

Inclusive Play Equipment Advice Note and Suggestions

Notes from meeting with Joe Lofty Proludic (black) 4th January 2024

Additional notes in red are mine

Joe : As mentioned on our tour, I believe that the best direction for improving inclusion within the available areas would be firstly at **Churchdown Park** with secondary options at other locations . You could also consider more dynamic play at St. Johns as you have available space there.

Geraldine : When I visited the parks with Joe today it was useful to see the bigger picture of where inclusive play equipment would work best . When considering *restricted mobility and visual impairments* , play units have to be in parks that are easily accessible i.e. with car parks and **accessible paths**.

Churchdown Park is the only one which allows access to units for children with restricted mobility .. so it seems sensible to install here.. see 1- 3 below
Swings (1) Panels (2) adjacent to park and play graphics on the entrance path (3)

It is also important to think about a range of needs (i.e. not just restricted mobility) , for example :

- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Learning Disabilities
- Medical Disabilities
- Psychiatric Disabilities
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Visual Impairments
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Concussion
- Autism Spectrum Disorders

Identifying how we can meet these will provide other options eg sensory play

Chapel Hay has a path but it doesn't lead into the play area . Overall it has good play value as it is and would be compromised by a reduction in free space available

Existing Units in other parks are compromised by inaccessible entrances and paths

John Daniels has a basket swing and DDA picnic table but they are really hard to get to... Maybe Members could look at this in due course when considering future play area improvement projects – I think we could look at replacing the combine harvester in JD soon ?

St Johns – Space available but poor path . We could think about a panel (2) an/or tramp-line (5) ? Joe also recommended a new dynamic unit (*HIP HOP*) [not inclusive] to cater for older kids – possibly a future project ?

Oakhurst

No path through park and space is very limited within the 'play area' unless you install in the field next to the play area ie beside the carousel and climber ? This will reduce open space currently available .

Again we would need to look at a path for this – maybe wait for Newlands s106 ?

Shamrock – No path through park - space available but slope and no path

Maybe a panel (2) and trampoline (5)

Tudor Mead – No path through park : also very recent new zip wire installation completed.

Zinnia – no space for unit but could install a panel (see 2.)

Option 4 is a wheel chair see saw which looks great but needs a lot of space and is £16,000

Way Forward ?

1. Decide overall budget . Hoping to secure grant from Ben for £10,000 . How much more if any , are you willing to spend . We could use **CIL** ?
2. What is optimum expenditure – what will children actually be excited by and use
3. Agree which parks and which units

A lot to think about – working group maybe ?

Joe

Churchdown Park

My suggestion here would be the following options.

1. Swing bay with pod swing & x2 flat seats



*Example only – Seats showing flat & cradle

This will provide accessible swinging options, as well as continuing to provide swing options for older children/adults.

We would then overlay the existing safety surface with wetpour to bring it up to standards. I expect this to equate to **£12,000** exc VAT with removals of the existing frame included in this cost.

If you wanted to carry out additional works with the above, I would recommend the following:

2. Play Panels



Above are just a few examples of how they can be used. We can have this near the existing pathway to allow shared access for all ability groups. I would focus on a play panel that allows cognitive, physical & joint play which all 3 above demonstrate well.

I expect these to be **£1,200** exc VAT each installed.

3. Thermographics



These can be laid on the footpath to provide good inclusive options as they are accessible, visually interesting & provide great ways to interact cooperatively with

cognitive development. Thermographics are installed as a day rate of around **£1,000** exc VAT so we can install multiple options along the same footpath for a single cost.

[Other options]

4. **DDA Wheelchair See-saw**



Further to our conversation, if you are wanting a really unique, truly inclusive product we have our DDA compliant see-saw. This will allow all types of user abilities to play together with wide platforms for wheelchair access.

This unit would ideally require surfacing which would be in the region of **£16,000** exVAT, however I feel it would be a great example to show council some of the options available even if not with this scope of works.

5. **Trampolines**



A hugely popular play item within any play area. We install this surface level with appropriate drainage included as standard. As they are surface level it allows almost any ability to enjoy the unique sensations provided.

Installation with drainage included would be circa **£8,000 exc** VAT with appropriate safety surfacing.

St Johns: (not Inclusive)

Further to the examples shown for Churchdown, if you are wanting to provide a fresh dynamic play element to St Johns, I would suggest the following:

6. Hip Hop



This is a more dynamic piece that would fit well with the existing play offered. Its unique design allows a full 360-degree rotation with the bouncing found on a traditional see-saw. Installed with grassmat safety surfacing we would be looking at **£7,500** exVAT.

All of the above is estimated at this time due to price increase being made throughout January within our industry. I have tried to equate for this somewhat within what I have proposed above.

I hope this is of help to you & provides some opportunity for discussion. If you need anything further in the time being, please do not hesitate to get in touch