

**HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL****PLAY AREA SUB COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Play Area Sub Committee was held in the Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016 at 6 pm.

Present: Councillors; J Dyne; A Mackender–Lawrence; S McAdam and T Sanderson (Chairman).

Absent: Cllr A Beevor

7. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

8. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

9. **PUBLIC ADDRESS**

There were none

10. **MINUTES**

Copies of the minutes of the Play Area Sub Committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015 (PLAY/M1) had been circulated to Members before the meeting, the draft having received informal approval by the Chairman.

It was therefore proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes, which were duly signed by the Chairman.

11. **PLAY AREA PROVISION**

The Chairman referred to the Play Area Provision report and asked the Property Manager to talk through the Play Area designs which were displayed at the meeting.

The Property Manager advised the schemes presented were based on the outcome of the Play Area Needs Analysis which was assessed by Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC). The Play Area Analysis highlighted the need for Ball Provision in three locations and Play Equipment in one location with potential sites being identified. It was advised the schemes presented were still at feasibility stage as they would require detailed development with the preferred supplier and discussion with HDC planners.

The Property Manager advised three companies, namely Fenland Leisure, Wicksteed Leisure and Sutcliffe Play had submitted the visual images which were displayed in addition to accompanying budget quotation.

The Members were talked through the display boards for each location which showed.

- French Field- 2 x Ball End Units on open field with existing goal relocated on field.
- KGV Sapley Road- 2 x Ball End Units on the open field with existing goal relocated on field.
- Sallowbush Road, adjacent to existing MUGA- Play Equipment to suit age ranges from toddler to small children.
- Stukeley Meadows, adjacent to School- Installation of MUGA, which was advised to be smaller than the MUGA at Sallowbush by a few metres on the width and length.

The Property Manager advised the Members that the Sutcliffe Play Proposal was the most competitive, followed by Fenland Leisure then Wicksteed Leisure. The Sutcliffe Play cost showed the MUGA was approximately £13K less than Fenland and £7K less on the Play Equipment. The costs were marginal for the Ball End units between Fenland and Wicksteed.

The cost were in line with the HDC identified available S106 monies for the capital expenditure but the costs received excluded some site costs such as set up/ making good, professional fees, delivery, Planning fees and items such as benches, bins etc.

The Chairman thanked the Property Manager and Head Groundsman for their work and asked for comments from the Members.

Members asked about the difference in Construction between the Timber and Steel products and the variation in warranties. The Members asked about the accessibility of the Play Equipment for less able users and the Property Manager advised the cradle swing was an accessible item of play equipment and in addition the back to back roundabout and springer indicated on the Sutcliffe Play scheme was listed as accessible equipment. The Chairman advised a Cradle Swing was installed at Bloomfield Park and this was a popular item of equipment for all ages and user abilities.

A Member asked about the manufacturers and the Head Groundsman advised that Fenland Leisure had visited the site independently, was not aware of any visits by Wicksteed and Sutcliffe Play had attended the site locations with the Head Groundsman and had returned to Stukeley Meadows independently with his Tarmac sub-Contractor.

A Member asked about the warranty terms for the Tarmac and Play Equipment and the Head Groundsman advised this would be in the order of 23-30 years but would need to be checked.

A Member indicated that he had safety concerns about the location of the Sallowbush Play Area as Anti-Social behaviour had been identified in this location and that there was no houses overlooking the area. The Member also advised that he was in favour of protecting the green open spaces.

The Member commented that he felt the Kent Road green open space would be a preferable site as he had been asked about play area in this location by residents who he advised were mainly young families.

A Member commented that the grass below and around the Ball End units would become worn and would require maintenance.

A discussion took place regarding the manufacturers and the Members agreed that Sutcliffe Play were their preferred supplier to progress the design. The Members advised they were happy with the content of the Play Equipment and Ball Provision shown.

The Members agreed with the locations shown but also required the Kent/ Surrey Road location be included as a possible options for the Play Equipment as an alternative to the Sallowbush Road scheme.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Play Provision based on the Sutcliffe Scheme be progressed with the Supplier, Planners and HDC at the locations presented in addition to the Kent/ Surrey Road option.

12. **DATE & AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting would be called as and when required.

**CHAIRMAN**