

ITEM 5

TITLE: Item 5, Play Areas and Equipment (Meeting 30th July 2020)
FOR: Parks and Playing Fields Committee
AUTHOR: Kate Graddock
DATE: 23rd July 2020

Repairs budget: £4,000 remaining £3,393.85

During the play inspections in June 2020 it was noticed that a number of matters needed addressing, including dangerous pieces of equipment at Ellerslie Play Area and Babbages Play Area. Babbages Multi Play was fenced off as an immediate precaution and Ellerslie Play Area was locked down (with the other play areas/equipment) due to Covid-19. The matters that were identified were as follows:

Village Green	New Cradle swing seats needed x 2
	Chains need replacing
	Youth Shelter – slippery surface and possible trip hazard
Fremington Quay	Repair to wet pour needed in various locations
	Dents in slide need repairing/smoothing
Ellerslie	Missing ball – protruding metal object
	Seized piece of equipment
	Rocker moving in ground
	Foot grip loose on seesaw
	Holes in wet pour in various places
	Swings not level
	Righthand junior swing showing signs of wear and tear
	Multiplay – signs of wear and tear and rotting
Swallowfield	Cracked wet pour in various places and ripping up
	Blue and Yellow section of the climbing wall needs tightening
	Basket Swing needs reinstating
	Board on multi-play needs replacing as there is a bolt sticking out
Mulberry	Hedge needs cutting – sign obstructed - North Devon Council
	Grass needs cutting – North Devon Council
	Cradle and flat seat needed and basket swing
	Swings need to be unravelled
	Chain not able to be checked due to plastic coating
Tews Lane	Chains wearing on basket swing
	Swings need unravelling
	Chains couldn't be checked due to plastic coating
	Rotten wood on multi-play needs replacing – bolts sticking out
	Sharp dent on slide – needs smoothing out
	Wood needs replacing on Multi-play as screw showing
Beechfield	Loose wheel on multi-play toddler unit – needs tightening
	Bolts missing on toddler multi-play
	Rockers needs removing
	Footgrips missing on climbing wall
	Bolt missing on stepping logs
	New Seat needed on junior swing
	Lifting and split wet pour on yellow and red triangles under junior swings
	Bolts tightening and twisting on left hand junior swing

	Holes in wet pour of ridge rider
	Tai Chi Disks – dangerous needs removing
	Bike- dangerous needs removing
	Cross trainer – dangerous needs removing
	Most bearing deteriorated and rusty components in all gym equipment

All Play Areas except Ellerslie have now been opened. Ellerslie is unable to open until repair works are completed and will remain locked to the public; however, we have been informed that the public are gaining access by jumping the fence. The Parish Council has a duty of care to ensure that if someone does enter, the play equipment is safe. Two quotations have been received to carry out these repairs: Prices exclude VAT.

	TK Play	Playground Solutions
Beechfield	£1786.00 includes removal of all pieces of gym equipment *Quoted for patch up wet pour (temporary solution). At present the Ridge Rider has a wet pour thickness of 5-10mm but should be a minimum 20mm but would be inclined to put 30mm if re-surfaced in the future	£2240.00 includes removal of 3 pieces of gym equipment
Village Green	£650.00 includes new surface by youth shelter (Agri-flex)	£760.00 includes new surface by youth shelter
Ellerslie	£1229.00 includes removal of spinning pole, rocking plank (end of life) and rocker *If not completing Beechfield Gym equipment removal at same time a further £230.00	£1565.00 does not include removal just repair to spinner, balance plank and rocker
Tews Lane	£1309.00 *Swings will need to be refurbished/changed within the next 12 months due to rust. Multiplay not worth spending funds on, is starting to rot.	£1990.00
Mulberry	£1027.00 *Swings will need to be refurbished/changed within the next 12 months due to rust.	Not quoted
Swallow Field	£680.00	£680.00
Fremington Quay	Rubber needs re doing all around edge. Check warranty as looks recent.	£350.00
TOTAL	£6681.00+ VAT	£7585.00 + VAT

It is apparent that there does need to be a strategic approach to this and simply patching up areas and repairing items adhoc is not the most economical and practical way of continuing to complete play area/equipment repairs. Members will need to think about considering this as a priority for the forthcoming year and subsequent years and budget accordingly. Fremington Parish Council has 9 sites which is a vast amount of play equipment to maintain and unfortunately at present, the budget does not allow for this level of repairs/maintenance costs.

Recommendation:

1. That the repairs for Ellerslie are actioned immediately from the existing repairs budget.
2. That the DEO investigate a long-term strategy for improvements/replacements to play areas/equipment
3. That following the sale of the Council Offices, the Finance & Personnel Committee are requested to via funds to the Parks and Playing Fields committee for the remaining play area repairs to be completed or general reserves fund be made available.

ITEM 6

£1050.50 + vat, Includes Delivery & Bolt down Kit



ITEM. 7b

Thank you for your reply. That's fine I've been in contact with the council and they are happy for me to park where there is no road restrictions.

That would be great. My business name is Wing's n Thing's, serving a range of food from chicken wings, burgers, chips, breakfast baps and hot and cold drinks. I'm gas powered I'm just sorting out solar panels to charge my electric appliances so I would not need a generator so there would be no noise.

I have a bin and a recycling box, also looking at a food packaging make that make packaging out of wasted part of sugar cane so it's environmently friendly.

I'm a bit unsure of days at the minute as I'm trying to work out what the best days are for certain places but if it was possible to go to fremington quay it would be when the cafe is shut so it wouldn't effect them. Times would probably be about 5 till 8.

Any other information let me know.

Thank you for your time and hope you have a good day.

se.

ITEM 8

TITLE:	Item 8, Review of Charges (Meeting 30 th July 2020)
FOR:	Parks and Playing Fields Committee
AUTHOR:	Kate Graddock
DATE:	23 rd July 2020

The current charges for The Beechfield Centre are as follows:

- Main Hall or Changing rooms are charged at £10.00 per hour each or £8.00 per hour each, if it is a service to the community (non-commercial only)
- A £10.00 refundable deposit is requested to cover key/fob replacements.
- A £50.00 refundable deposit is requested for parties, discos and licenced events

Feedback from users of the hall has been that the rates are very reasonable and encourage regular sessions.

Recommendation: That the charges remain the same for 2020/21.
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ITEM 9

Kate Graddock

From: Councillor Frank Biederman <Frank.Biederman@northdevon.gov.uk>
Sent: 21 July 2020 10:39
To: Victoria; Kate Graddock
Subject: Fwd: Nurse

Dear Both

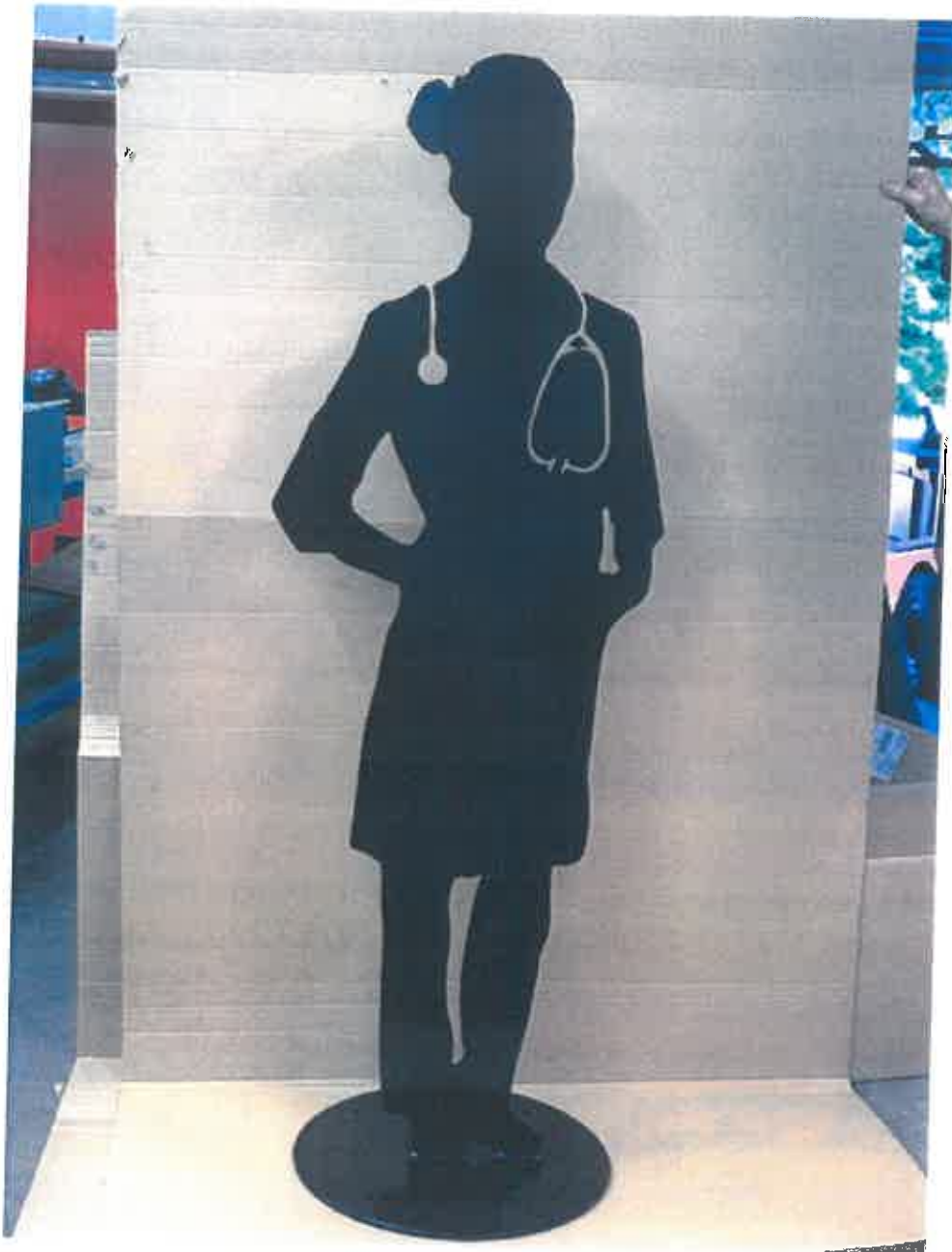
Nurse is ready, we are concerned about wind at fremington Quay, so thought using the concrete base already on the green the is best place for her.

The community group support this, as we felt better to place benches at the back of the green, where it's a bit more peaceful.

She is easily unbolted from the base, so could move her if needed.

See photos below.

Frank
Sent from a mobile device





ITEM 10

TITLE:	Item 10, Tree Surveys and Works (Meeting 30 th July 2020)
FOR:	Parks and Playing Fields Committee
AUTHOR:	Kate Graddock
DATE:	23 rd July 2020

General/Various budget: £1500.00 Remaining: £1259.00

The Parish Council commissioned Coastal Tree Consultants to carry out a Tree Survey on the following sites:

- Griggs Field
- Maple Grove
- Muddlebridge Allotments
- Village Green

A number of works have been identified to be completed and quotations have been sought. These are:

	Griggs Field	The Village Green	Muddlebridge Allotments	TOTAL
Gavin Hendry	£495.00	£175.00	£185.00	£855.00
The Tree People	£400.00	£200.00	£90.00	£690.00
Taw & Torridge Tree	£500.00	£110.00	£150.00	£760.00 however would offer a discount to £650.00

All quotes exclusive of VAT.

The tree works would be taken from general/various and Muddlebridge allotment budget.

Members views are sought.

ITEM 10

Tree Health and Safety Arboricultural Report For Fremington Parish Council, Barnstable, Devon.



Coastal Tree
Consultancy,
Upcott Mill, Coach Drive,
Bideford, EX39 5JH

bruce@coastaltree.co.uk

13th July 2020

TREE HEALTH AND SAFETY ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

Instructed by:	Mrs Kate Graddock BA (Hons) FiLCM Deputy Executive Officer Fremington Parish Council The Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road, Fremington, EX31 3DD
Compiled by;	Bruce Macfarlane, MArbor A, P Dip Arb (RFS)
Date:	13 th July 2020
Report ref:	CTC130720HS

This document is issued for the party which commissioned it and for specific purposes connected with the above-captioned project only. It should not be relied upon by any other party or used for any other purpose.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The trees on these four sites are generally in good to average condition with generally only routine maintenance type works being required.

There are early signs of Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) in the trees across the sites and these will need to be monitored and appropriate works carried out when required.

It will be important for the Parish Council to continue to manage and inspect the Parish trees to ensure the safety of the general public using these greenspaces.

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1. INSTRUCTIONS

1.1 I am instructed by Kate Graddock of Fremington Parish Council, to inspect and report by visual inspection on the condition of trees at four sites within the Parish;

- Griggs Field
- Maple Grove
- Muddlebridge Allotments
- Village Green

1.2 I am asked to advise on the health and safety of the trees with regards; structure, pest and disease and fungal decay and where necessary make recommendations regarding health and safety tree works.

2. LIMITATIONS

2.1 Trees and shrubs are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly. The health, condition and safety of trees should be checked on a regular basis, preferably at least once a year. The conclusions and recommendations of this report are only valid for a period of one year. These periods of validity may be reduced in the case of any changes in conditions in the proximity of the trees or built structures.

2.2 I have not carried out an inspection of the drainage or service systems or buildings and foundations.

2.3 The report is of preliminary nature, if further details are required these will be highlighted in the recommendations.

2.4 The trees have been inspected from ground level, should a more detailed climbing inspection be required this will be highlighted in the recommendations.

2.5 I have not examined the soil or removed samples for analysis. If samples are required this will be highlighted in the recommendations.

3. SITE DETAILS

3.1 I inspected the trees at the four sites on the 7th July 2020. The following information is presented regarding the trees:

- Tree number as shown on plan (The trees are marked with numbered silver metal tags).
- Tree species.
- Comments on condition of trees leaves, shoots and main framework, any defects, fungal fruiting bodies, pest, disease or any other defects.
- Recommendations for works.

4. FINDINGS

4.1 Griggs Field

- 4.2 Griggs Field is an area of grassed open space with perimeter trees, the trees are mainly within areas of woodland adjacent to the site and other vegetation and trees are scattered trees around the open space. There are a number of pedestrian access points and a circular surfaced path running around the site with other surfaced paths crossing parts of the site.
- 4.3 All the trees on the site were assessed, but only trees requiring works were recorded and are shown on the Google image below;



- 4.4 There were three trees and one group of trees on site recorded as requiring works, the table below shows the trees that require works;

Table of recommended tree works.

Tree	Condition	Works	Time Frame (Months)
NT1 (no tag) Field maple	Dead tree, no obvious reasons, possibly honey fungus in hedgerow, base of trees not visible.	Fell	6 mths
NT1 (no tag) Elm	Elm tree slightly sparse foliage, probably Dutch elm disease, monitor condition	Monitor, but will die and require felling	Any time within 24 mths
763 Ash	Two dead young trees, due to ash dieback, low risk due to size	Fell	6-12 mths
G1 Ash	Small group of young trees, infected with ash dieback, low risk due to size	Fell	6-12 mths

4.5 Adjacent to the eastern and southern boundaries are two areas of woodland with mature native species, which are not within the Griggs Field site. There were a number of mature ash trees infected with ash dieback within the woodland. As the condition of these trees worsens they may die and some will be within falling distance of Griggs Field. The owner/manager of these woodlands should be informed of this possibility so appropriate action can be taken.

4.6 Photographs of selective trees to be found in Appendix A.

4.7 Maple Grove

4.8 This is a small area of grassed open space with an out grown hedgerow and several mature trees along its western boundary.

4.9 There are currently no health and safety works required at this site. There is one small dead elm within the hedgerow area however, this is of a size where no action is required. The hedgerow may soon require some routine maintenance works to control its overall size, especially the coppiced hazel.

4.10 It was noticed that a number of new tree saplings have been planted in tubes within the grassed area, these require checking and basic maintenance to control grass and weed growth, a small number of trees were dead and require replacement.

4.11 Photographs of selective trees to be found in Appendix A.

4.12 Fremington Village Green

4.13 The village green is a small area of grassed park with perimeter trees and other vegetation around three boundaries and scattered trees growing within the grassed area. The southern boundary fronts onto the Barnstable road and there are only trees in the front south west corner of this road frontage.

4.14 All the trees on the site were assessed, but only trees requiring works were recorded and are shown on the Google image below;



4.15 There were three trees on site recorded as requiring works, the table below shows the trees that require works;

Table of recommended tree works.

Tree	Condition	Works	Time Frame (Months)
764 Cherry	Three dead branches on one main branch	Remove deadwood	3 mths
767 Cherry	One broken hung up branch, canopy slightly sparse but appears healthy.	Remove broken branch	3 mths

767	Dead, Dutch elm disease.	Fell	12 mths
Elm			

4.16 Photographs of selective trees to be found in Appendix A.

4.17 Muddlebridge Allotments

4.18 Muddlebridge allotments are set within a plot surrounded by mature hedgerows adjacent to Barnstaple Road, with a public right of way to the north of the site. This is a well cared for site with grassed paths between plots and the two main hedgerow boundaries appear to be regularly maintained.

4.19 There was a small area to the north of the allotment entrance which was also surveyed, the area adjacent to the large pond in the middle of the southern boundary was not accessible and was only viewed from outside the fence.

4.20 All the remaining trees on the site were assessed, but only trees requiring works were recorded and are shown on the Google image below;



4.21 There was only one tree on site recorded as requiring works, the table below shows the tree that requires works;

Table of recommended tree works.

Tree	Condition	Works	Time Frame (Months)
Over mature Oak (by gate to site)	Dead branches over entrance gate/path to site	Remove deadwood	5 mths

4.22 There were several young ash trees within the boundary hedgerow and some more mature trees within the area around the large pond, these need to be monitored for the presence of ash dieback.

4.23 Photographs of selective trees to be found in Appendix A.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The trees within the four sites were generally in average to good condition and require only minor maintenance works other than the dead Field maple at Griggs Field.

5.2 There are ash trees of all age groups across all four sites with the early signs of ash dieback infection. Only the mature trees within the woodland areas adjacent to Griggs Field are at a stage where they may present a greater risk however, these trees are outside the surveyed site.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Works should be carried out as per the works tables above, if works are significantly delayed the trees should be re-inspected to ensure their ongoing safety.

6.2 Ash dieback will be any ongoing tree management problem, young infected/dead trees do not pose a health and safety risk, but their removal may be appropriate to reduce the concerns of the public using these sites. The larger more mature ash will need to be monitored, especially late summer, and trees with more advanced symptoms will probably need to be removed.

6.2 As these are public open spaces as a minimum the trees should be inspected yearly (by a competent person/member of the PC) and have the tree inspected by a suitably qualified Arboriculturalist every 3 – 5 years. The PC should also check the trees following a storm event and that all such inspections are recorded. Should there be any concerns about the safety of a tree the PC should have it checked by an Arboriculturalist.

7. Legal Constraints

7.1 Individual trees and woodlands in any location may be protected by legislation for various reasons. The reasons for protection can include visual amenity, biodiversity, wildlife protection or to avoid unnecessary tree loss. Substantial penalties can be incurred for contravention of legal protection. The main type of protection in an urban setting is when trees are protected within a Conservation Area or by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or if they are occupied by specific wildlife.

7.2 Conservation Area

In Conservation Areas, trees of a diameter greater than 75mm, measured at 1.5m from ground level are automatically protected (except in certain circumstances) under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Notice of intent is required to be given to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) before work is carried out. An application form can be downloaded from the LPA website. The LPA has six weeks to decide whether the tree should be made subject to a Tree Preservation Order. If the LPA do not respond within the six week period, then the tree work that has been applied for may proceed.

7.3 Tree Preservation Order (TPO)

A Local Planning Authority (LPA) can protect trees and woodlands with a Tree Preservation Order in the interest of good amenity. In general, it is prohibited in the Town & Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012 to cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage or wilfully destroy a tree without the Planning Authority's permission. It will be necessary to apply to the LPA for permission to carry out any work on protected trees. The LPA has eight weeks to respond to the application to either refuse or permit the work applied for.

The LPA can also make alternative work recommendations.




If an application for work is refused, or allowed subject to conditions, or if the council fails to deal with the application within 8 weeks, the applicant has a right of appeal to the Secretary of State under the provisions of section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). At the time of inspection I believe the tree is within a Conservation Area and covered by a TPO. The work specified in this report is necessary for reasonable management and should be acceptable to the LPA. However, tree owners should appreciate that they may take an alternative point of view and have the option to refuse consent.

7.4 Habitats Regulations

Bats, nesting birds and some mammals are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and (as amended) Wildlife and Countryside Act 2000. A risk assessment will be required prior to commencement of any tree work or felling to assess the likelihood of disturbing or endangering any protected wildlife or habitat. If any protected species are present in any of the trees, or if the tree has a known bird nest or bat roost, then consultation with the Statutory Nature Conservation Organisation (SNCO) must be undertaken, prior to commencement of work.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A. PHOTOGRAPHS

<p>Muddlebridge Oak with deadwood</p>	<p>Maple Grove dead elm in hedgerow</p>
	
<p>Griggs Field, mature ash within adjacent woodland infected with ash dieback</p>	
	

Griggs Field, young ash tag 763, adjacent woodland dead due to ash dieback



APPENDIX B. EXPLANATION OF HAZARD RISK ASSESSMENT

There are four compelling reasons to have a structured program for tree inspections.

- a) Provide documented evidence that a property owner/occupier is compliant with their legal obligations to provide an adequate 'duty of care' for visitors and users of the property.
- b) Reduce the risk of harm to people or property to as low as reasonably possible by managing the trees effectively. This involves a pro-active and systematic approach to identifying potential hazards, ranking them according to their severity and prioritising action to achieve an acceptable level of risk.
- c) Provide a prioritised and effective management schedule of works to aid budgeting and allocation of resources.
- d) Ameliorate tree defects by prescribing remedial maintenance. This will extend the safe useful life expectancy of the trees and preserve their important visual amenity and any wildlife habitats provided by them.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

There is an obligation of reasonable safety owed by site owners to both visitors and to those adjacent to the site under the Occupier's Liability Act 1957 and revised in 1984. The owner of the land may be held liable for any physical harm to person or property arising from an accident that was both reasonably foreseeable and reasonably preventable in that situation. In order for an owner to foresee and prevent harm arising from tree failure, it is necessary to subject the trees to 'regular inspection' by someone competent to identify defects and interpret the significance to public safety. This should take the form of a 'Tree Hazard Risk Assessment'.

DUTY OF CARE

- The law assumes that the owner of a tree is the owner of the land surrounding the base of its trunk
- The person responsible for any tree has a duty, known in law as the **duty of care**, to take reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions which they could foresee would be likely to cause harm.
- In practice it is never possible to completely eliminate all danger. The law therefore simply requires that the owner takes reasonable care to identify possible sources of foreseeable danger and when hazards have been identified they should remove them as far as possible.
- **Negligence** is a breach of legal duty resulting in damage. For example, when a tree owner fails to take necessary action, resulting in harm to people, animals or property.
- The law does not require or expect the impossible. The duty on owners is not to take every possible step to achieve perfect safety, as this would mean almost every tree being felled. The duty of the owner is rather to take all reasonable care to ensure that people are safe. What is "reasonable" must ultimately be a matter of judgement for the tree owner and their professional advisers (tree consultants).
- In order to provide an adequate duty of care, a tree risk assessment is necessary, in which two separate factors of **Hazard** and **Risk** are addressed.

HAZARD AND RISK

- **Hazard** is the potential for a tree to mechanically fail or impact on something and cause physical harm. (See the following tree hazards below)
- **Risk** is the probability or likelihood that harm will occur during a stated period of time and the consequences of the impact.

TREE RISK

Tree Risk Assessment is comprised of three separate factors which are considered separately.

- a) **Risk** which is the estimated chance or likelihood of a previously identified tree hazard failing in the next coming year. For example a large seasoned piece of deadwood in a tree is less likely to fail than a split and hanging branch which is moving in the wind. Risks range from extremely likely to remote.
- b) **The size of the identified hazard part** of the tree is also very relevant. A small piece of dead wood may have the same risk of falling as a whole tree with basal decay but the consequences of that failure are very different; ranging from slight injury or damage to possible fatalities or major structural damage.
- c) **Target** rating relates to the location of the tree and the occupancy and intensity of use of the land surrounding it. Any person, animal or property that is in range of a potential tree hazard is known as a target. For example, a mature tree with a large split limb in a remote woodland would be considered a high hazard but a low risk. The same tree on a busy urban street would be considered a high hazard and a high risk. Target ratings range from low, moderate to high.

TREE HAZARDS

In recent years there has been an average of around six tree related deaths annually, which is a chance of 1 fatality per 10 million of the population. Compared with other daily risks such as industrial or traffic accidents, this figure is broadly acceptable and tolerable. These risks will increase slightly in highly populated urban areas with a high concentration of trees. Nonetheless, tree related accidents can be very traumatic and tragic for those involved. They also tend to get high profile coverage in the media, leading to a disproportionate apprehension of trees. This apprehension can result in

unnecessary tree removal and over zealous tree pruning.

A tree's shape and form is governed by the laws of mechanics, the same as any structure, but trees are also dynamic and lay down tension and compression wood to compensate for weight and wind loading and produce reaction wood in response to decay or structural weaknesses. In fact, trees have evolved to have excessive mechanical safety factors in order to cope with extreme weather conditions.

Trees are also naturally shedding organisms and regularly drop twigs, branches and occasionally limbs as part of the natural growing process. A tree's structural integrity can also be compromised by natural faults and biological factors such as fungi, bacteria and viruses which influence wood strength at a cellular level. They can also be impacted by environmental influences such as wind, flooding, pollution, compaction, physical impact etc. The signs of possible structural weakness are usually evident from external inspection by a trained and experienced person who can evaluate the potential hazard risk and prescribe remedial action

ITEM 11

TITLE:	Item 11, S106 Priorities (Meeting 30 th July 2020)
FOR:	Parks and Playing Fields Committee
AUTHOR:	Kate Graddock
DATE:	23 rd July 2020

Section 106 priorities is important for the Council to consider. Fremington Parish has been attributed a number of 106 funds to complete numerous projects for the benefit of the community. It's now time to identify your aspirations for open spaces for the next 2-5 years. It's important to start thinking strategically as the Parishes 106 expressions are kept at the Planning Authority and referenced if a planning application is successful.

The current 106 lists are as follows:

Bickington

- Tomlin Hall Renovation – July 2019 Committee – Requires further contributions & understanding of the project (**Not Parish Council owned/managed**)
- Eilerslie Road – Scout Hut
- Eilerslie Road Play Equipment
- Babbages Play Equipment
- Tews Lane - Extension to building to provide storage & function room as well as community car park (**Tews Lane Committee**)
- Access to Tarka Trail

Fremington

- Access to Fremington quay through development (**Full Council**)
- Resurfacing of play area wetpour Beechfield
- Provision of footpath at Griggs field

Yelland

- Purchase of land for community building – Justification & evidence of requirements

You will need to consider whether the above are still relevant or whether you feel there are other priorities that need addressing. Priorities identified within the staff team are as follows:

- Tews Lane Community Pavillion (This already has a number of S.106 agreements attached to this project and the Council has spent a considerable amount of funding to get to the point of public consultation and shortly, the submission of a revised planning application)
- Play Area enhancement project at Eilerslie Road Play Area
- Trim Trail within the Parish, possibly Griggs Field
- Provision of allotments

Members views are sought.

ITEM 12

TITLE:	Item 12, CCTV (Meeting 30 th July 2020)
FOR:	Parks and Playing Fields Committee
AUTHOR:	Kate Graddock
DATE:	23 rd July 2020

I had a meeting with the Crime Prevention Officer to discuss the anti-social behaviour and vandalism at The Beechfield Centre. A copy of her report is attached.

Quotations are listed below and information for each quotation is attached:

For information all companies are registered with the www.nsi.org.uk and/or www.ssaib.org

M & E Alarms Ltd	£2253.80 + VAT Annual Maintenance fee of 1 service is £50.00 + VAT
Barum Friend Security Ltd	£2175.00 + VAT for system £50.00 + VAT for each visit
Blanchard Fire and Security	£1775.00 + VAT for system Annual Maintenance £70.00 + VAT
Boden Group	£1172.11 + VAT No information on annual maintenance fees

ITEM 12

Dear Mrs Graddock,

Beechfield Centre Crime Prevention Advice

Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in getting back to you. Due to some unforeseen circumstances, I have been out of the office much more than I had planned, hence being behind in getting this information to you.

Unfortunately, the situation is not an easy one to solve but I hope that the following information may help a little.

Problem 1:

The youths are using the veranda to the rear of the premises as a smoking shelter. This intimidates some of the hirers of the hall.

Routine Activity Theory

Target: The building is easily accessible and available, with the veranda providing some shelter from the wind and rain.

Lack of a Capable Guardian: No one is challenging anti-social behaviour. There is no formal surveillance and limited natural surveillance.

Motivated Offender: The youths may not believe they are doing anything wrong as perhaps in their eyes, they are just gathering. Conversely, if they know that people are feeling uncomfortable with their presence, they may be rebelling against authority.

Principles of Crime Reduction:

- **Rule Setting.** Currently there is nothing to say that the youths should not be there. Clear signage stating that the area is a no smoking zone or out is out of bounds during certain hours sets out what is and isn't acceptable behaviour.
- **Target Removal.** If the youths are intentionally trying to make the users of the hall uncomfortable, then blinds, curtains or window film can provide privacy and prevent the youths from achieving their aim.
- **Reduce the Payoff.** The youths enjoy the shelter and a certain amount of privacy, allowing them to gather in reasonable comfort. Consideration could be given to increasing the lighting to make it less comfortable for the youths, while also increasing natural surveillance from the surrounding properties. If this does not work, a mosquito alarm could be an option but a decision to use such a device should not be taken lightly and great care should be taken with its positioning to ensure there is no impact to any other area. Please see further information below.
- **Access Control.** There are two gates either side of the building. If the football pitch is not in use, these gates should be locked shut preventing legitimate access. If access is being gained illegitimately, via the perimeter of the football field then owners of the properties bordering the pitch need to take personal responsibility for making good their boundaries.
- **Surveillance / Increase the chance of being caught:** I note that the Centre has been considering investing in CCTV. CCTV may deter criminal and anti-social behavior, detecting it at an early stage but that is only useful if there is someone actively monitoring and reacting to it. The issue with CCTV is that if the offenders have their hoods up, there is little we can do to identify them, counteracting the hope that it might help to reduce anonymity. Whether CCTV is a realistic or cost effective measure will depend on the financial constraints that the centre is under and the capacity to monitor such a system. Should the centre decide to invest please note the following:

Local accredited and approved CCTV installers can be searched for at: www.nsi.org.uk or www.ssaib.org and I would suggest obtaining a quote from at least three different companies. When installing CCTV it is important that a clear Operational Requirement document is drawn up between the user and the installer so that the system and each camera have a clear purpose and that the needs of the user are being met. The Surveillance Camera Commissioner's Buyers Toolkit can be found attached which is a comprehensive guide to making informed decisions about a CCTV installation. It explains the importance of positioning (covering entrances and exits / areas of value), lighting, rates and resolutions. When discussing your Operational Requirement, please refer back to the previous incidents that you have suffered and ask the installer if it is possible to mitigate against these problems. For example, by making sure a camera faces towards the areas where the anti-social behaviour occurs so that you get a clear head and shoulders image and ensuring there is enough light for the camera to give a quality picture.

Lighting and CCTV should be considered in tandem because inevitably, one will affect the other. The rear of the premises enjoys a certain amount of natural surveillance from the surrounding residential properties. However, during the hours of darkness, it is unlikely that the residents will be able to see very much of what is occurring on the site. PIR lighting may deter the youths from remaining in the area and will also assist neighbouring properties in identifying when people are there that shouldn't be. If the Council or local Beat Team were to write to those residents explaining the issues that have been ongoing, requesting they call in when people are present out of hours, (perhaps providing the reference number of one single log) this may assist in ensuring there is a regular response to this anti-social behaviour and help to disrupt it somewhat.

Signs to advise the public that they are being recorded should be placed around your building and contact details for the Data Controller should be made available. Most non-domestic CCTV systems must be registered with the Information Commissioner's Officer in order to comply with GDPR. For more information on the legal requirements for using CCTV, contact the Information Commissioner's Office helpline on 0303 123 1113 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, or visit www.ico.org.uk

If you are looking to invest in any kind of security product, Police recommend that you try and choose a product that has been accredited by Secure by Design. Secure by Design is a national police crime prevention initiative that aims to reduce burglary and other crime using the principles of good design and appropriate physical security and these can be found here: https://www.securedbydesign.com/member-companies/accredited-product-search/index.php?option=com_sbdold&view=company&sbdoldcatid=95

Problem 2:

Youths have damaged the cladding to the building by kicking footballs directly at it.

Routine Activity Theory

Target: The side of the building.

Lack of a Capable Guardian: There is no one challenging this behaviour or any formal surveillance.

Motivated Offender: The youths are most likely seeking a surface to rebound their ball against, however it is noted that mud has been smeared over the walls of the building, suggesting at least some of the offending behaviour is intentional.

Principles of Crime Reduction:

- **Deflect the Offenders:** Could a training wall, specifically designed for rebounding footballs, be provided on site?
- **Target Hardening:** I am aware that some netting has been installed to prevent the balls from hitting the building but the youths are climbing on these. Ideally, there should be a fence between the football field and the building. I can see that this may not be a desirable solution as it would impede the view of the matches from the veranda. However, if other solutions fail, this may be worth considering as a final measure.
- **Alert Conscience / Rule Setting:** As per Problem 1, the area would benefit from signage indicating that balls are not to be kicked against the building. A letter drop to the surrounding properties and perhaps a piece in the parish and school newsletters explaining the problems the centre is experiencing, the cost of the damage and impact on the users of the facility should alert the conscience of the parents of the children involved. This would also be an opportunity to set the rules of access, clearly and concisely. These rules then need to be reiterated and policed.
- **Surveillance & Access Control:** As per Problem 1.

Mosquito:

The use of a Mosquito alarm could be a potential deterrent:

<https://www.compoundsecurity.co.uk/product/mosquito/> It is very important to consider every consequence of using such a device. It is not something that should be deployed without considerable thought. Here are some links to articles that highlight issues around the use of these devices:

"The deployment of the Mosquito infringes a number of rights enshrined in the UNCRC, including: the principle of non-discrimination (article 2); the principle that the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration in all decisions affecting them (article 3); the right to express views and influence decision making in all matters affecting them (article 12); the right to freedom of assembly and association (article 15); the right to protection from violence, abuse and injury (article 19); and the right to play, leisure and recreation (article 31)."

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/long_reads/the-use-of-sonic-anti-loitering-devices-is-breaching-teenagers-human-rights-a7880781.html

"Some time ago the National Autistic Society voiced concern over the distressing effects such devices may have for people with autism and we contacted the product makers to raise this issue. The NAS Helpline has received calls from people who have been adversely affected by the Mosquito system and who are worried by the distress it may cause to people with the condition" (NAS, 2011, p.1) "There are also concerns that difficulties (e.g. fits, seizures, aggression and frustration from not being able to articulate what is being experienced) may arise for persons with learning disabilities and epilepsy of all ages from exposure to these devices" (NICCY, 2008, p.1).

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/5cdd/ec8293498b001451c6a18ac96f65d73451cf.pdf>

"...small children and infants are especially at risk, due to lengthy exposure to the sound, because the adults themselves do not perceive the noise. Moreover, the ultrasound affects not only hearing. Disruption of the equilibrium senses, as well as other extra-aural effects are well known. With the sound levels that can be reached by the device, the onset of dizziness, headache, nausea and impairment is to be expected. This is not the limit of the total risks to safety and health."

<https://www.thewca.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Mosquito-anti-loitering-device.pdf>

Other helpful reports can be found here: <https://movingsoundtech.com/about-the-mosquito/mosquito-report-downloads>

There have been a couple of attempts to pass a Bill to regulate the use of anti-loitering devices. The latest being in 2018: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0251/18251.pdf> While no regulations have been brought in yet, you may find that legislation changes in the future.

These articles and reports raise genuine concerns but in my opinion, the use of this product on your site could be justified if the group has a sustained presence and is causing significant cost to the facility through criminal damage. If you use it with a timer / PIR and direct it into the veranda out of hours or at times when no youths should be using the facility, it will only affect a small area of private property at times when it wouldn't be cost effective or realistic to physically patrol the area. Essentially, you are not preventing the youths from gathering in a public space, which is at the heart of many of the worries outlined above. Bear in mind that the device itself could become a target for criminal damage and would need to be protected.

I hope that this helps you and that the attachment regarding CCTV is useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need anything further.

Yours sincerely,

Kim Foster
Crime Prevention Officer

Crime Prevention advice is given without the intention of creating a contract. Neither the Home Office nor the Police Service accepts and legal responsibility for the advice given. Fire Prevention advice, Fire Safety Certificate conditions, Health & Safety Regulations and Safe Working Practices will always take precedence over any Crime prevention issue.

Recommendations included in this document have been considered to the specific site and take into account information available to the Police or supplied by you.

Where recommendations have been made for additional physical security, it is assumed that the product is compliant with the appropriate standard and competent installers will carry out the installation as per manufacturer guidelines. Suppliers of suitably accredited products can be obtained by visiting www.securedbydesign.com



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