

### Wharf Lane Play Area

Town Council 12 December 2017

**RECOMMENDED** that the sketch design is approved as the project concept and agreed layout

#### Introduction

1. The sketch design, attached as Appendix 1, was approved for consultation by the Town Council on 23 February 2016.
2. The sketch plan layout was designed to be modular so that it could be implemented in phases as and when funding could be raised and made available. The skatepark module of the plan was approved at Town Council on 23 February 2016.
3. Several consultation events about the sketch design took place and included:
  - the plan being on display in the Market House and facilities to comment, with Councillors present
  - the sketch plan being made available and facilities to comment at school home time at Greenfylde
  - Joint events to get comments from the children at Greenfylde and Swanmead, with teachers, a Councillor and the Town Clerk present.

A summary of the consultation responses is attached as appendix 2

#### Background Information

4. The first Open Spaces Consultation took place in June 2013 when questionnaires were delivered to every household and asked for suggestions about activities and facilities to be available in the Rec.
5. Based on the June consultation responses Redbay Design, who were engaged by the Town Council, drew a masterplan for the Rec and a more detailed layout of the play area, this was the subject of a consultation event on 7 November 2013. The masterplan was subsequently approved by the Town Council 8 January 2014 but the play area design was deferred pending further research.
6. Working with Rob Parr, the South Somerset District Council Senior Play & Youth Facilities Officer, the Play and Paths Sub Group visited a number of local play areas and then developed the sketch plan which was approved by the Town Council for consultation.

The aim of the Sub Group was to have a lay out and equipment which encouraged children and young people of all ages and abilities to integrate and have fun. A very important principle of the Sub Group and therefore the sketch design was to have as much equipment as possible that could be used and enjoyed by children and young people with disabilities so that they were not left watching on the sidelines whilst others played.

### **Moving Forwards**

7. Approval of the sketch design as the project concept and layout will enable work to be undertaken on costings and phasings, which in turn will assist seeking funding. It is recognised that some fine tuning of the layout and specific pieces of equipment may be needed.

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