

Notes of the Public Consultation Meeting held on 1st March 2021 concerning the proposed enhancements to the drainage and play equipment in Porton Recreation Ground by Idmiston Parish Council

Present: Cllrs Kirsty Exton, Rob Miles, Steve Wheatland, Parish Clerk Catherine Purves and 14 members of the public.

- Cllr Exton welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the members of the Idmiston Parish Council Working Group – Cllr Rob Mile, Cllr Wheatland - who had been working, together with Cllr Steve Cocking and the Clerk on the two projects to upgrade the facilities at the Porton Recreation Ground.
- The IPC was aware that s106 funding was available from the two developments currently underway in Porton village, opposite Horefield on the Idmiston Road, and behind Chalk House on the Winterslow Road, and that by a legally binding agreement, the funds had to be spent at Porton Recreation Ground.
- The IPC requested ideas from residents during the summer and autumn of 2019, and in September 2020, the working group was formed to take the ideas forward.
- Although COVID19 did delay progress somewhat, a local drainage engineer company was consulted, and four play equipment suppliers were invited to submit their ideas during the autumn of 2020, and their findings are presented to you this evening, as part of the ongoing feedback and consultation process with residents.
- There would be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation.
- The presentation and notes of the meeting would be posted to the Parish Council Projects page on the Parish Website.

The presentation was then given to the meeting, and the Clerk, and Cllrs Wheatland and Miles noted the following:

The Clerk spoke about the source of finances for the project:

- She explained the differences between s106 funding, derived from a legal agreement between the housing developer and Wiltshire Council as the Planning authority, and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding, calculated on the overall internal square meterage of the proposed development.
- She noted that total s106 funding available is £91,958.75 which must be spent on Outdoor Leisure at Porton Recreation Ground.

Cllr Wheatland spoke about the proposed drainage project:

- Perforated main and lateral slits will be cut, filled with sand and gravel/stone, and soakaways will be dug.
- It is not intended to insert plastic or clay drainage pipes.
- He emphasised it is proposed to improve the drainage, so that the Recreation Ground drains more easily and quickly and enables the Recreation Ground to be open all year round.
- A Flood Risk Assessment is required, but the eventual contractor will deal with the Environment Agency about this on the IPC's behalf.

Cllr Miles spoke about the proposed enhanced play equipment scheme:

- He noted that residents had been asked to submit their views via the parish newsletters, minutes of council meetings and via the annual report, and the following responses had been received:

Parishioner Suggestions for new play equipment:

- Replace the multi play unit.
- Replace the play bar/wooden surround under the space climbing net with more resilient surfacing ie rot proof
- Install a sensory garden with wheelchair access.
- Install more seating, some with shelters (2 requests)
- Improve football pitch, repair goals and nets.
- Install a zip wire (2 requests)
- Install a skatepark (2 requests) (1 request not to install a skatepark)
- Install an area for go-karts.
- Grown up swings.

Parishioner Suggestions for CIL funded projects

- Grant to churchyard groundsman for basic gardening tools and wildflower seeds
- New footpaths – from Idmiston to Boscombe, Porton to Idmiston, Porton to Gomeldon, ideally wide enough to serve as cycleways.
- Purchase land – eg area around the Porton Ford, to preserve the wildlife.
- Purchase land – to which the play equipment from Porton Play park can be relocated.
- Install drainage at Porton Play Park to make it usable all year round.
- Build changing facilities at Porton Play Park ground to support the parish football teams and matches.

General comments/observations:

- Age range of equipment should be as broad as possible to appeal to both young children and teenagers.
- Equipment should be low maintenance.
- Funding should be allocated within the budget to cover routine/ongoing maintenance.

Cllr Miles commented further:

- and the IPC has agreed to allocate approximately £40,000.00 towards the drainage project, and the balance to the enhanced play equipment scheme, accessing additional sources of funding if necessary.
- £60,000.00 does not cover as much as might be expected, and the requirement for safety zones reduced the number of items that could be installed in the space suggested. Other requirements, such as two anti-locking gates, to enable children to escape from bullies and ensuring slides did not face south to avoid burning hot metal also had to be considered.

The presentation finished, and questions or comments/observations were requested.

Q: My property backs onto the Recreation Ground. Can I have some reassurance that water would not be diverted into his garden, which already floods when the water table is high?

A: Cllr Wheatland confirmed again that there was no intention to divert the water elsewhere, but to improve the drainage

Comment 1 – proposals are interesting, and very happy to be volunteer to help in the future.

Comment 2 – thanks for an interesting presentation, the proposals look good.

All were thanked for attending, and the meeting ended at 8.15pm