

# **An update on Haughley Outdoor Public Play Areas and Equipment**

**July 2022**

Two major projects are under way to improve the outdoor play facilities at the King George Playing Field in the village centre and at the Cricket, Haughley Green. These are major works and will cause unavoidable disruption. Notices will be erected to advise users.

Please note: the scope of the project at King George Playing Field does not include the skate park or the area between the skate park and the entrance opposite the school. Any current or future issues with the games area and skate park will continue to be addressed by the Playing Field Committee. In addition, necessary on-going routine maintenance to current equipment, as identified by the annual play inspection report, will be addressed by the Playing Field Committee.

## **Project 1. The Play Area, King George Field, Green Road**

The made Haughley Neighbourhood Plan, has guided development in Haughley and includes a desire by parishioners for play facilities to be enhanced. A working group are now leading a major project to enhance the play area at King George Playing Field. As far as practicable the project will address parishioners' concerns about safety and their requests for improved inclusivity. Progress updates will be made available.

### **SAFETY**

- All areas underneath existing equipment will have modern safety surfaces installed to replace the current grass and old safety surfaces. The new surfaces meet current safety standards and will enable all-weather access to the play equipment
- It is acknowledged that the grass mound and metal slide is liked by some users, but the mound is a physical obstruction, which prevents a clear view to all parts of the play area from any given viewpoint. The mound will be removed, and the created flat space will be put to alternative use
- Appropriate fencing will be erected around the play area. This will solve two issues which are often raised and difficult to resolve. The fence will:
  - a) prevent dogs accessing and fouling the play area
  - b) help parents and others to keep their charges more easily within the protected play area and to monitor their whereabouts

### **INCLUSIVITY**

- Inclusive equipment suitable for all children of all abilities will be installed in the area created by removal of the mound: a roundabout, see-saw and activity boards are included in the design concept
- There will be new and additional seating, some of which has already been installed

This is an expensive project. A budget is being prepared and a formal CIL application being developed. The Parish Council will be asked at the September Parish Council Meeting to approve a CIL allocation to fund the project in its entirety. Work on the Play Area will begin as soon as

- a) funding is authorized
- b) orders placed with and accepted by suppliers and contractors
- c) dates are agreed for the works schedule

### **Project 2. The Play Area, The Cricket, Haughley Green**

The Parish Council had intended to repair and enhance the Play Area at the Cricket, Haughley Green.

However, a recent professional play Inspection resulted in a major rethink of our plans.

The swings have been repaired for the summer. However, it has become clear that the play equipment at Haughley Green has come to the end of its useful life.

Haughley Parish Council are seizing this opportunity to develop an ambitious project, which will be led by the same working group who have been managing the project at the King George Play Area.

The over-riding project aim of the Haughley Green, Cricket Play Area Project is to provide a high-quality outdoor play facility, which will meet the needs of both current and future users of different ages and abilities.

The working group are being mindful of the special nature and constraints of the play area's setting. A concept plan to help guide the project is being developed to meet the project aim. Parishioners will be consulted, and their views invited through a formal consultation process.

Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) will be approached, and a formal planning application made. If the planning application to MSDC is approved, grant funding will need to be sought.

This project is in its early stages and parishioners will be updated on progress.