

Briefing Note

Playground Equipment issues

For Estates & Facilities Management Committee on 11th November 2021 – Item 11

Background

A number issues have been identified within South Avenue Playground:

1. Matting being lifted around the Swings and Trampoline leading to Erosion around the equipment.
2. Toads trapped in the trampoline sump - Stephen Witchell was able to release one side of the trampoline to allow Hamish to clear the sump including the removal of the toads.
3. Some of the Bolt covers have been lost over the years and ideally need to be replaced to protect users from injury.

Proposals and Quotes

1. The Proposal is to look into the cost to replace the matting around these pieces of equipment with resin rubber surfaces similar to the existing around the other equipment.
2. The process of releasing the trampoline was tricky to achieve and the installation of a drainage hole is to be considered to allow the water to escape and a clear exit for any toads that find their way into the sump. This would not address the detritus and litter which builds up inside the sump, which would still need to be cleared manually at least once per year.
3. It is proposed that we purchase a supply of replacement bolt covers for the play equipment and replace the missing ones. It would cost approx. £18-£20 for 100 units depending on the size of the bolts.

Recommendation

The recommendation is to

1. look into the costing for further safety surface to be installed around the Swings as a priority and the other equipment as a secondary concern.
2. Discussion point – what are our options to protect the toads in the future?
3. To agree the purchase of these covers and hold in stock for future losses.