

Agenda item 7

For minuting - Application to use S.106 funds for Old Showfield Play Area Refresh

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The Play Area in the Old Showfield is Frome's largest public play space. The location within the Showfield is at the bottom of a slope below the Collegian football field. Due to the shape of the site and ground conditions, this area becomes waterlogged during periods of high rainfall. Due to a combination of unusually wet ground conditions, the materials used for the play structures and equipment age, nearly all of the play installations have now been retired – the most popular item, the zip wire was taken out of action this January due to rot in one of the support beams.

FTC needs to renew this important play area and undertake a fundamental redesign, including addressing the drainage issues. To date FTC has conducted extensive engagement with the local community to look at new play principles: in March 2022, 80 Year 8 students at the Make It Happen Youth Conference participated in a series of creative workshops with Children's Scrapstore. This work contributed to the development of a townwide Play Strategy which guides our work on open spaces. Additional local community engagement will be required to develop the final design. It is estimated that a budget of £178k will be needed to undertake both the play refresh and drainage works. To fund this project, we would like to access a s.106 fund that has been designated specifically for improvements to FTC land: Garston Road 071064/007.

**Recommendation**

Note this work at the Old Showfield is needed and request MDC release £178k from the Garston Road 071064/007 s106 agreement to pay for it.