

Honeybourne Parish Council

Leys Playing Field Enhancement project

Background Information, Facts and Proposals

The Parish Council has an opportunity to greatly enhance the village's public open spaces using a £104,000 section 106 fund generated from parish developments

This funding can only be used for public play equipment or public open space provision on land owned or managed by the Parish Council.

A further sec 106 fund of £23,000 from the Fancutts Garage site development is for formal sport which can only be expended for sports facilities will be considered by the Play Equipment Group later as a separate project.

It is proposed to phase the whole project between the Leys and the Recreation Field by installing all the play equipment on the Leys in phase one which will possibly use all the currently available funds. This will be followed by phase two on the Recreation Field by installing a trim trail and adult gym equipment. Phase two will be in the future when further funding will possibly be available from future parish developments expected when the Neighbourhood Development Plan is fully adopted.

The Leys enhancement proposal is to install 10 new items of play equipment in a fully fenced area to prevent dog access making a safe dog free environment for children's play. The fence will be a one metre high wooden picket fence on all boundaries of the play equipment site, Access gates in the fence will align with the public footpath which crosses the site. The play equipment enclosure will occupy just 13% of the field area and not impact on its current usage of predominantly dog walking.

It is also proposed to create a small car parking area at the main field entrance to accommodate 4 or 5 parking spaces to ensure disabled users have a parking space for ease of access to the play facility and reduce the need to park in Brick Walk or on the High Street. The car park area will be secured by installing suitable wooden bollards to prevent vehicular access to the main field.

It is further proposed to create a suitable walkway or path from the car park to the play equipment enclosure to facilitate access to pushchairs and wheelchairs, this may be installed using grass matting to create a firm surface for wheeled devices.

Environmental Enhancement

The original proposal for an environmental enhancement for the bottom end of the Leys Playing field will be taken out of the play equipment project and progressed as a separate environmental project managed by the Parish Council for implementation next autumn. It is intended to greatly improve the wildlife and biodiversity of the area and include tree and shrub planting with maintained walkways. The Parish Council are aware of many environmental grants available for such schemes and will be pursuing funding to fulfil the council's aspirations for the project.

Recreation Field

The proposal for a Boules court facility on the Recreation Field is considered to be a sport and therefore can be funded from the sec 106 formal sport fund from the Fancutts development as a separate contract to the play equipment.

The Recreation Field can be fully developed as a sports facility as originally intended. Phase two of the overall project will include a trim trail consisting of eight fitness items placed around the field boundary and gym equipment in a bespoke area near the MUGA. Added to this may be a cricket/golf practice net and an enhancement of the original car park at the far side of the MUGA to cater for occasional users of the new facilities.