

7 STAPLECROSS PLAYING FIELD: GOALMOUTH, POSSIBLE PERIMETER TRACK AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Following the installation of the double swings for older children/adults, the Outdoor Play Equipment WG (Cllrs Gareth Matthews, Mould – and the Clerk) met at the field on 28 July to consider future initiatives and works.

A Possible perimeter all-weather track Given that the indicative cost a year ago was in the range £36k-£43k – and it is likely costs will have risen since – the WG considered that, before further time is allocated to this matter, the Council needs to be confident that it would be used – and also that it is prepared to allocate sufficient time and (if necessary) funding. Funding from RDC's Community Grants Fund can no longer be relied upon – however, EPC could approach other potential funders (eg National Lottery, Tesco, Biffa, Dungeness, SE Water).

Prior to this, EPC might like to survey residents to establish likely track usage.

To accommodate a track, the goalmouth would need to be relocated further into the field.

B Goalmouth Regardless of whether or not the track suggestion is taken forward, the badly worn goalmouth is in need of urgent attention.

It is no longer possible to source 'deep cut' turf (used twice before). If the goal stayed where it is, standard turf would not survive being played on if temporary barriers were removed.

Artificial turf has been ruled out for a number of reasons – including: a small area is unlikely to survive long before needing to be replaced; environmental considerations; risk of friction burns and ligament damage, heat retention.

Repairs to the damaged area could be undertaken if the goalmouth was moved into the field (westwards) – or either side (north/south) of its current location. Ideally, in the long-term, the goalmouth would be moved north-south in rotation – however, this would require an additional ball containment panel. Moving the goalmouth into the field temporarily would not affect the Stoolball Club – it could move its boundary further west.

C Fencing on northern boundary (with woodland) This has been in a state of disrepair for many years. Ownership is unknown but likely to be EPC's responsibility. A number of 'temporary' Heras panels have been in place for some time.

D Children's Play Area The WG recommends that a bench ('wood effect' – recycled material) be installed on the north side. There is sufficient space and there is known demand from adults with younger children using the equipment.