

Playground development

The discussions surrounding the development of the playground date back to a paper submitted on 7th October 2024. This followed an inspection from Suffolk that considered the current equipment unsafe.

We approached School Furniture Direct of Pakenham, Suffolk who specialise in school playground equipment. They surveyed the area and recommended that the equipment be replaced rather than repaired. They indicated that much of the equipment was beyond its useful economic life and that certain equipment did not meet current health and safety standards. They also recommended that the Council enter into an annual maintenance contract to avoid further deterioration.

They recommended eco-friendly replacement picnic tables and benches made out of recycled plastic – these would be largely maintenance free and have a longer life expectancy.

The Council determined that two quotes were required to consider a redevelopment of the site and that School Furniture and Playdale – previous suppliers of equipment be considered.

A quotation process commenced in November 2024 where both School Furniture and Playdale were requested to quote for the site.

Quotes were received based on recommendations from both parties = the quotes were so varied that the Council agreed that it was not possible to compare the offers. It was agreed that the Council consult with children at the Xmas party to ask for their views on what they would like on the playground.

On that basis we reverted to Playdale and School Furniture with a request for a revised offer.

The PC acknowledged observations from Playdale that removal of existing obsolete equipment would be expensive and to that end a working party removed the old equipment – this has reduced the costs.

Quote 1 – Playdale – Playdale have acted quickly to offer an up to date quote based on needs.

Quote 2 – School Furniture have offered a range of equipment but have not proactively suggested a new solution to the request.

Playdale responded with a quotation in line with request at an amount of £24,802.

Appendix 8.1

School furniture supplied two quotes – original and an addendum. 8.2, 8.3. This is complex and does not clearly outline the offer.

The PC needs to determine which supplier it chooses to develop the site base on the quotes supplied.

Michael Walton

2nd March 2025