

Proposal to improve the external areas of OneStonegrove

The external area of our centre is currently covered with a hard permeable covering, and is used as a play area for the youth club & other local children, plus also an occasional overflow car park. The surface was provided as an ideal compromise for the two purposes, but unfortunately has turned out to be not ideal for either as follows:

- 1) The surface is very hard, so not ideal for playing on.
- 2) The car parking usage has loosened and damaged the top layer of the surface, making it slippery to play on, and over time unusable.

We have engaged a number of suppliers, and discussed options with staff, volunteers, residents & users. We have put together a plan for the external area, and now have robust quotes in place so are ready to move forward once funds are available.

Our plans for the outside area are as follows:

- 1) New fencing to replace current damaged fencing. This will be 1.2m high for protection and visibility, green metal fencing to match the building and surrounds. It will not completely contain the area, but in consultation with the nursery on site, we have planned it to give better security which will allow the nursery to use the area more frequently during the day, when it is currently underused.

- 2) New play surface.

We will be laying a sports carpet finish, which will be soft for falls, and good for a variety of activities and sports. It also provides a critical fall height protection of two metres, which is easily adequate for the equipment planned, and the current walls/benches that children might fall off of.

- 3) Basketball hoop

While the area is not large enough for a full sports pitch, we can install a basketball hoop, which has been requested by centre users. We will provide basketballs free to borrow for anyone wishing to use it, directly from our reception.

- 4) Parkletics exercise equipment

This specially designed exercise equipment is robust, low maintenance (20yr warranty) and designed to provide opportunities for strength and fitness development through body-weight exercise. This type of exercise is good for all fitness levels. The equipment is suitable for ages 14yrs +, and will also double up as play equipment for younger children, as encourage exploration and imaginative play.

The price of the equipment includes training for local residents to become instructors, and access to a mobile app that provides instruction on using the equipment, and allows us to engage residents in organised sessions. Together with our community partners the Hive Foundation, we will be running weekly structured sessions on the equipment. We will also provide paper-based exercise sheets from the reception for those who do not wish to use the app.

<http://parkletics.com/>

Budget:

The total cost of the above is £35,530. We are requesting a £25,000 contribution, and have applied for £10,000 from Sport England. We hope to install the equipment Autumn/Winter this year.

Parkletics equipment, including install = £17,200

Safety/Sports surface = £15,120

Fencing = £2,760

Basketball hoop & accessories = £450

Benefits of this project:

Before the Stonegrove estate construction, there were open spaces and a play park closer to people's homes here. Creating this new multi-use area will encourage exercise across all ages on our estate,

increasing physical and mental well-being amongst residents, and bringing a not very well used area into regular use. Specifically this project will benefit:

- 1) Little Leaders nursery
With the improved play area available during the day, our on-site nursery serving local families will have enhanced opportunities available for outside play, and over time will be able to increase their overall intake.
- 2) Youth club
Our youth club that operates four evenings per week use this area regularly, even in its current state. These changes will reduce the risk of injuries, increase activities that can be provided, and get young people outside more often, increasing their well-being and reducing obesity.
- 3) Local residents
 - a) Adults
The most often requested facility that we do not have the space for in our centre is a gym. By providing the outdoor gym equipment we are providing the opportunity for structured exercise close to home, with various options (sessions, mobile app, paper-based) so that individuals can choose how to engage with the opportunity.
 - b) Young people
The young people in our estate have very little open space to play on, and so we have a responsibility to make the most of what we do have. The improved surface and basketball hoop will open up additional outdoor sports activity options for them.
 - c) Families and children
This area will provide an always accessible flexible play area for children and families. Whilst we cannot provide fixed play equipment with the space restrictions, we plan to explore providing non-fixed equipment for use, plus over time developing structured outdoor sessions for all ages.

We hope that you will consider our proposal favourably and look forward to hearing back from you. For any questions or queries on the above please contact our CEO Gus Alston

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