

Walton Play Area

This short paper is intended to set out the options for Councillors to consider in respect of the Play Area. This follows much previous discussion and consequent visits from representatives of the company who did the initial installation plus their costed proposals.

The Play Area has been in place for 10 years and has been inspected regularly and through the goodwill of Councillors and others, small fixes have been made when identified at minimal or no cost to the Council.

The Play Area is popular with Parishioners and also attracts visitors from outside the Parish. One item of equipment (the Hip Hop) has been removed temporarily as it requires repair. Wear and tear on the remaining equipment and surrounds is apparent and hence the need for external check and recommendations.

Financial Position

The Council makes provision for an annual inspection by a reputable organisation to provide checks on safety and any repairs necessary. This is acted upon and ensures the integrity of the Council's public liability insurance. £150 is included in the Council's budget annually for this purpose.

Now, after 10 years, the cost of maintenance and repair is becoming significant. Councillors will consider in November 2021 to include a new annual budget contribution to recognise this.

To make any repairs or changes now, the Council will need to draw upon its reserve for funding OR find an alternative source of funding. The reserve includes a dedicated sum for the Play Area (from the original installation) of £ as yet uncommitted.

Options (A)

The clerk has received information including costings from Proludic the Company that completed the original installation and visited the site recently. Options resulting are:

Replace the matting and ground to original state

£2,000 - £2,500

Replace the matting and ground with Astroturf

£15,000 Plus

Repair and restore the Hip Hop

This item is no longer produced by the company that sold it. The Clerk has received papers setting out the original state and fixings but no quote for repair as yet.

It may be possible to replace it with a modern alternative.

Options (B)

Alternatively, the Council could decide not to pursue the options set out above and take a different course:

DO NOTHING

Leave everything as it is now.

Not recommended because of the Council's obligations re public risk and liability.

REMOVE AND DISPOSE of the PLAY AREA EQUIPMENT

Take out all the existing equipment and restore the space to the way it was before 2011.

There would be a cost to removal, disposal and restoration and without public support within the Parish would be unpopular and would potentially bring the Council into disrepute. **Not recommended.**

Option (C)

The company was asked for a view on extending the Play area provision. Their view was that the most appropriate addition would be a small climbing frame aimed at Under Fives as this could be seen as a gap in current provision. Estimated cost £4500 - £5000

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