

Report of Moot Lane Recreation Ground working group
Amalgamated views of Cllrs Cornell, Watts and Brentor for Parish Council Amenities
meeting to be held 21st June 2021

Background

Following the consultation of residents about playground item requests, the working group were of the view that they had been identified to coordinate responses and suggest future equipment for play equipment purchase to the Amenities Committee. **It is suggested therefore that Agenda Item '07.21 Moot Lane Recreation Working Group - To consider proposals from the Moot Lane Recreation Ground Working Group following its review of the equipment required in that play area' is considered as part of agenda item that follows it 08.21 Play Area Consultation.**

The Clerk has helpfully compiled an analysis of some of the consultation responses received which adds a useful background to the suggestions below. Unfortunately, because the members of the working group were unaware that this would be provided, not all of the comments received have been included in this analysis. Additional information included verbal contributions made by members of the public during a visit to the Moot Recreation ground and two contributions received after the closing date of the consultation which are as follows:

Memorial Gardens is a bit of a visual jumble at present - the idea of a Memorial Ground does imply that there should be some space for quiet contemplation – seating and landscaping. The original bequest from Mrs Bonvalot was for the “small field adjacent to the Memorial Hall” to be, in memory of her son, a quiet, “public garden laid with paths and flower beds”. Suggestions included Relocating the litter bin – e.g. from the road facing position where it is little used to, say, the entrance gate or by the wall of the toilets (so people can dump rubbish as they leave); Creating 2 quiet seating areas with eco friendly planting and perhaps a trellis structure to the left corner - beyond the play equipment; Consider a pathway to these areas; Planting a hedge or flower border around the Bonvalot sundial

*The skate park is great and has been a life saver during lock down.
Wooden monkey bars would be great
The Moot Rec deserves more attention.*

*What about a short (100m) bike track along the Northern boundary but away from the surgery windows along to the skate park – just a few jumps and dips would be great.
The kids enjoy climbing on the log and that could benefit from a few more logs at different heights to allow kids to jump between them.*

Suggestions to address Amenities Agenda item 08.21

- I. Responses to play area consultation
 - Although there are comments about one or other of the play areas being the priority, these balance each other and it appears that each of the two main areas are well used with several comments to suggest Charlton needs attention.
 - There is clearly a higher level of demand for in ground trampoline, swings, zip wire and climbing frames with the old favourites of slides and roundabouts still being

popular. However specifically the rocket at the Memorial ground is raised as being dangerous and unpopular – this contradicts verbal comments received about young children enjoying its use especially if properly supervised.

- Some of the comments appear to reflect the age of the children known to those making the comments.
- It is also worth remembering that some suggestions require significantly less investment even though they may not have been mentioned many times in consultation – for example, the basket swing taken down from the Memorial Gardens only needs cleaning and reinstalling; a rough track with chestnut fencing laid horizontally in the Moot Recreation ground requires minimal purchase; logs of different sizes spaced apart require minimal purchase or installation. It is also the case that some of the equipment removed could be repainted and installed in another play area such as Charlton.
- Lastly the bequeathed purpose of the Memorial Gardens needs to be borne in mind.

II. To receive a report on visits by councillors to other play areas to investigate modern pieces of play equipment.

None of the Moot Lane Recreation working group remember this being identified as a task.

III. Taking account of the Play Equipment Plan, to resolve to take further actions or make any recommendations to the Parish Council in light of the information gleaned from the consultation and play area visits.

The following are key recommendations from the Play Equipment Plan:

Charlton

Remove/replace goalpost?	£1,223.73
Remove rotating beam	?
New fencing required (timber & wire)	?
Replace broken picnic table	£764.83

Memorial Gardens

	£
Replace Goalposts	2,447.46
Remove large slide/replace with trail	?
Reinstall basket swing	?

Moot Lane

Replace Roundabout/wetpour	£7,582.19
Update larger swings with combination basket and two flat swings	?
Add new zip wire? (approx)	£11,000

The working group make the following suggestions:

Moot Recreation ground

- Zip wire installation at Moot Rec (no room and too noisy for Memorial Gardens)
- Install a bike track – clear grass, dig dips and use to make ramps, cover with scalps and use chestnut fencing to hold in place. If this idea is considered the ongoing maintenance of the track will need to be taken into account.
- Replace the roundabout (broken anyway) with an inground trampoline
- Add different height wooden jumps beside log
- Replace broken swing seat and paint OR consider replacing the swing bars OR install combination swings and basket seat (can be used by children who are disabled)
- Make repairs to skate park

Memorial Ground

- Wooden Monkey bars/climbing trail at Memorial Gardens (remove rocket rocker and/or slide)
- Replace seesaw with one that could also allow disabled children to use
- Reinstall the basket seat – after cleaning!
- Replace the picnic table (not in feedback but it looks awful and is right at the front of the ground/ or remove it!)
- Install benches and garden area to left and behind play area
- Replace broken swing
- Move basket ball hoop or install high fencing behind it to prevent balls going over to playschool.

Charlton

- Replace goalpost? •
- Remove rotating beam •
- New fencing required (timber & wire) •
- Replace broken picnic table •
- Install rocket rocker after removal from Memorial ground and repainting

Recommendation

That the Amenities committee consider these suggestions and identify which of these or others should be recommended to Parish Council with accurate costings identified for each.