

# **ANALYSIS OF SEATON PARISH SURVEY INTO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE PLAYING FIELD EQUIPMENT - NOV 2019**

## **SUMMARY COMMENTS**

The SPC issued 83 questionnaires. Of these, 39 (47%) were returned.

The detailed results are shown in the table below. The key findings were as follows:

The overwhelming majority (92%) agreed or strongly agreed that the play area equipment should be replaced if it becomes unsafe; that the play equipment should be cleaned and repainted as required (95%); and, that specialist matting should be installed below the climbing frame and swings (90%).

A smaller but still significant majority of 67% agreed or strongly agreed that the infants' rockers should be reset so that the footings are no longer exposed. Only 5% disagreed with this. The remaining 28% were unsure or chose not to comment.

A significant minority (41%) supported the installation of additional play equipment for children. However, 28% disagreed and a similar number were unsure.

Support for the installation of exercise equipment for adults was low (18%) and even fewer (10%) favoured the idea of training sessions. The majority (54%) did not support the provision of this equipment or the provision of training sessions (59%).

The proposal for the installation of a pétanque pitch was much more popular: 64% supported it; around 26% were unsure; and, only 10% disagreed.

77% agreed that the SPC could increase the parish precept if required to help meet the costs.

Many responses included helpful narrative comments. These are set out anonymously below the table, grouped under the number of the question to which they relate.

This report will be considered by the SPC at its next meeting in the Village Hall at 7.00pm on Wednesday 8 Jan 2020. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

<b>Questions</b>		Please indicate your preference by ticking one answer to each question below.				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure/No Comment
1	Decommission equipment which becomes unsafe and DO NOT REPLACE IT?	1		14	20	4
2	Replace equipment which becomes unsafe?	19	17			3
3	Clean and repaint existing equipment as required?	21	16			2
4	Install specialist matting below the Climbing Frame and Swings?	19	16	1		3
5	Reset the Infants' Rockers so footings are no longer exposed?	15	11	2		11
6	Install additional equipment for children?	6	10	11		12
7	Install exercise equipment for adults?	2	5	11	10	11
11	Provide training sessions for adults to promote the use of new exercise equipment?	1	3	13	10	12
9	Install an area for Petanque?	6	19	2	2	10
10	Increase the parish precept to help meet the costs?	4	26	4	2	3
11	Any other suggestions?	Please see narrative comments below. These are arranged in groups for each question numbered above.				

## **NARRATIVE COMMENTS:**

1. We should maintain our equipment as it's a village facility - also for future generations.

We use the play equipment regularly with our grandchildren. It is a valuable village asset which should be preserved.

2. Does (all the equipment) need replacing and installing new (wooden?) play equipment? Whole area revamp? Picnic tables? Wild flower meadow? Maybe (a) whole village project for 2020/21 with lottery anniversary (funding)?

5. Surely it's easier to raise the immediate ground (around the rockers) with soil and turf? The concrete footings are huge.

May be better to replace (the rockers rather than reset them) if affordable.

Before resetting infant rockers, consider alternative equipment for this age group. (Our children) have used them and think they are dangerous.

Never seen (the rockers) in use! (They) seem rather old fashioned!

6. Ask the village children of all ages what they would like...and what they would use? (Consider) outdoor table tennis, netball post, basket ball post? (Consider) different area for older children?

(Consider) rugby posts?

(Consider) provision of rugby goal posts?

(Should we have) something for older teenagers?

Find out which current/other equipment is most popular. Replace ageing equipment with low maintenance kit such as half submerged tyres, wavy posts, zip wires etc

(Our children) would like a skateboard ramp. (This would be) good for older kids, (a group which is) currently under-served.

(Consider installing a) couple of fixed BBQs, picnic tables. (Consider) a bouldering/climbing wall?

(Consider) a sunken trampoline? (Consider) a sand-pit with cover?

7. Little evidence of demand (for exercise equipment for adults or for training sessions on such equipment).

(The) play area is for children! I would not think it sensible to make it an area for adults too, however attractive that might be at first sight. This is one of those areas where segregation is probably safer.

8. (Are training sessions for adult equipment) necessary? (Better to select) self-explanatory equipment and have an info board near(by).

(Strongly disagree with training sessions for adults) There are plenty of low cost alternatives for those so inclined.

9. Some Clubs/Groups have a pétanque evening as part of their programme (own teams) meet at 2 venues.

Like the idea (of pétanque) but Not Sure how much maintenance would be required.

The Pub should pay (for the Petanque Pitch) as they enjoy the benefits.

The Pub should arrange this (Petanque Pitch)

10. Prior to increasing Parish precept the first action should be to understand the impact of fund-raising activities.

Agree to increase of £1,000 our annum on precept to create a sinking fund (for replacement and repair of playing equipment).

Spend only what you can afford. If extra funds are needed, raise money/seek grants and only undertake works when money is found.

The village needs to get back to fundraising. Medieval banquets, Barn Dance, Sports Day - all for children and adults. Simple supper nights in the Village Hall.

Can we do a fundraiser to help?

Fundraising - we are happy to help.

(We) will talk to (Village Hall Committee) to fund-raise on the (playing) field in summer 2020.

Don't care as long as my council tax does not increase any more than it already is (which is excessive).

(No comment on parish precept as I am a) past resident but have used (the play area) for grandchildren for many years.

11. Fence around allotments requires maintenance.

(We) thank SPC for all their hard work.

Get contribution from the Village Hall Committee (as) they have lots of cash that they don't currently need. Get second quote for the £8K quoted; there are other suppliers. The Parish Council must be more proactive - they are voted in to take these decisions NOT to dodge them.

Need to consider realistic life left in existing climbing frame to assess VFM of costly repairs. Probably good VFM at moment but worth checking.

My answer(s) depend on the demand and potential usage. Do families with kids want it all/some/something else? (Consider the) frequency of use?