

PLAY PATHFINDER PROJECT BOARD
Monday, 27th September, 2010

Present:- Councillor St. John (in the Chair); Councillors Parker, Swift and Whysall.

51. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillors Havenhand and Smith; Dawn Roebuck and Jenny Yates.

52. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 25TH MAY, 2010

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th May, 2010 were agreed as a correct record.

53. MATTERS ARISING

The following issue was reported:-

Stoney Bank

Nick Barnes, Principal Project Development Officer, reported on the situation at Stoney Bank. Reference was made to an error in the original design of a piece of equipment which, following additional advice from Planning Services, had led to the necessity to submit a planning application for the whole site. This was because the site was linked with a previous Section 106 arrangement where land was transferred between the Parish Council and Station Road with a requirement that allotments and recreational uses were addressed.

The proposal included strengthening the gate arrangement at Stoney Bank which was locked by the Parish Council in the evening.

Reference was made to the usual initial usage pattern of similar play areas.

54. PROJECT BOARD PROGRESS REPORT

Consideration was given to a report, submitted by Nick Barnes, Principal Project Development Officer, which gave an update on the progress of the Rotherham Play Pathfinder programme to date. The report also updated Members on the progress of the Play Pathfinder Volunteering Pilot.

Reference was made to the following key points:-

- (i) **re: Rotherham Adventure Playground:-**
 - change of Government
 - 50% reduction in grant and the significant impact on the programme
 - budget implications for the remainder of the year
 - funding of the posts of the 3 members of staff for Rotherham Adventure Playground
 - sustainability of the Rotherham Adventure Playground (RAP) project in Eastwood
 - success to date of the RAP re: number, age range and ethnicity of users; reduced anti social behaviour)
 - exploration of local suppliers of materials and alternative sources of funding, including working on a Reaching Communities application to the Big Lottery Fund, and through Engaging Communities/Play England in the form of consultants to advise on sustainability
 - proposed partnership with Chantry YMCA to develop the facility as a social enterprise

- (ii) **Play Pathfinder Volunteering Pilot – 2nd year**
 - benefits to the local communities in Eastwood and Kimberworth
 - requirement for an end of project report re: lessons learned

Members present raised and discussed the following:-

- specific issues re: Flanderwell park; Hellaby; Dalton; location of other play areas close to housing
- problems with grass establishment
- condition of sites at hand over
- security (i.e. provision of gates, and involvement of the Parish Councils)
- the need for flexibility in the scheme re: target dates
- age range criteria too strict
- the need to consider the area's requirements and include facilities for the older end age range e.g. a MUGA
- continuation of care and maintenance of sites and the need for help from a partner organisation

It was agreed:- (1) That the Project Board supports the investigation of the possibility of a partnership with Chantry YMCA in respect of the Rotherham Adventure Playground and a report be submitted to a future meeting.

(2) That the evaluation/lessons learned report be submitted to a future meeting of the Project Board.

55. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other items were raised at the meeting.

56. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed:- That the next meeting of the Play Pathfinder Project Board be held on Monday, 13th December, 2010 at 2.00 p.m. in the Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.