

# Thame Town Council

## Meeting Report: Open Spaces Working Group

Date: 18 January 2024

### Present:

Cllr Paul Cowell (Chair)  
Cllr Linda Emery  
Cllr Helena Fickling  
Cllr Adrian Dite  
Mandy Sturdy (Town Clerk)  
Andrea Oughton (Operations Manager)  
Jilly Saunders, UK Area Manager, Hags

### 1. Apologies:

Cllrs Nigel Champken-Woods, Catherine Jones and Helena Richards.

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### 2. Elms Park

Discussed possible changes / concerns re tendered design.

#### Points Raised:

- Consultation – agreed no further consultation required.
- TTC to publish comms on agreed plans for play area as soon as practically possible.
- Jilly explained all equipment designed and installed meets legal safety standards. All play equipment has an element of risk, children using play areas develop awareness of safety. The design takes children on a journey around the equipment.
- Trampoline – very small bounce, aimed mainly at small children, the one included in the tender is not inclusive. It is possible to install inclusive trampoline (additional cost). Agreed to remove trampoline and replace with 'princey' or 'frog' springer on same pad.
- Titan Glider – reassurances on safety, children love it. Can take five users at once, inclusive seat, one of each seat included in tender. Opportunity to purchase additional seats to swap in and out periodically. Could consult children before purchasing extra seats to see which are the favourites. Nearest play areas with this equipment installed: Benson, Reading, Leighton & Linslade.
- 11 pieces of swing equipment included in design, including dual use and cradle swings. Agreed number of swings is adequate.
- Design includes 'empty pad' where existing roundabout is located. Agreed either empty pad needs removing, or a new piece of equipment added. Agreed to add basket swing (replacement for trampoline, this will result in additional cost).

## Elms Park (cont'd)

- Discussed addition of 3m high rope pyramid to increase climbing play offer. 'Active 3000' approx. cost ~£8k (green rope) plus installation on grass mat, total ~£15k, Jilly to confirm price. Include in design as addendum, equipment could be added at later date if funding not available.
- Remove shield (£1k) and welcome sign (£1k).
- Timber slow grown engineered. Replacing it with metal will increase costs significantly. Given assurances on engineered slow grown timber and warranties it was agreed to continue with design as tendered.

## Project Timeline

- Jilly to collate changes and brief design team. **JS**
- Design team will revise CAD (not 3D), costs and schedule for submission to OSWG for approval. Drop dead date to supply revised information is 9 February 2024 to present to Full Council on 13 February 2024.
- Once approved Town Council to raise purchase order. **AO**
- From receipt of purchase order 10 – 12 weeks to manufacture plus 4-5 weeks install.
- A site meeting with Hags project manager and TTC reps will take place during manufacturing stage.
- Andrea to check whether planning permission is required. Equipment must be no more than 4m high or 200m<sup>3</sup> capacity. Andrea / Mandy to follow up informal conversation with planning officers and share design. **AO MS**
- Jilly to confirm play equipment falls within height and capacity requirements. **JS**
- May need extra funding. Mandy to explore other s106 funding streams i.e. play maintenance. **MS AO**
- Andrea will email Jilly to confirm tender award to Hags.
- Access through Elms Park gates – Jilly to check logistics of getting a container and equipment onto site. Lower tree branches just inside the entrance may need to be cut back. Andrea to check / liaise with Jilly. **AO JS**

## 3. Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed. **AO**