

Children's Play Area Development Working Party Notes

Dated - 6th December 2021

Time - 10am

Ended 11.50am

In attendance:

- Cllrs Hanson, I. Alexander, C. Young and Lloyd.

Also attending the Clerk, then S. Alexander who arrived at 11.30am

Apologies received from: - Cllr. S Alexander, Norcross, and Bell

Those present considered the proposed playground developments at Chandlers Way and at the MPF

Cllrs agreed the following works in preparation of a recommendation being brought back to Community Committee for agreement: -

MPF Proposal

1. The Clerk had obtained an updated quote from 'Creative Play' based upon the 2018 scope of works – It was felt that this quote could not be brought back to committee for agreement without further efforts to obtain a lesser price.
2. Councillors agreed that the Clerk first go to two of the other six companies that were originally invited to submit a playground renewal proposal, preferably the two chosen being the last two in the running and that we obtain an updated quote based upon their last agreed scope of works and that in the first instance this would give us an indication as to whether Creative Play's cost was a reasonable across the board increase. If, however other companies had a lesser increase this would enable the Clerk to go back and again negotiate a lesser price based upon their competitor's willingness to agree a lesser price. Provided due diligence maintained then a reasonable quote could then be brought back to Committee for agreement or otherwise.
3. The Clerk could also 'sound out' the Wilson Memorial Trust {WMT} at this point to see if an application would be received favorably either this year or next and again this information plus a draft application could be brought to committee for agreement or otherwise

Chandlers Way

1. The Clerk had obtained a quote from 'Sovereign' following last working parties suggestions - The Clerk was asked to go back to 'Sovereign' and obtain another amended draft quote, this time excluding the Bin, Picnic bench, the 'insect hotel', the willow tunnel and the 'springer' being changed for a 'double springer' if possible, and that also the play surface renewal details be made 'more understandable', particularly regarding the grass areas, with a suggestion to possibly reduce ground coverage of play surface to reduce costs. All these changes suggested in order to reduce the costs to a figure whereby perhaps funding could be covered by SPC Cil monies and possibly topped up via a successful WMT application. The Clerk to bring back an updated proposal for the next working party

2. Cllr I. Alexander to 'sound out' a resident he knows from Chandler's way, whom he knows to be part of a Chandlers Way What's App group, to gain initial thoughts on how best to go about a public consultation. All Councillors agreed that rather than go to public consultation with open ended request for 'what would you like to see happen' approach, rather three or four options be presented for their views and further comments. Councillors to consider this public consultation format in advance of the next working party being convened
3. It was agreed that the Pocket Park idea continue with small amendments to plan with one central large tree being included as a focal point, with slightly larger area of open space which could include meadow area, and that rather than funding benches from the outset, that these could be obtained over time possibly via memorial bench sponsorship
4. Chandlers Way playground development is to be part of the 'Pocket Park' development, but that funding of it be separate from the HDC application – which should be primarily for green re-wilding developments.
5. Clerk to obtain an application form from the Sussex Community Foundation, and Chris and Deborah to complete this application – asking for partnership funding for the HDC Greening application that the Clerk could complete, both then being submitted in time for the next round of funding applications – early January cut off. If either or both successful, then the working parties recommendations to be brought back to Community Committee so as to agree the next steps forward
6. Other funding opportunities to be pursued by the other councilor's present, as per discussed at the last working party