

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH

Play Area Working Group Notes

Thursday 21st July 2022 at 6pm - Held virtually physically at The Reading Rooms

Present:

A Briggs – CSNPC Estates Manager & Committee Clerk
A Reeves - CSNPC Manager
Cllr M Beale
Cllr R Ballman – Chair
Cllr J Ballman
Cllr M Lucas
Cllr J Yeowell – online
A Bird - MOAM
L Ward - MOAM

Notes:

1) Introductions

Cllr R Ballman opened the meeting and the group completed introductions.

Two members of the community group 'Mums on a Mission' were present, they were Anna Bird and Louise Ward.

A Reeves advises Cllr Beale was to join shortly and Cllr P Exell had his sent apologies.

Cllr M Beale joined 7.04pm.

2) Minutes of previous meeting – Meeting held 26.10.2021

A Briggs presented the minutes of the previous working group meeting in Oct 2021.

A Briggs summarized the action points and provided an update.

The group noted the minutes.

3) Works completed over the last 6 months

A Briggs provided a verbal update on a number of remedial works and new equipment installs works completed at the parks over the past 6-12 months.



Cllr R Ballman raised the outstanding matter of financing the installation of play equipment at the Edinburgh St Play Area.

A Briggs explained the status of the install and financing.

The group held discussion on the matter.

The group agreed they were content for remaining balance required to install the equipment, was attributed to the available EMR budget code.

The group held discussion on the Harcourt Road Play area and the topic of inclusion of inclusive equipment.

A Briggs spoke about the 5 year Play Area strategy and making future provision for its deliverance.

Action – To complete the Edinburgh St Play equipment install. The required balance cost attributed to the available Play Area EMR

4) Key site issues

A Briggs spoke about aesthetic improvements that could be implemented to make the Play Areas more visually appealing and welcoming. The suggestions included; painting equipment, repairing or replacing worn flooring, complete de weeding, removal of historic graffiti.

Cllr J Ballman commented that the Play Areas were inherited in their current condition from SBC, and that the Parish were working on their long term improvement plan, as to ensure they were given much needed attention and enhancements where possible.

A Bird advised of a potential future funding opportunity, that may become available called 'Scope'.

Cllr R Ballman commented that the Parish Grants Officer could be tasked with investigating this funding, along with other funds that may be available.

Cllr M Beale asked whether there had been a previous Gov funding strategy prior to the development of 'Scope'.

This wasn't known.

Cllr M Beale spoke about a Social/disability inclusion strategy that had been developed at Seven Fields. Comment was given to believing they included sections about making provisions for inclusive play.

The topic of 'destination parks' was discussed. This included, where a things such as a larger amount of inclusive equipment would be available, along with changing places toilets and parking.

5) Available EMR Budget

The Group were informed there was an approx. balance of £38,000.00 in the available Ear Marked Play Area Reserve.

A Briggs advised the group of two other EMRs:

- 1) EMR 364 – Barnum Ct Play Area, set up by Cllr S Exell, balance - £4,500.00.
- 2) EMR 343 – M&RC Play Area, set up By Cllrs M Lucas & P Exell, balance - £7,744.71.

Cllr R Ballman commented that the estimated prices outlined with the Play Area strategy would have been based on 2021 pricing, and would need to factor in current inflation.

6) Aspirations for 22/23

A Briggs suggested the available EMR be strategically used over the remaining financial year, prior to budget setting for 23/24.

It was suggested a proportion of the monies be set aside for actioning any urgent remedial works as and when they arrive. Examples given included replacing broken swing seats. With another proportion attributed to making aesthetic improvements, such as painting.

The group were informed that recommendations would need to be proposed to the Finance Committee in September, to ensure Cllrs were happy with how the monies was being spent.

The group held discussion and agreed this would be a good use of the EMR budget going forward.

A Bird commented that the words 'inclusive equipment' ensured the whole community had access to use the item. Further comment was given to the inclusion of Changing places toilet facilities.

A Briggs summarized the process going forward.

Action – A Briggs to seek costs for painting existing equipment.

Action – A Briggs to bring recommendation to FGP to propose use of EMR over remaining 22/23 financial year.

7) Proposed Play Area Ward Surveys

A Briggs referred to draft surveys that had been designed to be distributed within an upcoming Parish newsletter. Further, that they would be distributed locally, as to ensure those residents in close proximity to the ward specific play area, had a chance to give their comments on the existing facilities.

Results would feed in to the Play strategy and budget setting for 23/24.

Cllr M Beale commented that local schools should be included within distribution.

Action – survey to be distributed in the 22 Parish newsletter.

Action - Arrange future site visit (post summer holidays) to Harcourt Play Area with Cllr J Yeowell and L Ward.

8) AOB

Cllr J Ballman asked MOAM for their vision of a perfect Play Area.

A Bird responded.

Further discussion was held.

The group were informed that the Play Area WG would meet again in approx. 3 months time.

Meeting closed at 7pm.