

Date: 7th September 2017

Title: Report Item 7 – Play Area Update

By: Cllr B Greenwell (Lead Member)

Purpose: To provide an update on the play project and recommend the next steps

Recommendation: To note the report and consider future action

I had an on-site meeting on 27 July with Ian Hamilton of Proludic, the council's previously identified preferred supplier for new playground equipment. I want to make sure you are updated on the outcome of this meeting and my proposals on this. I hope that I have interpreted the council's aspirations correctly.

Whilst at the playground I was able to meet with a group of 5 or 6 mothers picnicking with their children. Strong views were expressed that they hoped we were not going to change too much as they love it mostly as it is!

Main factors considered:

- On the basis that funding is likely to need to come from within parish funds (possibly via a loan) we need to scale back our ambitions for wholesale replacement
- We wish to build upon the excellent work and time already invested in this project by previous council members
- Short term remedial actions have recently been completed by council members making the playground safer following the recent report by Play Safety Ltd for RoSPA (thanks to Phil and Paul)
- The playhouse/cabin-slide and the multi-play climber are both now showing real signs of decay/degeneration and have been identified by ourselves and by the RoSPA safety report as requiring significant attention or replacement in the near term
- Most items of equipment appear to have many years of useful life and also appear popular with children
- We wish to limit the visual impact of any new equipment and avoid bright brash colours
- Some areas of safety surfacing needs remediation to avoid trip hazards developing
- Further developments may be considered in future years so we spread the cost and phase in new equipment

On the above basis I have taken the step of requesting Proludic to revise their quotation with a notional installation timing of Q2 2018.

I have asked Proludic to quote for:

1. Removal of the cabin-slide and multi-climber units
2. Replacement of the above with a “Kanopé” multi play unit (this item was the most expensive item on the previous quote at over £25,000 including



installation)

3. Installation of “EnviroSMART” grass matting and/or rubber mulch as required to suit the above unit
4. Remediation of the wet-pour rubber where it has shrunk from existing edgings

The revised quotation has come in at £34,500 which includes a parish discount of £5,638. This price will be held until 30th September 2017. A copy of the revised ground plan is appended to this report (see page 3).

By the way, the young mothers I spoke to on 27 July appeared very supportive of this type of approach as they love the area so much as it is. Most were unaware of council plans to change anything despite the village meeting, etc. I suggest that we could also consider some targeted communication on the proposals once we have agreement so that the main users know what we are doing and there are no surprises. Leaflets placed in a holder in the play area might achieve this.

