

Gotham Road Playground – August Update in response to Social Media

The Parish Council is frustrated at the lack of progress on getting the fenced playground back into use. It is not for want of trying!

The amount of remedial work is substantial. It will involve removing the rubber surface, potentially removing some of the equipment, excavating the ground to install a reinforcing layer of stone and then reinstalling the rubber surface and any moved equipment. The cost runs to many tens of thousands of pounds.

In order to give us the best chance of recovering this (your) money from the original supplier through the courts, we have to ensure we follow correct procedures. The final stage of this is to seek agreement from the supplier to a joint expert report (deadline imminent). Once the report has been produced as evidence of the shortcomings, remedial work will start without waiting for the result of any court proceedings.

I should clarify some misconceptions in social media:

- The £80,000 suggested for a play area on the “Flowers” estate (Kingston Banks) is not Parish Council money, but S106 money from the developer held by Rushcliffe. It cannot be spent repairing the Gotham Road playground.
- Parish Councillors are all volunteers and receive no money for their work.
- Anybody who has evidence of alleged “backhanders” being paid to councillors should report it to the authorities.
- Parish Councillors also have children / grandchildren and have a keen interest in getting things sorted.

We are all concerned to get the matter resolved as quickly as possible, and are working very hard in difficult circumstances. Remember that you can **ALWAYS** ask the Parish Council for information about this or any other matter. Although the office is physically closed at present because of Covid-19, the telephone and emails are answered.

Conrad Oatey
Chairman, East Leake Parish Council
18 August 2020