

BRIEFING PAPER

To: All Members of Ringmer Parish Greens and Amenities Committee

From: Karen Crowhurst – Clerk/RFO to Ringmer Parish Council

Date: Thursday 18th February 2021

Subject: Village Green Play Area Renewals/Replacement

Funding/Cost allocation – Section 106 held by Lewes District Council

BACKGROUND

The amount of £104,000 is currently held by Lewes District Council. Section 106 funds are time limited. A year went by without the Council knowing the funds were available.

In 2020 the Annual Inspection Report contained the life span of the existing play equipment. It became apparent in the report that the Wicksteed items of equipment only have a life span of 3 – 5 years remaining. A further year has passed therefore, decreasing the time frame of replacing or renewing any equipment on the Village Green.

In 2020 a Working Group was formed to take this project forward. The main aim of the Working Group was to establish what items should be replaced or renewed and present its findings to the Greens and Amenities Committee. Unfortunately, the Working Group has not met for a while.

With time being of the essence and the reality that this type of work should be carried out in the late autumn/early winter in order to ensure there will still be play equipment in situ during the spring and summer. I would like to request the Greens and Amenities Committee to consider the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1 – Parishioners scoping opinion

To hold a 2 week consultation using Facebook which could state the following:

Ringmer Parish Council will be working on the installation of new play equipment to replace the dated Wicksteed items on the Village Green. The Parish Council appreciates that not all residents have access to Facebook and would like to request your co-operation in this consultation by contacting other residents to either send an email, or letter to our Administrator Gail Metcalfe on admin@ringmerparishcouncil.gov.uk or write to Gail at Parish Rooms, Ringmer Academy, Lewes Road Ringmer, BN8 5QR.

The Parish Council would like to hear your views regarding what items of play equipment should or could be considered on the Village Green in order to take favourable items forward?

The date of commencement is Monday 22nd February to Monday 8th March 2021

Please note, any correspondence regarding the Skate Park will not be responded to as this is a separate project.

In order to proceed swiftly the Committee will need to delegate Authority to work with the Clerk and agree the items going forward.

Recommendation 2 - Quotations

To invite 3 companies to quote for the work including any pieces of equipment chosen. The brief given to the companies that the Parish Council is looking to spend £100,000 (leaving the difference for contingencies or the repair of other remaining equipment). Please provide us with a quotation including visuals as to what pieces of equipment you would recommend for the age range of users only removing the Wicksteed items as the Captain Mannering and Basket Swing still has some longevity.

Once 3 quotations have been sourced to take them to the Greens and Amenities Committee to decide and award.

To request the Greens and Amenities Committee award the contract to either A, B or C and delegate authority to a Member alongside the Clerk to oversee the installation.

Timeframe

- 1) Parishioners scoping opinion 22nd February to 8th March 2020
- 2) Deadline for quotations Monday 17th May
- 3) Installation November – December 2021