

Report No 2

Report to Town Hall and Facilities Committee January 2019

Malmesbury's Open Spaces Working Group

1. Purpose of the report

To receive an update regarding the first meeting of the Working Group for Malmesbury's Open Spaces.

2. Background

At the TH& F meeting of 05.09.18, the formation of a Play Parks Working Group was discussed, with the remit of liaising with residents re: the improvement & development of play parks. It was resolved to consider the items from the TH&F report to the P&R committee of 30.05.18, point 3.1:

- a) The future strategy for our play parks
- b) The likely equipment, other leisure needs and safety needs of each play park
- c) The budgetary and timetable implications of meeting those needs
- d) Possible management structures for our play parks including appropriate ways of engaging local residents
- e) The identification of sources of external funding

Further, it was resolved for Cllr Wallace to act as chair and that the definition of the brief was widened to include: parks, play areas and all Malmesbury's Open Spaces.

The report presented to the TH&F Committee 07.11.18, explained that the first steps towards setting up the Working Group had been made by establishing interested parties, discussing the play parks with the then Deputy Clerk, receiving and distributing ROSPA reports, meeting with 'Friends of Filands' group and providing a brief update specific to that park.

The next step was identified as holding an initial meeting, in which to establish terms of reference and to follow up on the resolution at the TH&F Committee of 07.11.18 to make progress regarding the broken equipment at Newton Grove play park, noted in report 4 from the Town Clerk, at the same meeting.

3. Summary of Meeting 09.01.19

Park specific (reference to point 3.1b) above):

Newton Grove

This was discussed particularly in reference to TH&F Minutes of 07.11.18 where, following discussion regarding report 4, specifically; 'In view of the condition of the main activity facility this should be replaced by a modern equivalent and the existing facility removed as soon as possible'. It was resolved that the Working Group should be delegated a decision on preferred type of equipment to replace existing broken play piece. The Working Group resolved to ask the Town Clerk if the existing piece of broken play equipment could be fixed or if a complete replacement was necessary.

St Aldhelm's Mead

Agreed to ask for an update on the progress towards purchasing and installing the adult gym equipment, prior to having any further discussion about resident engagement, marketing etc.

Filands

Focused specifically on a bin that was noted in the ROSPA report and had been raised as a health & safety concern. The Working Group agreed to make a request to the Town Clerk for urgent repair/replacement and to re-locate.

The Working Group also discussed reference to 3.1b), that it would be good to receive a report on actions and progress on all the parks ROSPAs reports and it was agreed to ask the Town Clerk to provide this.

Terms of reference:

The group; comprised of Cllr's Wallace, Ritchie, Budgen, Grant and Vandelli, discussed that its current role would be under the remit of 'managing, maintaining and improving play parks for the enjoyment of residents and visitors to the town and to secure resident engagement to support these aims'.

Reference 3.1 d) above; Possible resident engagement at Newton Grove and also the success of the White Lion Park group's efforts were briefly discussed but with a view to further discussions about engagement of local residents at the next meeting.

The Working Group discussed that the definition of Open Spaces ought to be defined as Tetbury Hill Cemetery, Flying Monk playing fields, Market Cross-Cloister Gardens-Birdcage Walk, St Aldhelm's Mead, Filands, Reeds Farm, White Lion Park and Newton Grove.

Reference 3.1a) above; It was discussed that it might be sensible to create a separate committee or sub-committee for Malmesbury's Open Spaces and that therefore the Working Group might be seen to have a limited operating timescale to May 2019.

It was suggested that a report would be prepared for discussion at P&R Committee and Cllr Ritchie agreed to consider developing this.

Helen Wallace
Town Hall and Facilities Committee
5 February 2019