

## REPORT 23.064(2) SYCAMORE DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS

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### **BACKGROUND**

In March 2023, after a formal tender process, the Parish Council resolved to appoint Wicksteed Leisure to install a new play area at Sycamore Drive, Bishopdown Farm for a total cost of £89,521. Part of the requirements of the tender was for the winning contractor to host a public presentation of their plans, and to seek feedback on their design. This was held on 26<sup>th</sup> April at Greentrees Junior School.

### **SUMMARY**

Many parents and children attended the event, along with Parish Council officers and councillors, and a representative from Wicksteed. There were an awful lot of comments that said they loved 'all of it', with the Treetops unit and Crusader swing the favourites. There was nothing that the children or parents said they didn't like.

The feedback from comments received can be summarised as:

#### Trampoline

Lots of requests to incorporate a trampoline. However, as a Parish Council we have had bad experiences with trampolines in the past – higher risk, high maintenance and a target for vandalism.

#### Climbing wall

Several requests for the climbing wall on the tower feature to be made bigger.

#### Monkey Bars

Several requests for the Monkey Bars to be longer.

#### Seating

Some of the parents asked for more seating, perhaps centrally so they could get a better view of the whole area.

In consultation with Wicksteed, we are not proposing to add a trampoline.

The Monkey Bars cannot be extended as the span between supports would be too great.

The climbing feature on the tower unit (1.7m tall) cannot be increased as it terminates on a fixed platform.

By removing two of the 'stepping posts' a curved bubble wall of 2.4m in height could be accommodated, providing additional upper body activity. The additional cost would be £3024.78.

This would also accommodate a new arrangement of the equipment so that the proposed seating could be placed centrally within the play area.

Since issuing the Invitation to Tender for Sycamore Drive, additional CIL and Play Area funds for Bishopdown Farm have been received. Some have been spent on fencing and turf at St Peters and St Lukes Play Areas, and reinstating the cricket wicket on The Green to grass. However, sufficient funding remains to meet this additional cost.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the council resolves to approve the additional cost of £3024.78 to Wicksteed Leisure for the addition of a curved bubbled climbing wall.