

Appendix B

Statement from Madley Park Residents Association re. enhanced Children and Young people's facilities on Madley Park

For the attention of the meeting of WODC Cabinet on Wednesday 14th June 2017

Madley Park is a community of 1200 Homes, now 15 years on from the first homes being built.

Madley Park Residents Association was founded around 13 years ago to represent the views of residents to various stakeholders and seek to build a strong community with good relationships and good facilities.

The Residents Association initially started talking about improved facilities for our children and young people around six years ago. Initial conversations were focussed on our younger teenagers, an increasing group on Madley Park and a welcome part of the life of our community, as we have seen the children of many young families on Madley Park grow through to teenage years.

There are currently no organised facilities for our teenagers and the need and vocalisation of that need has grown much stronger since our initial conversations started. During this period, the existing children's facilities on Cedar Drive was identified by many of our younger families as in need of replacement and repair. It was therefore decided to look at the two as a joint project, and adjacent.

A site for our teenager's activity area was identified on the playing field next to Wood Green and Madley Brook Schools owned by West Oxfordshire District Council.

At an early stage, Madley Park Resident's Association worked closely with the District Council, Town Council and local police to ensure provision was safe and sustainable.

It is of course important that it is well used, and there followed several consultations formal and informal over 3-4 years on the type of equipment favoured in both the teenagers' and children's play areas. These conversations inform the play area design provided.

The design has also been influenced by comments from nearby residents and those living on Madley Park. We have been very conscious in our conversations to include all views in arriving at a solution that is a balanced compromise between the needs of the younger member of our community and those who live nearby. A lot of time and effort has been expended on all sides in seeking to achieve this. In the process, this has meant we have limited the facilities for our younger children to the existing footprint. For our teenagers, we have removed the proposed graffiti wall, modified the youth shelter and worked with a limited version of a skate and scooter area, which along with the zip wire, proved the most popular pieces of equipment with our young people. We are also incorporating design modifications, in line with police advice.

We do recognise the value of good youth work to accompany facilities provided. We have therefore engaged local youth organisation, Base 33, to work with us now, building relationships with our young people and encouraging them in good and positive activities. They have been working with us on a detached basis for several months and provided valuable input to the process as well as improving our reach in the consultation with Young People.

In anticipation of the cost, we will be looking to raise funds from within our own community and from external funding sources. People have volunteered their time to support us in any funding applications.