

**LLANTWIT FARDRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANILLTUD FAERDREF**



**LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

**23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER, 2023**

**REPORT OF THE CLERK**

**PLAY AREAS – REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME**

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 At previous meetings of this Committee, detailed reports have been presented in respect of the condition of each of the following 10 play areas that this Council currently maintains:-
1. Maesybryn, Llantwit Fardre
  2. Ty Draw, Church Village,
  3. Woodlands Upper, Llantwit Fardre
  4. Woodlands Lower, Llantwit Fardre
  5. The Ridings, Tonteg,
  6. Tonteg (leased from RCTCBC)
  7. Efail Isaf Village Hall (leased from RCTCBC)
  8. Ysgol Ty Coch, Tonteg
  9. Station Road, Church Village
  10. The Dell, Tonteg
- 1.2 The above parks were listed in order of priority for repairs/replacement of equipment.
- 1.3 At the meeting of this Committee held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2022, a five year work programme was appended to the report together with the layout of each park.
- 1.4 Maesybryn and Ty Draw play areas have recently been refurbished with an extra piece of equipment being sourced for the grassed area alongside Maesybryn, subject to costings and suitability.

## 2. **REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME**

- 2.1 At the meeting of this Committee held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2023, it was agreed to review the Play Area Work Programme following receipt of the Annual Parks Inspection reports.
- 2.2 The annual inspection took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2023 and the tasks to be undertaken in each of the parks were of low risk and which are being undertaken by the Council's Outside Operatives.
- 2.3 The equipment that are in need of attention are shown in the table below and this will assist in placing the respective parks in order of priority:-

<b>Play Area</b>	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Problem Identified/Comments</b>
Woodlands Upper Llantwit Fardre	Multi-Play Unit	Metal work frost damaged and bearing damaged. If not renewed in the very near future, then this play unit will be dangerous and may result in the play area having to be closed.
Woodlands Lower Llantwit Fardre	Entrance Path	Surface repairs – possibly relay. Also needs a bin to be placed in the play area.
Tonteg Park	Goal Posts	Metal Corrosion
	Perimeter Fence	Showing signs of excessive corrosion.
	Bin	Replace bin
	Gates x2	No longer meets British Standards
	Spring Toys	All spring toys have been removed – look to replace with new toys or equipment
	Surface Area	Surface area inside and outside the play area needs to be repaired
The Ridings Tonteg	Chain Link Fence	Needs to be replaced
	Over-hanging Tree	Potential danger – The Clerk has contacted RCTCBC as the tree is not on this Council's land
Station Road Church Village	Bin	Install new bin
	Hip Hop Surface	Look to replace surface surrounding the Hip Hop with wet pour or tiger mulch

2.4 Following the findings of the Inspectorate, the priority areas are:-

1. Woodlands Upper, Llantwit Fardre
2. Tonteg Park
3. The Ridings, Tonteg
4. Station Road, Church Village
5. Ysgol Ty Coch, Tonteg
6. Woodlands Lower, Llantwit Fardre
7. Efail Isaf Village Hall
8. The Dell, Tonteg

## 2.5 **Surfacing/Accessibility**

2.5.1 As Members can see from the table shown at paragraph 2.3 of the report, the surfacing and access to some of the play areas need attention, and particular concerns have been expressed in respect of the wheelchair/pushchair access to the park located in the Village Hall, Efail Isaf which was a point of discussion at the last meeting of this Committee. The Chair of the Committee along with the General Services Manager and the Clerk visited this play area on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 and acknowledged that the area in question does need to have a suitable access for wheelchair and pushchair use and at the point of contact with the disabled swing could be surfaced with wetpour or tiger mulch alongside this piece of equipment.

2.5.2 Two complaints have also been received by users of Tonteg Park in respect of the surface areas both inside and outside of the play area.

2.5.3 As indicated in the table above, the access to Woodlands Lower also needs to be repaired.

2.5.4 Access to Ysgol Ty Coch play areas also needs to be improved.

## 2.6 **Tree Works**

2.6.1 On the 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 following the visit to the play area at Efail Isaf, the Chair of the Committee, the General Services Manager and the Clerk also visited The Ridings play area as concerns had been expressed by the Outside Operatives regarding a potentially dangerous tree which is overhanging the play area.

2.6.2 Following this visit the Clerk contacted the appropriate Officer at RCTCBC as the tree in question is on private land and concerns had been raised in October, 2021 to the same Officer. The response at that time was that there was good wood growth which had compensated for the rot on both sides.

2.6.3 It is two years since the concerns were emailed to RCTCBC and the cavity within the said tree has increased. A response is yet to be received from RCTCBC but as it is felt to be of danger then the services of a Tree Surgeon is to be sought and the tree in question to be removed.

## **2.7 Financial Support**

- 2.7.1 On the 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2023, the Clerk received an email from the Head of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools, RCTCBC indicating that Morgan Sindall the Contractors that are constructing the new school (Llanilltud Faerdref) have asked if we wish for them to provide some support to the Community Council either financially or carrying out some works. This is as a result of the disruption caused due to the ongoing works such as the closure of the car park for a three week period during the month of August.
- 2.7.2 The Clerk has responded with a potential 'wish list' for the repair works to the surfacing/access to the play areas at the Village Hall, Efail Isaf, Tonteg Park, Ysgol Ty Coch and Woodlands Lower. The supply of goal posts have also been requested for installation at Station Road, Church Village.
- 2.7.3 A further suggestion has also been made by a Member that the possibility of placing BMX ramps on an area of land at Ysgol Ty Coch as this would not cause any disruption to neighbouring properties and would be a facility for the older child.
- 2.7.4 Members are asked to give further suggestions in order that an appropriate proposal can be given to Morgan Sindall for their consideration following the matter being presented to full Council.

## **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are requested to:-

- 3.1 agree to the Work Programme as outlined in paragraph 2.4 of the report and to the issues outlined in the table at paragraph 2.3;
- 3.2 obtain quotes for a multi-play unit to be installed at Woodlands Upper;
- 3.3 obtain quotes for two bins to be placed at Tonteg Park and Station Road play areas;
- 3.4 agree to the surfacing works to be carried out at the play areas as outlined in paragraph 5.1 of the report and if not undertaken by Morgan Sindall, as outlined in paragraph 2.6.2 then quotes be sought (at the time of writing the report a response had not been received as to whether the request would be granted);
- 3.5 agree that quotes be sought for a new gate to be installed at The Ridings play area;
- 3.6 agree to the action taken in respect of the dangerous tree at The Ridings play area as outlined in paragraph 2.6 of the report;
- 3.7 that the offer from Morgan Sindall be considered and that the matter be presented to Council in order that all Members have the opportunity to give

suggestions in order that an appropriate proposal can be given to Morgan Sindall for their consideration.

