

Frampton Cotterell Parish Council Play Areas Strategy and Replacement Policy

This policy outlines the Council's strategy to the play equipment either owned or managed by the council. The Council adopted its Play Provision and Play Strategy in 2015 and this should be used as a reference document going forward. This will be updated as and when it is considered appropriate to do so. Play areas covering this policy are: The Park, Ridings Road and The Brockeridge Centre.

Vision

Ideally play areas should be designed to be bespoke, make use of natural elements where appropriate, provide a wide range of play experiences, be inclusive, meet community needs, provide for different age ranges, be challenging and exciting within acceptable safety limits, be well integrated into the park landscape with space to run around, be sustainable and well maintained and be adaptable to changing circumstances.

Replacement Policy

The Council will ensure that all play areas (equipment, surfacing and fencing) are maintained in a safe and clean condition through a combined programme of regular safety inspections, frequent grounds maintenance visits according to need and biennial condition inspections and risk assessments.

Minor economical repairs will be undertaken as soon after the council is made aware of any damage or unacceptable wear.

Where the council is made aware, either by inspection or public reporting, that a piece of equipment is damaged beyond economical repair the item will be removed as soon as possible.

The Parks and Recreation committee will recommend to Council what action is to be taken based upon the following:

- Is the area scheduled for a major re-development in the foreseeable future?
- Is it appropriate to replace like for like?
- Is a different piece of equipment more suitable for the play area in line with the play area strategy?
- Is the space best left empty?

Where the inspector reports that a piece of equipment no longer meets current British and/or European standards but has been risk assessed as safe then the WG will seek to replace at earliest opportunity as per the above criteria.

Ongoing or major redevelopment of a play area

The Parks and Recreation committee will have responsibility to will access the suitability of each play area on a regular basis.

Where it is decided that a site does not warrant major investment the Working Group may still consider that additional or replacement equipment would be appropriate for the play area. This maybe because of the suitability or age of some of the existing equipment or a change in the accepted concepts of how play areas should be equipped. Any proposal for new equipment should consider the following criteria:

- Suitability for inclusivity and multiple age ranges
- Meets the overall vision for the play area as well as the surroundings environment

- Constructed to a good standard with ability to carry out routine maintenance and safety checks.

Where it is decided that a site does warrants major investment the Working Group will gain approval from Council that a specific play area proposal be developed.

In addition, the following must also be considered as part of such approval:

- What level of budget is available to develop the site.
- Is the proposal suitable for grant funding.

Prior to any detailed proposal being formulated the Council will under a level of consultation Consultation should include all or some of the following: -

Ward Councillors, Friends' groups, local schools, residents and other organisations representing local stake-holders. The nature of the consultation will vary according to the particular situation and the impact of the development on the local community.

Methods could include all or some of the following:

- a drop in session
- leafleting local residents who live nearby the proposed development
- distribution of questionnaires to be completed by local adults and children
- posting of notices within the Council's open spaces inviting residents to respond to an on-line consultation on the Council's website/social media platforms

Any proposal must have considered and demonstrated the following:

- Suitability for inclusivity and multiple age ranges
- Meets the overall vision for the play area as well as the surroundings environment
- Constructed to a good standard with ability to carry out routine maintenance and safety checks

Records

The following site register will be kept for each play area:

- A copy of the parish play policy
- A site plan
- Full equipment details
- Documentation of the planning and development of the site
- Inspection, maintenance, and forward planning programme
- Details of reported accidents and serious incidents