

## **CVCA Clifton Park Play Area Team**

**Updated 05.09.2019**

The CVCA, along with Clifton residents are concerned about the condition of the play area equipment, the lack of equipment and the disappearance of the slide during summer 2018!

CVCA contacted Calderdale MBC in October 2018, but had to wait for the appointment of a new Projects Officer (Playgrounds).

The group has met on three occasions (21.03.19, 11.04.19 and 19.06.19) plus once on Clifton park with Calderdale MBC on 07.05.19. There have also been meetings with three CMBC approved play equipment suppliers for general discussion and advice.

### **This is a resume of where we started:**

- Clifton Park has been allocated £20,000 from the CMBC Playgrounds budget for the refurbishment (but be warned, this will not go far).
- Advised to apply for available community grants funding to supplement this. Also told to start with Calderdale 'Small Grants Scheme'.
- The park is owned by Calderdale MBC and they are responsible for installation and safe upkeep of the grounds and equipment.

- There are only 8 play equipment companies in the UK of industry standard and we must use one of these if buying equipment.
- New equipment must be suitable for a range of ages and must encourage good health and fitness.
- We must consult with the local community.

### **Where we are at:**

- The £20,000 refurbishment grant has to pay for the refurbishment of the two sets of swings, with two new inclusive baskets on the 'toddler' swings. It will pay for the refurbishment of the current 'younger age' climbing frame including the removal of the bark and small wooden posts around the climbing frame area. This will be replaced by new safe ground surface, secured all around the climbing frame area. This will take a large chunk of the £20,000 – possibly £13-14,000. We have requested from CMBC and are awaiting a breakdown of these refurbishment costs. The refurbishment is scheduled to take place in October/November 2019. The remainder of the budget can be used for match funding a piece of equipment/installation for the park – depending on the results of the consultation. It is vital to remember that safe surfacing and installation costs usually are only slightly less or equal to the cost of the piece of equipment.
- We have consulted with the community via surveymonkey. The results were clear: slide, climbing

frame (older age group), picnic table/bench sets and more seating and basket swing.

- We have tried to move quickly to respond to additional concerns: the dog waste bin was replaced with a new 'Litter/dog waste accepted' bin and moved, as requested, away from the existing bench.
- The Holiday Inn was approached to request funding for refurbishing the 1988 'Trust House Forte' bench. They offered a new bench. This new bench has been paid for by The Holiday Inn (cost £345 plus VAT), has been collected by Calderdale MBC and will be installed by Calderdale MBC during the renovation period Oct/Nov 2019. The cost of the installation plus a plaque will be paid for by CVCA.
- St John's Church offered to pay for the refurbishment of the Trust House Forte bench, (costing £200). The work was completed by GB Stonecleaning. A plaque has been arranged and paid for by CVCA.
- We have had meetings on the park with SutcliffePlay, Wicksteed and Ludus Leisure to discuss options re installation and positioning of future equipment.
- CMBC told us to 'start small' and apply to the Calderdale Small Grants Scheme in the first instance. An application for £2500 grant towards the purchase and installation of two 'springies'. We were awarded £1750 which will pay for the springies, but not the cost of installation. We applied to Calderdale Community Grants for the installation costs and on 04.09.19 we were awarded £690, although less than hoped for, this team have

worked very hard to support us and find us a business grant to help fund our project. I have investigated other ways of reducing the cost of installation of the Springies and am hopeful we will be able to order them very soon. The installation will hopefully take place at the same time as the park refurbishment in Oct/Nov.

- We have applied to Co-op Community Grants (max £2500) for the purchase and installation of picnic table/bench sets and seats. If successful, we will hear in October (grant paid in two instalments, April and November 2020).
- We have applied for 'Tesco Bags of Help' – max £4000, but if selected, it may take up to six months to appear in store for voting. If successful the money is earmarked for the basket swing, but this will not cover installation costs.
- One of our members is applying for a community grant from their employer.
- Applying for grants is a very time consuming!!
- A new slide is clearly a priority. CVCA has pledged the profits of the Scarecrow Festival 2019 for the Clifton Park Play Area.

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