

Date: 14 April

	Wheeled Play Area - Review
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1 Introduction

The Wheeled Play Area Working Group met on 8 June 2021 (minutes of meeting at Appendix 1) and there were issues which could not be agreed and it was, therefore resolved to refer these matters back to full council in order to agree a way forward. These are listed under items 3 and 4 of this report.

It was resolved at the meeting that the history of how the position of opting for a Wheeled Play Area was reached and this is at Appendix 2.

In order for completeness the proposed voting slips are at Appendix 3 & 4

2 Age Group of Consultees and/or weighting

During the meeting of 8 June various views were put forward with regard to the upper and lower age group of consultees and whether, if consultation included under secondary school age should there be a system of weighting of responses. Proposals/views are set out below:

- a) View 1: My own view is that we should be consulting the adults in the parish but that is not an option as the council voted to deny adults a right to have any say whatsoever.

As it was voted that children will get to vote but not adults we discussed this at the previous working group meeting and the unanimous agreement by all at that time was for ages 8-17 inclusive to be consulted.

The rationale being under 8's were considered too young to have a say and as the council voted to deny adults a say this left the upper age limit of 17 as anyone 18 or over is an adult.

If we are only to consult children (I strongly disagree with this and believe adults in the parish have a right to be consulted) then age range 8-17 inclusive is a reasonable age range for the reasons provided above.

The attempt to remove the younger children and only allow older children a say is a cynical effort to distort the result in favour of the WPA. The view clearly being as expressed in the last meeting that children aged 8-11 would be less interested in a WPA so less likely to vote for it. Thereby removing them makes the WPA more likely to be chosen. If I can see this then so will the parishioners. There has been enough unpleasantness in the community about the WPA do we really want to add to that? I should hope not.

I am strongly opposed to any suggestion of weighting the votes. This is fundamentally wrong and it troubles me that not all see this.

How can we say to one child that their opinion is less important than another child's?
We cannot and should not.

I work in child protection and the idea that one child's voice is less important than another child's voice goes against everything that those working in that field seek to achieve.

Weighting the votes is wrong and yet again a cynical attempt to skew the result in favour of the WPA. The idea suggested being that younger children's votes had less weight and older children's votes would have greater weight. The belief being the older children are more likely to request WPA.

Again this is likely to cause even further division and upset in the community. To weight the votes is insanity.

Every child's vote should have the same value and weighting as every other child's. I urge everyone to think long and hard about this.

- b) View 2: There is no reason to rehearse previous decisions of the Parish Council other than where they relate specifically to the proposal(s) made.

The Council made the decision that, in line with an overwhelming response to a query raised in the Housing Needs Assessment 2016 (check date) that investment should be made in provision of equipment for teenagers/young people and following consultations it was agreed that a Wheeled Play Area should be invested in. Following a very unpleasant incident it was agreed that a further consultation be undertaken in recognition of the time lapse and to confirm that this would still be the favoured choice.

As the investment is aimed at young people then the focus of the consultation should be at the age group 11-17 year olds. Eight to 10 year olds are able to comment on what they want NOW but are less able to envisage what they might want in 2-10 years time.

Action Required: to read, consider and debate the proposals, taking account of the history at Appendix 2 and make a resolution.

- a) 11 – 17 is the age group to be consulted;
- b) If, 8-10 years olds are included in the consultation then their vote should be valued at 50%, ie half the weight;

3 How Results to be dealt with (particularly in respect of WPA achieving 50% or less).

There were, again, opposing views on this matter with views being expressed that vote should be between a) the WPA OR package of other equipment versus b) a straight vote between each proposed piece of equipment.

- a) View 1: Clearly if the WPA achieves more than half the votes that will be the option put forward to the council.

Equally clearly to me is if the bundle of affordable options achieves more than half the votes then it will be the bundle put forward to the council. We have already discussed and agreed that the options are to be costed and the person's voting asked to rank in order of preference. Therefore should the bundle be chosen we would commit to building as many options as could be afforded with the available budget. Starting with 1 then 2 then 3 and so on until there was no budget remaining. From the approximate costs obtained so far it seems likely that most quite likely all of the bundle options could be afforded with the available budget.

Clearly putting the WPA which costs over £100,000 against a single option costing say £15,000 is a nonsense. What child would not choose the expensive toy, they all would. That is the reason for the bundle so there can be parity and fairness. Bundle allows several options to be put together that will between them cost £100,000.

- b) View 2: The purpose of this consultation is to confirm or refute the findings of previous consultations which were based on votes per item rather than votes for the WPA against votes for all other items added together.

Action Required: to read, consider and debate the proposals, taking account of the history at Appendix 2 and to make a resolution as follows:

- a) There should be a straight vote between individual items of equipment or
- b) The vote should be between the WPA and the total of votes for all other pieces of equipment.

Ettington Parish Council
Youth Project Working Group
Minutes of Meeting of 8 June 2021

Present: Cllrs J Henry, G Lambert and R Smith

In Attendance: S Furniss, Clerk to EPC

1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 1 DECEMBER 2020

Approved as a true record.

2 AGE GROUP OF CONSULTEES AND/OR WEIGHTING

Following discussions regarding the upper and lower age limits of consultation and the notion of weighting results by age in recognition of the fact that the PC commitment was to provide a facility suitable for young people (rather than children) a consensus was not reached and it was **resolved** that this be referred back to the Parish Council for a decision.

Actions: Clerk to draft structure of report and Cllrs Lambert and Smith to outline their views (Cllrs Smith and Henry being in broad agreement).

3 HOW RESULTS TO BE DEALT WITH (PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT OF WPA ACHIEVING 50% OR LESS)

Following discussions regarding whether consultation should be in respect of WPA versus 'A Bundle of Other Options' OR whether the consultation should be by ranking WPA and individual other items. No consensus was reached and it was **resolved** that this be referred back to the Parish Council for a decision.

Actions: Clerk to draft structure of report and Cllrs Lambert and Smith to outline their views (Cllrs Smith and Henry being in broad agreement).

4 REVIEW ALL PAPERWORK DRAFTED TO DATE WITH VIEW TO FINALISING

It was agreed to defer this item.

5 DATE OF CONSULTATION

It was agreed to defer this item.

6 CANVAS SPACES BUDGET

It was agreed that, if Canvas Spaces tender price cannot be met installation of WPA might not be feasible and, therefore, it is vital to gain their response to queries previously raised.

Actions: Clerk to phone Todd Smith at Canvas Spaces.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING To be agreed.

Appendix 2 - History

The issue of facilities for young people was initially an agenda item at the PC meeting held on 8 October 2014 following an approach to one of the Councillors

In summer of 2016 Warwickshire Rural Community Council undertook, on EPCs behalf, a Housing Needs Survey. A section was included to offer respondents an opportunity to comment on how they would like to see community funding spent. There were 67 suggestions made in response to this question. Some of these were not appropriate for Parish Council funding because they fell within the remit of another authority/organisation These were:

Library, upkeep of footpaths, improvements to school, more frequent buses, roadside verge cutting , day centre for elderly, traffic calming, roundabout at junction with Fosse and medical facilities.

Other issues have since been addressed including moving of the drop off/pick up points for school buses and making access to MUGA free (other than for tennis).

Below are verbatim comments from the report which relate to the playing field:

More playing field equipment

Running/ cycle track

Adult/teenage equipment

Upgraded playground equipment

Upgraded tennis facilities

Skatepark

Basketball court (free)

BBQ area/picnic area/teenage/adult area

More play equipment. Such a big field, not enough in it really.

Equipment/facilities for teenagers

Childrens recreation – varied ages

Skatepark in the park?

The all-weather court on playing field needs a revamp

Stuff for teenagers to do

More picnic tables/seating near park

Zip wire at park

Skateboard/scooter park

Definitely more leisure equipment for older children. ?Skate park? More advanced climbing frame/wall

Skatepark or equipment for teenagers

Resources for teenagers/young adults.

Skatepark or the like. Tennis court being free to use – then it would be used.

Skatepark. Circuit training

Cricket Pitch

BMX/cycle park

All weather sports facility/tennis court (improvements). **Skate park or similar type of facility for teenagers;**

More playground equipment, particularly toddlers/preschool and primary age. Plus enclosed fencing and removal of concrete slabs in play area to improve safety.

Playing field equipment

Playing field is fine.

A teenager facility for sure but no idea what?

It was resolved that the greatest demand was for something for the youth of the village and a working group was convened to progress on consulting this group.

An initial consultation was held on 14 October 2016 the purpose of which was to establish the most popular item(s) and to seek further suggestions. The consultation was advertised by posters around the village.

Proposals were put forward (based on the comments from the Housing Needs Assessment as follows:

Wheeled Play Area	65
Green Gym/Fitness	10
Climbing /Adventure Equipment	10
Ball Play	7
Youth Shelter	6
Table Tennis	1

There was also an opportunity for attendees to suggest other ideas and these were:

All weather football pitch	1
Chip Shop	1
Dirt Ramps/Park	1
Mc Chicken Filet	1
Family BBQ area	1
Lido	1
Floodlights	1

Skateboards and scooters in a shelter

By the wheeled play area	1
Half Pipe	2
Skatepark	18
Monkey Bars	1
Zipwire	2

A follow up consultation was held in January 2017 with flyers being delivered to all households and posters displayed around the village. The purpose of this meeting was:

- Provide feedback on the consultation and to provide a further opportunity to have say on preferred installation(s)
- Announce periods of open access to Multi-Use Games Area
- Progress formation of a Youth Council (to represent the young people of the parish and to progress projects as agreed by the Parish Council)
- To answer any questions which arise

Decision Making Process

Progress was initially slow but once it was known that £66,820 of Section 106 Funding would be 'gifted' to the Parish, for the purposes of off site open space development, from the Spitfire Development, impetus was revived.

With the Skatepark having received the highest number of votes at the consultation held in October 2016 it was agreed that this should be the central project. Though the youth shelter received only six votes this was the most popular choice by girls and it was agreed that this would be the first purchase and it was installed in summer of 2018. Despite fears, there has been no graffiti and it is largely litter free with users taking advantage of a bin installed close to the shelter.

Research was undertaken regarding the advantages and disadvantages of two types of construction with the following outcome:

Poured Concrete	Pre-cast steel and wood
Highly durable	Less durable
Quieter	Very noisy
Expensive	Much less expensive
Excellent ride surface	Poor ride surface
Can be designed for both inexperienced and experienced riders	Limited design options
Allows for inclusion of range of challenges	Fewer options for building in challenge

Based on research it was agreed that, though more expensive the poured concrete would be more suitable.

It was realised that additional funding would be required and the Youth Council held two fundraising events being held on 1 May 2017 and a second in November 2017 – these raised £590 and £220 respectively.

The Youth Council worked up a mission statement and logo which formed the basis for a number of grant applications which were successful and contributed :

Tesco Bags of Help	£1,000
Waitrose Community Fund	£213.00
Lottery Grant	£10,000
Warwickshire County Council Councillor Grant	£1,500

The Parish Council agreed to additional funding which resulted in a total budget of £100,000.

The decision having been reached that a poured concrete park (suitable for use across the skill range by skateboarders, scooter, BMX riders and wheelchair users) be commissioned and a core group of the Youth Council worked on the specification. The ESPO Framework 115 was used for the tender with five companies being invited to tender of which four submitted tenders.

A robust selection procedure was used which included value for money, guarantee and responsiveness to specification. In addition the Youth Council were invited to view and comment on the designs submitted. This resulted in the contract being awarded to Canvas Spaces on 25 September 2018.

It became apparent that there was a vocal minority against the idea of a skatepark and an open meeting was held on 24 July 2019 was to enable parishioners to see the design and ask any questions. This was advertised by posters with flyers being delivered to householders backing onto the playing field. Though no formal statistics were gathered a number of attendees considered it a good idea and the concerns of others were partially or mainly addressed though, inevitably, the concerns of all were not allayed.

Attendees were invited to make suggestions for further improvement and four people left comments:

Adult	Pre-school	School Age	Across the ages
Outdoor Gym Equipment	Toddler equipment (eg sandpit)	Something for older children (eg climbing wall), monkey bars	All weather pitch for 5 a-side (the muga not having a suitable surface)
Green Gym		Climbing frame KS2 Primary/Secondary	
Adult Exercise Equipment			

Planning permission was sought and granted on DATE TO BE INSERTED

ETTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

CONSULTATION ON YOUNG PEOPLE’S PLAY EQUIPMENT ages 7 – 17 years

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE AT THE PLAYING FIELD?

Having looked at the display boards around the room would you prefer to have:

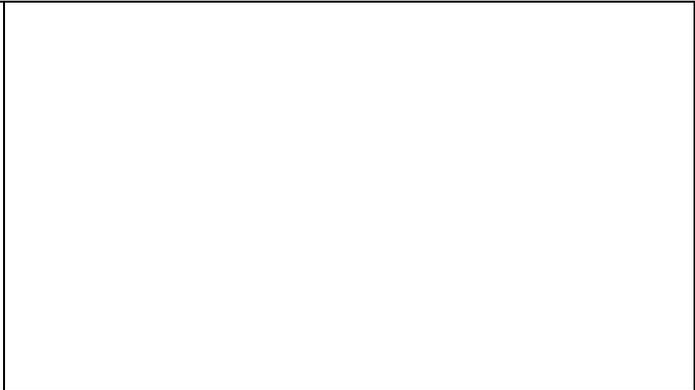
the Wheeled Play Area

OR

a mix of some of the other pieces of equipment

If you’d like other equipment indicate below by writing 1st choice, 2nd choice and 3rd choice.

<p>Ball play</p> 	<p>Climbing Wall/Nets</p> 
<p>Table Tennis</p> 	<p>Outdoor Fitness Equipment</p> 
<p>Zip Wire</p>	<p>Other Equipment – please state what</p> <p>?</p>



Appendix 4

ETTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

CONSULTATION ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAY EQUIPMENT ages 7 – 17 years

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE AT THE PLAYING FIELD?

Having looked at the display boards around the room indicate below by writing 1st choice, 2nd choice and 3rd choice against your favourite pieces of equipment

<p>Ball play</p> 	<p>Climbing Wall/Nets</p> 
<p>Table Tennis</p> 	<p>Outdoor Fitness Equipment</p> 
<p>Zip Wire</p> 	<p>Wheeled Play Area</p> 

Other Equipment – please state what

