

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**Play Area Refurbishment 2021****1. Refurbishment/Renewal Programme**

- 1.1 In the last three years, the Parish Council has focused its refurbishment programme towards those play areas that were rated as most requiring an upgrade based on
- Life span of existing equipment
 - Play value
 - Likelihood of ongoing and future repairs
 - Local needs
- 1.2 Generally, partial upgrades can be achieved within a budget of £25,000. Full upgrades of larger play areas are likely to require a budget of £40-£60,000 depending on the play surfaces. The annual budget currently allocated to play refurbishment is £91,000. In 2019, it was decided to create a refurbishment that also utilised the following year's play budget (2020).
- 1.3 The Parish Council could opt to invest all or part of the budget into other types of improvements in existing play areas such as new surfacing, seating, CCTV, new fencing etc.
- 1.4 Commissioning usually takes approximately four months to complete, with installation aimed to take place in Spring/Summer months to avoid complications from adverse weather conditions. On that basis, priorities for the following year are usually set in the preceeding Summer/Autumn.
- 1.5 The Parish Council has now completed refurbishment on eleven sites. Based on the criteria set out in 2.1, the next play area to be considered would be Shaw Ridge. This play area is in fair condition but has limited play value. The next annual play inspections may also highlight other play areas that have problems that need resolving.
- 1.6 For many months, the Parish Council has been seeking to progress the installation of a BMX pump track on the Rivermead site. Unfortunately the current budget of £30-45,000 based on matched grant funding, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds and council funding attracted limited interest and the Parish Office have been able to progress an application for external funding.
- 1.7 The Rivermead site is consistently popular with a mix of users (bmx, skate and scooter) and across a wide range of families. This Committee is asked to

consider whether or not the 2021 play refurbishment funding should be diverted into this site. This could increase the budget for wider appeal from specialist installers and could improve both the skate/scooter facility as well as introducing a BMX activity.

2. Recommendations:

- 2.1 The Leisure and Amenities Committee considers the priority sites to be refurbished in 2021/22.

Paula Harrison

Parish Manager