



MEETING PAPER

Subject: Assessment of the Fen Park play equipment

Meeting: Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Committee

Date: 18 February 2025


~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/NON-CONFIDENTIAL

Introduction






At a meeting on 14 January 2025 to discuss the five-year plans, it was noted that a budget of £22,000 - £23,000 was available to make improvements to the Fen Park play area. Officers were asked to assess the equipment and provide anticipated costs and timescales for replacement.

Detail

The Parks and Grounds Maintenance Manager and Senior Committee and Project Clerk have assessed the play equipment as follows:

Equipment	Image	Notes
Supernova		<p>The Play Inspection Company's annual inspection from July 2024 identifies this item as low risk overall. The rubber beading to the underside of the rotating section requires replacement, which can be undertaken by the Grounds Maintenance Team and the cost would be in the hundreds, rather than thousands, of pounds.</p>
2 Bay 4 Seat Swing		<p>The item has been identified as low risk overall. Some of the fixings and chains are worn. These will be monitored as part of our regular routine inspections and will be replaced when required. This work can be undertaken by the Grounds Maintenance Team and the replacement parts will be a nominal cost.</p>

<p>Basket Swing</p>		<p>The basket swing was replaced in light of the findings in the annual inspection, so will not require works at this stage.</p>
<p>Junior Multi-Play</p>		<p>This was the unit we had some concerns over, however, the annual inspection has identified the equipment as low risk overall, and suggests that concerns such as surface rust and corrosion are treatable. The Grounds Maintenance Team will look to address the inspection findings in the spring and will report back with their view on whether or not the repairs are sufficient, or if the unit will require replacement.</p>
<p>See-Saw</p>		<p>The equipment has been in place since the 1970s but is still in good working order. Refurbishment work has already been undertaken since the last inspection and further works are planned, such as painting and replacement of the seats. The cost of this work will be in the hundreds, rather than thousands, of pounds.</p>
<p>Spinner Bowl</p>		<p>No work required to this item.</p>
<p>Junior Multi-Play</p>		<p>The annual inspection has highlighted some remedial works, but this will primarily be painting and will be undertaken by the Grounds Maintenance Team in the spring.</p>

<p>Spring Flower</p>		<p>No work required to this item.</p>
<p>Spring Car</p>		<p>There is surface rust treatment and repainting required on the spring itself, which will be undertaken by the Grounds Maintenance Team in the spring.</p>
<p>1 Bay 2 Seat Cradle Swing</p>		<p>The swings themselves are approaching end of life (the frame does not require replacement). The Parks and Grounds Maintenance Manager is seeking a quotation for their replacement.</p>
<p>Pedal Roundabout</p>		<p>The equipment was refurbished within the last year or so by a contractor. However, the equipment may now require more significant repairs, and the Grounds Maintenance Team will assess whether it will need to be removed altogether. A similar model was recently installed at the Britten Road play area, at a cost of £6,565 plus VAT (including installation).</p>
<p>A Frame Climber</p>		<p>This is another old piece of equipment but does not require any work at this stage.</p>