

Committee: Open Spaces

Date: 7 June 2022

Title: Recreation Ground Mound

Purpose of Report

For members to consider authorising Officers to research and find a suitable solution to cover the bare area of the mound.

Recommendation:

Members resolve to recommend to Full Council to delegate officers to establish and implement a solution to the bare ground on the mound.

Report:

1. The refurbishment of the recreation ground play park included a mound for the installation of a slide. Two pull up ropes were also installed as an alternative way for children to get to the top of the mound.
2. Now that the slide has been in use since April 2021, the grass has been continually worn away, leaving a large area of bare earth.
3. On a positive note, it's fantastic that the children enjoy using the facility so often, however, it leaves the mound looking unsightly. It also gets muddy if there's a shower or worse, rain.
4. Having visited other play parks, the bare earth problem would appear to be a common occurrence with mounds that have slides.
5. There are still funds available from the refurbishment budget. The final invoices for the youth shelter and the project manager have been paid. This has left a balance of £5,821.29 in Earmarked Reserves for the refurbishment of the play park.
6. Possible solutions include a rubber style surface such as the one already under the slide or a climbing wall similar to the one already in West Crescent play park. There may be other possibilities that officers could explore.
7. Researched solutions for this issue would be in consultation with both the Chair and Vice Chair of Open Spaces before any action would be taken by Officers.
8. Members may resolve to recommend to Full Council to delegate Officers to seek a suitable solution to solve this problem or Members may have another viewpoint on this matter.

Julie Earp
Deputy Town Clerk
June 2022