

11/25L ST MARYS PLAY AREA

To: Chief Officer, Colwich Parish
Council
Cttee: Leisure Committee

From: Cllr A M Dunn
Date: 20 March 2025

Title. Agenda Item 11/25L: To consider the new Play Area on St May's Estate and agree the way forward

Issue.

1. Concerns have been raised by the parents of children using the play area regarding the lack of a fence around the equipment noting the proximity to the adjacent road.

Recommendations.

2. Councillors are invited to consider the forthcoming leasing arrangement and whether any additional works are required to the play area either prior to accepting the lease, whilst responsibility remains with SBC, or post acceptance when responsibility is transferred to Colwich Parish Council (CPC).

Background.

3. Agenda item 175/ 23 (Full Council Mtg 21 Dec 25) resolved to '*accept the 30yr lease offered by Stafford BC, once the play area works have been completed and upon satisfactory Health & Safety and Risk Assessment Reports being transferred to the Council*'.
4. The works included the removal of the existing play equipment and the provision of a new play area, which has been completed, and the play equipment is in use. The play area remains the responsibility of SBC, and it has been suggested it may take up to c3 months to prepare the lease documentation.
5. Parents have raised concerns with Cllrs that no fencing has been provided, the removed play equipment was previously surrounded by fence, and there is an adjacent road close by. There is a large gap in the hedging between the play area and the road. The concern is that without a fence and/ or hedge children may run off the play area/ green space area across the road. The road does have signage to warn drivers of the playground.
6. It has been reported that SBC have rec'd a compliant regarding the lack of a fence, their response was '*fencing wasn't in the budget*'.

Supporting Documents.

7. RoSPA provide the following guidance:
 - a. [Code of Good Practice for play areas](#)
 - b. [Guidance of fencing for children's play areas.](#)
 - c. [Dogs on Play Areas](#)
 - d. [Risk Assessment of children's play areas](#)