

## Parish Council Report – 11 March 2020

### Let's Play!

#### Final design feedback, other quotes, full project costs and funding

##### 1. Background:

The Let's Play project team consulted the community and parents at Gillingham St Michael's primary on the revised designs from Action Play and Leisure Ltd to get their final feedback during December 2019.

Quotes were obtained for fencing the perimeter and to remove the tall hedging obscuring the view of the park (to deter vandalism).

Funding applications were started in January 2020.

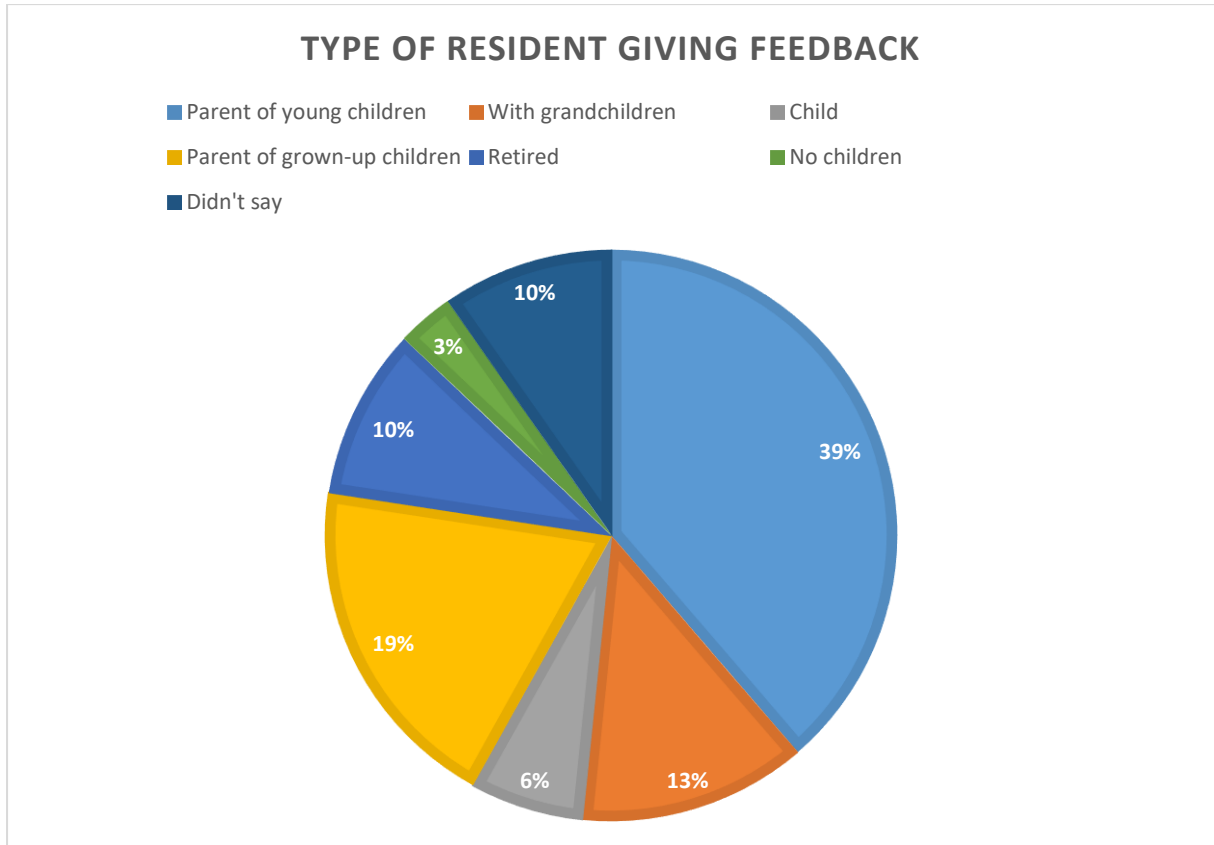
##### 2. Final design feedback

###### 2.1 Key findings from December 2019 feedback on designs:

- **27 people completed a designs feedback questionnaire.** 39% of respondents (12 people) were Parents with young children, 13% (4 people) had grandchildren, 19% (6 people) had grown-up children, and 6% (2 people) was a child. Plus others – see chart on page 2.
- **Preference for Play Truck or Play Bus:** 11 respondents stated they preferred the play Truck; 13 preferred the play Bus; the rest did not indicate a preference. One person commented that the Play Bus had a full roof which would keep the rain off better.  
**Recommended: Play Bus**
- **Preference for Swinging logs or Trapeze handles in the Adventure Trail:** 18 preferred the swinging logs; and 7 preferred the trapeze handles. So swinging logs will be put forward as the main preference. However, as the trapeze handles do give more challenge to older children in the target audience (as per one comment), I investigated with the supplier if they could both be included, and replace one of the rope options instead.
- **Preference for removing the ladybird or keeping it and repainting it (same cost to do either via the supplier):** 8 said yes to keeping it (as kids like sliding on it and it invokes memories for the older children);

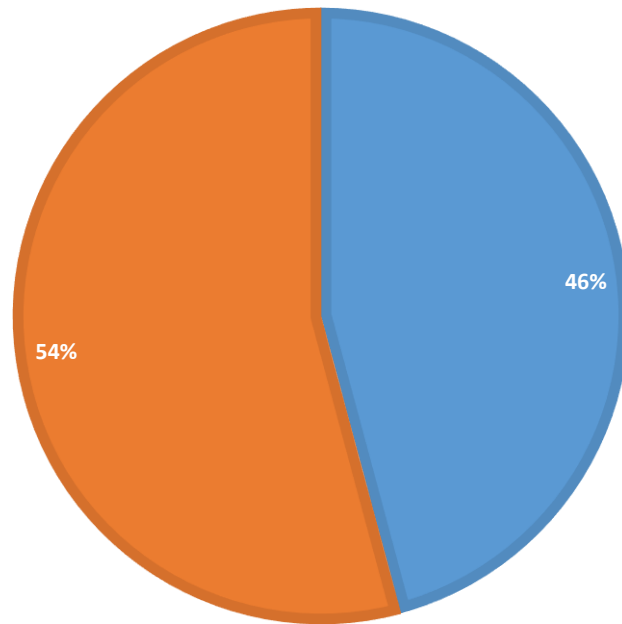
8 said no (as it looks shabby and out of keeping with the rest of the new equipment); 8 said they didn't mind either way. Therefore community opinion is divided. There is an indication of some use by current children, and maintains an unusual characteristic unique to Geldeston, appealing to funders and local children who are older.

- Other Comments: area for basketball. Not suitable terrain at the play area site (not flat). Maybe to consider in a future project elsewhere – out of scope for Let's Play?
- Other Comments: space/track to scoot on or learn to ride bike (like Ellingham). Not suitable terrain (not flat). Maybe to consider in a future project – out of scope for Let's Play? One mentioned including a cycle path to stop children riding on main paths, but this may be to avoid the dangerous roads and is not in scope of play area project
- Other Comments: one person suggested including a sandpit. Floor level sandpits could encourage animal fouling, but this would be minimised by the fencing to keep animals out. Action Play and Leisure do a standing all-access sandpit table for £662 with a plastic lid, or a floor level one with a sliding wood lid for £1100 – plus the additional maintenance to refresh the sand. Does the GPC want to meet this expense in the project costs and ongoing maintenance?
- Other Comments: add spikes on top of swings etc to stop birds landing and messing on the equipment. Propose to take this forward.



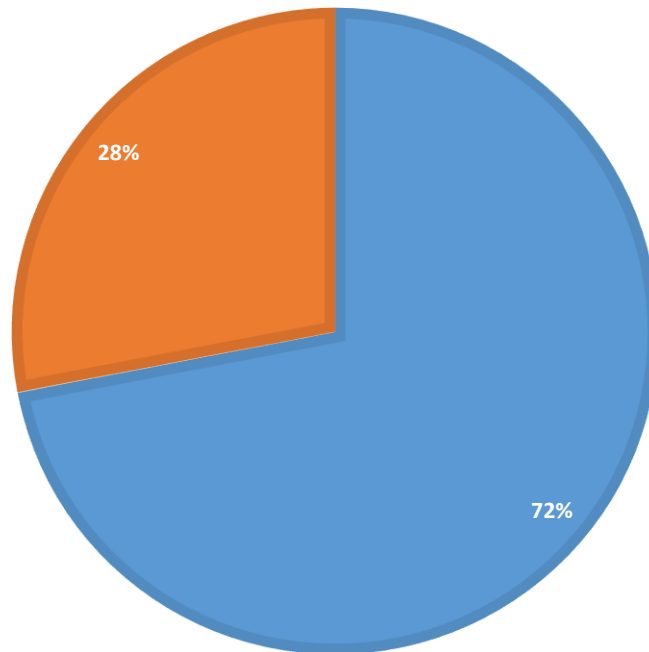
### PLAY TRUCK OR PLAY BUS

■ Play Truck ■ Play Bus



### SWINGING LOGS OR TRAPEZE HANDLES

■ Swinging Logs ■ Trapeze Handles



## **2.2 Further investigations on the play area designs and supplier costs:**

### **2.2.1 Contribution offer from member of community**

The play equipment supplier (Action Play and Leisure) have confirmed that we could clear the site and do the groundwork ourselves ready for them to turf and lay the matting etc for the install. This means, we could:

- clear away the old equipment
- remove debris and edging from the bark pits
- lay screened Norfolk topsoil

The topsoil they would recommend would be the screened Norfolk Topsoil here. <https://www.norfolktopsoil.co.uk/product-category/topsoil-and-compost/>

They estimate an initial load of 25tones to grade and level the areas through and then see what else will be required. An additional 10/15tones may be required ultimately. They said it is important not to go too far beyond the existing pits as we don't want to increase the area of turfing.

We would be looking at a saving of approx £1700 with the supplier, if we do this element of work ourselves and an additional saving if all existing equipment is removed (depending on costs from member of community)

If anyone would be on site at the same time as the supplier's staff, they need to have the CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) card and insurance, which this person has already confirmed.

The person who made the offer has not yet confirmed they would be able to do this work (as of 8 March). Update – 9 March was not able to submit a quote for this work.

### **2.2.2 Trapeze handles**

Having investigated with Action Play and Leisure, we can add in the Trapeze handles to our Combi 9 Adventure Trail as an extra item for £695, or replace The Tram Tracks (as this is a bit of repetition of another rope element) for a cost difference of approx. £400 extra. Propose replacing the Tram Tracks with Trapeze handles as this combination would then offer lots of variety and increased challenge for older ones – and responds well to community feedback for a small cost.

### **2.2.3 Ladybird**

Sought additional opinion of play equipment supplier (as to whether it would

look out place or would work okay with the designs), and their opinion was to keep it as “it will look much smarter with a lick of paint and is a unique item that I think children will remember as they get older. It's bright and fun and has some play value.” Supplier confirmed that repainting the ladybird is cost neutral as the cost to repaint it would be the same as the cost to remove it (already included in current quote). Propose keeping and restoring the ladybird as it has play value and is a unique feature to Geldeston.

#### **2.2.4 Pigeon spikes**

Investigated with Action Play and Leisure as would be affixed to their equipment. They indicated they would provide the appropriate ones which they would install with cable ties to avoid drilling holes in the wood frames which would let in water and affect the longevity of the wood. Supplier confirmed they could absorb the cost of bird spikes and cable ties for the swing frames into current quote. Supplier also recommended trimming back tree branches that overhang the equipment as this is primary cause of bird fouling as they perch above. Propose we go ahead with bird spikes on swing frames and add an action to the maintenance plan to trim back branches as required upon post-installation inspection and subsequent annual inspections.

#### **Actions on designs/play equipment supplier costs:**

- 1) What is GPC decision on the final designs recommendations/questions:
  - a) to incorporate both swinging logs and trapeze handles (approx £400 extra)?
  - b) to keep the ladybird as it is a unique item to Geldeston, will look smart if repainted and has some play value (indicated by the community responses) – at no further cost?
  - c) to add pigeon spikes to the swing frames at no further cost, and add an action to maintenance plan to trim back tree branches overhanging the equipment to be identified at initial and routine inspections, to prevent bird fouling?
  - d) that a basketball area and scooting/biking track is impractical on a sloping terrain and out of scope?
  - e) is the extra cost and maintenance of a small sandpit feasible (£662 for a sand table, plus extra annual cost to replace/refresh sand)?
- 2) Based on the above decisions made by GPC, do we have agreement to go ahead and get final artwork drawn up based on feedback/decisions above and agreement on any extra costs to implement them (itemised above) in order to get a final quote from Action Play and Leisure?
- 3) What is GPC position on having a member of the community to do the groundwork (if they confirm they could do it, and the cost of this is covered by the £1700 saving from APL supplier)?

### **3. Out of scope of Let's Play project/recommendations for older children**

Taking into account some of the feedback which would be out of scope of the Let's Play project, we have put together a set of recommendations for a future project for older children (attached).

For example: In December 2019 consultation, one respondent mentioned having a basketball net and another a cycle/scooting track, neither of which would work well on the current play area site (as ground is sloping). In previous feedback one respondent mentioned a skateboard park; however, this age group (ie 15+) was not an audience included in the scope of this project, and it was felt that something entirely different would be required for over 15s (ie meeting place, skateboard park, film nights etc) and this should be investigated separately.

**Action on identifying elements out of project scope:** do GPC agree that these suggestions would be out of scope of Let's play project for the restored play area, and could instead serve to form a starting point on a future project aimed at older children?

### **4. Other quotes and project costs identified**

#### **4.1 Fencing**

Quotes sought from 6 local suppliers for a picket fence option which will follow the natural height of the uneven terrain for the 160m perimeter, with two pedestrian gates (one at top for access to zipline, and one at bottom in current location) and 1 small vehicle-access gate (as for a lawnmower). The picket fencing option was recommended as will meet the objective of keeping small children from running off, section off the main play equipment and keep animals out (to avoid fouling). Picket fencing can also be built to follow the sloping land without looking staggered.

Received 3 quotes (as of 9 March) – information redacted.

See quote spreadsheet for further detail.

#### **4.2 Hedging removal**

Quotes sought from 3 local suppliers to cut down and dig up roots of treeline running along back edge of car park to deter vandalism.

Received 3 quotes from local suppliers – information redacted.

See quote spreadsheet for further detail.

### **4.3 Recommendation for Fencing and Hedging**

Considered if more cost effective to do both jobs with same supplier where possible – this would only include two suppliers who quoted for both jobs:

Information redacted

However, it appears more cost effective to split jobs between suppliers:

Information redacted

### **4.4 Signage**

We will need to signage to acknowledge the park's funders (like the Village hall plaque). And do we want a 'Play area' signposting sign on Geldeston Hill at Kell's Acre turning to point the way and encourage usage?

Estimated £1000 for signage costs?

### **4.5 Planting**

Do we want to do any planting around the new fence perimeter (low maintenance)? Early feedback at the beginning of the project indicated that communal garden/planting in the play area would be desirable, and would be a good way to incorporate families into the final build safely (ie a community planting project involving family/children volunteering to plant shrubs). If agreed, a rough indication of cost would be around £800 to buy plants locally (assuming we planted 1m apart around the 160m perimeter at approx. £5 each).

Estimated £1000 for planting.

#### **Actions on other quotes and project costs identified:**

- a) does GPC agree to use the to two best value suppliers on each separate item (fencing and hedging) to get the best value for money in total?
- c) does GPC agree to the suggestions on signage needs/potential project cost and can talk to Village hall Committee about their signage costs?
- d) do we want to plant around the fence perimeter and would GPC consider this as part of the project costs to be raised? What maintenance would it need/which plants are most low maintenance? Is it feasible to investigate doing this as a community project?

## 5 Full project costs to be agreed

A full project costs breakdown spreadsheet is attached, and itemised in brief here. Subject to the necessary adjustments based on the above decisions on costs having been made earlier in this meeting.

Item	Cost (Excludes VAT)	Final or projected?
Play equipment: supply and install	£55,526	Projected. Previous revision was £55,026.00. After reviewing final feedback from December 2019 consultation - projected a further £500 to amend adventure trail (if not including a sandpit).
Fencing the perimeter: supply and install	£7,500	Projected
Removing hedging	£600	Projected
Signage (signposting park and funders plaque)	£1,000	Gussed
Low level planting outside fencing	£1,000	Projected: (160m = 160 plants planted 1m apart X £5 each. £800)

**Total project costs**

**£65,626**

**Action on full project cost breakdown:** does GPC give their agreement that the full project costs, totalling approx £65,700, are necessary to deliver the project, reasonable, have been obtained fairly, and demonstrate best value for money?

## 6 Maintenance Plan

A suggested Maintenance plan has been drawn up with actions to protect the play area in future (attached). This includes the proactive measure of removing the tall hedging obscuring the view of the park from the car park and neighbouring houses (agreed in January).

**Action on maintenance plan:**

a) Is this a suitable way forward/achievable? Is there anything GPC would like to



add?

b) Does GPC agree to the plan in principle?

## **7 Funding**

Since January 2020, funding applications have been submitted, requesting up to the total value of £72,241. This covers more than the total projected project costs, assuming some applications will not be successful. If we fall short, there are additional funding routes that will open later (eg South Norfolk Community Action Fund). See 'Funding application schedule' attached.

Thank you!

*Let's Play!*