

Farthinghoe Children's Playpark Committee

Report for submission at Parish Council Meeting 13 April 2016

Overview of last 12 months

Following many years of sustained fundraising and community action, in September 2015, we were able to open our new park. We had an official opening on the 23rd of October 2015 and an community preview on October 16th 2015, both of which were well attended.

In the intervening 6 months, the park has been well-used by the children and the equipment fully inspected and tested. Overall, we're delighted with the positive comments we've received and the enjoyment the park is bringing to the children.

As a committee and wider community, we continue to actively monitor and maintain the park. We remain grateful to Mr David Dashwood and his team for their continued support.

Outstanding actions

As part of the original Viridor and South Northants New Homes Bonus applications, we committed to evaluating the park once open. A quantitative survey of users – of all age groups – and follow up interviews with a smaller sample of users will both enable us to determine how successful the park in its current form meets the objectives we set for it in our funding applications and provide a springboard for any Phase 2 application.

The committee will meet in the next month to plan this evaluation.

Risks/ incidents

- There was one small incident prior to the full opening of the park in which a 4 year old child suffered a mild graze when he slipped on the wet ramp. We continue to monitor the equipment and no further incidents of this nature have been reported.
- Initial signage asking users not to park in front of the field gate was not suitable and this has subsequently been replaced.
- There has been an issue over winter with residual water under the nest swing and junior swings. This has been monitored by the contractor and we may consider any remedial action or resurfacing deemed necessary as part of any Phase 2 application.

Future plans

We are considering applying for further grant monies to extend the play potential of the park, particularly for slightly older children, by installing a basketball net and football goal in the far corner.

We will shortly be consulting with park users and further investigating the options in terms of equipment and grant finance.

In the meantime, we will continue to produce monthly inspection reports for the Parish Council.

The Farthinghoe Children's Play Park Committee, 10 April 2016