

BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL
Environment Committee
Tuesday 12 December 2023
Decision Report 2

AXWELL DRIVE PLAY AREA RELOCATION AND CONSULTATION

Recommendations

The Committee RESOLVE to consider and agree should the budget approval be passed for this play area in 2024, to the relocation of it to another part of the site which would ensure a better surface and would also be further away from the main road (Brierley Road) than it is at present. (Appendix 2)

If the relocation was to be agreed there would be a requirement for a consultation exercise to be carried out with residents in the vicinity.

Removal of the Teen Shelter to be carried out when the play area is being installed.

Ward

Cowpen

Risk Management

Within the Play Area programme this facility is to be refurbished in 2024/25. Should budget provision be agreed for 2024/25 a Consultation Exercise would need to be carried out to obtain views as to a potential new location. NCC have given authority for the new Play Area in its current location or in the new location should the Council make such a decision.

Objective

To promote the environmental, social, and economic wellbeing of the town and its community. One way this can be done is by the provision of Play/Sports Areas to create a facility for children/teenagers, up to mid-teens, to both learn and play within a secure environment.

Report

There are a few elements to this play area the first being the infant play area that is enclosed within a bow top fence and the surface is made up of a grassed area and another of bark chip. The second element is the equipment for the older age range which are not enclosed within any fencing and would not need to be refurbished or changed as they are in a fair condition in the opinion of the officers. This does not include the Teen shelter which has been vandalised and graffitied and it would be more appropriate to remove. The third element is a panna court which is in good condition and would need no work carrying out.

The current location of the infant element suffers from flooding due to it being in a recess and it would be beneficial to relocate to the eastern end of the site which is at a higher elevation and would resolve this issue subject to a successful consultation exercise. If approved there would be a need to remove the existing infant play area and follow up re-instatement work after a new area was completed thus negating the need to shut the play area during the installation work.

D Clough
General Services Officer

4 December 2023