



Minutes
Woodham Walter Playground Working Group
Tuesday 20 February 2018 8pm
Woodham Walter Women's Club

Present: Councillor Joanna Symons, Councillor John Tompkins, Jacky Bannerman (Parish Clerk), Nigel Cornwell, Graham Bannerman, Pam Seaar

01. Welcome

Joanna Symons welcomed those present to the meeting.

02. Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Bryony and Peter Maynard, Lisa Carter, Carolyn Filmer.

03. Questionnaire Update

Thanks were offered to:

- John for compiling the questionnaire and analysing the results.
- Lisa & Lee Carter for printing
- Everyone who distributed copies to properties in the village, Tadpoles and the School.

John Tompkins reported on the analysis of the questionnaires:

- 300 copies of the agreed questionnaire were delivered to every household in the Parish as well as to the School and Tadpoles as interested parties.
- There were 93 questionnaires returned representing a 30%+ return, of which 23 were from the School and Tadpoles.
- The returns indicate a child village residency of 27 aged up to 16 years and up to 127 regular children visitors.
- 88% of the returns indicated that a community playground would be a village asset with a 76% encouragement of use.
- There were 5 negative responses and with some expressing concern on costs.

04. The Way Forward

Consider negative comments

- Concern about disturbance – the location is likely to be towards the top of Bell Meadow which is furthest away from houses.
- Concern it will be used by lodge park – this cannot (and should not) be prevented, it will be a community facility, open to all. Could consider asking if The Warren would be able to make a contribution during the fundraising phase.
- Concern it will result in attendance from outside the village from the new housing developments beyond the village. It was considered that all new housing developments in the Maldon District will have/do have their own playground facilities. It will be an asset for visitors to the village to enjoy which is considered positive.
- Not enough demand from few children in the village – questionnaire responses void this comment.
- Concern about maintenance and costs. It was considered that the costs for building the facility will largely be met through grant funding and fundraising activities. The Parish Council have set aside £1000 in 2018/19 budget. Calculations for future costs (insurance, inspections, accounts) include an additional £1500 per year at a cost of approximately £5 per Band D property per year which is considered a reasonable expense. The cost of

maintenance (there will be a warranty with the equipment purchased) is not known at this stage and will form part of the ongoing consideration before final decision will be made.

- Concern about vandalism – this needs to be considered but due to the open nature of Bell Meadow and the location of the village, this could be considered as a minimal concern. Insurance would cover this. Investigate incidents at other playgrounds as part of the consideration before final decision will be made.

Decision on whether to proceed or not

- Over all the committee are in favour of proceeding and recommend moving forward.

Insurance Costs

- Costs have been estimated at an additional £308.

Maintenance Costs

- To be considered further. More information needed from playground companies. Also ask other Parish Councils for average maintenance costs.

Inspections

- The Parish Council are about to appoint the Community Protection Team from Maldon District Council to carry out various tasks in the village include speed watch, parking enforcement, dog fouling, fly tipping etc. They also provide an inspection service for playgrounds on a weekly basis during summer months and less frequent during winter. As well as the weekly inspection the Parish Council will instruct a company to carry out an Annual Safety Inspection. The costs of these inspections has been estimated at £850 per year.

Location on Bell Meadow

- It was considered that the best location (after considering a suggestion that it be at the bottom opposite The Bell Public House) was that it should be positioned towards the top of Bell Meadow near to the entrance gate opposite the Church. This position is furthest away from houses in the original position of the previous playground. This area is flattest and would require less groundworks.

Fence

- The questionnaire results overwhelmingly supported (81.5%) a low fence. It was considered that a team of volunteers could complete this part of the project.

Types of equipment and ages

- The questionnaire results showed that there were slightly more children in the 5-11 category followed by the under 5's and a smaller number of 12-16's.
- The results showed that the most popular equipment is Traditional, followed by Combination, Trail, Sport and Adult.

Seating/Picnic Area

- There was a high level of support and this will be included in the project.

Community Involvement in the Build

- It was thought that essential groundworks and fencing could be done by volunteers.
- The installation of equipment will need to be done to correct safety standards and it was considered that playground companies would probably insist on installation in order to maintain warranties etc. This can be considered further as the project evolves.

Approach 3 companies for quotes

- It was agreed that the next stage is to invite three selected suppliers to put forward proposals and costs for consideration. A small working party will complete this task. Jacky Bannerman will ask Lisa Carter and Carolyn Filmer if they would like to be involved in this process with her.

Annual Parish Meeting

- It is hoped to display the questionnaire results at the Annual Parish Meeting; in the meantime, they will be available on the Parish Website.
- When all the proposals and costs have been submitted it is hoped that the Parish Council will support an exhibition to facilitate a full public consultation before any major decisions are taken.

05. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will be on Wednesday 4th April at 8pm at Tadpoles Nursery.

06. Meeting closed at 9.10pm