

## **CRANNAFORD PLAY PARK – PATH REMEDIATION**

### **Introduction**

The Committee previously considered path remediation at Crannaford Play Area at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Minute A/23/48 refers. The Committee approved the removal of loose gravel and replacement of finer compacted dust to prevent migration onto the wet pour safer surface.

Earlier this year Officers received Operational Play Park Inspection Training with an accredited RPII (Register of Play Inspectors International) trainer, who identified an issue with the edge of the wet pour. This report provides an update and invites the Committee to consider if any further action should be taken in respect of the path at Crannaford Play Area.

### **Background**

The Committee will recall that the play area surface installed at Crannaford Park is Wet Pour. The wet pour surfacing, being a blended mix of rubber granules bound as a continuous surface, free of seams and joints is regarded as one of the safest surfaces used in play area design.

The perimeter footpath to the play area is made of finer compacted dust and following the path remediation during late summer 2023 there has been an improvement in the management of gravel migration and a reduction in the quantity of gravel/dust on the play area surface.

As part of the Officer's Operational Play Park Inspection Training, the trainer highlighted an issue with the edge of the wet pour safer surface where it meets the perimeter path and demonstrated that it was no longer bonded to the ground. The wet pour could be lifted which would result in significant damage to the play area surface and present potential risk as a trip hazard.

### **Options to Remediate**

Information has been sought from the Play Park Contractor who installed the play area and safer surface in 2022. The original installation team no longer works for the firm and a site meeting was held with the new representatives. The contractor recommended the installation of a pin kerb to remediate the edge of the wet pour and advised against doing nothing. The pin kerb would provide a bonded edge to secure the wet pour surface. An explanation together with a quotation is annexed to this report at Appendix A and B.

Further advice was sought from the Council's Ground Maintenance and Landscaping Contractor to see if there were alternative options for consideration. The landscaping Contractor confirmed that wet pour does retreat/shrink over time leaving a void between two distinct surfaces such as the path or tarmac. Grass is an alternative method to minimise the consequential shrinkage as the grass will creep and fill the void and reduce the issue of a potential trip hazard. The Committee will be aware that grass can present its own issues particularly following heavy rainfall but this is measured with the lower footfall

to the perimeter footpath in Crannaford Play Area where a grassed area might be acceptable.

The contractor suggested that the middle section of the perimeter path, defined as the area between the two sets of seating, to be grassed to the edge of the wet pour. The design would allow for the gravel path to remain at both entrances up to and including the seating area thereby retaining an all-weather surface to access the play area. A quotation is annexed to this report at Appendix C.

The third option is to take no action, but the Committee will note that the Play Park contractor advises against this, as previously advised in Appendix B.



### **Recommendation**

- 1. To approve the remediation of the interior section of perimeter footpath at Crannaford Play Park.**
- 2. To recommend to Council to instruct the Council's Ground Maintenance and Landscaping Contractor to replace the existing perimeter path to with grass as per quotation for £5,368.00**