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Kouy Young

From: Philip Emmet [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 June 2021 13:40
To: Mike Balbini
Cc: Kouy Young
Subject: Play Area Fulbrook Avenus.

Hi both

I have received a enquiry from a resident regarding the play area mentioned above she is complaining about the poor finish of the construction.

Can this be added as an agenda item for the next R and A committee meeting so that it can be discussed and recommendations made to the developer for improvements

Regards

Phil

Dear Philip

I felt I must contact a member of Shinfield Parish council after my experience yesterday at the playground just off Hyde End Lane.

I visited for the first time with my grandson and was appalled at the area inside the playground that didn't have the safety surfaces. These areas were just weeds and it didn't appear that any attempt had been made to landscape them, apart from two small areas at the entrance where bark had been laid. This was also sprouting weeds. Under one of the pieces of play equipment there was an abundance of thistles growing. The whole area look tatty and uncared for. It makes a mockery of the flyer we received recently about developing the facilities at the Recreation ground in Spencers Wood.

My second concern is about the verges and kerb side weeds that are totally spoiling the area. My main concern is around the roads off Apple Tree lane. I have already contacted Wokingham council about this issues on 25 May but as yet no action has taken place. The overgrown areas are a regular issue as they are never dealt with effectively and efficiently.

Having lived in Spencers Wood for over 30years I'm sad to see the areas not being maintained as it used to be.

I hope you are able to help with my concerns.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Morning Philip

Thank you for your response to my email. With regard to the issues I'd like to make the following points:-

1) I have no problem with the safety surfaces, and never have, it's the unkept state of the surrounding areas within the parameter of the playground that I was highlighting.

2) Following on from the above point, I have concerns from a Health & Safety aspect. Wildlife, vermin and ticks can access these weedy and overgrown areas which could be a serious hazard to children.

3) I must comment that I'm aghast that Shinfield Parish council have no control over this facility. This leads me to ask who has control over it to ensure that health and safety requirements are met and adhered to? What part if any do Wokingham council play in this issue?

4) In respect of the weeds problem as stated in my previous email, with respect this is not a two week issue but has been ongoing for at least 10 years. In my view and indeed other people within the village to whom I've spoken the procedures to remove the weeds need reassessing, as currently they are totally inadequate.

I look forward to receiving your response to the issues I have highlighted.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I have been to have a look at the play area again today. The weeds have been cut back but the overall appearance is still in my opinion substandard.

The fence surrounding the play area is similar to that around other play areas locally. Although it is possible for wildlife vermin and ticks to get inside the facility I could see no visible signs of this occurring at this location nor have I heard of it being a problem in the parish.

The play area is on land owned by the developer. The equipment has been provided by them and they would be responsible for its upkeep and maintenance and all health and safety issues including insurance. I suspect that at some stage (if they haven't done it already) the developer will pass on this responsibility to an estate management company as they do with grass cutting and other routine maintenance of the estate. Any local resident is able to make comments or suggestions to the developer as is Shinfield Parrish Council. I will ask that this matter is added to the agenda for the next Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting so that we can Make recommendations for improvement to the facility. Wokingham Borough Council will have approved the design of the facility prior to it being built, they will have made recommendations as to the suitability of the equipment and design. They will have ensured that it meets the criteria and regulations that are currently required.

Regarding your issue with weeds over the last ten Years. The problems is borough wide and I expect it is due to cost cutting policies by Wokingham Borough Council. I hope that by now you problem has been dealt with, if not I suggest that you report the matter repeatedly until its resolved to your satisfaction. The Parish have limited ability to deal with this problem as we are restricted on what we are able to do. ie we are not permitted to work on roads or verges. Our staff have where possible been concentrating on keeping public footpaths open over the last month or so.

Regards

Phil