

Committee Report: Rodbourne Cheney Play Area

Date: 6th February 2025

To: Leisure & Recreation Committee

From: Andrew Briggs – Ops Manager

Subject: Next Steps for the RC Play Area.

Council Priority: Provide a high standard of facilities.

1. Recommendation

- A. A proposal is submitted to the March 2025 FGP Committee to attribute up to £30k from the Public Works Loan for play areas, to the Rodbourne Cheney Play Area project.
- B. That any underspend is returned to the Play Area budget.
- C. Note the indicative project timeline.
- D. Instruct the Ops Manager to draft a scope of works ready for Procurement publication.

2. Introduction

The Rodbourne Cheney play area project has been a topic of discussion for over five years. During this time, Councillors have committed their annual Ward allowances to an Earmarked Reserve (EMR) to ensure the delivery of this play area. The EMR currently holds approximately £45,000.

Cllrs have provisionally stated they would look to commit their £15,000.00 in the 25/26 Financial Year. However, to deliver is it estimated a further £20,000 - £30,000 is required to deliver a high-quality, inclusive play area that meets the needs of the community.

3. Detail

The play area benefits from significant resident support, with numerous requests for its completion. Councillors and residents are eager for the project to be realised by the close of 2025.

To bridge the funding gap, the Play Area Working Group seeks a contribution of up to £30,000 from the Public Works Loan (£250k). This funding will enable the delivery of a fully accessible and inclusive play area that aligns with the parish council's ambitions and commitment to providing first-class recreational facilities.

To ensure the project is delivered on time and within budget, the following procurement and timeline strategy is proposed:

Procurement Process

- A competitive tender process will be initiated to secure the best value for money.
- Inclusive Play Ltd has been identified as a potential supplier for their expertise in delivering accessible and inclusive play equipment. The final supplier will be selected following the parish council's RFQ process.
- The tender will include:
 - Removal and disposal of some existing equipment.
 - Relocation of a basket swing
 - Supply and installation of new play equipment (BS EN 1176).
 - Installation of 1.2m high fencing around the play area (2 x gate access)
 - Installation of compacted lime dust footpath.
 - Rubberised safety matting to cover the play area surface.
 - Associated landscaping and site preparation.

Indicative Timeline

- **March 2025:** FGP & Full Council Committee decision.
- **April 2025:** Publish tender documents to Contracts Finder.
- **May 2025:** Close tender submissions and evaluate proposals.
- **June/July 2025:** Present evaluation for approval and award contract to the successful bidder.
- **July/August 2025:** Begin site preparation and equipment installation.
- **Sept 2025:** Completion of installation and final inspections.
- **Sept/Oct 2025:** Official opening of the Rodbourne Cheney play area

Indicative Design The design of the play area incorporates inclusive play equipment and should look to feature all or some of the following items:

- One large inclusive climbing frame / unit.
- One double width slide.
- One wheelchair-accessible roundabout or rocker.
- One basket swing (existing).
- One high back rocker / chair
- Interactive play panels.
- Two benches
- Two bins
- Rubberized safety matting.
- A 1.2m high fence surrounding the play area for safety.

Example Equipment:





