

**COUNCIL 20 MARCH 2019**

**1 Attlee Park Play Area**

- 1.1 At the previous meeting the Town Council resolved to earmark the current years S106 money to implement the play area strategy with reference being made to danger, poor condition and sand problems at Attlee Park. That would amount to £15,164 but the S106 money that the Town Council receives must be used for town regeneration purposes and the County Council will not agree to it being used for play parks.

- 1.2 In recent years major improvement schemes have been carried out at 3 of the 4 Town Council play areas:

Skatepark/MUGA	85,560
Attlee Park	48,800
Central Park	27,500

It had been intended to focus on replacement/refurbishment works at the Spital Burn Play Park in Milburn Park at the south end of the bay.

- 1.3 Play Area Safety and Inspections - The inspecting of play areas is part of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Northumberland County Council Neighbourhood Services. The SLA included the weekly inspection by a qualified employee and report to Town Council.

- 1.4 The inspections cover:

- All play area locations and equipment,
- Gates, fences, signs, seats, litter bins, clearing the site of debris and rubbish, checking paths and landscaping are undamaged,
- checking wet pour surfacing is undamaged and any loose fill surfacing is clear of debris.

- 1.5 In checking play equipment the inspector ensures that;

- All fixings and supports are present and safety barriers are undamaged,
- swing chains are unbroken and seats secure and undamaged,
- slide chute and steps clear and undamaged,
- roundabouts revolve noiselessly and smoothly, undamaged and any speed governor is operational,
- rocking items move smoothly and do not strike the ground, are safe and springs secure and undamaged,
- climbing bars and frames are secure, undamaged and fixings intact,
- sand play areas free of rubbish and at correct levels,
- Ropes secure and undamaged and all connectors present and correct,
- multi-play items have appropriate guardrails, metalwork and timber is undamaged and no components missing leaving holes or finger traps,
- periodic lubrication of bearings as per manufacturer instructions and replacement of small bearings, swing chains, removal of offensive graffiti, replenish sand and bark mulch to correct levels,
- Damaged or dangerous equipment is immobilised

- 1.6 There are no reported safety issues at Attlee Terrace Play Area but it has very little inclusive play equipment, the wooden edging around safety surfacing prohibits accessibility to all and

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the use of sand as a safety surface also prohibits accessibility to all and has other ongoing problems of movement with potential contamination.

1.7 In considering any works to this play area the following should be noted:

- the best positioning and sheltering from the elements of any play grade sand;
- replacement of remaining sand surfaces;
- accessibility to play equipment for all - smooth surfacing and removal of barriers e.g. log borders or create access points to equipment via the strategic removal of some logs;
- the installation of equipment that will withstand the elements at this exposed location.

1.8 Whilst the digging excavators are very popular, 1 is broken and requires replacing.

Cost per unit £1870

A seesaw is missing from the play area with the original foundations still in place. Cost of new £1560

Replacement of pirate ship £35,000 (approximate size of existing)

Replacement of springers £500 each x 4 £2000

Replacement of carousel to inclusive carousel £4290

115 sq m minimum requirement for wet pour safety surfacing approx. £10,000 but does not include groundworks

Total APPROX. £54,720 excluding groundworks and removal/re-positioning of equipment.

1.9 The only current allocation in the 2019/20 Budget is Repair and Maintenance £27,500 to cover all assets and the Town Improvement budget £20,000 although consideration can be given to the re-allocation of the balance of the public toilet budget.

It is RECOMMENDED that Members consider the report and;

- (i) the extent of a further scheme at Attlee Park;
- (ii) consideration of Spital Burn; and
- (iii) make appropriate budget provision.

## **2 Bus Shelter - Front Street**

2.1 Several requests have been received from residents to erect a bus shelter at the existing bus stop near Bank House Club on Front Street.

2.2 Permission has been received from the principal authority to proceed suggesting a shelter be erected in the recessed area or, if not possible, a cantilever shelter erected over the footway.

2.3 Whilst a 3 bay shelter identical to the one erected at Sea Crest Road cost would fit in the recessed area, it would be a tight fit which would make future maintenance such as painting, impossible on the lower panels. A 2 bay cantilever with end panels would fit within the recessed area leaving room for access for future maintenance.

It is RECOMMENDED that the Town Council consider proceeding with the installation of a 2 bay cantilever bus shelter at this location with a budget allocation of up to £6500.

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### **Promenade Bins**

Original report from May 2018 and the position of County Neighbourhood Services remains the same:

Over the past four years the Town Council has undertaken a programme of litter bin replacement around the bay and throughout the town in consultation with Northumberland County Council Neighbourhood Services the statutory authority for litter collection and cleansing.

At the previous meeting a motion was considered to 'Set in place a bin replacement programme on the Promenade to be completed from the Town Improvement budget in the financial year 2018/19'. This part was deferred for consideration at a future meeting pending more information on cost implications and discussions with Neighbourhood Services.

As the department responsible for litter collection and bin emptying, on behalf of the statutory authority Northumberland County Council, Neighbourhood Services has expressed concerns over two issues if the blue wheelie bins are replaced along the promenade:

- 1) Capacity - this has been shown to be right now after being more than doubled less than 4 years ago. Significantly more bins will be required to achieve the right capacity. Take away litter blocks capacity of traditional bins leading to overflowing.
- 2) Operational difficulties - specific vehicle and team used for promenade emptying with custom hoist for tipping which is time and cost efficient. Change of vehicle and collection service would require extra resources and reduce service elsewhere in town.

On the question of cost that would be dependant on the type and number of new bins required around the bay to achieve the same capacity and the relative removal and installation costs at each location.

**RECOMMENDED** that Members consider the above issues.