

# **FROYLE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Playground and Hut Replacement Project**

Dear Resident

The Parish Council is considering a bold new project to improve facilities on the recreation ground in Lower Froyle and would welcome your input . The playground and recreation ground is a community facility so your views on what it should look like really matter. We intend to apply for a number of funding grants and knowing that we have your support for the scheme is vital to our chances of success. The last thing that we want to do is to provide something that you don't want.



**We propose to renew the Playground and replace the Hut.**

The pirate ship, the cradle swing and the zip wire which were installed in 2013 will be retained but the rest of the equipment is showing its age and will be removed. Years of accumulated bark will be dug out and replaced with stone, top soil and turf. This area will be allowed to settle for a couple of months and then new equipment will be installed together with safety matting. The reason for replacing the bark with turf is that although expensive it will reduce maintenance costs in the longer term. We also think it will look much more attractive and should be just as safe.

We are planning to retain the traditional look of the present playground and to source equipment from a local supplier, *Hand Made Places* based in Bordon, whose woody equipment should sit well in our rural setting. Go to [www.handmadeplaces.co.uk](http://www.handmadeplaces.co.uk) and scroll down and you will find a link to their brochure/catalogue. Let us know what you would like to see installed.

No decision has yet been made about the choice of equipment but it might include a two bay double swing as at present, a rope and post climbing area, a seesaw and a cow springy!



**Secondly, for many years the Parish Council has pondered on what to do with the football hut. It's seemed at times an almost insuperable problem.**



The last team departed a long time ago and there have been few expressions of interest since. It requires substantial renovation including a new roof. The loo, urinals, basins and shower area all need to be replaced. We are told that communal showers are no longer acceptable to the younger generation. We have therefore concluded that the hut is sadly not fit for use and beyond economic repair. As it gradually decays it detracts from the look of the village hall and the recreation ground.

Our plan is to remove the hut but retain the concrete base. On this, if funds permit, we propose to build an attractive three bay oak framed structure. The bay at the car park end could be enclosed to include storage and more ambitiously a field kitchen with sinks, stove and fridge. The other two bays will be open on two sides and provide a sheltered sitting area for those visiting the playground, a meeting place or a picnic spot. The table tennis table could be used here. On fete day or bonfire night the barbecue might be located here with kitchen facilities nearby. Unlike the hut it will be a facility available to all.

The village hall will also benefit from the proposed changes as it frequently hosts children's parties and the new playground plus the sitting area should make the hall even more attractive to hirers. And this of course helps sustain the hall. At a recent meeting the Village Hall Committee expressed support for the project and an interest in being involved.



For illustrative purposes. No window but a door. Timber clad to the ground and at the rear.

The Parish Council has accumulated reserves to help fund the project. We also have access to Open Space money which is provided by local developers. Together this amounts to approximately 65% of the estimated £100k we need. We have already applied to IGAS for a funding and intend to apply to Veolia, both of whom have sites within or close to the parish. We shall of course approach our District and County Councillors who in the past have always been supportive of and generous towards village projects. It is undoubtedly the case that funding is much harder to acquire than previously and competition for funds more intense. Funding from the Big Lottery is now much more narrowly focused. We are taking advice from Community First Hampshire. Suggestions for other potential sources of funding would be very welcome.

However what we most need at the moment is your support for the general outline of the project and any suggestions or advice you wish to make. Looking back to the Parish Plan survey the 92% response rate was terrific and certainly put Froyle on the map as one of the most involved communities in the District.

**Could we therefore ask you to email your thoughts on the proposal to the Parish Clerk at [froyleparishclerk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:froyleparishclerk@yahoo.co.uk)**

**Or write to The Parish Clerk, Crabtree Gate, Well Lane, Lower Froyle, Alton, Hants GU34 4LR.**

**If you wish to discuss the project and how you might help please ring Ian Macnabb on 23195 or Nick Whines on 23130.**

It is important that you respond by **Wednesday 15 March 2017** in order that we can process your comments and include them in our main funding applications. We look forward to hearing from you.



A cow springy!