

Dashwood Playpark Annual Parish Council meeting April 2024

Our enhanced Village Playpark has now been in existence for almost 9 years. Yes, difficult to believe, but true. It is lovely to see children, both from our Village and from the surrounding area, enjoying the facilities, serenity and panoramic views. We are very fortunate to have such a beautiful asset in our Village.

Our annual Health & Safety Inspection was carried out, late 2023, and a number of issues were identified, which require attention. The prime requirement is for the safety bark to be “topped up” so that if children fall from the swings or climbing frames they will be protected to the best of our ability. We currently have a “ring fenced” amount of £697.47 in our Playpark account and the “top up” of bark is anticipated to cost £840.00 inc. VAT. We are able to accommodate this extra cost thanks to the generosity and wonderful donation from the Village Hall Committee, of £528.36, following the success of the Village Show in 2023. We have also approached Tesco, Brackley, and requested to be included in their Community Grants portfolio. If successful, any amount we receive will ease the burden on our account. We will keep you informed of our progress.

An order has been placed for the safety bark and we are planning to distribute this in April, 2024. Any help that you can provide will be gratefully received. We will notify the Village when this exercise is due to be undertaken.

We suspect that in the next couple of years we may need to treat/replace the main wooden supports of the climbing frames, due to damp. This will not be a cheap option but if we wish to retain this valuable asset then we will need financial support from the Village in fund raising for this eventuality. Doing nothing is not an option, as it may necessitate closure of the Playpark, if we do not maintain the operational safety of the equipment, properly.

We advised in our 2023 report that West Northants Council (WNC) had approved the implementation of double yellow lines to deter parking on the corner of Queens Street/Clarks Lane. We are pleased to report that the work has been completed.

We would request any Villager who is aware of abuse of the parking regulations to advise your local Councillor of the vehicle registration and if possible, take a photograph with your mobile phone. We can then follow up with necessary action.

We appreciate that the family dog is happy to join with the children in the Playpark. However, it is now illegal to take dogs into the playpark, as a result of a recent bylaw by WNC, and subject to a substantial fine. We would respectfully request that dogs are kept out of the Playpark, for the safety of children. Finally, we would ask adults to respect the Playpark equipment. We recognise that adults enjoy the opportunity to revisit their childhood, but the swings and climbing frames are not built to withstand adult attention. Please do not use the equipment.

Farthinghoe Parish Council