

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL
 Parish Council Office
 New Green Centre
 Thurston IP31 3TG
 Tel: 01359 232854
 e-mail: info@thurstonparishcouncil.gov.uk
 website: <https://thurstonparishcouncil.uk/>



Paper for submission to Full Council meeting 6th December 2023

Agenda Item 10h – Paper 8 Provision of inclusive play equipment within the fenced play area on New Green

Background information

Children with disabilities should rightfully have access to the same or properly-adapted playground equipment as their peers without disabilities. The playground, after all, is a safe haven for every child. In addition, all children can benefit from inclusive playgrounds. A child's understanding of the world often starts with play. When all kids are offered opportunities to play together, it opens up healthy behavioural and social skills that are vital later in adult life.

Inclusive play is a way of bridging the divide between mainstream and special needs children. Both groups can benefit from these play methods and learn a lot from mixing with those different to themselves. Children at all ages learn in all aspects of development through play: emotional, social, physical and mental.

Any play equipment installed as inclusive equipment needs to be wheelchair accessible or adaptive equipment so that those slightly less able can participate in the same activities as a youngster who is able bodied.

The parish council are being asked to ensure that outside play, through the addition of increased facilities, is available to children with disabilities noting that inclusive play makes these opportunities available to all children, regardless of ability and background.

Proposal

Installation of a carousel roundabout accessible to wheelchair users and inclusive swings in an extended fenced area within the Thedwastre Play Area.

Currently there is no clearance for the carousel or a set of standalone inclusive swings to be included within the current fence line.

A site visit has been carried out by Kompan with a quotation submitted on the options available to the council based upon such a visit.

The proposal is for an inclusive roundabout, with new bases and wet pour. One of the benches will be uplifted and relocated – position to be determined once on site. The quotation also includes some new additional fencing to extend the existing line along with an area of new mulch with 50mm stone beneath to give a route from the gate to the new roundabout.

The existing cradle seat swing frame will have one seat swapped for a You and Me seat and the existing flat seat frame will have one seat swapped for an Inclusive Boat seat.



Costings

Prices have been sought from three sources with preference being given to Kompan who have undertaken a site visit and have installed all previous equipment on the site.

Costs cover equipment; groundwork; surfacing; additional fencing; pathway; site preliminaries; freight and a post installation inspection. A project discount has been applied.

Costings: £27,441.11

Funding

There is no budget for such equipment and s106 funds have been exhausted at District Level. A Neighbourhood CIL bid will be submitted by the LEC in Round 2 closure date of 31st December 2023.

Recommendation

That Council approve the recommendation from the LEC committee for the provision of inclusive play equipment within an extended area of the New Green Play Area (Thedwastre Park) and that funding for the proposal be from a CIL bid to be submitted to the Council by 31.12.23