

Sparsholt School Playground Update

March 2017



You will have seen various updates about what's happening with upgrading the children's playground over the last few months. This newsletter has been written by the Sub-committee who are responsible for directing the various aspects of the upgrade. We want to ensure you are aware of all progress to date and that you know who to contact if you have questions or ideas.

The Sub-committee are Mrs McCarthy, Mrs Laver, Rob Ainsworth, Debbie Caldwell and Nikki Prentice-Jones. You can contact any one of us if you have comments or feedback to take into consideration for the project.

Contents

What's the role of the Sub-Committee?	1
What's happened so far?	1/2
How much is it going to cost?	2
What's next?	2
Fundraising update	3

What's the role of the Sub-committee?

We are focused on ensuring that:

- All available playground space is maximised using the most appropriate design.
- The standard of all the work and equipment is to the highest quality with associated warranties. All work will be approved by National Playground Inspectors and Hampshire County Council.
- Due diligence is followed in the selection of the companies to carry out the work.
- A range of equipment is provided – the choice of which will be led by the children with adult guidance.
- Sports equipment storage is maintained & where possible improved.
- The parents feedback is taken into consideration and we communicate back on how the requests have been incorporated into the project.
- Updates are communicated at all key points of the upgrade.
- The playground is being paid by fundraising efforts and grant donations from FoSS. The money has to be in the bank before work can be carried out. We don't have all the money upfront so the work has to be done in a phased approach. Currently there are 3 phases. We decide what to include in each phase based on the money available. We plan for the next phase based on what is forecast to be raised for the remainder of this year.

What's happened so far?

We have met several times since January and on Thursday 9th March chose a Hampshire County Council approved local company to carry out Phase 1 and 3 of the work in the Easter holidays!

This is the culmination of a lot of hard work and long hours gathering quotes and ensuring the work meets all the criteria we've outlined above.

Next Parent Community Meeting

**Friday 17th March 2016
08:45 in the Hall**

- ◆ All very welcome and please come along if you can!!
- ◆ We will cover the next 2 major fundraisers.
- ◆ We will also walk you through plans for the playground.
- ◆ If you can't make the meeting but would like to contribute ideas/help, let us know, email: – friendsofsparsholtsschool@gmail.com

Upcoming Events for the playground fund

◆ **April/May – Date tbc**
Children's Film night with refreshments in the Hall. Guaranteed fun! £5 per child.....hoping to raise £350.

◆ **20th May**
Clarendon Way – 13 mile walk/fun run. Do come and join in the fun! Aiming to raise £5k with your sponsorship & entry fees, matched funding & refreshments at the end.

◆ **Class Cake Sales** – each class to take part and organised by your Class Reps.

◆ **More fundraising events**
TBD after the next FoSS Parent Meeting on 17th March. If you have any suggestions or can help, email friendsofsparsholtsschool@gmail.com.

Here is a potted history to date:

December 2016

Mrs McCarthy circulated an initial design and request for ideas and feedback in December. Thank you for all your input – a letter confirming the school response to your requests went out to you on 13th February.

January 2017

1st Meeting: We discussed 5 quotes received, design ideas, health & safety and timings to carry out the work versus the FoSS money available.

February 2017

2nd/3rd Meetings: We discussed the design and new information from revised quotes. A final 2 Hampshire County Council approved companies were asked to put in final quotes covering all phases of the work based on cost, design, availability, references and quality of work.

March 2017

4th Meeting: The 2 final quotes were considered and we have awarded the work to Vita Play, a local company based in Kings Worthy. They will carry out the first phase of the work in the Easter Holidays and be considered for the final phase.

How much is it going to cost?

The work for the playground is to be funding entirely by FoSS fundraising and donations. The most competitive quotes for the total playground refurbishment have come in at approximately £28k.

We currently have £15k in the FoSS account. We anticipate an approx £10k minimum will be raised through fundraising events & activities as well as grant applications by July 2017.

What's next?

Phase 1 and 3 will happen in the Easter Holidays, ready for the Summer Term.

This will involve 2 areas of the playground.

Phase 1. At the far end of the playground - removal of the current equipment and some vegetation, filling in the old cesspit & levelling the ground. The area will become a multi games pitch with astro turf surface which will extend to the fence line.

Phase 3. The area where there are currently raised flower beds, situated on the left-hand side looking from Beech & Oak class. This will become a Quiet Play area. The surface will be prepared (trees to stay), retainers for the slope area and new surfacing installed.

Phase 2 – When the funds are available, the area where the sheds are currently placed will become an activity trail area. The sports equipment storage will be moved to D area.

It's easier to visualize when you can see a design! This will be provided by Vita Play and be displayed on the board in the school reception area for you to see by 17th March.

We will use the school reception board area to post visual updates during the project so do go in and have a look.

Here's our contact information if you have any feedback:

FoSS Email:
friendsofsparsholtschool@gmail.com

School Email:
adminoffice@sparsholt.hants.sch.uk

Debbie - 07990 518863

Nikki - 07710 476726

Fundraising Update

There is £15k in the FoSS bank account to date.

The team, in particular Kerry Rawson and Debbie Caldwell, have been working hard to secure money via grants as well as fundraising events. So far FoSS has received the following (accounted & in the bank):

- £1000 – Councillor Grant
- £1000 – Round Table grant
- £500 – Aviva
- The team are also working on 2 further grant applications, Tesco Bags for School and The Big Lotto....fingers crossed for both!

The main fundraiser for this term will be 20th May - Clarendon Way – 13 mile walk/fun run event. Aiming to raise £5k with your sponsorship & entry fees, matched funding & refreshments at the end. Please do support it and come and join the fun!!

Also planned:

- April/May (date to be confirmed) - Children's Film night with refreshments in the Hall. Guaranteed fun! £5 per child....hoping to raise £350.
- Ongoing – class cake sales.....hoping to raise £200.

Summer Term:

- School Productions are projected to raise £1.5k
- More ideas to be discussed at the next FoSS Parent meeting on 17th March, do come along!

As ever, please help in whatever way you can for our children to have the playground they deserve! A huge thanks for all your amazing efforts so far....let's keep the momentum going and get the playground finished in 2017!!