

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE

DATE: 14TH FEBRUARY 2011

PURPOSE: TO UPDATE MEMBERS ON THE RESULT OF THE MEETING WITH HOME GROUP (FORMERLY WARDEN HOUSING) TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE DIPLOCKS PLAY AREA

BACKGROUND:

1. At the Environment and Leisure meeting on 6th September 2010 the Committee agreed to seek permission from Warden Housing (now named Home Group) to have the equipment at Diplocks Play Area removed (minute ref: EL/10/2/85) as there are no available funds to replace the dilapidated play equipment in the play area. Following a meeting to discuss these proposals with Home Group, they decided to carry out a survey of the residents of the Estate. Home Group have advised that the feedback from the survey of the Estate shows that the residents wish to keep the play area and have requested the play equipment be repaired/updated, however ideally they would prefer the play area to be located in a different area of the Estate. Home Group have now asked whether the Council would re-consider either replacing the old play equipment or relocating the entire play area to another location (to be determined) on the Estate.

The Town Council's lease for the Play Area states that 3 months notice must be given to Home Group by the Town Council, if the Town Council wishes to hand responsibility of the area back. The Town Council does not require permission from Home Group to hand responsibility back.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

2. The cost of reinstalling the swings and replacing the springy equipment in the play area is between £2,500 - £3,500.

To reinstate the play area to a new location is really not an option as the financial implications would be huge, and a new play area could cost anything in the region of £60,000 - £100,000.

CONCLUSION:

3. Members need to decide on one of the following options:
 - i) Whether to allocate funding to replace the old play equipment on the existing site
 - ii) Whether to relocate the play area to another location on the Estate
 - iii) Whether to remove the existing equipment (to be carried out "in house"), level the land and leave the area as an open space, managed by Hailsham Town Council
 - iv) Whether to remove the equipment, level the land and hand responsibility of the Park back to Home Group, to allow them to re-use the land for a community use.

Karen Moralee
2nd February 2011