

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**Play Area Refurbishment & Inspection Report****1. Inspections**

- 1.1 The annual Play Area Inspections will be due in December 2018. Last year, the Parish Council used the Play Inspection Company to conduct the play area inspections. Due to refurbishment works, Clayhill Copse, Camden Close, Clay Pits and Middleleaze play areas will have inspections on the completion of the projects so will not need to be included in the annual inspection. Costs associated with the annual inspection have not been confirmed but are likely to be in the region of £1000.00.

2. Refurbishment/Renewal Programme

- 2.1 The final work on the leases for the play areas has not been completed by Swindon Borough Council. As a result, the Parish Council is looking to agree a letter licence that will give permission for the refurbishment works. On the current refurbishment programme, the programme of work is set to commence as follows
- 29 October 18 Camden Close
 - 05 November 18 Clayhill Copse
 - 12 November 18 Claypits, Cartwright Drive
- 2.2 Considerations for renewal and refurbishment include
- Life span of existing equipment
 - Play value
 - Likelihood of ongoing and future repairs
 - Local needs
- 2.3 It is difficult to determine local needs and assess whether local provision is adequate. Many West Swindon residents who use local play areas are carers, childminders, and grandparents and as a result may be frequent users of local play spaces but will not be evident on demographic information. Play areas are reasonably well distributed across the Parish and each identifiable neighbourhood in West Swindon has at least one large play area within a short walking distance. We are also aware that many local residents travel around West Swindon to use different play areas. Accessibility and diversity of equipment could be improved.

- 2.4 In 2017/18, this Committee, reviewed the condition of the play area stock and undertook site visits in order to determine which play areas should be prioritised. Based on an estimated life span of less than 5 years, the shortlist is as follows

Play Area	Date built or refurbished	Current Condition/proximity to play space
The Holbeins	2003	Limited play value.
Sparcells	2006	Fence in poor condition, additional equipment could be added. Upgrade planned to toddler play area as part of re-siting due to development.
Tumpy Field	Not known	Some wear and tear to wooden structures including damp and rot. Play area has been vandalised including arson this year. Minor upgrades such as painting made in recent years but no major replacement.
Shelfinch	2009	Junior kickabout area is in poor condition. Other play sections have had some upgrades. Additional equipment could be added.
The Chesters	2009	Limited play offer. Equipment has signs of rot to wooden parts but no major issues. Main structure cannot be easily repaired.
Nine Elms	2009	Junior area is in poor condition
Uxbridge Road (hold)	2008	No specific damage or wear and tear. Limited space reduces offer. Limited play offer on site visit.
Oliver Close (hold)	Not known	Limited play value but suits the small neighbourhood. No major areas for replacement or repair.
Elm Ridge (hold)	Not known	Limited play value. Consultation feedback suggested light upgrade and clean to existing equipment.
Camden Close (UPGRADE 18)	2009	Junior area is in poor condition
Clayhill Copse (UPGRADE 18)	Not known	Toddler equipment limited and showing signs of age.

Clay Pits (UPGRADE 18)	2006	Limited play offer. Showing signs of wear and tear. Repetition in types of play.
Middleleaze (UPGRADE 18)	Not known	Equipment replaced on an adhoc basis. Limited play offer. Flooring in poor condition.

3 **Recommendations:**

- 3.1 The Leisure and Amenities Committee agrees to commission the Play Inspection Company to conduct the annual Play Inspections for December 2018.
- 3.2 The Leisure and Amenities Committee considers the refurbishment programme for 2019.

Paula Harrison

Parish Manager