



RECREATION COMMITTEE

Members of the Recreation Committee

are summoned to attend a Meeting at **7.30pm** on

Wednesday 7 September 2022

at Loughton Library and Town Hall, Traps Hill, Loughton IG10 1HD
to transact the business shown in the agenda.

Mark Squire
Town Clerk
31 August 2022

Membership:

Councillor D Wixley (Chairman)
Councillor K Valentine (Vice Chairman)

	Councillors	
S Fontenelle	L House	N MacKinnon
S Murray	M Stubbings	

Note to Councillors:
If you are unable to attend the meeting,
please phone your apologies to the office on 020 8508 4200

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies**
To RECEIVE any apologies for absence.
- 2 Declarations of Interest**
Councillors to declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any items on the Agenda.
- 3 Confirmation of Minutes**
To CONFIRM the minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2022.
- 4 Public Representations**
To hear any representations from members of the public who have registered a request to address the Committee in accordance with no 5, Appendix C, of the Standing Orders.
- 5 Town Clerk's / Chairman's Report**
To report (for discussion only) on any further significant information / matters that may be of interest to Committee members.

Roding Valley Recreation Ground (RVRG)

- 6 EFDC Green Infrastructure Strategy Roding Valley Recreation Ground Project**
The Committee Chairman will provide an oral update. See attached notes and map
See pages 6 – 7

To receive and note.

- 7 Playground – Min no RC114**
 - (i) Public consultation and tender
See attached report, survey template and playground consultation summary.
See pages 8 – 22

To review and recommend appointment of preferred tender company.

- (i) Inspection
A local resident has raised concerns with Town Councillors regarding the safety of the playground flooring. The site has a biannual health and safety inspection which has passed each time. However, as a precaution, the next independent inspection of this site has been brought forward (it was due to have been carried out in mid-October) at a cost of £265.00 as it is being classed as an “urgent annual inspection” (the standard playground unit cost for site is £69.50). The preference was for the annual inspection to be brought forward, as a whole, but this was impossible due to the inspection company's workload. Hence there is little choice but to pay the higher sum on this occasion and the rest of the playgrounds will be visited in October as originally scheduled.

Members to receive and note and ratify this course of action.

- 8 Tree Survey – Min no RC115**
Tree contractors are scheduled to commence works to remove unsafe Cherry trees, and to make safe other trees, on Monday 12 September 2022. On completion of the works, the Town Clerk and Services Manager will draw up a plan for replacement trees to be planted in the coming years.

Members are asked to note that the unit cost to purchase, plant and maintain replacement Cherry trees is in the region of £564.00 + VAT each, depending on the type of Cherry tree.

To receive and note.

9 New Bench – Min no RC117

Councillor Murray to provide an update, on the siting of the bench after consultation with the local resident concerned

Members to receive and note

10 Litter Bin – Greensted Road

A member of the public, (also a volunteer litter-picker), has requested a litter bin to be installed by the Greensted Road vehicle entrance. This location receives a lot of footfall as it is one of the main entrances onto the recreation ground, and although there is a dog waste bin present, there is no litter bin. The cost to supply and install a new litter bin, consistent with those already deployed on site, would be in the region of £500.00 + VAT. Furthermore, to add a new bin to the existing emptying schedule would cost £1,100.00 + VAT pa.

The Committee is asked to consider this request.

11 River Way- Garages / brick wall

The brick wall that connects the two blocks of garages in River Way, and separates the garages from the recreation ground, fell, or was pushed over, at the end of April 2022. A substantial amount of fly-tipped material, including two mattresses, had been stored against the brick wall, and as a result of the wall going over, all of the bricks and fly-tipped material were instantly deposited into undergrowth within the recreation ground. Subsequently land searches were undertaken to establish ownership of the land that contained the wall, but these proved unsuccessful. Furthermore, a price was sought from our commercial waste contractors for the removal of all items, which at the time had been quoted without the benefit of a site visit, at £1,500.00 + VAT. Members are asked to consider this matter and note that a site visit was recently carried out by the council's contractors, and a firm price of £1,650.00 + VAT has been received and agreed for the removal of all items.

Members to ratify this course of action.

12 Roding Valley Cricket Club (RVCC) request – Min no RC110

A map of the proposed new area (see attached page 23) had been sent to and was acceptable to EFDC. In view of the urgent need of RVCC to commence the groundwork for the new pitch area, the office requested permission from EFDC to enable start of this work immediately, before signing off the legal documents. This request was categorically rejected by EFDC, citing that due process needed to be followed (involving their legal department and potentially a committee meeting). Unfortunately this means that the provision of the cricket area will need to be deferred to the 2024 cricket season. RVCC have been informed as such. The office will continue to work though the legal agreements and obtain appropriate costings for the attention of RVCC.

Members to receive and note.

13 Hedgerows Survey

See report and map provided by Cllr D Wixley See pages 24 – 25.

Members to discuss and consider recommendation in the report.

14 Allergy Awareness signage

Please see attached e-mail request from a local resident . See pages 26 – 28.

Members to recommend a way forward.

Other Agenda Items

15 Town Council Van

See report attached, page 29.

Members to agree recommended way forward.

16 Willingale Road Nature Reserve – Min no RC118

See report attached from Cllr Wixley page 30.

Mr Weller from Epping Forest Countrycare was thanked for meeting with Committee members. The next Epping Forest Countrycare volunteer workday will be on Thursday 6 October 2022. Members are invited to visit site, and if so inclined, to join in.

Members to receive and note and recommend a way forward regarding the pond.

17 Murray Hall

(i) Improvements

The new ceiling lights and WIFI have now been installed. Funding has been sourced from existing Murray/Kingsley Hall earmarked funds.

To receive and note.

(ii) Defibrillator (defib)

The sourcing and purchase of a defib for Murray Hall is in hand.

To receive and note.

(iii) Utility costs

Spiralling utility costs will have a bearing on hall costs both now and in the future. The Town Clerk will provide an oral update on any further developments.

To receive and note.

18 Kingsley Hall

(i) Pre school

The pre school thanked the Town Council for the offer of support regarding afternoon sessions, but have decided to operate mornings sessions only for the foreseeable future. The office is now taking additional afternoon bookings from other users.

To receive and note

(ii) Essential works to the rear garden wall and gate

Following a visit to Kingsley Hall on 18 August 2022, to discuss a number of external repairs with the Town Council's landscaping contractor, it became apparent that the carrying out of repairs was now inappropriate and that major works were new required, as follows:

- Extreme heat has exacerbated existing issues
- The wooden gate, its frame and associated timber work has now shrunken beyond repair and will all need to be replaced

- Perimeter wall and internal brick flower planters have now experienced an acceleration in movement to the point where the outward lean of the wall is presenting a significant risk to users of the hall and external passers-by using adjacent footpaths. Likewise, the brickwork on the planters is crumbling and there is significant movement under surface level
- Block paving – due to the movement of the brick walls and planters, there has now been a significant heave underneath the paving which has moved the issue on from a case of repair to one of re-build.

The anticipated repair costs are expected to be in the region of £6,500 and can be sourced from Murray/Kingsley Hall earmarked reserves.

Members are requested to approve these works.

(iii) Utility costs

Spiralling utility costs will have a bearing on hall costs both now and in the future. The Town Clerk will provide an oral update on any further developments.

To receive and note.

19 Memorial Garden - Benches and Repairs

Work has commenced to restore the Memorial Garden to its pre-Storm Eunice condition. However, work had temporarily stalled for two reasons:

- I. The condition of two of the sections of metal railings was so bad following the storm damage, that the twists they both received could only be professionally straightened and have therefore been removed to a forge for specialist treatment.
- II. The order for the two replacement benches, plus the additional bench being donated by the Open Door Friendship Group was delayed and only placed on 15 August 2022. The reasons for the delay were due to a prolonged period to reach agreement on the four commemorative plaques to be included on the bench, which resulted in payment being delayed.

Both of the above elements are now being resolved It is anticipated that the works will be concluded in the coming weeks.

To receive and note.

20 Family Fun Day – Jessel Green – Sunday 26 June 2022

See debrief report attached

Members to receive and note. See page 31.

21 Broadway Town Centre Partnership (BTCP) request

Cllr R Brookes (in her capacity as interim Chair of the BTCP) has asked whether Town Council staff could possibly help lay on any activities for when the Christmas Lights are switched on. Members attention is drawn to Agenda item 19 Recreation Committee and subsequent minute RC37, where it was agreed to streamline the large number of community events and withdraw from the 'Countdown to Christmas' event, to concentrate on other community events.

Members to review.

22 Financial Position

The current financial position as of 31 July 2022 is attached together with details of the funds available from earmarked reserves. See 32 – 33.

23 Future Work of the Committee

The opportunity for members to suggest topics to be considered by the Committee at a future meeting, subject to the Committee's agreement.

Note: No substantive discussion may take place under this item as the required statutory notice of the topics will not have been given.

**Mark Squire
TOWN CLERK
31 August 2022**

Agenda item 6

Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) Green Infrastructure Strategy Roding Valley Recreation Ground Project

Re: SANG (Suitable Natural Alternative Green Space) meeting with EFDC.

A site meeting was arranged for 23 June 2022

In attendance

Loughton Town Council (LTC), Cllrs D. Wixley, R. Brookes, S. Murray, Town Clerk, Services Manager

EFDC- Nigel Richardson. Planning Service Director, Vicki Willis from the EFDC Planning Policy Team , Nicky Linihan, Fortismere Associates - external consultant

Bullet discussion points raised by Cllr Wixley (based on the ariel view of the circular path – see attached) ,

1. The necessity for such a path given that, notwithstanding the current river/lake side path, the area is one where visitors are free and do wander at will.

It's interesting to note that the London Loop, long distance path, passes through the Rec. without the need of a defined pathway.

2. The route of the path includes stretches running close to residents' rear gardens and so are likely to suffer disturbance.

3. The unnecessary cost of the path and future maintenance (a cost to LTC?).

4. Route of the proposed path covers areas that LTC has no responsibility for i.e Buckhurst Hill PC, Chigwell PC, Essex County Council (the enclosed field leased to Loughton Football Club).

The Roding Valley Meadows Nature Reserve a SSSI, while owned by EFDC, is managed by the Essex Wildlife Trust. (EWT) Has the EWT been consulted by EFDC ?

Irony that the SANG is designed to protect Epping Forest SSSI (and SAC) from visitor pressure could result in potentially transferring more visitors to another SSSI.

5. Potential parking stress from extra visitors.

6. Additional litter and resulting extra burden on LTC.

7. Reference in the document to a "small amount of formal sports pitches" but this area will vary in size depending on demand e.g. there were at one time 4 cricket pitches now just 1. (Perhaps soon to be 2 following discussions with Roding Valley CC).

Other issues:

8. Progress on getting Fields in Trust status for the Rec.? When the previous Town Clerk, Enid Walsh looked into this it seemed the matter had stalled over questions of land ownership which was odd considering LTC's 125 year lease.

9. Flood Alleviation Scheme .Point out that the funding for this was originally obtained by Chris Neilan probably 6 years ago. The Scheme was to include river bank restoration and tree planting. Some money spent on restoration of the path but apparently no more money for that work to be completed. Are EFDC aware of this issue and the funds currently available? Need for some joined up working at EFDC?

10. Can LTC obtain some money from this scheme e.g. money to be spent on an unnecessary path be spent on the refurbishment of the football changing rooms and car park and CCTV for the latter to deter fly-tippers. WC facilities for visitors?
Money to complete the restoration of the existing footpath alongside the river and lake.



Agenda item 7
Recreation Ground Playground – Min no RC114

Public Consultation

A successful, comprehensive and well publicised public consultation with local residents has now taken place (see template leaflet and Public Consultation Results document attached). The consultations were very well received and local residents participated in large numbers (in their hundreds) providing useful feedback and input. We are particularly grateful for the great support received from the local schools mentioned in the report.

The main requests from the vast majority of local residents was for the provision of multi-play facilities and slides. 'Inclusivity' was identified as an important factor and a very small number of residents requested a water park/ feature and zip wire equipment. The latter two features would be difficult due to proposed limited scale (footprint), maintenance and vandalism issues.

Members to review

Tender Process

A comprehensive tender request (budget cap of £120,000), covering removal of old playground, implementation of new playground and project management was launched on 26 May 2022 and extended to the end of July 2022 at the request of a number of companies. Complimentary feedback was received from a number of companies on the comprehensive content of the tender. During the interim period, it became clear that many potential companies, only wanted to install a new playground without the encumbrance of removing the old playground and engaging with project management.

Nevertheless, three very good tenders have been received from three of the biggest and most highly respected companies in the market. each with a good history and strong track record.

A meeting has been set up on Friday 2 September 2022, involving Councillors Wixley, Valentine and MacKinnon and officers to review and hopefully make a recommendation for the preferred tender operator. It is anticipated that the preferred scheme will be presented at this Committee meeting.

Timetable

Updated / envisaged timetable and time scale of completion of this project **on a best case basis** is as follows.

- **Due diligence completed February 2022**
- **Out to tender for project management / park installation May 2022 – completed 31 July 2022.**
- **Consultation with local residents – completed 16 July 2022.**
- Review of tenders Friday 2 September 2022
- Appointment of Project Manager- 16 September 2022.
- Report on construction/design –any modifications needed ? by 16 September 2022.
- Planning permission application/approval – EFDC by late October /early November 2022.
- Delivery of materials & playground equipment – to be confirmed (TBC)
- Construction (c5 weeks) – TBC.
- Opening November 2022. – weather dependent (fallback position early Spring 2023- this is now most likely scenario because of autumn/ winter weather.

MS 30.8.2022

LTC Logo and contact email: contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk

Your Park – Your View! – Public Consultation 11th – 16th July 2022

Loughton Town Council would like to invite you to participate in helping us choose the new play equipment for our play area re-development in the Roding Valley Recreation Ground. Our aim is to dismantle the current play area and re-site and build a new play area for ages 4 – 14 years. The old playground needs replacing and is often flooded and inaccessible. It is proposed that the new children’s playground will be placed on higher ground between the tennis courts and “the mound” (in the space as shown below).



Please review the images on both sides of this board and using the guide below, place stickers in the boxes next to the types of equipment you would like to see included (please note final pieces chosen may vary in design from images shown).

Adults

Green sticker – against equipment you feel would be essential.

Yellow sticker – against equipment you feel is desirable, but not essential.

Red sticker – against equipment you feel is not important to include.

Children

Blue sticker - Put your 3 blue stickers against your 3 favourite pieces of play equipment.

Suggestion Bucket

Given the space available and mound, as shown in the above photo, please complete a slip and put it into the bucket if you have any further ideas of equipment not shown, you would like to be considered.

Thank you for your contribution.

Leaflet – half A4 sheet

LTC Logo and contact email: contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk

**Roding Valley Recreation Ground- New Children’s Playground
Public Consultation 11th – 16th July 2022**

Where: Loughton Library and Town Hall, Traps Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 1HD

When: Monday 11th – Saturday 16th July 2022


Loughton Town Council are aiming re-develop the play area in the Roding Valley Recreation Ground. We are looking to dismantle the current play area and re-site and build a new play are for ages 4 – 14 years. The old playground needs replacing as it is often flooded and inaccessible. It is proposed that the new children’s playground will be placed on higher ground between the tennis courts and “the mound” (in the

space as shown below). We would like to invite you to participate in helping us choose the new play area equipment



Your feedback is important and appreciated. Please visit the Library during the dates listed above and provide us with your thoughts and ideas.

Thank you for your contribution.



PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS – JULY 2022

Roding Valley Recreation Ground Play
Area Redevelopment

Background

- As part of the Roding Valley Recreation Ground Play Area Redevelopment project, the Council went out to tender via the Government Contracts Finder website on the 26 May 2022, with a closing date for receiving tenders set at 5pm on the 29 July 2022.
- Alongside this, with the aim of a new location having been identified for the redevelopment of the play area, and a requirement for the existing site to be dismantled, disposed of, and re-instated to its natural surroundings, Loughton Town Council held Public Consultations, inviting residents / park users to participate in helping to choose the new play equipment.
- A number of images were chosen as representatives of the types of play equipment available. These were listed under the following themes / headings:
 - ✓ Multi-Play
 - ✓ Swings
 - ✓ Balance Beams and Trails
 - ✓ Floor Graphics
 - ✓ Roundabouts
 - ✓ Springy
 - ✓ Educational / imaginary / interactive Play
 - ✓ See Saw / Rocker

The following slides show the approach taken for the Public Consultations and capture the results / findings.

Approach

With the wonderful support of the Schools and Library as listed below, Public Consultations were undertaken, as agreed by the Recreation Committee at:

- Alderton Junior School – on Thursday 7 July 2022
- White Bridge Primary School – on Thursday 14 July 2022
- Loughton Library – from Monday 11 July – Saturday 16 July 2022
- Oak View School – Following discussion with staff, and with the school's approval, 140 leaflets were delivered to the school on Friday 8th July, to go into pupils bags for parents, inviting them to participate in the Library consultation.
- Leaflets - were also delivered to the houses in the immediate surrounding area of the new park development at Roding Valley Recreation Ground, advising of the Library consultation, and inviting residents to participate in providing their feedback / ideas.

The Schools were approached, due to their vicinity to Roding Valley Recreation Ground, and the Library to enable access to the consultation to as many residents / park users as possible. We also advertised the Library consultation on our website and Facebook page.

The consultations provided background / information on the Council's aim and showed 16 images (under the headings on the previous slide), of various types of play equipment (**we advised these were representative of the types of equipment, not actual pieces chosen**), with the following questions asked.

Adults

Place a sticker in the appropriate columns:

- Equipment you feel would be essential.
- Equipment you feel is desirable, but not essential.
- Equipment you feel it is not important to include.

Children

- Place a blue sticker in the blue column, against your 3 favourite pieces of play equipment.

To capture further thoughts and ideas, we also provided a suggestion bucket and slips, and also received email responses.

Images 1 - 6

Multi-play

Image 1



Image 2



Swings

Image 3



Image 4

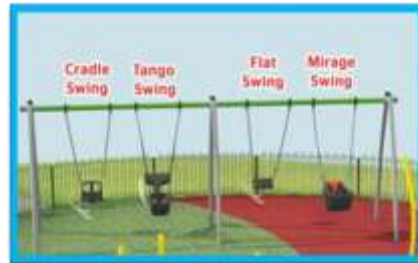


Image 5



Image 6



Images 7 - 13

Balance Beams and Trails

Image 7



Floor Graphics

Image 8



Roundabouts

Image 9



Springy

Image 10



Educational / Imaginary / Interactive Play

Image 11



Image 12



Image 13



Images 14 - 16

See saw / Rocker

Image 14

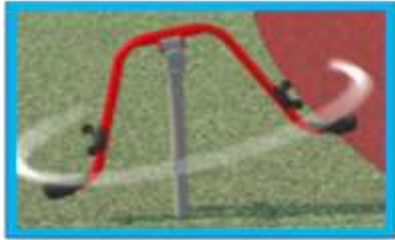


Image 15



Image 16

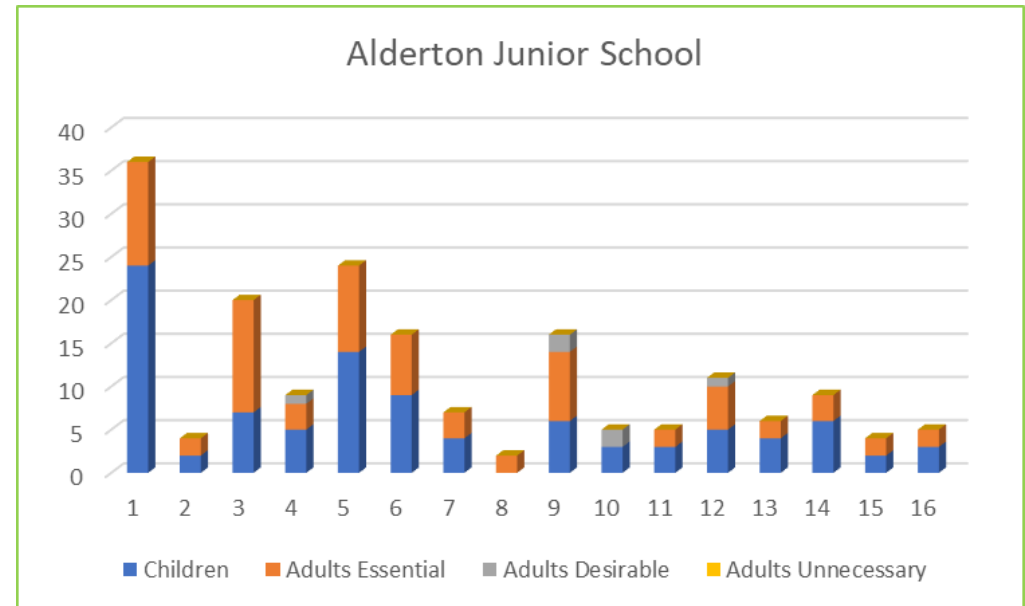
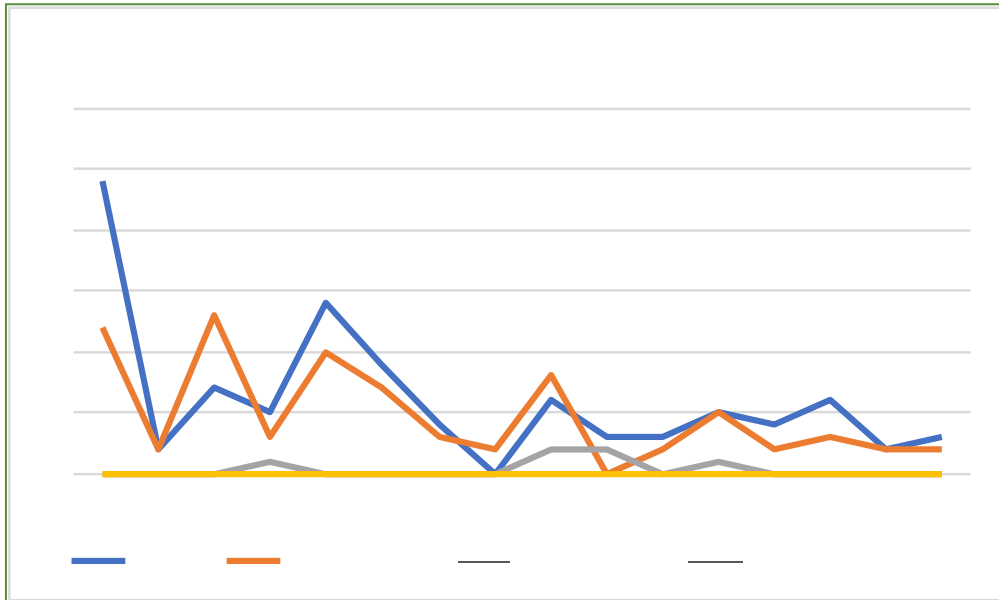


Suggestion buckets / E-mails

Suggestion buckets and slips were also provided to capture thoughts and ideas that residents / park users would also like to be considered, but were not represented in the images, asking respondents to take into consideration the location / space available, the need to raise the new playground due to flooding issues, and the mound. A photo of the new proposed site was shown.

We also received some email responses, which have been included within the results.

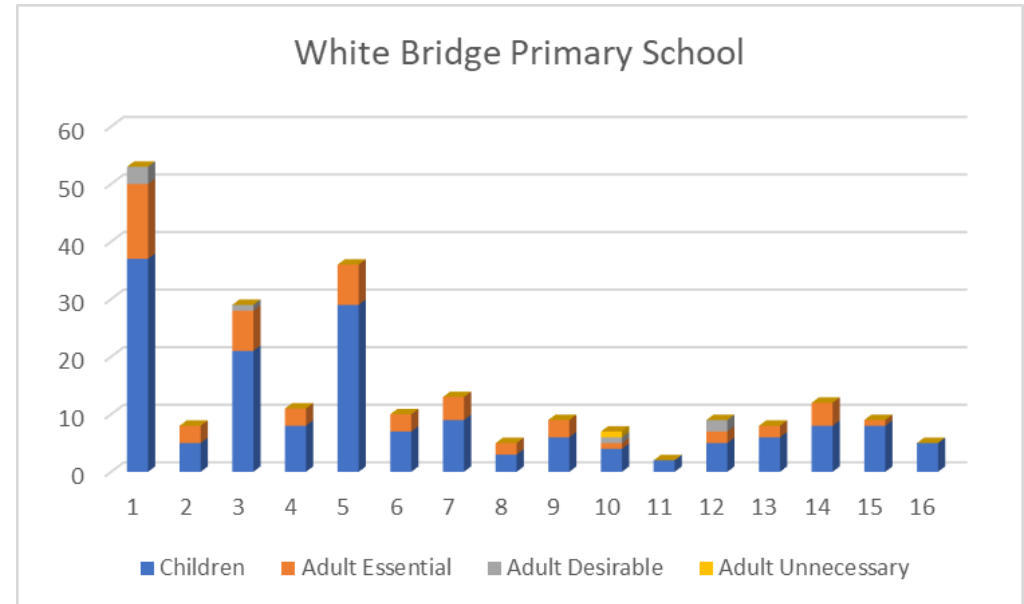
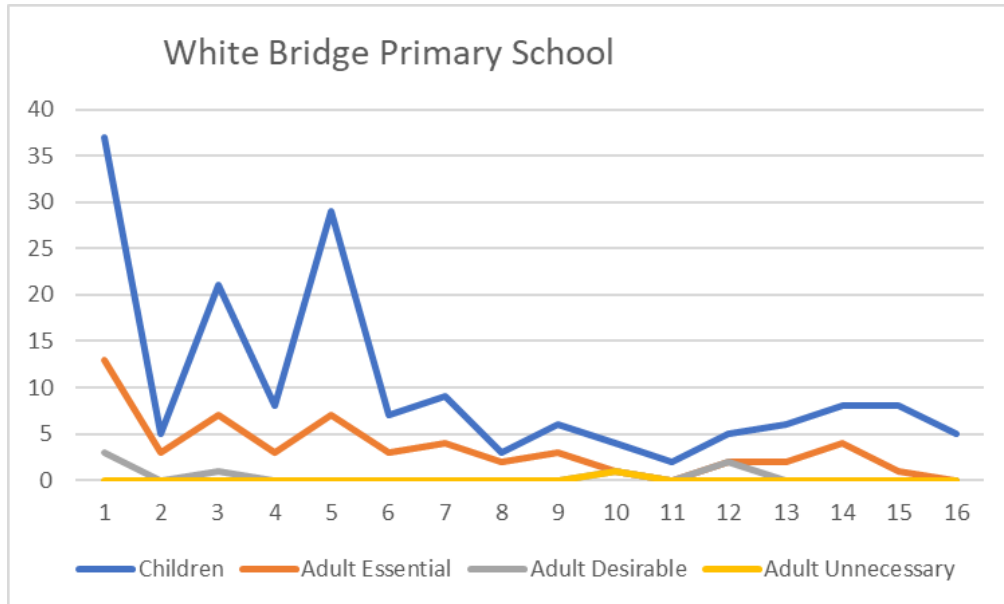
Alderton Junior School Results



Key Points For Consideration:

- The most popular choice by far for children was Image 1 (multi-play), this was also the second highest adult choice.
- Image 3 (swing type), was the highest scoring equipment type, chosen by adults.
- Images 5 & 6 (both swing types), were also a popular choice for both children and adults.
- A number of adults discussed the importance of ensuring the new play equipment is inclusive.
- Very few adults responded to the question “equipment you feel is desirable, but not essential” and none to the question “equipment you feel it is not important to include”.

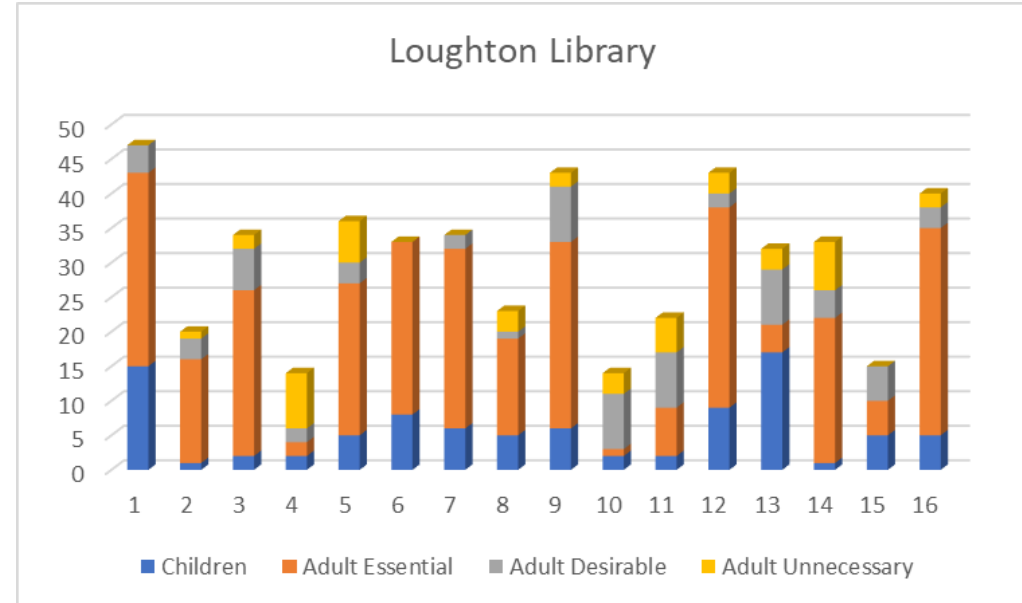
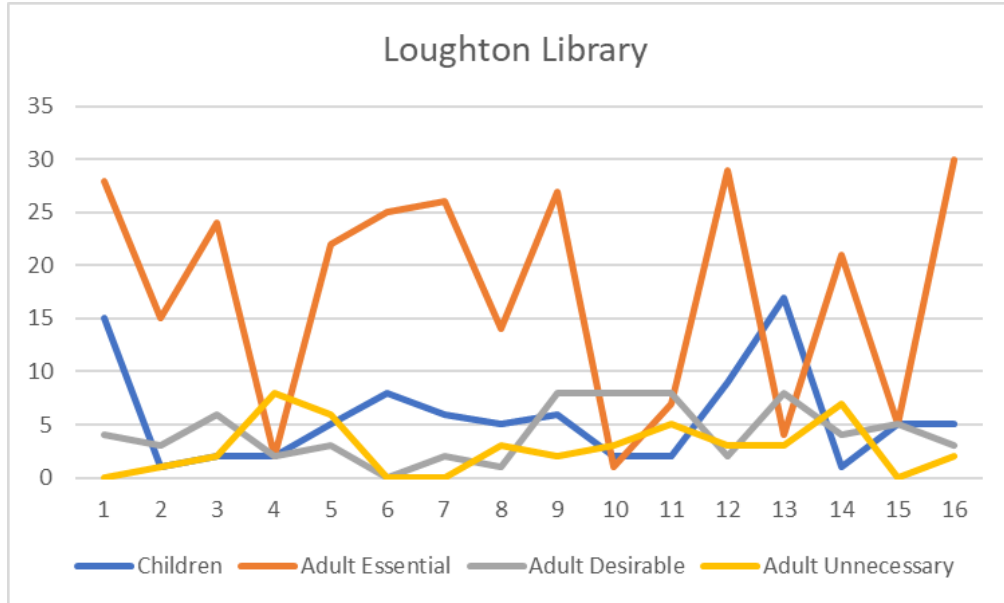
White Bridge Primary School Results



Key Points For Consideration:

- The most popular choice for children, again, was Image 1 (multi-play), this was also recommended as the highest score by adults. Three adults scored this option as desirable, but not essential.
- Image 5 (swing type), scored highly by children, receiving the second highest number of responses. This was also reasonably popular with adults.
- Image 3 (swing type), was also very popular with children, and adults deemed this to be reasonably popular. One adult felt this option was desirable, but not essential.
- One adult felt Image 10 (springy), was not important to include.

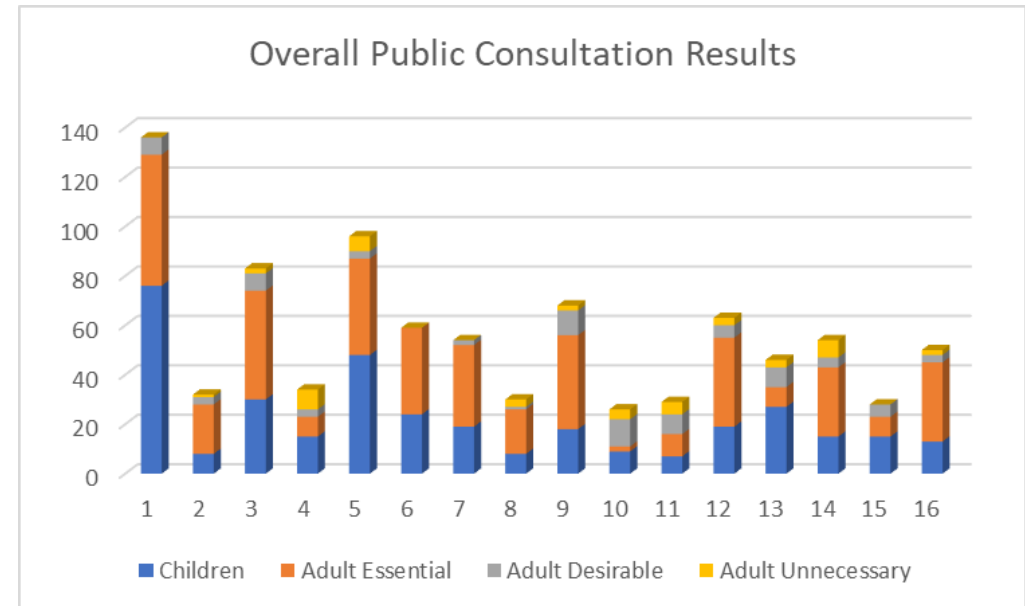
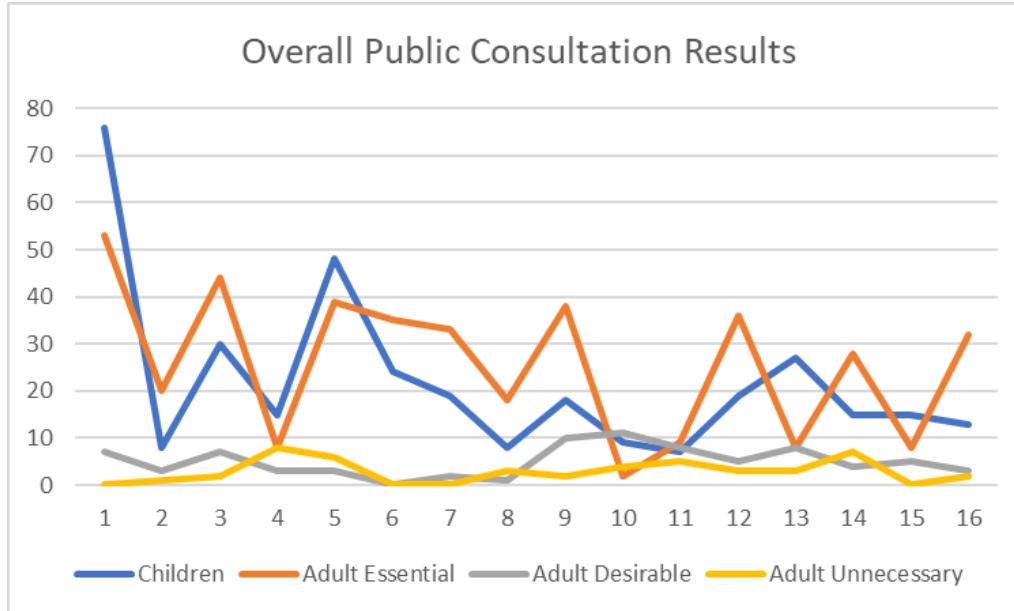
Loughton Library Results



Key Points For Consideration:

- Image 13 (educational/imaginary/interactive play) was the most popular choice by children, followed closely by Image 1 (multi-play).
- Adults responded reasonably consistently across a number of types of play equipment they felt to be essential, with Image numbers 16 & 14 (see saw/rocker); 1 (multi-play); 12 (educational/imaginary/interactive play); 9 (roundabouts); 6 (swing type); 7 (balance beams & trails); 3 & 5 (swing type); 2 (multi-play); and 8 (floor graphics) all being popular choices.
- In terms of equipment considered to be desirable, but not essential, Image numbers 9 (roundabouts); 10 (springy); 11 (balance beams & trails); 13 (educational/imaginary/interactive play); and 6 (swing type), received some scores by adults, although these were relatively low compared to overall essential choices.
- Image numbers 4 & 5 (swing type); 14 (see saw/rocker); and 11 (educational/imaginary/interactive play), were felt by some adults not necessary to include.

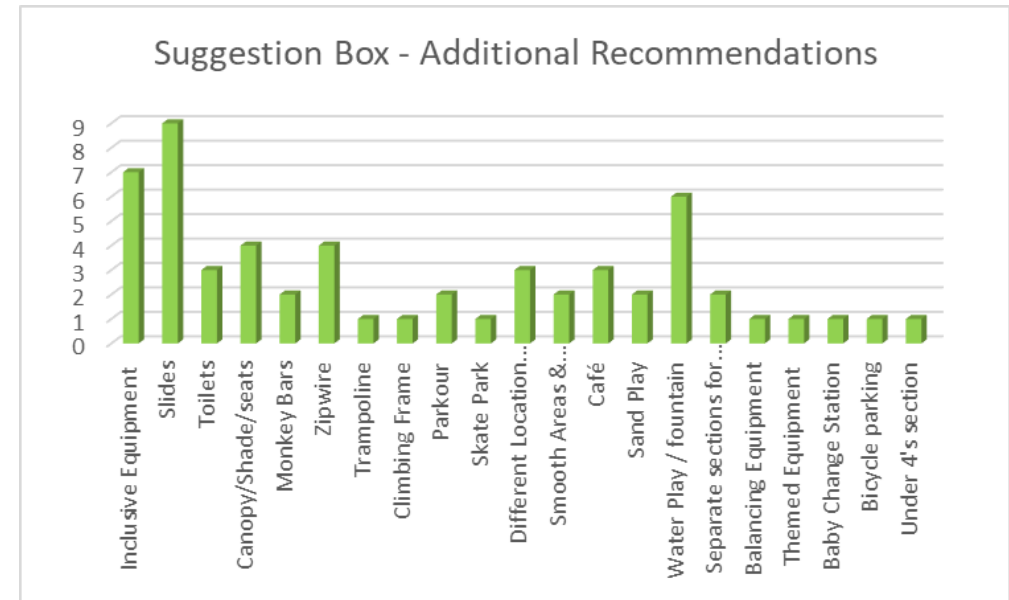
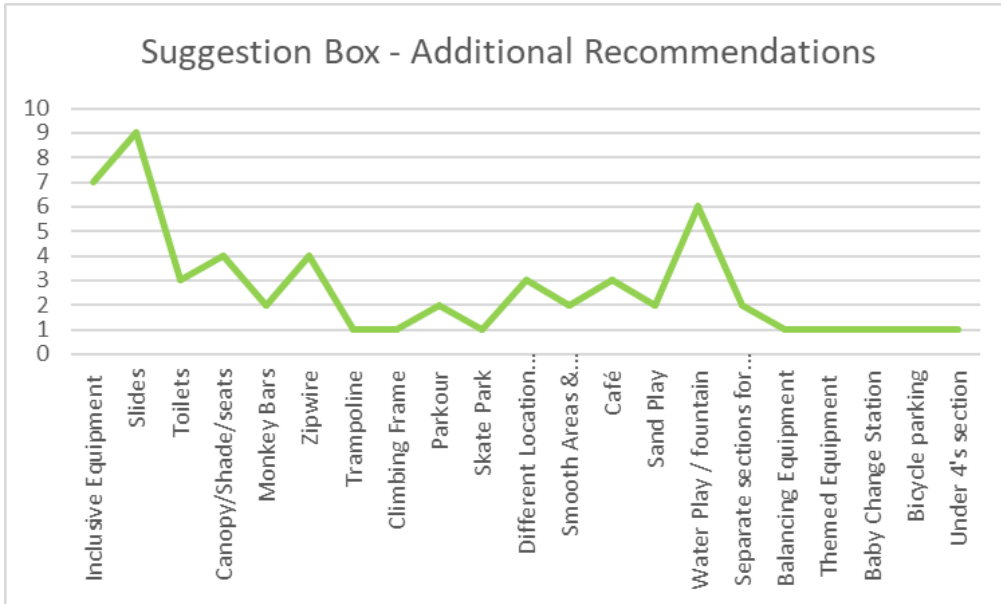
Public Consultation Results Combined



Key Points For Consideration:

- Of the 16 images shown, all were chosen to be favourable, with only a small number of adult responses feeling some of the equipment shown was not necessary to include in the new park design.
- The most popular choice overall, recommended by both children and adults was Image 1 (multi-play).
- Image numbers 5, 3 & 6 (swing types) were also popular choices.
- In addition, a number of respondents felt Image numbers 7 (balance beams & trails); 9 (roundabout); 12 (educational/imaginary/interactive play); and 14 & 16 (see saw/rockers); were essential / favourite choices.

Suggestion Box / E-mails



Key Points For Consideration:

- A number of recommendations were made either via our suggestion boxes or received by email.
- Slides and inclusive play equipment were the most asked for pieces.
- Water play / fountain and a zip wire were the next most popular requests.

Summary

- Councillors are asked to review and consider the results of the Public Consultations, and agree how they wish to progress.

Agenda Item 12
Roding Valley Cricket Club (RVCC) request – Min no RC110



**Agenda Item 13
Hedgerows Survey**

R.V. Rec. Hedgerow Survey 9.8.22.

Attended by Abigail Oldham (EFDC Countrycare), Kevin Mason (Tree Wardens' Co-ordinator).

Five Tree Wardens including Cllrs. Cohen and Wixley.

The nationwide survey of hedgerows stems from an initiative by the "People's Trust for Endangered Species". In the main the scheme is aimed at the farming community as healthy hedgerows have a number of benefits to farmers e.g. protecting crops, combatting soil erosion, helping pollinators, providing shelter and shade for livestock as well as creating travel corridors for wildlife.

Initially the group surveyed the hedgerow running alongside the Loughton Brook. The group then split with some surveying the hedgerow between the cricket pavilion and playground while Cllr. Cohen and myself joined the group surveying the hedgerow on the opposite side of the field to the Loughton Brook. It was interesting to discover that this hedgerow contained a much greater variety of vegetation compared to the one running alongside the Loughton Brook.

It was also noted that the hedgerow planted a few years ago, by Countrycare, against the rear wall of the garages in Bloomfield Avenue, had been successful in dealing with the graffiti problem that had previously existed. Likewise a similar scheme at the Hillyfields Open Space has also been a success).

It was suggested that it would be beneficial if strips of grass, 2 metres wide and running the length of these hedgerows, could be left uncut then it would further enhance the value of the hedgerows. Perhaps the Committee could consider this?

Abigail Oldham has produced a comprehensive report which I can forward on should anyone request it.

David Wixley

**Agenda Item 13
Hedgerows Survey Cont**

Loughton Recreation Ground Hedgerow Surveys August 2022



Agenda Item 14
Allergy Awareness Signage

From: >
Sent: 29 July 2022 21:04
To: Mark Squire <Mark.Squire@loughton-tc.gov.uk>
Subject: Allergy Awareness Sign

Dear Mr Squire

I was given your email by councillor Stephen Murray in regards to the below email I sent him earlier today. Please see email below regarding a suggested allergy awareness sign for the playgrounds at Roding Valley Recreational Ground:

Dear Mr Squire,

I am writing to you as a parent of a child with multiple life threatening food allergies.

Do you know that 1 in 13 babies born in the UK will suffer from food allergies? Before I had my son, I did not understand the life altering impact, stress, anxiety and worry that food allergies brings. One accidental exposure can have dangerous consequences.

My child, like many others in the Loughton area, have IgE allergies. This means that if they are to come into contact with their allergens, they can have a life threatening allergic reaction, anaphylaxis. Allergens can be passed through touch and can remain on surfaces, so activities as simple as going to the playground can cause an unexpected reaction and can induce a great deal of worry and anxiety and disappointment in both children and their parents.

In some UK parks, allergy awareness signs are displayed as reminders to other park users as to how they can keep the park and equipment safe for everyone to use. Examples of how this has been implemented successfully have been attached to this email.

I am writing to you, to propose that a similar sign should be erected in our local parks, specifically, Roding Valley Recreational Ground.

I have visited the playgrounds on numerous occasions with my two year old son and have seen children eating whilst using the play equipment. Unfortunately, once foods, such as ice cream, crisps, sandwiches, chocolates or yoghurts for example have been spilt on the play equipment, it is no longer safe for my child, and many others to enjoy. Due to the severity of IgE reactions, a small spill can cause a great deal of discomfort, a skin reaction, swelling and the possibility to even cause a life threatening reaction.

As you can see from the attached photos, the signs offer a gentle reminder and offer suggestions for how park users can help to keep everyone safe.

I think that these signs will be successful in our area, as they are in other areas of the UK, because not only will they raise awareness for children with food allergies and the dangers that food and cross contamination can present for those with allergies, but it can also offer a reference point for parents when discussing why food on equipment could cause reactions in children. They can make the park a safer place for everyone to enjoy.

In raising awareness these signs may also encourage other park users to be more mindful and to clear up after themselves more thoroughly, thus leaving the park safer and cleaner for everyone to enjoy.

The park with the 'Allergy Awareness Sign' in the Stockport area has received positive feedback from the community and sparked up positive discussion about allergy. Your support and proactive actions would be such a positive thing to do and more than that could help prevent allergic reactions. It would be fantastic to create such an inclusive and supportive community in the Loughton area too.

I look forward to your reply in receipt of this email and look forward to your suggestions with this going forward.

Many thanks,



Bruntwood Park Play Area

**Be food allergy aware
when using
Bruntwood Park Play Area.**



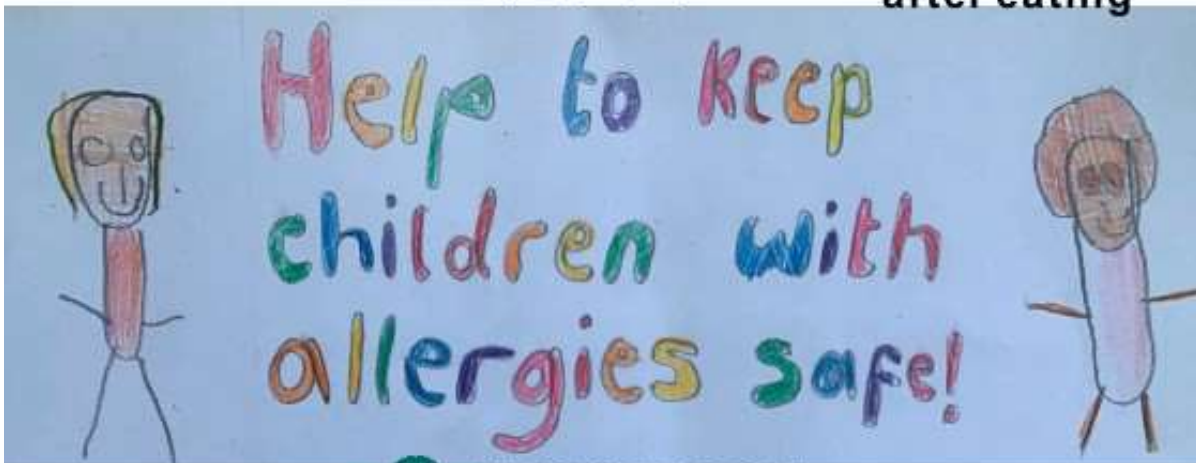
**Dispose of litter
in the bins provided.**



**Eat in the picnic
areas away from
the play equipment**



**Clean your hands
after eating**



Stockport Council and its partners cannot accept responsibility or liability for any claim, loss or damage, which may arise resulting from the use of the facility except as provided by statute.

Agenda item 15
Town Council Van

The Town Council van has been in the repair garage since 25 July 2022. The initial diagnosis had been that new injectors were necessary, but on close inspection it was discovered that widescale corrosion of the engine meant that replacing the injectors would not be straightforward. Subsequent attempts to carry this out led to issues arising that meant that excessive force would be required to remove the faulty injectors, resulting in damage to surrounding engine parts. Consequently, the repair garage informed officers that it would be more cost effective to replace the whole engine and began a search for a reconditioned one.

On 24 August 2022, a progress update was received from the repair garage with the disappointing news that an engine had not been sourced, and furthermore was unlikely to be. Therefore, the work required to make the van roadworthy now entailed the supply of new injectors and a re-building of the damaged parts of the engine (caused when removing the corroded injectors) and new head gasket. The sum quoted for was £4,827.20 for parts and up to 30 hours labour. This price is subject to change, as the work is of such a complex nature.

In the intervening period a hire van has been used, and up to 30 August 2022, the cost of hiring the van has been £1,037.50 inclusive of VAT.(c£200 a week)

.....
The van was purchased in 2013 and although not that old, there is no guarantee that the extensive and costly work will provide a sound working van. Additionally the current diesel engine van, requires a member of the Services Team, give the van a longer run each week to keep it running properly.

To purchase a new electric van of similar ilk would cost in the region of £55k. The garage concerned does though recommend a cheaper hybrid van, as the experience has been that an electric van needs constant recharging of the battery Earmarked reserves are accumulated each year (currently £12k) for the provision of buying a new van. However, it was not envisaged that the van would seize up so prematurely.

The options are

1. To pay for the repairs and continue with some uncertainty
2. Buy a new van, the shortfall take from general reserves.
3. Lease a van

Recommendation -Pursue option 3,as

- I. motor technology changes so fast, the van can be updated at regular intervals
- II. shortfall of funding
- III. report again at Resources and General Services Committee Meeting on 5 October 2022

On all options (particularly 2 and 3 , LTC will need to continually hire a van, hopefully at a reduced rate over the longer hire period .

Member to review and recommend a way forward

PH/ MS

Agenda item 16

Willingale Road Nature Reserve – Min no RC118

Willingale Road Nature Reserve visit 20.7.22.

Attended by Damien Weller (EFDC Countrycare), Paul Hoy, Cllrs. Fontenelle, Stubbings, Wixley.

I was hoping to see more reptiles but we only encountered one Slow Worm. A four to five day survey of the Slow Worm population is to be undertaken in September. Last year's survey resulted in a count of between thirty to forty of the creatures.

There is also a good population of Common Lizards as well as some Grass Snakes.

Damien is a mine of information and answered many of our questions and passed on lots of interesting information like the Slow Worms' ability to escape from grass fires, an ability the Common Lizard does not possess.

Countrycare would like to create a pond in the Nature Reserve which would have to be one metre deep for the benefit of toads. My view is that, desirable as that may be, for Health and Safety reasons it would place an unacceptable burden of responsibility on LTC.
David

Cllr D. Wixley

**Agenda Item 20
Jessel Green Fun Day**

After a two year absence this year’s community fun day held on Sunday 26 June 22 was a great success. The event was very well attended, with record crowds (over 3,000 residents), record takings from wristband sales and record income received on the charity stalls.

Excellent feedback was received despite the lack of volunteers on the day, coupled with the previous night’s concerns of high winds which could have resulted in the inflatable, unable to be used.

The lack of volunteers on the day resulted in additional ex gratia costs to enable the inflatables to be staffed.

Expenditure	12,306.83
Expenditure 2021/22	689.00
Income received	9,216.00
Total Expenditure	<u>3,777.49</u>

Charities to benefit from the event included Guide Dogs (£171.08), Breast Cancer Research (£800.00), St Clare Hospice (£700.00), and 3Food4U (£88 from the raffle ticket sales)

Thanks to John Walsh at the Cottage Loaf for his donation of £750.00.

Considerations for the event to be held in the future;

- Consider volunteer recruitment – e.g. Army Cadets, Young Masons – to prevent unreliability from partner provided volunteers or pay the inflatable companies to provide staff to man their inflatables.
- Book more fairground rides who provide their staff as part of the order.
- Book more specific younger children/families equipment and not rely on volunteers to staff the soft play area which didn’t get put up because of lack of volunteers.
- To negate low number of volunteers, and threat of strong winds, consider more fairground rides or play equipment that providers staff themselves. Very reliant on inflatables.
- More volunteers or paid staff required on the registration desk selling wristbands and tickets for the inflatables and fairground rides to assist with large queues.
- Ensure liaise with EFDC controlled trees for work to ensure Bus Route is not affected.
- Lack of car parking resulted in congestion at each end of Jessel Drive which also impeded on the Bus Route – encourage walking.
- Widen event area, if possible, to allow for greater number of visitors – felt too compact with over 3,000 visitors.
- Provide a picnic area for those bringing their own food and drinks.
- More Councillors required to assist with the sale of raffle tickets for their stall.

PB 30.8.22

Agenda item 22
Financial Position - continued
Earmarked Reserves:

A summary of the Committee's reserves showing the amounts available from reserves in this current financial year is provided below.

Schedule of Earmarked Reserves	
	25.08.22
Recreation Committee	
Murray Hall/Kingsley Hall	17,638
RVRG clubhouse & surrounding area	53,550
Playgrounds	92,000
Van replacement	12,000
Charles Moules Bridge	15,000
Hillyfields Maintenance	7,600
Total	£197,788