West Winch Play Facilities

"AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY"

ABOUT US

The West Winch Play facilities Project group is made up of local people together with representatives of the Parish Council. It has the following objectives:

"To provide a space for all our children and young people which is interactive and imaginative, promoting problem solving, creativity and invention, providing risk and challenge in a safe environment with the object of improving the conditions of life of the inhabitants of West Winch."

Our Vision: Our vision sees the new play space as the heart of our community, providing an essential, vibrant, inclusive, accessible, sustainable, and safe facility that is used, valued and supported by the people of West Winch and the surrounding area.

***Our Mission*:** Our mission is to promote, enable and facilitate inclusive play which embraces and address the health and well-being, social, cultural, sporting and recreational needs of all the younger members of our community.

We aim to*:* Improve the conditions of life of the people West Winch by addressing three main issues in the village:

- Encouraging local people to become more involved in physical activity and fitness, improving health, wellbeing and thereby reducing inactivity and obesity
- Helping local children and young people make new friends, develop social and practical skills, improving relationships and their confidence
- Sustaining village life and community relationships

To do this we will:

- Provide a fantastic bespoke play space that will ensure local children of all ages are able to enjoy the space for many more years to come.

- Consult with, and be responsive to the needs of, the local community

- Keep the play facilities available, well-maintained, accessible and safe for the use of all local people

West Winch

West Winch is a parish in rural West Norfolk. It includes the village of West Winch and the ward of Setchey.

In our area the following identifiable factors are significantly worse than the East of England average: Significant levels of rural deprivation, with a lower average income and higher unemployment and work limiting disability rate. It has poor access to public services and transport, necessitating car use. There are no buses on Sundays or Bank Holidays and weekdays the last bus is early evening.

The Borough Council has designated West Winch as part of their growth area for housing with infill development proposed to add at least 500 new houses within a mile of the play area and up to 3,500 more new homes within 2 miles of the play area.

Despite being a rural village there are surprisingly limited outdoor opportunities for children. There are few footpaths or wild spaces. Land is given over to agriculture or grazing commons populated by herds of cows.

The parish together with the neighbouring parish North Runcton has an adopted Neighbourhood Plan which provided local people with an opportunity to develop a shared vision for their future community.

ABOUT OUR PROJECT

Why are new play facilities needed?

The village is expanding. As part of the Borough Council designated growth area more families will move here over the coming years.

The play area is in the heart of the village located near to the Village Hall and Social club and within a few hundred metres of the Primary School.

The existing play equipment and skatepark have been in place for over 15 years.

The last ROSPA 2020 report on the current play equipment and skate park highlighted 45 points of concern for action.

The current skate park is a metal and board construction which requires constant maintenance. It is often closed for repairs and presents a danger as young people manage to scale any barrier and use it anyway.

Some play equipment has deteriorated to the point it has been removed.

There have been comments on the community Facebook page such as

“It would be wonderful to have a new upgraded park or at least know it’s being considered; I have to say I’ve started taking my children to other local parks like the Middleton one for example rather than our village one due to its condition! Be so good to be able to see them play in a safe environment in our village without having to travel to alternatives”

The village handyman reports increasing difficulty in maintaining the equipment.

The current play equipment is not easily useable by children with disabilities.

In order to establish an idea of what local people thought we ran an online survey.

Over 20% described the play space condition as poor or unusable.

Despite this over half of the respondents to our survey use the facilities at least once a week.

The play space is in the heart of the village.

It is close to the primary school which has about 270 pupils and on the walking route home for many families. It has become a hub where the children can play while the adults chat.

It is situated next to the Village Hall and Social Club. When the hall is hired out, visiting children also use the play facilities.

There is a nursery school in the Village Hall next to the play area and these children also use the playground.

The New Play Facilities

Community consultation has identified the need for a new play space featuring a skatepark and new play equipment.

We used an online survey, village Facebook page and socially distanced interactions with local people to establish what they would like to see and play on.

Skatepark:

Young people have indicated that they would prefer a structure which accommodates the use of scooters and bikes as well as skateboards.

We have had some discussion with experienced skatepark providers who have suggested a more modern concrete runway type of structure which would incorporate some features such as either a bank, ledge, stair set, rail, or transitional form.

We agree that this would mean a better experience for a wider range of our children and young people. It would also be much easier to maintain so they would be able to use it over a wider period.

Once we have some funding the skate park designers will consult further with the potential users before agreeing a final design.

Play Equipment

At present young people have a shelter but the play equipment is more orientated towards younger children. They have requested more adventurous equipment, in particular a zip wire.

From the survey, climbing and imaginative play were favoured by the respondents.

The new installation will focus on a central adventure feature - appealing to a wide range of ages and abilities - culminating in a challenging zip wire.

Also there will be swings and a roundabout again accessible to a range of ages and abilities.

Schedule

The project proposes to revitalise the two existing facilities – the playpark and the skatepark. to be situated at the Playing Field, Watering Lane, West Winch, King's Lynn, PE33 0JY

The schedule is as follows:

- Retain the existing swings and fencing.
- Removal of all other play equipment and skate park.
- Renovation of swings.
- Groundwork to remove all existing deteriorated play surfaces and replace with safe surface.
- Installation of new play equipment
- Installation of new skate/scooter ramp.
- All construction work is to be put out to competitive tender, but this can only be done once all the funding is in place. The key programme milestones are as follows:
    - Tender Period – June 2021
    - Construction Phase – starts Late Summer 2021
    - Practical completion - Late 2021

Costs

We have asked play equipment providers and skatepark builders for estimates of costs taking into consideration the results of our community consultations.

We have specified that any play equipment provider must be prepared to share costs with the skate park builder, e.g. for the groundworks in order to save costs.

Summary of Capital Costs	
Play park	£60,000 - £100,000
Skate/scooter park	£50,000 - £60,000
TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS	***£110,000-160,000***

FUNDING

The funding of the new Centre will come from the following sources:

- *Grant applications*.
- *Parish Council contingency fund*
- *Village fundraising target towards capital costs.*
- *Donations from villagers and local businesses and clubs*
- *Other grants applied for / to be applied for.*

BENEFITS

The benefits we expect to achieve from our project are as follows:

- A stronger community, sustaining village life and community relations
- Local children and young people will make new friends, develop social and practical skills, improving relationships and their confidence.
- The play facilities will be more accessible to all children
- Local people will become more involved in sport and fitness, improving health, wellbeing and thereby reducing inactivity and obesity.
- The play facilities will be more engaging for all our young people

CHARITY DETAILS

Address	West Winch Parish Council
Website	https://westwinchparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk
Email address	clerk.westwinchpc@gmail.com
Committee	Day-to-day running is delegated to a Project Committee with the following membership: *Michele Summers *Kate Jackman *Frank Dutton Further names to be added once consent given

*Is also a Parish Councillor