

Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)

Current Situation:

Work to repair the damaged tarmac area, remove and dispose of the delapidated basket ball hoop and supply and install green Bow Top fencing to a height of 1.2m (**Min. 21.09.18** refers) was completed in February.

In January 2022, (**Min. 22.01.10.4** refers), the parish council:

noted an update on progress (previously circulated as [WPC.22.01.07](#)) to re-develop the old MUGA space for Outdoor Fitness Equipment. Cllrs considered the proposals set out in the report and confirmed, in accordance with the Estates Committee's recommendation its preferred option was the installation of

- low level cardiovascular equipment, with no requirement to re-surface the existing tarmac; and*
- An additional Timber Gym Station, which could be sited just outside of the fenced area.*

And that the parish should proceed with a consultation based on the option set out by Proludic, which offered accessibility to a wide range of users and abilities, together with the support of a mobile application, and options to attract funding through the widened accessibility councillors considered this was available in this option. The consultation would include an explanation of approximate costs and the implications of moving to individual equipment stations.

Following this meeting, Proludic supplied at the clerk's request additional information on low level cardiovascular equipment options, to enable a broader consultation on the types of equipment that local residents might wish to see installed, and establish the level of support for the project. At the same time, they indicated that, due to inflationary pressures, there would be a likely increase over the original costs quoted.

The parish council held a pop-up consultation in its gazebo at the Wickhambrook Fete and Flower Show on 9th July, and used this as an opportunity to engage further with local residents about the proposals for redeveloping the old MUGA, and the possible long term development of a new MUGA at another site on Six Acres. (Copies of the engagement materials are attached at **Appendix A**).

The General ideas board garnered six responses, summarised below:

Outdoor Fitness Area	Give back the basket ball court
Six Acres & Recreation Ground	Goal posts Secure dog area on field for exercise etc. Secure dog area for exercise & training A wall to kick a football against.
Skate Park	Make the skate park floor useable

When asked about options for low level fitness equipment (looking at six pieces overall), the votes are summarised below:

Rowing Machine	Elliptical Trainer	Hydraulic Leg Press	Hydraulic Squat	Hydraulic Shoulder Press
(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Ab Bench	Chin-up and Dip	The Twister Pendule	Velo Spinning	Hand Cycle
(2)	(1)	Nil	(2)	Nil

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The responses are not statistically significant.

Anecdotally, however, based on reported conversations at the engagement event, it does not seem that either the proposal for an outdoor fitness area or new MUGA space has strong support at this stage. Because the cost of any new outdoor fitness would be likely to exceed £25,000, and therefore be subject to The Public Contracts Regulations 2015, and would need to attract significant external grant funding, it is important to be able to establish a good level of support from the parish before developing the project further. It may be that a smaller scale project would attract more support from residents of the parish.

At its July meeting, Councillors considered an update on the redevelopment of the old MUGA space (previously circulated as [WPC.22.07.08](#)) and, noting that there did not currently appear to be enough support from parish residents for outdoor fitness, asked the clerk to undertake a further consultation on options for recreation space in the parish which took into account the feedback received at recent community engagement events, and report back to the Estates Committee in September.

The clerk set up an [on-line survey](#) over the summer with both open and closed questions, to gather more information. This was advertised through Parish Pump, The Scene, the parish council website, face book and Clerk newsletter. No responses were received. There is insufficient information from the consultations to justify any application for grant funding at present, or significant spending on new leisure/recreation equipment.

Suggestions from councillors for consideration, based on an initial review of the feedback from the pop-up consultation in July include:

- Purchase of a new basket ball hoop to be sited on or near the old games space (approximately £800.00 plus VAT)
- Investigate sustainable boarding which could be installed for balls to be kicked against (Rebound walls £150 - £250 plus VAT)
- Purchase of smaller goal posts (21' x 7') and marking up of a junior sized pitch on Six Acres (a pop up goal post costs in the region of £250 plus VAT).

An initial search indicates costs in the region of £1550 plus VAT.

£5000.00 is allocated in the current budget (Projects – Teen Project – MUGA & SP Replacement).

The parish council has the following powers:

- Power to provide and maintain land for public recreation - Public Health Act 1875, s.164
- Power to provide sports facilities and staff in or outside of the council's area or contribute towards the expenses of any voluntary organisation or local authority that provides sports facilities etc. in or outside of the council's area - Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19

A further direct online consultation, perhaps liaising with Wickhambrook Primary Academy to reach parents of children in the parish, to gauge support for example, for the suggestions, could be undertaken in time to consider expenditure in the next financial year.

Reports:

WPC.EC.22.09.05
[WPC.22.07.10](#)
[WPC.22.01.07](#)
[WPC.EC.21.12.03](#)
[WPC.EC.21.10.03](#)
[WPC.EC.21.08.05](#)
[WPC.21.09.10](#)

Minutes:

EC.22.09.12
22.07.17
22.01.10.4
21.12.11
21.10.10
21.09.18
EC.21.08.12

Hilary Workman
Clerk & RFO
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