



## Report ABPC/22/12

**To: Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council.**  
**Date: 13 February 2023**  
**Status: Public Report**  
**Subject: Aldington Meadows Refurbishment.**

### 1. **SUMMARY:**

The recreation area at Aldington Meadows is very much in the same form as it was when the land was passed from Bellway Homes to the Parish Council by way of Section 106 agreement. The area has matured in terms of the planting but the play area is now in need of attention given its age and the limited age range that it caters for.

There is in addition the area to the back of the site which was originally a tennis court when the prison service occupied the site prior to the development taking place which would appear to have been a grass court as there is no evidence of any sub base and the strength of undergrowth that has taken over despite having been cut down to ground level on more than one occasion.

### 2. **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION.**

The Parish Council is looking to improve the facilities on offer in this part of the village as it does serve a large number of houses and does not give the impression of being cared for despite regular cutting of the grass.

### 3. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **To receive and note Report ABPC/22/12**
2. **To authorise the Clerk to research suitable grants and to make application for them.**
3. **To request the Clerk to provide a regular update as to the level of grants applied for/granted.**

### 4. **INTRODUCTION:**

Towards the end of last summer companies were invited to tender for the various areas of the recreation area which need to be updated in accordance with the rules on procurement. This exercise only resulted in three tenders being submitted although several other companies did undertake site visits they did not quote as they were expecting the choice to have already been made from their catalogues and the funding to be in place to place an immediate order.

The project was divided into four distinct categories as it would appear to be unlikely that the whole area could be upgraded at the same time due to cost restraints and the availability of available funds. These areas are summarised as follows showing the type of equipment being promoted and the installed cost.

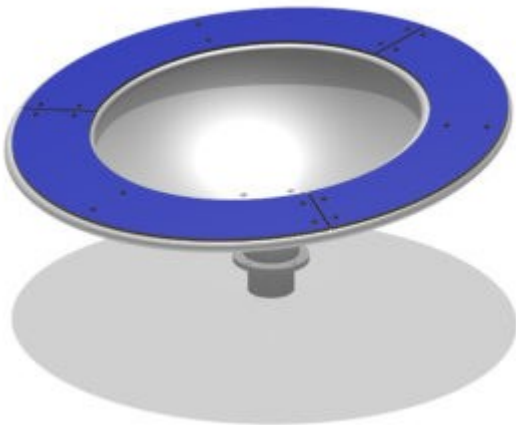
5. **UNDER 11's PLAY AREA:**

Quote 1 was to relocate the existing turnstile and springer in the upper part of the play area and add the following equipment:



together with all the required safety surfacing needed to meet the current legislation at a cost of £38,577.30.

Quote 2 suggests the removal of all the existing equipment and replacing with those illustrated below.



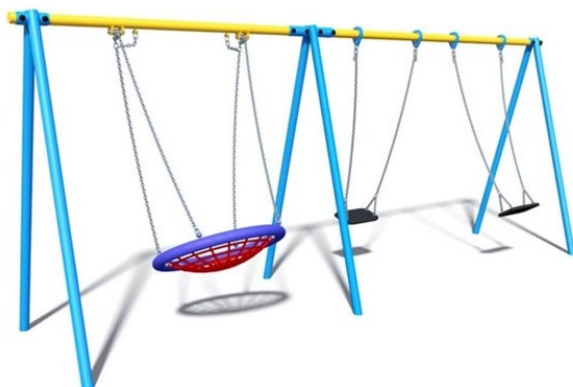


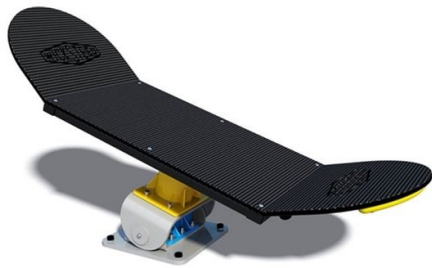
With the required safety surfacing to meet current safety legislation the total being £57,782.57

Quote 3 has not provided any visuals and the quotation is in the sum of £28,800.88

6. **11+ PLAY AREA:**

Quote 1 was to locate the 11+ area in the lower part of the existing play area, removing the existing swing and multi play and installing the following items:

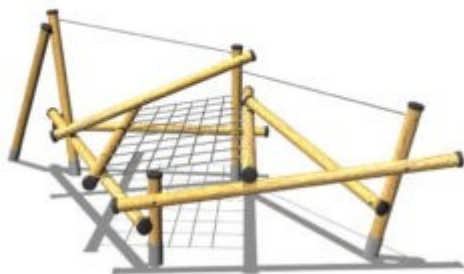
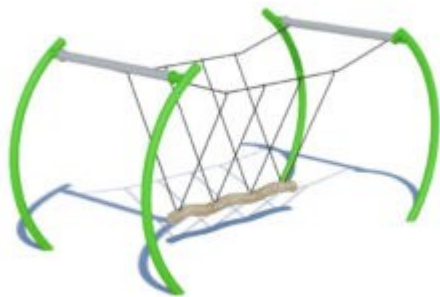




again using the

required safety surfacing at a cost of £64,711.00.

Quote 2 again shows the lower area being used

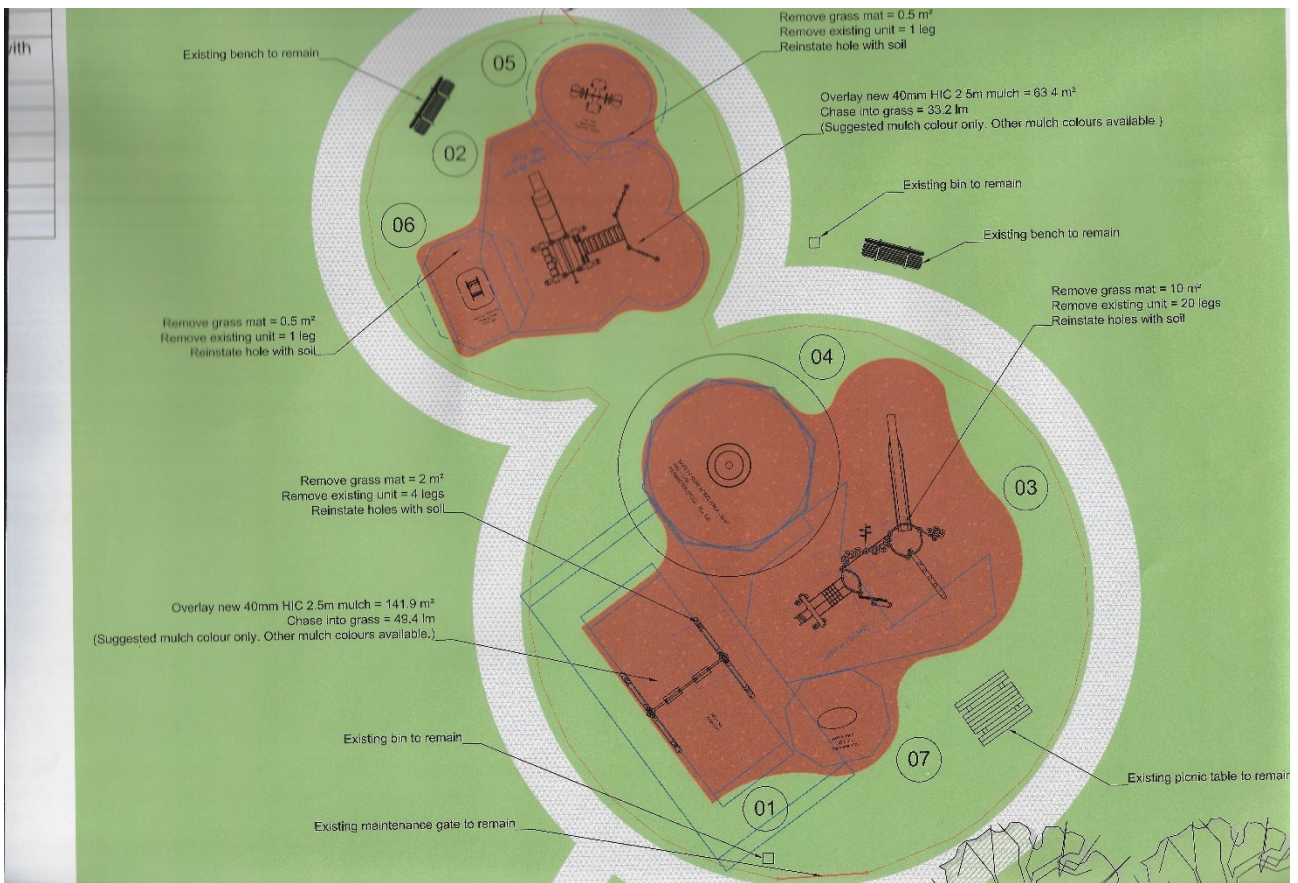


The cost including safety surfacing £43,530.90

Quote 3 has provided no visuals and quoted £32,362.00.

7. **LAYOUT:**

Quote 1 has supplied a photomontage of the proposed layout whereas Quote 2 has produced a plan view of the layout being proposed. Quote 3 has not given any indication as to the layout being proposed.



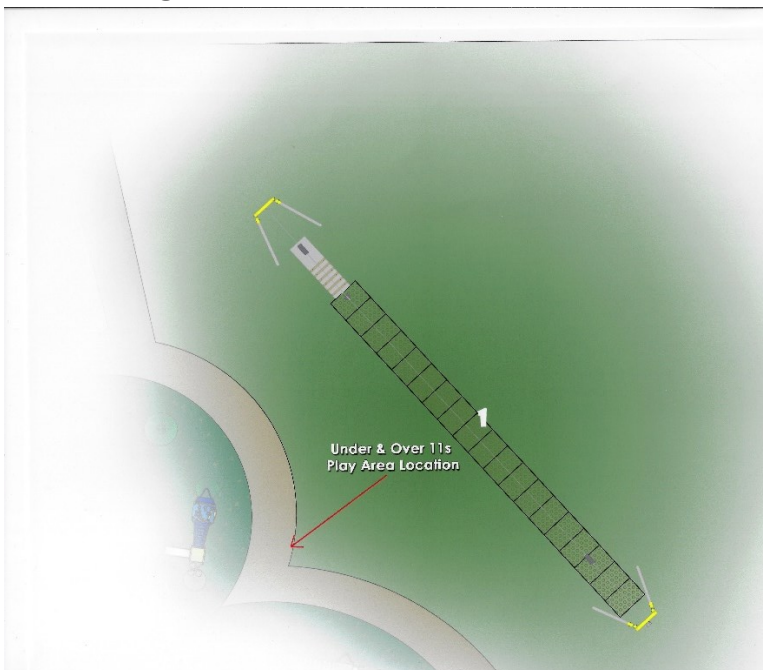
8. **MUGA**



Quote 1 is in the sum of £128,058.62, Quote 2 is in the sum of £197,437.15 and quote 3 £96,908.00.

Quote 1 and 2 are for a tarmac surface whereas Quote 3 is an artificial grass laid on a bed of sand.

9. **AERIAL RUNWAY:**





The potential area suggested for the aerial runway (zip wire) is between the trees opposite the play area and the allotments.

Only 2 quotes were received for this as the third company were not comfortable with safety given that the site does slope.

Quote 1 is in the sum of £11,840.00 and quote 3 in the sum of £24,100.00

#### 10. **FINANCING:**

Given that all of the quotes received for the play equipment are using the existing footprint and railings it would be prudent to suggest that the same company installs both sets of equipment.

This would give the following figures:

Quote 1 £103,288.30

Quote 2 £101,313.47

Quote 3 £61,162.88

At the time of preparation of this report the funds available for the project are £8,913.90. To enable the project to move forward grant funding will be required and these are actively being sought.

With regards to the MUGA reference has been made to the information available from Sport England as any grant application will need to factor in running costs and how these are to be financed. At the present time it is recommended that a sinking fund based on 1.4% of the project cost is established per annum and a maintenance fund based on 0.4% of the project cost per annum. For artificial grass the sinking fund needs to be 2.6% of the project cost and maintenance 0.4%. Each of these are based on a 25 year life cycle.

The sums required are:

Quote 1 sinking fund £1,800.00 and maintenance £500.00

Quote 2 sinking fund £2,800.00 and maintenance £800.00

Quote 3 sinking fund £2,500.00 and maintenance £400.00

#### 11. **CONTACT OFFICER AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS.**



If you have any queries about this report please contact the Responsible Financial Officer of the Council Tel.: 07928453208 or email: [clerk@abpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@abpc.org.uk) prior to the meeting.