



8th April 2022

**Press Release:
Results of the Public Consultation on the Refurbishment
of the Memorial Gardens and Moot Lane Play Areas**

At a meeting held on Monday 28th March Downton Parish Council approved the total funding for the project to refurbish the Memorial Gardens and Moot Lane play areas over the next 2 years, with the aim of bringing them into the 21st Century and to provide many years of interest for young people of all ages across the parish. This included recreation monies received from the Bishops Mead and former Scotts House developments and an application to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for a Public Works Loan Board loan to be repaid over a period of 15 years.

The results of the Public Consultation and Exhibition held on 4th and 5th March together with an online survey showed that:

- 91.4% of respondents thought the Parish Council had clearly presented the case for the refurbishment of the two play areas.
- 84.3% of respondents supported the funding of the proposed Larger Scheme at an increase of up to 50 pence per month to the local element of the Council for an average household.
- 67.6% of respondents supported the funding of the proposed Larger Scheme at an increase of up to £1.00 per month to the local element of the Council for an average household.
- The most requested pieces of equipment were a zip wire, swings and a climbing frame as well as equipment for older children.

Once the loan application is approved, the Council will conduct a tender process with a range of experienced play area providers with a plan to complete one playground in 2022 and the other in 2023.

Councillor Gareth Watts, the Chair of the Council's Amenities Committee, commented,

'I'd like to thank the many residents and the young people of the parish for taking the time to attend the Exhibition and to give their views through the online survey. The Amenities Committee now has clear direction on what is wanted and how much money it should spend'.

Councillor Jane Brentor, the Chair of the Council, commented,

'The difficulties of the last two years have shown the importance and value of outdoor recreation to the health and wellbeing of young people. Through the public consultation residents have shown their strong support for this project and the Council believes it will bring significant benefit to the young people of our community.'

- Ends -

For more information please contact:

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