

To: Members of Lacock Parish Council
From: Ron George
Date: 5th October, 2017
Subject: Recreation Ground: Report Number 4 : September/October 2017

1 PURPOSE : To provide below, details of progress and activities during the period. A request made at the last Parish Council was that a site meeting be convened with Wiltshire Council representatives to discuss repairs to Reybridge. A report on that meeting is also provided.

2 THE RECREATION GROUND

- An increase in the number of users who are bringing dogs onto the Recreation Ground has been noted. We thank the National Trust who have replaced, in their new format, the signs at the entrances to the ground which inform visitors that this is illegal.
- The Trust have also been requested to complete the ground infill at the entrance to the children`s play area.
- In Report 3 members were informed that the equipment in the children`s play area is now old and has become very heavily used throughout the summer months with the majority of users being National Trust visitors. I have now met with Playforce, our contractors, to review the provision. They confirm that the space occupied by the fixed play equipment is no longer big enough to accommodate the large number of visitors where on most days during the summer months I have counted over 50 users and carers in this small area at any one time. It is recommended that the play ground is enlarged and new more contemporary play activities installed.
- Playforce recommend extending the facility in front of the hard play area; that the existing equipment close to the football pitch is moved into that space; and that 2 new larger scale play installations are provided. This will then also cater for slightly older children (8-12 years).
- Two proposals have been forwarded by the company for our consideration and these are electronically attached below. They will also be available in hard copy at the meeting. The total cost of both options are in the region of £30,000.
- Such considerable cost may result in members coming to the opinion that further estimates should also be sought from other contractors; however it should be noted that this form of equipment and its installation will be very expensive.
- It is therefore proposed that the National Trust and the Parish Council share the cost of this additional facility and aim to agree a development which can be confirmed and purchased by Easter 2018, with fitting taking place in time for the Summer of 2018.

3 COMMUNITY SPORTS AND SOCIAL PAVILION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Following discussion of the project report from the Steering Group at the last LPC it was agreed that a meeting be held with the project architect to identify costs: and that the School be invited to clarify, if possible, its future plans in regard to the new Primary facility planned as part of the Showell development and comment on how this might impact on its plans for Lacock Primary School.

The Chair of the School Governors has now met with the Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education to address these issues and confirms that he has no hesitation in supporting the proposal in principle. He noted that the Diocese are fully supportive of small village schools. In addition the DBAT are to bid for the new school but still have no concerns over future recruitment to an "expanded" Lacock school. There were no concerns expressed over capital funding needs and it was pointed out that the Diocesan MAT was likely to reach the 3000 pupil level shortly which would enable it to qualify for devolved capital grants. This position fully supports the position of the Primary School Headmaster and his Governors for the recommendations contained in the project teams report.

A meeting was held with the project architect on Friday 30 September where it was confirmed that she had received part payment (£3000 +VAT) from LPC for the work as contracted (£4872+VAT). It was agreed that should members accept the report's recommendations to;

1 Consult with Village Hall user groups

2 Design a replacement facility as part of the Red Lion CP development in consultation with the NT

3 Conduct a public exhibition of the full proposal for the School and Village Hall development

Then the additional cost to LPC for completion would be £1782 outstanding plus a further £3000+VAT

This would bring the total cost of both phases to approx. £8000 (+ VAT which can be reclaimed) Grants of £2000 from the Primary School and £2000 from the National Trust have already been confirmed for this work.

Position Note : Members will recognise that this whole project has now been evolving for more than 3 years. It is therefore proposed to begin the process of fund raising and final approval for those 2 sections of the project already approved by the Parish Council and the National Trust; these being the changing rooms and gym facility with exercise track. The consent of members is sought to start this process.

4 REYBRIDGE

A site meeting was held on Tuesday 26th September and a report is attached for your information along with project drawings.

