

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH

Play Area Working Group Notes

Thursday 9th May 2024 @ Pinetrees Community Centre

Present:

A Briggs - CSNPC Ops Manager
A Reeves – CSNPC Clerk (online)

Cllr J Ballman
Cllr J Yeowell – WG Chair
Cllr P Park (online)

L Bird – SBC Public Health

A Bird - MOAM

Meeting started at 13:00

1) Introductions

Cllr J Yeowell opened the meeting and the group completed introductions.

Apologies received from Cllr M Lucas, M Ware, B Maddern.

All those present were noted.

2) Minutes of previous meeting – Meeting held 29.02.2024.

A Briggs presented the minutes of the previous working group meeting in February 2024.

A Briggs summarised the action points and provided updates on the outstanding matters.
Including:

- CSNPC specification for benches.
- Status of an outstanding request to remove a makeshift rope swing attached to a tree at Coben Green.

Cllr J Ballman asked for an update regarding the Public Works loan to support delivery of the capital programme.

A Reeves responded advising that until the Moredon Sporting hub loan had been signed off by DLUC, the council did not want to have 2 pending loan applications running concurrently.



However, positive news on the status of the loan was that 12 of the 13 requirements for the had now been satisfied. With only SBC needing to confirm the final bit of information for DLUC sign off, which should hopefully be by the end of this week.

The submission for the Moredon loan should then be completed by the end of next week, at which point CSNPC can then apply for the loans to support all our capital projects.

A Reeves further advised that the process should take around 14 weeks to complete. if not quicker now that Officers are fully up to speed on the application process.

Item noted.

3) Play Area Design and Accessibility

A Briggs presented play area concept designs from 4 Contractors. These were Kompan, Proludic, Playdale and Sutcliffe Play. It was explained that a fifth company 'Vitaplay' were unable to return their designs in time for the meeting.

The group were reminded that 3 play parks (Rodbourne Cheney, Alanbrooke and Barnum Court) were full refurbishment concepts. Whereas St Marks and Penhill were adaptations to existing as to make them more inclusive / accessible.

Copies of all designs can be found in the appendices.

A Briggs presented a 'Notes to Tender' document. It was explained this provided interested contractors basic information about park as to allow for specific designs to be drawn. A copy of this document can be found in the appendices.

It was explained that the returns were presented for discussion with the purpose of identifying pros & Cons to shape the final design brief for each play park.

A Bird advised that the 'Fair Play Park' in Barnet had set a good example of how to design an accessible play area.

The Group discussed arranging a visit to Barnet to look at the play area.

Key comments for each park were noted as follows:

1) Rodbourne Cheney Play Area

- Fully inclusive & accessible design.
- Accessible Multiplay unit.
- Double width slide
- Swings with high back
- Wheelchair roundabout.

- Double high back accessible rocker.
- Tactile and play panels.

2) Alanbrooke Play Area

- All agreed Sutcliffe design offered best play value and design.
- Mixed age range as to allow for siblings to play together.
- Multiplay with double with slide and solid walkways (rather than cargo nets)
- Double trampoline.
- High back swing
- Tactile panels

3) Barnum Court

- Local Park primarily for residents – younger children / limited space.
- All agreed with train theme linking to heritage.
- Small Multiplay with double slide
- Inclusive train or designed to allow for wheelchairs.
- Inclusive springer
- Inclusive larger spinning dish
- Tactile panels

4) St Marks

- Destination Park
- All agreed with the plan to surface the area currently laid to bark chippings.
- All agreed that given St Marks was an identified destination park, the proposal to extend the area to allow for another piece of equipment was a good idea.
- All agreed that the wheelchair accessible rocker would be great inclusion.

L Bird spoke about onwards opportunities for users given the other provision located on site. Such as wheelchair tennis or basketball sessions.

5) Penhill Park (Inglesham)

- Destination Park
- All understood and agreed with the need to install a connecting pathway thorough the field where the existing equipment was, as to make the items more accessible for all. Along existing desire line.
- All agreed on the proposal to improve the existing stone path to extend it to the gates as to allow for better access.
- All agreed that given Penhill Park was an identified destination park, the proposal to add an additional piece of equipment was a good idea.
- Potential to install a new accessible piece of equipment along the new path.

- Future consideration to change bark chippings surface under the existing bird nest climber.

Action – A Briggs to share concepts and PiPA play information to L Bird.

Action – A Briggs to schedule a site visit to Barnet, with a view to CSNPC officers meeting Officers from Barnet Council.

4) Play Area Capital Programme Next Steps

1. **Feedback from MOAM and PiPA Play:**
 - MOAM and PiPA play to review designs and return comments ahead of next meeting.
2. **Consultation with Schools and Residents:**
 - There is a need for a wider consultation with local schools and residents in proximity to each play area. This is to gather local need and specific insights and preferences for the play area refurbishments.
3. **Public Works Loan Application by CSNPC:**
 - CSNPC will initiate the application process for a Public Works Loan to secure funding for the project. The application is estimated to take approximately four weeks.
4. **Timeline for Tender Process:**
 - The full tender process is expected to commence by Sept 2024. This timeline is to allow sufficient time for finalising designs, obtaining necessary approvals, and preparing tender documents.

5) AOB & Date of next meeting.

A Briggs provided the indicative costs for each concept design. These ranged from £188k - £210k.

A Briggs updated the group on the status of the Penhill Bowls Club Project. It was noted that the tender process was ongoing, several responses had been received within budget.

It was anticipated that refurbishment works would likely commence July / August with an anticipated completion by November 2024.

The group were informed that a revised application had been submitted to the Community Ownership Fund for the refurbishment of the Pembroke Gardens change block and install of an accessible Play Area. The application was for approx. £200,000, covering both capital and revenue.

It was explained that the application was running parallel to the play park project, and if successful would allow the council to use the saving provided by the external funds on other



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local parks. However, if the application was unsuccessful the play park element would continue to be delivered.

The council are awaiting response.

A Bird mentioned the availability of the Mobiloo through Swindon Borough Council for event hire.

Date of next meeting 6-8 weeks.

Meeting closed – 14.10.