

Minutes of Play Area Action Group 2nd Meeting 14th June 2017

9 Thames Mead, Crowmarsh

Attendees:

Andrew Johnson
David Rowley
Denise Hall
Yvonne Peet
Fleur Stevenson
Stephen Sherbourne
David Mannering

Minutes

1. Previous minutes of the 20th April meeting were discussed and approved.
2. There has been a further leaflet request to children at the school and their parents, to canvas support for the new play park and gym and for further suggestions on what they might like in a play area. The summary of these responses were: Zip wire, big slide, climbing equipment, monkey bars, mounds, tunnel, helter skelter, fireman's pole, big swings, roundabout, and Cargo net swing.
3. The pros and cons of the outdoor gym was discussed. It was noted that such facilities were eligible for different funding and were part of the wider offering to the community.
4. Thanks to DR a new bigger vision for a play area was examined thanks to a plan being provided by the contractor Eibe who worked on the new facilities at Abingdon. It was agreed that the surface round the play equipment should be a rubber web netting that allows grass to grow through.
5. This new plan had a high outline cost not counting dismantling the existing facilities but prior to discounts (Abingdon spent £340,000 on their new facilities). This cost was approximately double that considered for the smaller original play area specification. It was agreed to keep the spending below £200,000 for our new play area.
6. As a way forward it was decided to select items from the Eibe plan that the action group considered most desirable these included (items labelled DDA are suitable for use by disabled children):
 - Double zip wire,
 - climbing net (6m),
 - Hexagonal swings,
 - mounds with wide slide (DDA)/mountaineering ramp /steps/and Riga bars/Long net walker,
 - Extron with curved slide and walkways,
 - Inclusive Roundabout (DDA),
 - swinging basket (DDA),
 - Saturn carousel (DDA),
 - stepping logs (may reduce number or if possible use some of the newer existing timbers),
 - 2 x spring rockers,
 - stand up seesaw (DDA),
 - toddler Swings (may be able to reuse existing).
 - Existing train – refurbished,
 - Crawling tunnel (DDA),

- Satellite Carousel (DDA)
- Toddler slide and tower.
- 2 jumping plates. (if reuse of existing is possible)
- Picnic benches
- A fence around the main play area initially costed at (metal bow-shape).
- Outdoor gym items

Items considered desirable but not essential were a ground trampoline, and high rocker.

7. It was noted that we will need to consider annual inspection and maintenance as well as more challenging grass cutting.
8. Given the funding dates - November for Wren and January for SODC we will need to have our next meeting by the first week of September. It was thought that the improvements to the play area would complement the riverside SODC paddling pool and provide a more exciting package to young people which might impress SODC.

Actions:

- AJ to check what the original quotes cost were for dismantling the original equipment
- DR to help AJ with drawing up new specification for additional tenders
- AJ to then go back to original tenderers for comparison,
- AJ and DR to find a date to talk to VOWH Abingdon team re. their new play area experience.
- DR to ask Ebie for their cost changes and an updated plan.
- DR to meet with David Hibbert of Eibe at Rec to further discuss ideas.
- Following agreement on these minutes, Fleur to place on the Crowmarsh website and for Crowmarsh News. We hope to follow this up on the website, with an indicative updated plan and images of the equipment described.