

**Committee:** COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

**Agenda Item**

**Date:** 19 JUNE 2008

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**Title:** GREENWAYS PLAY AREA

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### Summary

- 1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on recent developments regarding the Greenways Play area and to seek Members views on the installation of new play equipment in this area.

### Recommendations

- 2 That Members' decide which of the following options should be implemented:
  - a) That a consultation exercise be undertaken with the residents of Greenways to determine whether or not the play area should be reinstated and to act in accordance with the majority verdict. If the outcome is that it should be reinstated then officers should resume discussions with Saffron Walden Town Council on that basis.
  - b) The play area is not reinstated and the funding available is transferred to another Play Strategy portfolio project in the district.
  - c) The play area is reinstated without any consultation with the residents and the Town Council's offer to monitor and clean it is accepted. The District Council allocates funds for future maintenance and upgrading of the equipment, as necessary.

### Background Papers

- 3 Letters received from a local resident.

### Impact

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Communication/Consultation	Important to ensure the local community is in favour of the reinstatement of the play area. No adverse comments have been received since the play area was removed.
Community Safety	Lack of a play area appears to have improved community safety from one resident's point of view. It is possible that a

	community safety issue could be created by reintroducing the play area.
Equalities	None
Finance	None
Human Rights	None
Legal implications	None
Ward-specific impacts	Saffron Walden Shire
Workforce/Workplace	None

## Situation

- 5 The play equipment at Greenways was removed for health and safety reasons
  - a) Members approved that the land should be leased to the Saffron Walden Town Council and that the reinstated play area would become the responsibility of the Town Council. Approval was also given to the sum of £20,000 being passed to the Town Council for the installation of the play area as this would have been the sum that was contained in the original Section 106 Agreement. The play area with the sum of £20,000 would have transferred to the Saffron Walden Town Council when it was constructed had there not been a dispute at that time.
  - b) The Uttlesford Play Strategy application to the big Lottery for £200,000 was approved in December 2007 and there is now £20,000 available for the development of the play area.
  - c) A previous Committee report suggested that officers undertake a consultation exercise to establish if the play area was required by local residents. Members took the view that play areas should not be depleted in the district and that the Greenways play area should be reinstated without going through a consultation process.
  - d) A resident of Greenways wrote to the District Council outlining some of the problems that occurred when the play area was in situ and requested that another play area was not constructed on that particular site. The resident made a presentation to the March 2008 Community Committee on that basis.
  - e) Subsequently, the Saffron Walden Town Council decided that if it could not be demonstrated that the residents wanted the play area to be re-installed then the Town Council would not take on total responsibility for the area. The Saffron Walden Town Council did, however, agree to

undertake the monitoring and cleaning of the play area on behalf of the District Council.

- f) At the March 2008 Community Committee meeting Members decided that officers should consult again with the Town Council regarding the transfer of the play area and seek information from the Police regarding the level of complaints previously received about the play area.
- g) Following further discussions, Saffron Walden Town Council is still of the opinion that residents should be consulted before any play facilities are reinstated and will not consider assuming total responsibility for the facilities if this is not done. The Town Council is still willing to undertake the monitoring and cleaning of the play area on behalf of the District Council.
- h) With regard to complaints, at the time of writing this report, it has not been possible for the Police to identify any specific problems reported with the Greenways play area during 2006/07.
- i) The current options, therefore, are as set out in the recommendations above.

## Risk Analysis

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Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That the consultation outcome determines that it would not be a good idea to reinstate the play area.	High	Children living in Greenways would not have a play area within the housing estate.	It would be possible for children to access the play area in Golden Acre.