

MEETING PAPER

Subject: Clarkes Lane Play Area

Meeting: Assets, Inclusion and Development Committee

Date: 2 September 2024

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/NON-CONFIDENTIAL

Background/Introduction

The Town Council has decided that its 2024 – 2025 priorities for play area refurbishments will be Thirlmere Walk and Clarkes Lane. The Council was supportive of the Project and Committee Clerk's suggestion of a brand new, fully accessible facility at Clarkes Lane.

Details

On Monday 2 September the Project and Committee Clerk, Facilities and Contracts Manager and Parks and Open Spaces Manager visited Clarkes Lane to scope out the site for a specification to be drawn up. A detailed specification will be crucial as we are now required to go out to tender for our play area refurbishments.

Clarkes Lane has several points of access, but none of them are served by a designated parking area. Some of the access points are pedestrian only and others are from residential areas with limited on-street parking.

Before we can even think about making plans for an accessible play area at Clarkes Lane we will need to create a designated car park on site. During the site visit today, we identified an area we think would be suitable, as per the map below:



The blue area represents the vehicular access point from Lucerne Close and the car parking area. The orange area within the blue area represents proposed accessible toilet facilities, and the purple area represents the play area.

This area was chosen as Lucerne Close supports vehicular access more adequately than other entry points, which are mostly single-track. This is also a level area of the site, which is important for development of the parking area and play area.

It is anticipated that a fully accessible play facility at the site will generate more interest in the park, therefore it is also a recommendation of officers to look into installing accessible public toilets prior to the development of the play area.

Recommendations/Decision

The Committee is asked to consider the following recommendations from officers:

- To develop a car parking area at Clarkes Lane prior to the development of the play area. If the Committee is minded to support this suggestion we will look into the costs, for the purposes of budgeting.
- To look into the feasibility of installing accessible public toilets at Clarkes Lane, prior to the development of the play area. Again, if the Committee is minded to support this, we will look into the costs, for the purposes of budgeting.