



MEETING PAPER

Subject: The installation of games tables in the Town Council's parks

Meeting: Assets, Inclusion and Development Committee

Date: 5 December 2022

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/NON CONFIDENTIAL

Background/Introduction

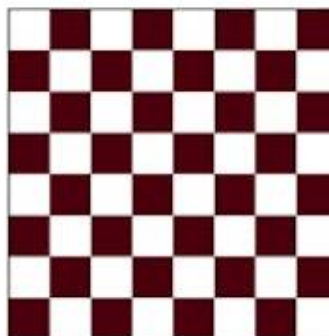
At its meeting on 15 November 2022, the Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Committee considered the concept of installing games tables in the Town Council's parks and open spaces. The Sub-Committee supported this in principle and asked the Assets, Inclusion and Development Committee to consider appropriate locations and specific designs.

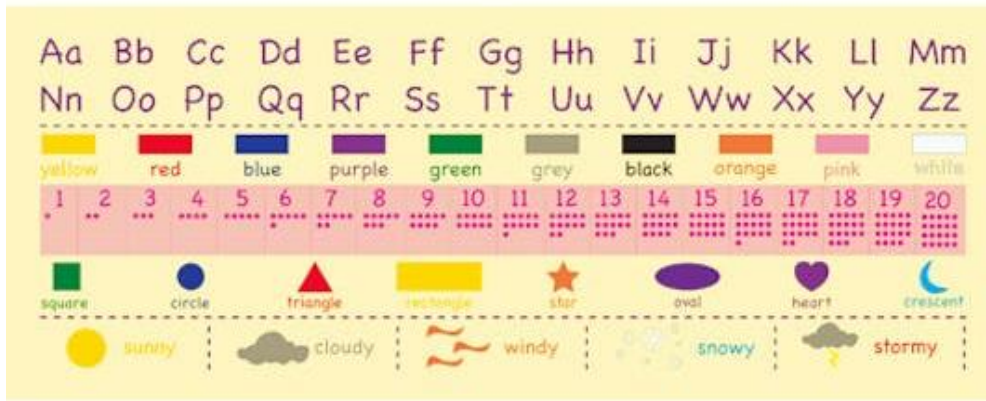
Details

The games tables are picnic tables, available in adult and junior sizes:



A range of designs are available, including games (Snakes and Ladders, Chess, Draughts, etc) and educational themes (Green Cross Code, ABCs, Solar System etc), or completely bespoke options are also available:






Although games tables are likely to enhance any space they are in, the Project and Committee Clerk has primarily looked at where additional seating is required when making suggestions for their locations. The Council has already approved a bulk purchase of benches for the following locations:

- Sparrows Nest – Two ‘bluebell’ bench seats and five standard bench seats.
- Belle Vue Park – Five standard bench seats, five standard picnic tables and two wheelchair accessible picnic tables.
- Britten Road play area – Two standard picnic benches and one wheelchair accessible picnic bench.
- Gunton Community Park – Four standard picnic benches and one wheelchair accessible picnic bench.
- Rosedale Park – Three standard bench seats, four standard picnic benches and one wheelchair accessible picnic bench.
- Thirlmere Walk play area – Four standard picnic benches and one wheelchair accessible picnic bench.

These benches have been delivered and installation is being rolled out in stages. With this in mind, the Project and Committee Clerk has made the following suggestions regarding the purchase of games tables:

Park	Suggestion	Detail
Rosedale Park	Solar System junior picnic table: 	Additional picnic benches are due to be installed in the vicinity of the new play area. The new play area has a Space theme and is designed to be inclusive and accessible. A junior picnic table would complement the age range of the new equipment and the educational, Solar System design would fit well with the theme.
Sparrows Nest	Bespoke Alice in Wonderland design for the Sensory Garden and potentially a games table or bespoke design for the proposed Winter Garden.	The agreed location for the Sensory Garden in Sparrows Nest currently has no seating. It has been suggested that the Alice in Wonderland theme of the play area could be extended to

		<p>the Sensory Garden, and as such this theme could influence the design of the games table. For example, the standard Snakes and Ladders format could be adapted to include characters/themes from the Alice in Wonderland story.</p> <p>Additionally, a Winter Garden further down the park is also under consideration, and may benefit from additional seating or a games table.</p>
Bentley Drive Play Area	Bespoke nature-themed educational or games table.	<p>The refurbishment of the Bentley Drive play area has been instructed. The play area will have a nature theme, and although information panels to identify birds and trees in the area will be included, a games table with an educational wildlife panel or game would still enhance the site, particularly as seating is lacking in this area.</p>
Cotman Close Play Area	Bespoke educational or games table to match the theme selected for the new play area.	<p>Full Council has approved the refurbishment of the Cotman Close play area in the current financial year, budget permitting. The specification and any theme for the new play area will be considered by the Assets, Inclusion and Development Committee at its meeting on 5 December. The site would benefit from additional seating, and a bespoke bench to match the theme of the play area would enhance the site.</p>

Recommendations/Decision

Taking account of the information above, the Committee is asked to consider the following:

- Does the Committee support the idea of games tables in principle?
- If so, does the Committee agree with the sites and design ideas suggested above?
- Are there any other sites the Committee considers would benefit from games tables?

Project and Committee Clerk

1 December 2022