Greenwood Park
Play Area
Proposals

March 2016

St Stephen Parish Council
## Greenwood Park Play Area Proposal

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Executive Summary

The Parish Council is seeking S106 funding to improve play provision at Greenwood Park for a greater number of children. The Section 106 funds being claimed for this project relate to the following developments:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Development</th>
<th>S106 Funds</th>
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<tr>
<td>5/2006/1151 244 Watford Road, Chiswell Green Demolition Of Existing And Erection Of Five, Four Bedroom Detached Dwellings</td>
<td>£18,230.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/2006/1022 125 Old Watford Road Former Esso petrol filling station. Erection of 24 flats, amenity space and parking access</td>
<td>£50,607.22</td>
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<td>5/2013/1740 Victor Smith Court, Bricket Wood New Residential Development of 18 Units of affordable Housing for rent in a part two or part three storey building with associated car parking and landscaping to replace former sheltered housing scheme.</td>
<td>£19,906.09</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£88,743.53</strong></td>
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This project will enable the Parish Council to improve the play area by installing new and exciting equipment which will extend the range and accessibility as well as offering a greater variety of play opportunities for all ages and abilities.
Background

Greenwood Park, originally part of St Julians Farm, was purchased by St Stephen Parish Council in 1974. From its beginnings as farmland, the Parish Council developed the site into a thriving, varied and valuable community resource. Greenwood Park Community Centre was opened by the Parish Council in 1992, and is surrounded by 60 acres of award winning parkland which includes a large area of ancient woodland, wildflower meadows, public open space, tennis courts, sports pitches and its flagship children’s play area.

The Park is maintained by the Parish Council’s in-house grounds team, who check the children’s play area on a daily basis, with a full independent inspection being carried out annually by RPII registered and certificated inspectors.

Green Flag Awards for Greenwood Park.

The Green Flag Inspectors have commented:

"An excellent park with a lot of good work being done. The grounds maintenance was particularly impressive with the football pitches and cricket table being outstanding. The management and maintenance of the meadow and woodland areas was also excellent and there are a wide range of different groups of people using the park"
Following on from its initial success in 2012, the Park was also awarded the Green Flag in 2013/14 and 2015/16 with the Green Flag’s ‘Mystery Shopper’ reporting that:

“The Council, staff and the community should feel a real sense of pride and achievement for what is accomplished at this park. It provides real value for money, as a class of local park that isn’t overloaded with too many features, but that contributes to the overall parks provision and visitor experience.”

The play area within the Park is recognised in the ‘Provision for Children and Young People’ section of St Albans City and District Council’s Green Spaces Strategy as ‘….well used and highly valued’. This is reflected by the fact that ‘…there is a high level of satisfaction amongst local residents.’

Greenwood Park Play Area is also one of only four that meet the District Council’s quality benchmark for sites which

‘…. are considered to have good accessibility, high levels of usage and offer significant wider benefits’.

The District Council identified Greenwood Park as one of three sites essential to

‘…be protected as a highly valued open space resource of key significance and worth to the local community’.
Greenwood Park Play Area Proposal

Current Provision

The equipment currently in place is:

- Two sets of swings, including one inclusive seat suitable for use by children with disabilities
- Toddler multi-play activity centre with climbing frame, slide and fireman’s pole
- See-saw
- Spring rockers
- Large embankment slide
- Wooden activity bridges
- Single point platform swing
- Supernova roundabout
- Spinner bowl
- 3D climbing Bloqx
- Cable run
- Spacenet rope pyramid

An area of open field, suitable for a variety of games and activities, with 5-a-side goals, is also provided within the fenced area, along with benches and picnic tables.

Reasons for Improvement

Year on year the popularity of Greenwood Park has grown, drawing in visitors from across the District.

The Park provides activities for all ages, however, being a victim of its own success it has seen an increase in the number of children using the Play Area and the time has come for the equipment in the Play Area to cater for the increasing demand.
Proposals

The Parish Council is proposing to install exciting and dynamic new equipment:

- **Large Octa Net with Extensions**, including tube slide, climbing net, coconut rope walkway and ‘hang-out’ seating, set on play sand surfacing

- **Triple Rope Trail**, set on safagrass matting surface

- **Set of Turning Bars**, set on play sand surfacing

This equipment will provide fantastic play opportunities for a greater number of children. The overall cost will be around £85K.
In addition to the installation of new equipment the Parish Council would also undertake a programme of improvement works including the installation of new seating, provision of segregated recycling bins, improved signage and landscaping of the site to provide natural shade and play opportunities. It is estimated that the costs for these improvements would be in the region of £5K - £10K.

Annual Maintenance

The Parish Council has an annual budget set aside specifically for maintaining its play equipment. This budget is reviewed each year.
Benefits to the Community

The installation of a large spacenet over a play sand base will broaden the variety of play available, extend the age range and improve accessibility. The extensions offer additional challenges and the seating within the net provides ‘hang-out’ areas for older children.

The Triple Rope Trail will provide play opportunities for younger children, for whom the Octa Net can be seen as a progression as they grow in age and confidence.

The Turning Bars offer exercise challenges for all children.

The new range of equipment will increase the benefit of the play area to the community, offering new challenges to a wider range of children. The equipment has been carefully chosen to meet the needs of the community (17.5% of the population in St Stephen Parish are aged under 14).
Greenwood Park Play Area Proposal

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