

## **8. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY**

### **Background**

At the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Members received an update on work carried out so far by Earley Town Council since the transfer of the Collins Drive (Sibly) open spaces from Persimmon Developers.

As part of that update, the Committee were informed that the condition of the toddlers' play area is so poor that nothing can be salvaged, ETC will need to start from scratch to provide a useful and compliant play area for the local children.

Officers have met with play equipment providers to scope out what could be possible in what is a relatively small space and an initial consultation will soon be held with Sibly residents to gauge their preferences in terms of appearance and types of play equipment, ie climbing, imaginative, slides and so on. Residents will be consulted again once draft plans have been drawn up. It should be noted that whenever ETC officers visit the site, local residents have been keen to engage and have been very positive about the work ETC is doing there. Once a final play scheme has been agreed, the project will go out to tender before a decision on play equipment provider is made.

The play equipment providers have been assisting officers with creating the consultations (FOC) and will also assist with the tender process. New fencing, signage, seating and planting will form part of the project.

### **Costs**

£35,000 of the original S106 monies were dedicated in the agreement to the 'Play Area'. Whilst, at the point of transfer, ETC also received some index linking on top of this sum (£19,752), the Town Council will be responsible for this site in perpetuity and no further funds for upkeep will be received. Although we do not have an exact cost for the replacement of this facility, it is expected to be in the region of £50,000. This will cover the new equipment, safety surfacing, replacement fencing and seating. It is envisaged that ETC staff will do as much of the preparatory work in-house to keep costs down.

### **Policy and Resources Committee – Recommendation**

*That the remaining Town Council's CIL monies with a spending deadline of April 2024, a sum of £22,184.53, be used to part-fund the replacement toddlers' playground project at Collins Drive.* This will reduce the amount of S106 monies ETC will need to spend on the initial replacement of the facility.

Councillors have been provided with an up-to-date schedule of Earley Town Council's Community Infrastructure Levy funds.

Members to discuss and to **RESOLVE** accordingly.