

FRAMPTON COTTERELL PARISH COUNCIL

# REPORT EVALUATING RIDINGS ROAD PLAY AREA

With thanks to all the residents who took the time to respond to the questionnaire as without your help, there

Would be no data for this report.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Frampton Cotterell Parish Council has ageing and damaged beyond repair playground facilities at its site known as Riding Road. A play strategy document was commissioned and adopted.

A working group of councillors and participating residents was set up in September 2022. The group put together a list of stakeholders and devised a survey for distribution to the local community to gain views and opinions on the site. It wanted to know who uses the existing area, what they would or wouldn't like to see there. If they prefer to play elsewhere, why?

Engaging with the community gives the community a voice and contributes to good community governance through clear civic leadership to act in the public's interest and create public value.

## 1.1 BACKGROUND

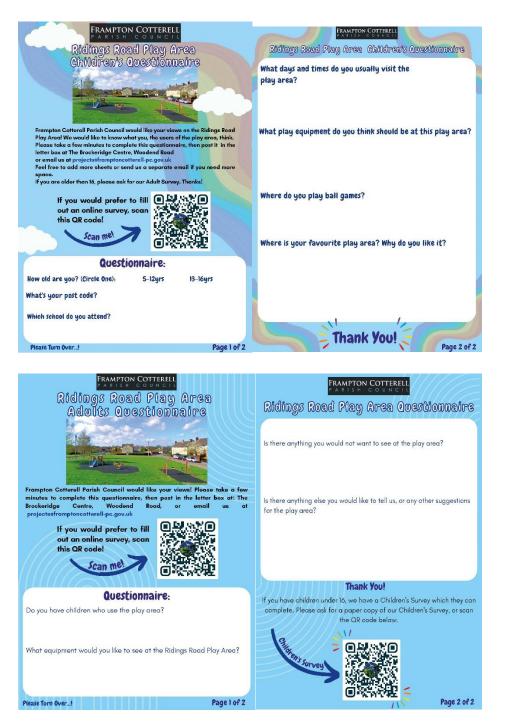
The current equipment was installed in 2005. In the past few years, the Council has been forced to remove the round-a-bout identified as a risk in the Annual Play Inspection report. Since then, one of the springies has also had to be removed. The current surfacing is cracking and showing signs of tripping hazards. The costs to repair and replace existing equipment and surfacing was felt so costly that the Council has taken steps to research the age range that use the area and ascertain the views of the users, surrounding neighbours and parishioners in general in order to develop a clear plan for implementation.



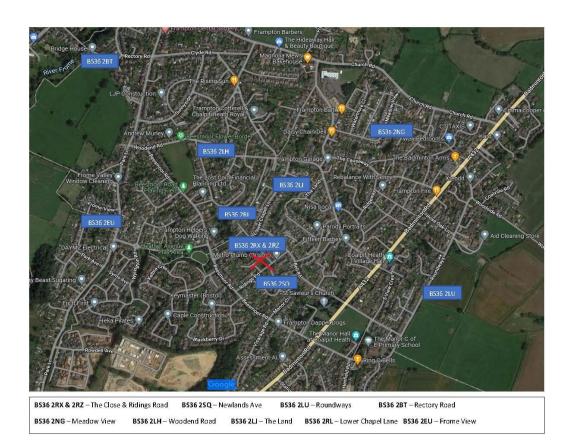
## Photos show the existing play area and equipment removed beyond repair

## 2 Research Method

The Council ran an online and paper-based survey throughout October – December of 2022. The results of which were analysed at a meeting of the working group in January 2023. Post codes of users of the area, that fed into the survey, were gained and presented quite a broad picture indicating users were from all around the village, illustrated below:



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Articles were placed in the Frome Valley Voice advertising the survey, supplying a QR code for smart phone users and a banner was placed at the site, illustrated below:





Various Face Book adverts were placed which fed into the local blog as well as the survey featuring on the Council's website. All hits, comments and views were analysed by the working group ensuring the entire demographic of Frampton Cotterell Parish had been included.

# 3 SGC Lease Agreement

Frampton Cotterell Parish Council holds a lease with landowners South Gloucestershire Council for a peppercorn rent. The lease term end is 2049. The lease requires the Council to *"lay out fence off provide or otherwise equip the said land as a children's playground…"*Property Services were contacted to inform them of the Parish Council's intention to renew the current play provision which was met with approval.

# 4 Specification

The specification for the new play area came from the analysis of the surveys and the equipment was identified by the public, requests to fence the play area off and the Councils' consideration of inclusivity deemed the most appropriate style of the equipment to be installed.

A full tender process began for the required minimum of 35 days. Tenders were scored on

Environmental Impact 15%
Play Value 30%
Design Rationale 25%
Inclusivity 15%
Durability 10%
References 5%

The results were presented to Full Council for evaluation and selection process.

# 5 Chosen Contractor

KOMPAN having scored the highest during the tender selection process were the Councils' chosen contractor. Extra items were added to the design by KOMPAN within budget and metal fencing and gates were the preferred option to enclose the play area. A Pre-start meeting took place in December 2023 and it was agreed the installation would start on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and take between 3-4 weeks (weather dependant).

# 6 Funding

External Funding was applied for and secured from the communities fund SUEZ in the amount of £43,700 to be used to pay for items of equipment, installation, fencing and gates and surfacing.

Member Awarded Funding was secured in the amount of £500 to pay for signage at the site.

# 7 Press Release

Neighbouring properties were supplied with a leaflet in December 2023 informing them of the imminent works and design of the new play area.

A press release was placed in the January edition of the Frome Valley Voice (see over), the Gazette were also sent the release in January and it was uploaded to the Councils website.

<u>Local Play Area Set For Revamp – Ridings Road, Frampton Cotterell – Frampton Cotterell Parish</u> <u>Council (framptoncotterell-pc.gov.uk)</u>

## LOCAL PLAY AREA SET FOR REVAMP



#### **Become a Parish Councillor!** We have parish councillor vacancies! Could our next parish councillor be... you?

Why become a parish councillor?

- Improve your CV Make positive changes to our village
- Support real, local people Work toward preserving and improving local nature and tackling wider climate issues
- Make friends, get involved with the community, and help organise fantastic local events
- ...and so much more!

To find out more, including whether you are eligible, visit our website or give us a call!

### www.framptoncotterell-pc.gov.uk/vacancies Climate & Nature Emergency:

**Our Declaration** Frampton Cotterell Parish Council has declared a Climate & Nature Emergency and approved a new Environment Policy. Both this declaration and our new environment policy tie in with our three-year Climate & Nature Action Plan, and reflect the parish council's dedication to the protection of the environment. Included in our declaration and plans are targets to become carbon neutral by 2030, and to continue to enhance our local environment for nature.

To read our full declaration, environment policy, and three-year plan, please visit our

## Frome Valley Voice, January 2024 Edition



Delight at plans for new play equipment at Ridings Road. As part of our ongoing assessment of play equipment in the village, Frampton Cotterell Parish Council is pleased to announce the installation of new play equipment at Ridings Road.

The new equipment will be installed, weather permitting, in January 2024. This follows a survey conducted with parents and children of the parish who very kindly fed in what they would like to see.

This improved play area will cater for ages 5-12 years and will be inclusive to all users.

The project will cost in the region of £70,000 and has been made possible with a generous amount of funding.

## The parish council's Project Officer said:

We had a brilliant response to the survey with residents and children. Thank you to everyone who shared their feedback. We were able to take on most comments received, and we hope to make further improvements in the future. further planting



**Carols Around the Tree** 

On December 1st, the Parish Council hosted the 2023 Carols Around the



Yate & Sodbury Gazette, January 2024 edition

# 8 Installation of play equipment

Removal of all existing equipment took place on January 8<sup>th</sup>, quickly followed by the installation of the fencing and gates. Week 2 saw the installation of the equipment and this was all completed by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January. The Wet pour was laid week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> January finishing off the play area. The weather was cold but dry and provided perfect conditions for the work.

Dropped kerbs remain outstanding and dependant on South Gloucestershire Council.

## Photos show Stage One of installation



Photos show Stage Two of installation







## Post Installation inspection

Took place on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 14:33 by Kyle Warrington (RPII Annual Inspector)

## Three items were raised:

- 1. Recommended that signage with site information is installed (this was previous to the installation of signage that had already been purchased for the site)
- 2. Maintenance Gate required minor rectification
- 3. Soil reinstatement required around Balance Beam posts

All three recommendations were corrected before the Park was opened on Friday 9th January 2024

## Maintenance Guidance



# **OPEN DAY**

An official cutting of the ribbon and open day was held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February. The local beaver group and children joined in with planting of spring bulbs, trees and a native hedge to further enhance the site. Various refreshments were served and questions asked of Councillors that were in attendance.

The council provided information posters as to the amount of recyclable materials used in the project.



*ROMPANE It was an enjoyable event and it is hoped that the new play area will be enjoyed by all our younger members of the community for the foreseeable future.* 





Photos show the completed project and Open Day held 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024













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