

South Swindon Parish Council

Play Areas

Agenda Item: 10

Committee: Leisure and Amenities

Date: 4 September 2018

Introduction

The Project Officer has focussed on the play areas and has been ensuring that they are fit for purpose and safe. Many important maintenance tasks have been highlighted and have either been dealt with already or are being dealt with. Some are being carried out by the Parish Council Rangers and some are being carried out by Swindon Borough Council. Effort has been made to chase SBC to ensure that they bring the play areas up to the highest possible condition before they are formally leased by the Parish Council.

On the whole the play areas are fine and in decent condition. The Project Officer has identified the need for the Rangers to undertake an Herbicide Spraying training course and to be trained in the repair of wet pour rubber. One of the Rangers also needs to be trained in the formal inspection of play equipment. All of this training will be arranged. Some new equipment will also be needed and this too will be arranged.

Future projects for redevelopment and improvement of the play areas have also been identified and prioritised.

Report Details

The following project work has so far been identified.

Dudmore Road £12,000

Replace climbing unit/ slide with something bigger and better.

Rushey Platt £12,000

Replace RotorPlay 'Waltzer' as is a very poor piece of equipment.

Buckhurst £2,000

Replace spring bike (red) as handle missing.

Fernacre Road £40,000

Main set of steps up grass bank are awful and should be considered for total removal and to be replaced by just a grass bank. Ring fence all of the play equipment to keep out dogs and use rest of open space for informal play. Perhaps consider tree planting.

Lots of large timber logs and wooden stepping stones have been used within the play area and should all be removed before they become too brittle to move with ease.

Cambria Bridge £18,000

Play area is constructed using timber planks around the outside in order to allow bark mulch to be laid. These timbers have started to fail in places and are likely to completely fail in the next 5 years. It is advised that the whole lot be replaced with concrete blocks in the next 2-3 years. Remove single, unnecessary basketball hoop.

Provide 2 more bins and 2 new benches and remove rotten railway sleepers.

Improve shrubs and trees.

Savernake Street £1,000

Bench next to the basketball court needs totally removing and replacing with a proper one plus install a new one at the top of the hill too.

Lordsmith Green £70,000

Replace entire safety surface and expand play area with new fencing, safety surface and several new pieces of equipment.

Hesketh Crescent £10,000

Shrub beds are all far too dense and could do with reducing right down. The wrong shrub species have been used and need replacing with slower growing, flowering species. Timber risers used to create raised play area will need replacing in the next 5-8 years. Tree at top entrance doesn't look right and perhaps could be replaced with a piece of play equipment.

Cavendish Square £3,500

Area needs major gardening/ basic landscaping. Remove old tree guards. Paved areas need spraying and better maintenance required. Replace raised timbers (many of which are missing) with block walls for retaining soil into flower beds. Better maintenance on shrub beds needed and new plants should be planted.

Buckhurst Play Areas £5,000

Skate ramps need some important repairs to be made to them in order that they can be used effectively.

Total estimated costs: £173,500

Recommendations

It is recommended that council agree in principle for officers to commence seeking quotes and working towards delivering these projects on each of the play areas.