

**CALNE WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL(CWPC)**

**PROJECT INITIATION REQUEST – PLAYGROUND AND EQUIPMENT FOR PETTY ACRE DERRY HILL**

**PROPOSAL:**

Calne Without Parish Council is requested to consider initiation of a project to examine the feasibility of providing a children's play area with equipment, together with outdoor fitness equipment, at Petty Acre, Derry Hill for use by the community.

In advance of commissioning a funded feasibility study, the council should establish the permissions necessary to use Petty Acre for such a community facility and undertake a public consultation about the proposal to establish the levels of community support from residents adjacent to Petty Acre and more broadly within the Derry Hill community.

The survey should also establish the level of community support to participate in a community led group to support delivery and commissioning of the facility.

In the event there is adequate community support for such a project, the feasibility study would examine:

The suitability of the location for a children's play area with equipment (for children up to 12 years of age);

The suitability of the location for outdoor fitness equipment (for teenagers and adults);

Identify a range of costed proposals, including schematics, plans, equipment options and play area sizes at various pre-determined budgetary levels;

Identify potential sources of grant aided funding for such a facility and recommendations about how this could be secured;

Identify the Health & Safety liabilities associated with the provision of the capability including insurance and maintenance requirements with outline costs for these;

Identify any legislative or planning approvals necessary to deliver the project.

The council should note there is a broad cost range for providing such facilities ranging from some £20,000 to in excess of £100,000. In addition, there will be ongoing costs for maintenance and safety inspections.

## BACKGROUND

1. In establishing the Parish Council budget for 2019/20 and 2020/21 the council identified provision of a playground and equipment at Petty Acre, Derry Hill as a potential project to improve community facilities. This reflected a number of representations from the community either in one to one conversations with councillors and at the Derry Hill and Studley village fete. Overall provision in the community facilities budget line is £150,000 over the four-year planning period.
2. The Covid-19 pandemic has understandably led to considerable delays in the council proceeding with a wide range of plans with efforts focused on supporting necessary services and community support. However, as part of our efforts to help the community in the new environment in which we find ourselves, the council should examine what it can do to provide necessary support and potentially enhance community facilities. Examination of the support for, and provision of, a locally based play area and potentially a range of simple outdoor fitness equipment may be one option to consider. Particularly as it reflects representations that have been made, and for which budget provision has been identified.
3. It must be accepted that project initiation beyond the consultation phase may be affected by the ongoing pandemic. However, given the importance of community recovery once the pandemic has receded establishing the support for such a project at this stage could minimise any potential delay or pause so that any delay is minimised. Current restrictions (at 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020) should not impact consultation.
4. Improved community health is a key Government priority and outdoor exercise and social interaction contribute to this. Outdoor play is important for children and provision of outdoor play equipment encourages this and provides an environment for social interaction. Healthy lifestyles for adults are also being promoted. In the Calne Without community we have a wide range of footpaths for walking and running as well as safe cycling routes. Provision of a range of outdoor fitness equipment alongside any playground would enhance this and also may encourage parents and older children (teenagers) to exercise alongside their children and siblings where they are able to play safely.

## PROPOSALS

5. Whilst the proposal reflects a level of representation from the community about the provision of equipment. Locating and building such facilities may not be an attractive proposition for all members of the community, particularly those whose properties adjacent to Petty Acre. It is therefore important that before embarking on a project of this potential scale and cost we consult with the community about the intention to examine the feasibility of providing such facilities. The level of support or opposition should inform the council's decision about proceeding with the project. The consultation should also seek to identify members of the community who would wish to be involved in the development and delivery of the

project; without such support delivery may be difficult.

6. Ahead of launching the consultation phase the Council should agree how this will be managed, the residents to be consulted and the criteria against which the outcome of consultation should be judged.
7. The necessary permissions for use of Petty Acre will also need to be established.
8. The proposal is that the consultation phase should be managed by the council; potentially a group comprising West Ward Councillors given the proposed location of the playground. The consultation should be undertaken through a leaflet drop for all residents of Derry Hill and Studley villages, including Pewsham Ward. Potential wording for the leaflet is in the annex to this paper. Ideally, an alternative to provide online responses should be provided, with the proposal being outlined in the local Parish magazine and on Notice Boards.
9. The assessment criteria will be important, and this should be agreed before the launch of any survey. Key factors for the council to consider ahead of initiating any feasibility study and incurring the potential cost should be:
  - a. Overall response rate – a response from no less than 65% of households surveyed could be considered the minimum acceptable;
  - b. Positive response rate – of those responding a positive response from more than 65% could be considered the minimum acceptable;
  - c. Weighting – the council may wish to consider weighting the responses associated with properties adjacent to Petty Acre. If less than 75% of those responding from properties adjacent to Petty Acre do not support the project, then proceeding with the project should be reconsidered.
  - d. Community Involvement – a minimum of 5 expressions of interest in supporting delivery of the project. These to be followed up if criteria at a and b satisfied to secure necessary commitment to involvement, without adequate commitment proceeding with the proposal may need to be reconsidered.
10. The criteria and the results of the consultation should be published, with any specific identifying information removed.

#### THE PROJECT

11. The proposal is that the project, if approved, would have up to sixteen stages:
  - a. Council consideration of the proposition, and, if agreed confirm appropriate permissions for use of Petty Acre for such a facility and commission of

community consultation – to be managed by the council;

- b. Review of responses to the consultation by a group of nominated councillors, ideally those from West Ward, with provision of a report and recommendation to the council about whether or not to proceed with a feasibility study;

If the council agrees the feasibility should proceed

- c. A lead councillor identified to manage the project supported by a council working group (Playground Sub-Group) involving community volunteers;
- d. Preparation of a request to tender, to be endorsed by the council, to a range of suitably qualified contractors/consultants seeking proposal to conduct a feasibility study to:
  - i. Consider the suitability of the location for a children's play area with a range of equipment suitable for children up to 12 years of age;
  - ii. Consider the suitability of the location for outdoor fitness equipment suitable for teenagers and adults;
  - iii. Consider the optimum location on Petty Acre with due regard to the proximity of houses;
  - iv. Provide a range of costed proposals, including schematics, plans, equipment options and play area sizes;
  - v. Identify the Health & Safety liabilities associated with the provision of the capability as well as insurance and maintenance requirements with outline costs for these;
  - vi. Identify any legislative or planning approvals necessary to deliver the project and:
  - vii. Identify potential suppliers with examples of previous successful delivery of similar projects.
- e. Evaluation of proposals by the 'Playground' Sub-Group and potential clarifications and possibly a focused community consultation.
- f. Report to the council, by the sub-group, about the outcome of the feasibility study with a recommendation about proceeding with the project to the next stage. This meeting and decisions to be made to be clearly communicated to the community

- g. Upon approval by the council, the issue of invitations to tender (ITT) for the provision of the playground area and equipment.
  - h. Consideration of the responses to the ITT by the sub-committee, preparation of a report and recommendation for consideration by the full council.
  - i. Following approval; initiation of the project identifying a responsible councillor and oversight group, potentially involving residents.
  - j. Project delivery and acceptance.
12. An illustrative simple project plan is attached; this suggests project delivery could take about 18 months, although there may be scope for some concurrent activity. Conversely there may be some risks that I have not identified that could impede delivery.

### FUNDING

13. The Parish Council budget for 2020/21 made provision of £5500 for community facilities with overall provision within the four-year planning horizon of £150,000; which assumes consumption of CIL monies. Provision in 2020/21 is considered adequate to cover the cost of the initial work for public consultation and potentially seeking quotes for the feasibility work. A budgeted cost of £500 for the initial consultation should be adequate. The subsequent feasibility study, if agreed and considered value for money, will likely require provision from CIL and potentially Sun Edison funds.
14. The Finance Committee has examined the proposal and has agreed that the costs of the initial consultation can be covered by the 2020/21 Consultation and Public Participation budget.
15. There is a wide cost range for provision of such facilities in varying styles using a range of materials from the traditional metal swing frames and climbing equipment and slides. To more imaginative approaches using natural materials and capabilities such as trim trails. Costs can range from £20,000 for very basic facilities to upwards of £100,000. The cost of maintenance and safety inspections as well as insurance will need to be factored into any decision to proceed with the project. A key factor for any feasibility study will be to identify alternate sources of funding through grants from such bodies as Sport England, the National Lottery or local grants. If a feasibility study is commissioned the council may wish to consider establishing funding bands so that potential solutions could be designed to cost.
16. Illustrative websites for the types of equipment and facilities that might be provided are: [actionplayandleisure.co.uk](http://actionplayandleisure.co.uk); [touchwoodplay.co.uk](http://touchwoodplay.co.uk) and [schoofurniture-direct.co.uk](http://schoofurniture-direct.co.uk). There are many more.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**17. That Calne Without Parish Council agree that work be initiated to examine the feasibility of providing a Children's Playground with equipment and outdoor fitness equipment on Petty Acre Derry Hill and that the initial phase involves:**

- a. Establishing the permissions necessary for providing such a facility on Petty Acre;**
- b. A public consultation to identify the level of community support to examine the feasibility and cost of providing a Children's Playground, with equipment and outdoor fitness equipment on Petty Acre Derry Hill at a cost of no more than £500. The consultation should also establish the potential level of community participation in the project.**

**And to note:**

- c. The Finance Committee has examined the proposal and has agreed that the costs of the initial consultation can be covered by the 2020/21 Consultation and Public Participation budget.**

Alan Malpas

**DRAFT**

**CALNE WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL – COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

**PROVISION OF CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND WITH EQUIPMENT AND OUTDOOR GYMNASIUM EQUIPMENT AT PETTY ACRE, DERRY HILL**

In response to a number of representations the Parish Council is considering commissioning a feasibility study into the provision of an outdoor play area with equipment for children up to 12 years of age and outdoor fitness equipment suitable for teenage and adult use at Petty Acre, Derry Hill.

The aim of this project is to enhance the facilities available to the community and promote the benefits of outdoor play and exercise whilst enhancing the area as a desirable place to live.

The council recognises there will be a range of community views about the provision of such a facility, particularly from those residents directly adjacent to Petty Acre. Therefore, before committing to the cost of the necessary feasibility study to inform any decision, the Council considers it appropriate to embark upon a community consultation about the proposal.

Could you please answer the following questions and return your completed form to the Parish Clerk, or your local councillor, at the addresses at the foot of the form. [An online version of the form for response is available at [www.cwpc.org.uk](#)]. The details you provide will not be shared outside the council although the results of the survey will be summarised and published.

Key criteria in assessing whether or not to proceed with the feasibility study will be the overall response rate, the level of support and location of such support and the willingness of the community to be involved in delivery of the project.

Your councillor would be happy to speak with you directly about the proposal if you wish.

Responses are requested by: [ ]

**Q1:** Do you support the proposal that Calne Without Parish Council commission a feasibility study into the provision of a children's playground with equipment for children up to 12 years of age and outdoor gymnasium equipment suitable for teenagers and adults at Petty Acre, Derry Hill.

**A1:** **YES** **NO** (please ring answer)

**Q2:** If you do not support the proposal could you briefly explain why?

**A2:**

**Additional Comments** (please add any further comments you consider might be useful to the Council in reaching a decision about conducting the proposed feasibility study):

Please provide your postal address this will enable us to plot areas of support or concern about the proposal.



**Would you be willing to volunteer as a member of a community group to support evaluation and delivery of the project if there is sufficient support for it to proceed? If so, please provide your contact details separately to the Parish Council Clerk at: [sarah.glen@calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.glen@calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk)**

**West Ward and Pewsham Ward Councillor Contact Details:**

