

Item 14 Friends of Trawden Playground

Hi Adele,

Thank you so much for the points raised for our meeting held on the 20th September.

In response (in Purple) to your **points** (in black) and discussed at our meeting held 20/09/2021 at Buttercups Nursery.

Items in BOLD have been added since - and we would like these to be included in your Agenda up for discussion between yourselves on 4th October and if you could please reply thereafter.

TPC Members present: EJM, MB, AH Absent: DB, RC

1. Communication – We have already stated that we need minutes from all of the meetings held by your group. We haven't had any copies of any minutes since December 2020. We need all copies from Jan 2021 to date, and on-going for our records.

Re: Communications

We can provide a copy of minutes relating to those items which directly concern Trawden Parish Council, copies of which will be forwarded to you by your November meeting. Parish councillors are welcome to attend our meetings by prior arrangement.

2. TPC concerns – The Parish Council is concerned that the project was initiated due to 'problem teens'. The remit for the group appears to have changed to under 12 only. Unless the youth issues are addressed, they could spoil any improvements. This has already been raised in the minutes of Parish Council meetings. No response received to this comment.

Re: TPC Concerns

This project was **not** initiated due to 'problem teens'. TPC have repeated this on a few occasions and FTP wishes to this to be corrected. We have stated from the outset that FTP formed as a result of negative and disrespectful comments on local social media platforms towards youth and parents. The detailed feedback we have carried out confirms the view of both parents and children that there is inadequate provisions of free recreational Facilities for younger members and families of this community.

We have asked what plans TPC have towards addressing the needs of young people aged 12+. To date TPC have not provided an answer, stating only that they are progressing the transfer of Ballgrove Country Park. The Chair has referred to football clubs and cycle routes, but football does not appeal to every child and while he is correct to point out the cycle routes across Boulsworth, young children cannot use these routes unsupervised. We need somewhere safe and within sight of the residential area so that children can have the space to socialise responsibly.

Given TPC has strong connections with Pendle District Council and that TPC sometime in the future are considering taking responsibility of Trawden Recreational Ground, and that TPC have raised concerns about youths who may/may not spoil any improvements to the playground - Q., Has TPC considered working together with PDC in providing extra Free Facilities for example: a Pump Track, MUGA , outdoor Fitness and Games equipment and an open sided Shelter on the Trawden Recreational ground? Any such move would be fully supported by Friends of Trawden Playground who will contribute and continue to raise funds where possible. Such facilities would benefit a wide range of age groups and abilities and could be utilised for training sessions and club activities.

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We have engaged with local teenagers through social media, face to face and through our fundraising efforts and have had an excellent response. They have completed questionnaires and are very keen to be invited into other community groups as volunteers. Offering volunteering opportunities in itself would go a long way towards building bridges in the community.

3. Aim of project - The Parish Council would like to see the right equipment for the age group intended. There needs to be a balance of green space for 4–12-year-olds only.

Re: Aim of project

After consultation with the children themselves through questionnaires, we all agree that the playground rules ought to remain the same, restricting use to accompanied children aged 4-12. The apparatus will be geared towards the age group of 4 -12, Adequate green space will be provided and special surfaces for the individual pieces of apparatus where needed rather than larger areas. Free Green space to run around is equally as important as the apparatus itself. We will find the right balance with your support.

4. Costs - initial funds to be raised by Group via grants and fundraising. Who would be expected to pay for upkeep and repairs? Has the group received more than 1 quote for comparison.

Re: Costs

The initial funds will be raised by FTP and the maintenance and repair of equipment will remain the responsibility of TPC. We have contacted three independent Playground suppliers to date to try and source the best possible deal, exceptional quality and longest life span and warranties to suit for anything that is implemented. We have arranged for all three prospective suppliers to visit the site and provide brochures and plans, specification for equipment, warranty, costings, maintenance etc.

We question why TPC are committed to taking ownership of Ballgrove Park, involving far higher operational costs, but are so concerned about maintenance costs of a small playground that is already very tired, outdated, unattractive to users, proven to be inadequate and situated directly in their immediate village!

5. CCTV - The question has been asked, but it's not a possibility from Church.

We have yet to request permission from the Diocese regarding being able to have the electric supply running from the church to the playground and explain our reasons for this.

Re: Hardwired CCTV -, We wish to understand The Church's recent decision (provided by TPC) - to enable all parties to negotiate a satisfactory solution to making the playground a safer amenity.

Re: Plan B, self-Charging CCTV CCTV remains a possibility if a self-charging system were to be installed. The equipment will be donated by the provider and the cost of this installation will be covered by ourselves and two other funders.

Emma Jayne McDonald raised a couple of concerns during the meeting and we can advise as follows:

Thorne Security have advised FTP in an email and clarified that the installation of a mains power supply from the Church to the playground is not part of their Service, nor could they advise how a

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connection would be made. They advised that we need to seek a independent quote and plan from either a qualified electrician or Electric board. Thorne also confirmed that the church would not need to store the main recording devices within the church premises for either the Hard Wired CCTV nor the Solar/Wind powered CCTV - Storage of the main recording devices would be attached to and stored in a secure sealed unit on site with the chosen CCTV system itself and if and when footage is required, we could gain access to it from there to download any footage as necessary.

6. Plan – when can we expect an updated version (with costs) based on questionnaire results and outcome from the meeting? Our next Parish Council meeting is on 4th October.

Councillors - I know that you're not all attending, but thought it would be useful for you to know what I have asked to be discussed following the meeting last Monday.

Re: Plan

The most recent Plan circulated to Parish Councillors was just an example (a starting point) based on what the children and families are asking for.

We are meeting with another two playground suppliers and we would like to present the other two quotes in our next meeting with our group and members of the TPC that attended our meeting on 20/9/21. The date is yet to be confirmed for our next meeting. We are aiming to have the quotes back by the end of October, and as soon as we receive the information we will be back in touch.

All three quotes will be forwarded to TPC prior to your meeting in November and we wish these to be included in your November Agenda for discussion and we ask that TPC reach an Agreement in the December Meeting. Following on from the December meeting, Friends of Trawden Playground would require a final written agreement , at that point we can commence fundraising for this large-scale capital project. We are supported in our funding applications by a volunteer who has a track record of winning substantial funding, including over £160,000 which has paid for the installation of renewable energy and extension to the library/community shop and community centre.

Unfortunately, I will not be available for your meeting in October, but I'm planning on attending the November meeting with more information.

Samantha Eastell
Chair

Approved by all members of
Friends of Trawden Playground