

Appendix H.

Background or 'Project Specifics' – Application MF037/T2

To augment and improve provision at the NPTCBC play area at Wellfield Square/ Maes y Ffynnon Close, in the Ward of Neath East.

This bid has been developed as part of a more complex project requiring the input of the PDFU to hasten its delivery.

The proposal is to add to the equipment already within the curtilage of the play area by installing an inclusive 'Holly Hedgehog' springer, 'Sky' multi-play unit (incorporating a slide, fireman's pole, and climbing net), a 'Spin-a-Bounce' rotator and an inclusive five seater rocking horse. The existing play apparatus is generally in good working order, however wear and tear and the passage of time has left it looking faded and unappealing. The total project cost includes for sanding and repainting all of the existing equipment and park furniture, as well as 'making good' and overlaying the wet-pour safety surfacing, which in some cases has sunken due to soil erosion, or shrunk away from the curb edging detail leaving behind a trip hazard. The existing metal seats, which are in a serviceable condition, will be carefully removed and re-installed onto concrete plinths. This will prevent further soil erosion and pooling of water, and make it easier for the NPTCBC Streetcare Services to cut and maintain the surrounding grass. All of these works combined will add hugely to the play value and aesthetic of the facility, and give the impression that the playground has been entirely renewed.

The need for the proposal has come to the attention of the three local Ward Members. The play area has seen little investment in recent years due to budgetary constraints imposed on the Local Authorities Streetcare Services. The equipment to be installed will make optimum use of available space, and add to the current provision by providing more play opportunities for toddlers and those who are less ambulant, which the play area currently lacks.

This proposal has the full support of NPTCBC's Streetcare Services. They will be responsible, as they are now, for the ongoing insurance, maintenance and inspection of the Park, including the new items to be installed, for the foreseeable future.

The new equipment will be of robust construction. It conforms to the relevant British and European standards. The fixings are anti-vandal and corrosion resistant. Due to this there should not be any issues in terms of repair/replacement for the length of the extended warranty period.

The project will benefit from a Post Installation Inspection conducted by a qualified RoSPA engineer. This will ensure that the play area is handed back to the NPTCBC Parks and Cemeteries Department in 'A1' condition following completion of the capital works.

Recommendations

The project is valued at £34,997.77. The Applicants, Councillors John Miller, Sandra Miller and Sheila Penry, would each wish to contribute £9,999.26 towards the proposal, effectively exhausting their Members Community Fund allocations for the Ward of Neath East. The remaining £5,000 has been assigned to the project from the 'Environment & Street Scene' Capital programme.

The project proposal is recommended for approval and financial support under the Members Community Fund.