

Minutes of Play Area Action Group 1st Meeting 20th April 2017

9 Thames Mead, Crowmarsh

Attendees:

Andrew Johnson
David Rowley
Denise Hall
Yvonne Peet
Stephen Sherbourne
Ann Sharp
Edwina Johnson
Chair - Andrew

Minutes

It was agreed Andrew would act as Chairman and Denise as Secretary

The following issues were discussed:

1. learning from others – Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association (OPFA) are being very helpful. Learning from the experiences of Chalgrove and Watlington. David mentioned that Play England have produced a guide to creating successful play spaces and an introduction. He has included this along with photographs he has taken of several playgrounds (currently 7 but will be increased) on Dropbox to help discussion and ideas. The guidance can also be downloaded at www.playengland.org.uk/resource/design-for-play/ They can also provide advice over the phone, or through site visits. They would provide a quotation.

2. Publicity and community feedback. This is summarised in a separate document re responses as of April 2017. This doc gives details of 191 people in support of a new play area and 106 in support for an outdoor gym. Public information flow via Crowmarsh News, Edwina will send a note to CN to canvas more opinions on the design. David was surprised at the number of responses via the school and will ask the Sue Rance if they can include a slip in their newsletter and in the children's book bags to do the same. Also the intention is to show the community some designs and ideas at the Village Parish Meeting.

3. Choosing the right play area/outdoor gym. It was agreed we would favour wood as it is less prone to showing the effects of wear and tear. There was debate over the virtues of a grass surface with a permeable rubber safety matting where there is greatest risk, rather than all artificial safety matting. Lots of discussion on what we would like, themed Castle, mounds for climbing as well Zip wires and playing hides and seek etc.

- Good examples are at Dinton Pastures, Coombe Abbey Country Park, Paignton Geopark and others. David has been researching and has lots of examples which he has put in a Drop Box. He will send a link to members of the Action group and others if requested. All agreed to take photos of their favourites in the region.
- Outdoor Gym, some discussion on whether it was needed. But from the survey 50% wanted a gym.
- The play area must also have facilities that are also suitable for the disabled.
- H&S concerns meant we have to have a fence around the area due to the car park.
- Playdale and Sutcliffe have provided posters and are most helpful. We however, don't have to use either of them.

- David agreed to provide a sketch on different options for us to consider at the next meeting in June.
- Top 5 items were mentioned as well as a zip wire but this may not fit in the space.
- Making toilets permanently available was discussed but this would require further thought since such a move would involve more regular checking and cleaning from Chris

4 Fund Raising

Fund raising. Given that we want to get the design right we will hold back on applications until 22nd November for WREN (Edwina will lead) and 9th January for SODC. David suggested that Lottery funding should be looked into. This was the main source of funding for the Paignton Play park. Stephen would look into medium size funders such as Norwich Aviva, Tesco and disability charities. Yvonne and Denise would look at the potential for local funders, Waitrose, Jewson, and Lister Wilder,etc

Play England have sent a list of good funding sources which David has put into the Dropbox.

Ideally we would prepare a standard text to used or adapted to suit the different applications

Next Meeting -14th June 7.30 pm at 9 Thames Mead