry over.
- 2.3 Site visits have been conducted by members of this Committee to the play areas listed below.

Play Area	Date built or refurbished	Current Condition/proximity to play space
The Holbeins	2003	Limited play value. Basketball area in poor condition. Fence to play area is in reasonable condition. Play equipment functional but looks tired.
Tumpy Field	Not known	Some wear and tear to wooden structures including damp and rot. Play area has been vandalised including arson this year. Some equipment could be adjusted to be more usable e.g. raising chains.

Shelfinch	2009	Junior kickabout area is in poor condition. Additional equipment could be added to the grassed area. Limited offer for toddlers in the toddler area, including no swing.
The Chesters	2009	Limited play offer. Main structure cannot be easily repaired but is in a functional condition. Swing has been vandalised in the past. Would benefit part upgrade.
Nine Elms	2009	Wooden based play equipment. Large play area which is still functional but limited play offer.

- 2.3 At this stage there is little information about local interest in these play facilities and how people would like to see them improved. The Parish Council has received representation from a resident in Toothill regarding Shelfinch as follows:

Main thing about that site is it's lack of facilities.

If you compare Shelfinch play area to the one off Wolsely drive in freshbrook, or better still the really nice one off Blain Place in Royal Wootton Bassett. This one is extremely lacking. I took my girls to Blain PI and we were there for over 2 hours. When we go to Shelfinch they got bored after 15 minutes.

To have a better placed park, perhaps off Flint Hill, or at the Toothill Farm site or up in Freshbrook park behind White Castle? This top end of Toothill has lots of families but very little children.

A resident also shared feedback on Nine Elms park they had submitted to Swindon Borough Council in the past

I was expecting to be able to use the park all year round but during the wet winter months it will be too boggy to walk on . . . I also understand that you did carry out a 'vote' for what equipment was required by the residents however, the choices of equipment are too similar and 'boring'.

- 2.4 For Elm Ridge, the Parish Council conducted a survey, a copy of which is attached as Appendix A for information.

3 **Recommendations:**

- 3.1 The Leisure and Amenities Committee agrees to undertake consultation on play areas proposed for improvement.
- 3.2 The Leisure and Amenities Committee considers prioritising play areas to be refurbished 2019/20.

Paula Harrison

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