

Recreation Area Update



The Parish Council maintains the recreation area for the benefit of local residents and surrounding villages. To maintain this wonderful asset is not cheap both in annual maintenance costs and replacement of play equipment.

Since 2019 the Parish Council has spent in excess of **£70,000** to install new or replacement equipment. Some examples of the 'big ticket' items in that time are:

- in 2019 we spent **£22,000** replacing the wet pour safety surface around the play equipment
- in 2021 we spent **£21,000** installing the pump track
- in 2022 we spent **£7,000** replacing and extending the junior swings to include a basket seat
- in 2023 we spent **£6,300** replacing and extending the infant swing configuration and **£3,400** cleaning and respraying the MUGA court
- in 2024 we spent **£2,500** repairing the zip line structure

The Infants' Play Equipment is now 23 years old and showing its age so the Parish Council is proposing to replace and improve it in the coming months to provide a more entertaining and enjoyable experience for our youngest residents. Just to replace it with a similar configuration would cost in the region of **£14,000** but since the removal of the pencils we now have some extra space to allow for a bigger configuration. You can see a possible design below.



This will represent a significant cost of approximately **£20,000** at current prices.

The precept we collect each year as part of your Council Tax bill goes towards this kind of expenditure and we put monies each year into our reserve fund. Additionally we look for organisations who will support our efforts by providing some grant funding.

This year we are planning to apply to Cheshire West and Chester's Spacehive scheme which is designed to fund local projects whose aim is to improve the facilities for local people.

Spacehive is a crowd funding scheme and requires that we demonstrate support from our local community by having a minimum of 20 'sponsors'. Sponsors pledge money – we're suggesting a minimum of £20, though if you're able, a larger pledge would be great. Spacehive's grants can be up to 50% of a project's value with a ceiling of about £20,000 and the greater the level of local sponsor support the better our chance of being successful.

So if you would be willing to be a sponsor please email infantplayunit@comberbach-pc.gov.uk to indicate your willingness to support and the amount you would be able to commit to. We don't need any money yet - just your commitment to the project.

Thank you!