

**Alexandra Road Play Area Working Group
Working Group Meeting – Monday 31 January at 4:00pm (Ashington Town Hall)**

Present: Cllr. Pauling Thompson, Cllr. Sophie Robinson
Stephen Humphrey (Assets & Facilities Manager)
Sharon Parmley (Senior Administration Officer/PA)

Apologies: Cllr. Victor Bridges, Sarah Eden (Town Clerk & RFO)

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Victor Bridges and Sarah Eden.
Process	The group were given an overview of the process of installing the recent play area at Peoples Park. It is envisaged that the process in developing the Alexandra Road Play Area would be similar to this project although smaller in scale. The Working Group would make recommendations in the development of the project to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for approval.
Proposed Design	<p>Initial contact has been made with two play area providers (Proludic Ltd and Kompan Ltd) who had provided designs based on the existing equipment within the play area. These designs will be refined and developed as part of the consultation process.</p> <p>Discussion took place on selecting a preferred contractor to develop the project. It is envisaged that the preferred contractor could then assist the Town Council in consultation with local children and residents to develop the final plans for the project.</p> <p>It was agreed to recommend inviting the play providers to provide a presentation to the Working Group, with a view to seeking a preferred contractor.</p> <p>Dependent on the success of the above a third provider could be contacted if required.</p>
Consultation	<p>It was agreed that once a contractor had been chosen to develop plans, consultation with the local community should take place to determine the final design. Consultees includes the nearby Ashington Children’s Centre (Sure Start), local schools and nearby residents.</p> <p>Discussion took place on providing a drop-in for local residents to fully inform them of the proposals. The event would also provide an opportunity to gauge opinion of providing ASB measures such as CCTV etc.</p>
Project	<p>Discussion took place on the costs for the project as well as enhancing existing fencing and gates to the play area as part of the works. The proposed cost for the play project was circa £45,000.</p> <p>Dependent on a number of factors the aim of the Working Group was to see the development of the play area for the summer holiday period in 2022.</p>

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<p>Preparty Work</p>	<p>SH advised that discussion would need to take place with NCC and Bernicia staff in preparation of the project. Bernicia are responsible for the nearby housing facing the play area and some disruption will likely occur in developing the project.</p> <p>SH updated the Working Group on the existing CCTV provision on the Town Council's two play areas at Paddock Wood and Peoples Park, installed in October 2021. The CCTV is provided by Ashington based company Assetwatch Ltd and to date has reduced ASB and associated damage to the equipment in the two play areas.</p> <p>Discussion took place on works to reduce overgrown shrubbery in the area. Cllr. Thompson highlighted that the overgrown shrubbery is a contributing to ASB issues in the area including the existing play area which is partly hidden from Alexandra Road. Northumbria Police are also aware of this issue. SP advised that a request had been made to address this issue and works are planned to take place in coming weeks. Dependent on this work the Town Council could request further work, from NCC, to this area as part of the wider play area project.</p>
<p>Date of next meeting</p>	<p>The next meeting of the Alexandra Road Play Area Working Group is to be agreed.</p>