

Monthly Meeting – Monday 1st August 2011

Agenda Item 7)

Briefing Note

Day's Park Play Area

Purpose of report

From the Operations Committee of the 6 July 2011, it was requested that further investigation was carried out on alternative locations for the upgrade of the play area on Day's Park.

Background

It was agreed that a facility was needed at Day's Park for the young people of this area. At the meeting of 6 July 2011, it was decided that the play area should be targeted at children up to the age of 12 from its existing targeted age of under 8's. Further investigation was needed on a further site at Journey's End Playing Field.

Locations investigated for siting of play area

A map has been included to clarify the locations of the stated sites.

Location B and C have been left on the table of location for reference, but were ruled out as possible locations for the play area in previous meeting.

| Location | For | Against |
|----------|--|---|
| A | Near to existing play space. Less likely to have community objection. Opportunity to expand in the future. | Natural drainage of site falls towards this location. Moves into existing large open space – limits other activities. |
| B | Land is fairly flat. Opportunity to expand easily. Natural drainage taking water away from the location. Near Northbrook Rd entrance to park. | Nearer to neighbours to the east of the park. Near to road |
| C | Natural drainage taking water away from the location. Near Northbrook Rd entrance to park. | Nearer to neighbours to the east of the park. Limited space to expand. Southern corner rises sharply. Amongst trees – probability of some problems as in current location in a few years' time. Near to Road |
| D | Next to an existing car park Large area which still doesn't affect the location of football pitch Near to public toilets Land is flat | Near to an adult football pitch The close proximity to foul language from football games. Limits the field for further sports Close proximity to a stream Disassociated with the family design area of Day's Park |

Please note that A's location would start from west side of the path near existing location. Existing location has too many health and safety issues to continue in the location.

Other leading factors

There are other leading factors that should be considered, before deciding on location for play space and the age of the equipment. These are:

Education Swanage

- Consideration needs to be considered for the possibility of a secondary school being adjacent to Day's Park.
- Young people going to school will be between 11 – 16 years old, therefore old children will be using this site more.
- If the school does get the go ahead consideration needs to be given to the use and needs of Day's Park and Journey's End, with Education Swanage

Older demographic in the area of Swanage

- Over 38% of the population in Swanage North Ward are aged 65 and over, this is significantly higher than the average across Purbeck (24%) and more than double the national average of just 16%
- Other areas in the country have included outdoor gym equipment for this specific age group

Issues for the Town Council to consider

- Is there always going to be an adult football pitch on Journey's End, once the changing rooms are completed at King George Playing Field?
- Should there be some outdoor gym equipment like the play area at Harman's Cross Village Hall? Although note, not to be located in play area as the gym equipment does not meet the same safety standards as the play equipment.
- Does the Council agree that:
 - If no Free School there is a play area for under 12 years old and outdoor gym equipment somewhere on site.
 - If there is a Free School, does the site need equipment for all ages

Recommendations

- The play site to be put on hold until the decision has been confirmed for Education Swanage, full confirmation from the Department of Education expected in September 2011.
- Continue with obtaining designs for two play spaces within budget set for:
 - Under 12's play area, with some outdoor gym equipment
 - All age group scheme, include activity trail and outdoor gym equipment
- Once decision has been confirmed about the school, one of the proposals to be taken forward with confirmation of location.

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