

## **AGENDA ITEM 15**

# **School Avenue Park - Potential Additional Equipment for Primary Age Children**

### **Background**

Following on from the success of the improvements made to the School Avenue Park, (Adult Gym, Picnic Tables, Benches, Waste Bins and a Tree Seat – all enclosed in a safe environment by fencing) there is a potential opportunity to make further improvements.

When chatting to families using the new facilities over the summer, it was suggested to Cllr Diggory and myself, that the addition of some kind of climbing equipment for older primary school children who have outgrown the existing play equipment would be welcomed.

S106 monies relating to Recreation and Open Spaces from the housing developments (Avant Homes and Banks) may be a potential funding source.

### **Preliminary Enquiries**

An initial enquiry has been made with the Outdoor Facilities Manager at DCC, should the Parish Council wish to consider this suggestion. The response is given below:

*Thanks for getting in touch.*

*Unfortunately we would not look to install any further equipment on site the sites in West Rainton already surpass what is stated in DCCs fixed play strategy, the play strategy was put in place to identify what areas require what provision and type this is in order to ensure DCCs limited revenue budgets for maintenance and repair is sustainable.*

*The adventure lane play area has provision for older children and climbing, we also have a project about to go out to tender to install a Muga court on site as supported through ex councillors which would take the provision in the West Rainton area to the maximum currently required under the strategy.*

*I hope this helps answer your query in regards to extra provision.*

*However there is nothing stopping the parish council applying for funding and installing something on parish council land in the village, or if the parish don't own any land we could look to get the parish council a lease of some dcc land or even the existing play area then they could put forward what ideas they see fit for the site.*

*I am happy to set up a meeting to discuss with DCCs CPAL team if that is a line the parish would like to go down.*

### **Parish Council is asked to:**

Consider the suggestion made by families for additional equipment for the School Avenue Park and the response from DCC.

**Cllr Wallage**

**Nov 25.**