

Play Equipment at three sites

Longwater Grounds

The successful removal of two pieces of equipment was supervised by Cadent, and the ground was seeded and has repaired well. A suitable area for equipment is to the east of the fenced under 5s area between the picnic bench and Daynes Wood.

- 1, The 'yellow tub' which was removed on 24th May is in good condition and can be re-installed. A small area of wet pour surfacing will be required.
- 2, An old set of wooden swings has been removed. A much newer perfectly good set of steel swings remain. To offer more variety a type of two-seater see-saw has been identified on a supply only basis.

Both installations will require groundworks and wet pour with trench edging. The council has previously experienced problems with playground surfacing but two companies used in recent years completed satisfactory works. CTC will manage the contract to install the equipment, surfacing and arrange an independent inspection.

Costs:

Supply and delivery of one piece of equipment (Proludic ref J2410A *) - £4105,79

* Other suppliers offer similar products. The quote is valid until December so gives us further time to check it is the best option.

CTC will sub-contract the groundworks, surfacing and inspection estimated at £5,000.

Breckland Park

Remove and replace Wooden Trim Trial and lay new wetpour surfacing

Four companies responded to a brief and the Proludic IXO range became the front runner. Working closely with three Councillors and the Deputy Clerk, a series of site-visits and meetings took place to further develop the project. An important factor was to ensure the new installation avoided a foul waste pipe and did not get any closer to the football pitches. Prices of play equipment have increased during 2021 and the cost of removing and disposing of the old equipment is considerable.

Proludic have recently installed £65k of equipment at Breckland Park which was mainly funded by Developer Contributions and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The project did overrun slightly and there were some issues to overcome, lessons learnt and snags to rectify. Overall, the works were completed satisfactory and of course most importantly it is well liked and used by the children.

A bench and bin have been added to the quote at no additional cost. A discount and bag of spares will be included.

The equipment is aimed at juniors aged 9 to 12, but some aspects are suitable for over 6s. It can be used by up to 42 children at once using 22 play functions. It is a vast improvement on the existing equipment which is 25 years old and has had sections removed over the past year which failed inspections. CTC will prescribe the use of RTC for the wet pour surfacing with trench edging, as all their previous work at CTC sites was completed satisfactorily.

£57,226.22 Plus VAT *

To sub-contact the ground works to an alternative company could complicate the project if they were not completed correctly or in time. Listed as '**Optional Extras**' these will be completed as phased one and invoiced separately. The Head Groundsman and Deputy Clerk visited the site daily during the May/June works and developed a good relationship with the Proludic Project Manager and sub-contractors.

£6073.60 Plus VAT

* Note: A CIL Payment is due in October (amount unknown - it may be zero)

Queen's Hills Poethlyn Drive

The fenced play areas on Fairway and Poethlyn Drive are maintained by South Norfolk Council and await legal transfer to CTC. They were both installed 8 to 10 years ago by Proludic and are in good condition. Both play areas are popular but there is no 'toddler' equipment at either park or any of the developments open spaces. The fenced play area on Fairway is full, but there is space within the fenced area on Poethlyn Drive. A fully inclusive centre piece will immediately be popular and support children with disabilities. A made-up path will ensure full accessibility and Proludic are including a bench and to renew the climbing features on the existing equipment at no cost. CTC will prescribe the use of RTC for the wet pour surfacing with trench edging, as all their previous work at CTC sites was completed satisfactorily.

Many play equipment providers offer similar experiences like buses and planes. The current equipment within the fenced play areas was installed by Proludic, so the bin lorry will match in style. Another important factor is that the SNC Groundworks Sub-contractors also undertake remedial works and regular equipment inspections for equipment owned by South Norfolk Council.

£46,493.94 Plus VAT *

* Note: **£29,194.98** of CIL has already been allocated to new play equipment at Queen's Hills.

* Note: A CIL Payment is due in October (amount unknown - it may be zero)

South Norfolk Council's Community Assets Management Officer has verbally said they have no objection to CTC funding new equipment on any of the Queen's Hills Play Areas. Written confirmation is still required.

CTC has sought advice from Norton Legal who are dealing with the conveyancing of all the play areas. A response is pending.

CTC will add the equipment to its main insurance policy and consider using the SNC play inspection contractor for regular equipment checks whilst we await legal handover.

N Bailey

15 Sept 2021