

Notes from the Public Meeting – Playing Field Consultation held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 15th March 2022

The meeting was chaired by Bill Pipe – Chairman of Tuddenham Parish Council and attended by 15 residents (including members of the parish Council).

Mr Pipe welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Mrs Jean Ellinor explained the background which had prompted the meeting – the Parish Council had obtained funding for some new play equipment for the Children’s Play Area and this had prompted them to consider what could be done with the Playing Field to make it more accessible and more inclusive for use by everyone in the village.

Mr Roger Blake gave a short presentation showing some possible changes/ uses as a basis for discussion. He also mentioned ongoing maintenance and took the opportunity to thank Mr Lugo and Mr Bird for the voluntary work that they undertake to maintain the grounds and equipment.

Attendees were asked for their views & ideas and a number of suggestions which had been received by letter and email were shared with the meeting.

The comments/ ideas put forward were:

- Better signage (many residents don’t know that it is there)
- Remote location – some felt that this was a problem and others that it was an advantage
- Better access – a footpath round the playing field to the Children’s play area
- Need to keep a large green space (footpath round the perimeter);
- Goalposts are used - but no need for two.
- Allotments or communal garden (it was pointed out that there is no access to water)
- Wildflower or planted area
- Outdoor gym equipment
- More benches/ seating areas
- Sand pit in the children’s play area
- Make more use of the woodland area (between playing field & children’s play area)
- Additional sports facilities e.g., basketball hoop or boules pit
- Children’s play area could be reduced to give more recreational space
- More village events should be organised to use the playing field (a family fun sports afternoon is planned for the Jubilee weekend)

Following discussion, it was agreed that the immediate priorities were:

- Increasing the visibility by better signage (including a sign on the Keightley Way sign)
- Better access – providing a footpath to the children’s play area (resident kindly offered to source some material)
- Clearing the bracken etc to give more space

The Parish Council has a Playground Sub Committee which can co opt members – this would be an ideal vehicle to move this project forward.

The views and ideas will need to be collated and considered to form an action plan – it was suggested that another meeting should be held to discuss action plan if possible before the next Parish Council meeting. As evening meetings are difficult for parents with small children the next meeting will be scheduled for a weekend during the daytime.

JE
21/3/2022