

Response to Formal Complaint made by Phil Robinson (PWG)

On Saturday 24th June Phil Robinson sent a formal complaint about the Village Hall Management Committee to all of us and to everyone on the Parish Council.

Having discussed this with Jill we have made a decision to re-visit the whole process based on factual information that is available now, that was unknown to the VHMC during the process. We are hoping that this will allow us to move forward at a greater pace in order to achieve a working play space.

Factual Information

The Village Hall does not have the money in their funds to undertake this project without applying for S106 funding and other available grants or sponsorship.

1. Cheyney Green houses were sold showing a local area for play on their diagrams.
2. This had to be adhered to if the developer had erected the playground. We have since found out that as Sunbury Homes elected to pay S106 money in lieu of developing the play area, this is not a constraining factor for the VHMC.
3. There are rules which govern how far away from houses the play area must be.
4. Whatever is proposed has to have planning permission.
5. S106 money can be used for groundworks and for the planning application.
6. There is £37,708.48 available for play, from this amount £10,273.71 must be spent by 2025 and £19,173.73 must be spent by 2030 for provision at the village hall. There is £29,953.97 available for sport (this is shared between Darsham and Dunwich). There is some ring-fenced money to Darsham, £8,851.74 spend by 2025 and £15,123.07 by 2030 for provision at the village hall. *Sport money can be spent on items such as balance beams and climbing frames which could leave more money for other equipment.*
7. We have been advised that any application for S106 money would be wise to have equipment for a wider range of ages (up to 11 has been suggested) and should also have disabled access and equipment.
8. We have estimates from two companies for groundworks, one of which has been revised downwards:-

Revised costs on right

Whole of small area	53,702	39,302
Partial small area	26,176	22,178
Whole large area	54,436	40,036
Partial large area	33,813	27,285

We may need to get a third quote for the groundworks but it may be possible to use the quote obtained in the previous process from Caloo.

9. Consultation with the village is a key part of the application for grant funding whether that is S106 or other forms of grants.

10. Another key part of the application process is having specific policies in place including Safeguarding and Health and Safety. At the moment we do not have up to date versions of these so they would need to be revised or written before we can make any application for funding.
11. The Schedule (constitution) will need to be amended to ensure the current location is correct, along with other elements. It is unlikely that the Charity Commission will ratify it before we have to apply for monies, so will add bottom line saying sent to Charity Commission with a date.

Discussion and decisions to be made

Given the updated information what size area are we proposing?

What form should the village consultation take?

What play equipment do we want, or what does the village want? Once this is decided we need to get more quotes for the installation of the equipment.

Consider the cost of insurance, maintenance and inspection?

Who is going to update/write the necessary policies in order to fulfil the application requirements?

Who is going to update the schedule and draw up the amendments needed?

Complete planning application with relevant documentation.

Complete application form for S106 funding and any other sources of grant funding identified.

Approach local businesses for sponsorship.

The timescale of all of the above given the need to spend a sizeable amount of money before July 2024.