

25<sup>th</sup> Oct 2018

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities Councillor A S Khan

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

**Ward(s) affected:**

**Radford**

**Title:** Petition – Radford Common Park Play Area

---

**Is this a key decision? : No**

---

**Executive Summary:**

This report responds to a petition containing xx signatures which was submitted to Coventry City Council and requests that the Council update the children's play area located within Radford Common.

The petition reads:

“The children's park on Radford common is in need of an update, there are no swings or slides for the age group 5 through to teens. Compared to other parks around Coventry it is a total shambles. There are plenty of children in that age group who live in and around the Radford common area. I find I have to take my granddaughter who is age 7 further afield for her to get any enjoyment out of a park. Luckily I have transport to do this unlike many other families. Please help and update this park”.

This play site includes a number of items of play equipment designed to cater for the younger age group as well as some informal sports provision such as a goal post and basketball hoop. There are also a number of infrastructural elements associated with the play area including fencing, tarmac paths and safer surfacing. The park is under the control of the Parks Service within the Place Directorate

Play facilities in the City are inspected on a weekly basis and repairs/replacements are undertaken as and when necessary to maintain the equipment in a safe and usable condition.

**Recommendations:**

The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities is recommended to:

1. Note that inspections of the play area have identified that the equipment is in good condition and sound practicable use.
2. Note that Radford Common falls outside the catchment area of the nearest equipped local play facility
3. Agree that Radford Common play area be retained and that items of the existing play equipment be replaced as and when it reaches the end of their practicable life and be funded through a combination of external funding and existing budget provision.

**List of Appendices included:**

N/A

**Other useful background papers:**

None

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel, or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

## Report title: **Petition – Improve Radford Common Play Area**

### **1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1 Radford Common is a small site located close to the busy Radford Road in the NE area of the City. The play area contains a number of items of equipment designed to be appropriate for both the younger age group aged 4 to 7 years and the senior age group 8 to 13 years. In addition the play site also includes items for informal sports play this includes a basketball area and football. Infrastructural elements associated with the play site include fencing, seating, bins, tarmac footpaths and safer surfacing. Items of existing equipment are shown in appendix 1
- 1.2 There used to be a paddling pool on the site which was closed and filled in sometime in the 1990's as it was continually being subject to vandalism and the cost of repair had become unsustainable.
- 1.3 The existing play area was installed in 2009 in response to requests from local residents and from external income including section 106 funding. During its construction the play area suffered from considerable antisocial behaviour (ASB) including arson. This ASB continued for 6-8 months afterwards. As a result of the high levels ASB a CCTV camera was installed which overlooks the main play area which is controlled and monitored by the police. Although the site still experiences ASB, particularly in the evenings it is now considerably less than that experienced some years ago.
- 1.4 There is a mixture of equipment on the site for different age groups as follows (obviously the age groups are not exact as children will play on any equipment they feel capable to use, or with parental help).
- 1.5 The play area itself is divided into 3 areas with the teenage area set away from the main play facility to avoid any potential conflicts between differing age groups. Overall the site has a generous provision of varying equipment as detailed below:

#### Main area:

- Multi-play unit toddler – 7
- Swings cradle seats 2 bay – toddler
- Round-about 7-12
- Swings Pod seats 2 bay – toddler
- Multi-Play unit 7-12
- Rope Net Pyramid 7-Teens (The rope net was replaced with a new one this year at a cost of £20,000))

#### Grassed Area:

- Football / Basketball area 7- teens

#### Teen area near Engleton Road / Radford Road junction:

- Proludic Twin fly Teens

- Speed Gyro Teens
- Roll up Spinner Teens

1.6 When external or internal inspections are undertaken, consideration is also given to the serviceable life expectancy of the facility, usually on an item by item basis as not all equipment needs to be replaced at the same time. In these cases, recommendations are made as to what items should be considered for replacement or improvement and the works are then included in the play area maintenance programme. Inspections have indicated that all the equipment is in good condition and sound practicable use.

## **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

2.1 During 2015/16 the Parks Service operational budget was reduced by £1m from 2016. As part of its financial strategy the service now reviews the replacement of play equipment as and when its practicable life ends. This review will be on an item by item and site by site basis and will take into consideration cost, remaining equipment and location to other play areas.

2.2 The option to remove and not replace items of equipment deemed to have reached the end of its practicable life has been considered however this would result in the gradual further and overall reduction in the play value and benefit of the facility over time and lead to its eventual removal.

2.3 A full refurbishment of this play area has also been considered however would cost a minimum of approximately £150,000 to complete and the Parks Service does not have the existing resources to undertake this proposal.

2.4 The nearest other play facility is located at Coundon Park and Radford Common falls outside its catchment area. The eventual removal of this play facility will leave the local community without any play provision within a reasonable distance. It is therefore recommended that the Councils Park Service retain the facility and it continues to explore and exploit all funding opportunity both external and internal to replace items which reach the end of their practicable life with dynamic and high play value items of equipment and when possible install additional items to provide an exciting and stimulating play environment.

2.5 The ability of the service to implement this recommendation will be subject to available resources and its ability to secure external funding.

## **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

No consultation has taken place on this issue

## **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

4.1 To be agreed subject to approval of a recommendation within this report

## **5. Comments from the Director of Finance and Customer Services**

## 5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations at the present time.

The service reviews the replacement of play equipment as and when its practicable life ends. This review will be on an item by item and site by site basis and will take into consideration cost, remaining equipment and location to other play areas.

As and when the replacement of items of play equipment becomes necessary, this will be managed through a combination of external funding (for example section 106 funds) and the existing budget provision.

## 5.2 Legal implications

The responsibility for managing and maintaining the children's play area in this park falls to the Council which has a duty of care towards employees, contractors and the public who use the play facilities. Play provision is governed by the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Occupiers Liability Acts of 1957 and 1984. The Council has a legal responsibility to ensure the children's play area is in as safe a condition as reasonably practicable. The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 require providers to carry out risk assessments. Play provision also has to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

## 6. Other implications

None

### 6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's Plan?

N/A

### 6.2 How is risk being managed?

The continued programme of play area and equipment safety inspection will ensure that facilities are maintained in a safe and usable condition.

### 6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

It is the Council's responsibility to ensure facilities are maintained in a safe condition

### 6.4 Equalities / EIA Implications for (or impact on) the environment

The Service will continue to provide a level of provision which will ensure that all children within the City have access to park play facilities.

### 6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

Continued provision of safe, attractive and stimulating play environments.

## 6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

### Report author(s):

Name and job title: **Graham Hood, Head of Streetpride and Greenspace**

Directorate: **Place**

Tel and email contact: **0247683 2194 [graham.hood@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:graham.hood@coventry.gov.uk)**

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

<b>Contributor/approver name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Directorate or organisation</b>	<b>Date doc sent out</b>	<b>Date response received or approved</b>
<b>Contributors:</b>				
Lee Castledine Place Directorate	Accountant (Business Partner)	Resources	19 <sup>th</sup> Sept 18	19 <sup>th</sup> Sept 18
Gill Carter	Solicitor Team Leader (Regulatory)	Resources	19 <sup>th</sup> Sept 18	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept 18
Rose Michelle	Governance Services co-ordinator	Place	19 <sup>th</sup> Sept 18	27 <sup>th</sup> Sept 18
<b>Names of approvers for submission: (officers and Members)</b>				
Andrew Walster	Assistant Director (Streetscene and Regulatory Services)	Place	25 <sup>th</sup> Sept 18	12 <sup>th</sup> Oct 18
Councillor A S Khan	Cabinet Member for (Policy and Equalities)	-	27 <sup>th</sup> Sept 18	27 <sup>th</sup> Sept 18

This report is published on the council's website: [www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings)

Appendix 1 Site Images  
General Site Image  
Site Plan



### Radford Common Play Area

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office ©Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Coventry City Council Licence No. 100026294 (2017)

Cities Revealed® copyright by the GeoInformation® Group, 2001 and Crown copyright© Coventry City Council 2001 (1402)

## Swings pod & Cradle



## Images of the other equipment



