

West Crescent Play Area

**RECOMMENDED**

- (i) That the Committee considers if the existing play equipment at West Crescent should be refurbished
- (ii) That the Committee considers whether or not it wishes to refurbish the existing slide and swings
- (iii) That the Committee considers whether or not it wishes to add any money to the Tesco Bags Of Help grant to provide a greater range of play equipment at West Crescent

**Consultation Update**

1. In accordance with the Committee’s wishes, a consultation is underway regarding play equipment in West Crescent. A copy of the letter and questionnaire are attached as Appendix 1. The consultation letter has been delivered to approx 110 dwellings in the area adjacent to West Crescent and put on the Town Council website. At the time of preparing this report the response rate is 13% and the consultation has 1 more week to run.
2. The responses received so far have not been thoroughly read and the responses collated but early indications are that the play area is appreciated, and some new equipment would be welcome.

**Play Equipment Maintenance and Provision**

3. The existing play equipment is 1 slide and 1 swing frame containing 2 flat seats and 2 cradle seats. The slide was purchased in 1990 and the swings in 1994.
4. The Open Spaces Team report that the existing play equipment is generally sound but dilapidated; the appearance could be improved by cleaning and repainting.
5. The safety matting is deteriorating and is monitored as part of the weekly safety checks.
6. The table below shows the purchase and cost information for the existing equipment

Item	Original Purchase price	Date purchased	Estimated Life	Reserve Fund at 31.03.17
Embankment Slide	£965	July 1990	15 years	£1,800
4 bay swing	£1,175	June 1994	30 years	£2,948
Safety Matting	££3,000		15 years	£4,680

There is no budget provision in 2018/19 for an allocation to these earmarked reserves.

## Agenda No 7

At current prices the cost of replacing the swings would be in excess of £2,000 the safety matting and installation costs would be additional. Current installation rates for play equipment range from £500 - £1,300 per day - depending upon the equipment type and the total amount of work required on the site.

7. The Tesco Bags Of Help grant is a £2,000 (already received) which must be spent on new play equipment for the West Crescent Play Area

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