

Radford Semele Annual Parish Meeting 2022

Annual Report on Playing Field and Play Equipment

Playground Equipment

The playground continues to be popular with parents and children and the play equipment is very well used.

Regular inspections of the equipment are carried out on a monthly basis. The annual safety inspection of the whole of the playing field site was undertaken by Wicksteed's inspector in February. Only minor maintenance works and additional warning signs for users are recommended which will be attended to over the coming months.

Over the last year three major items of work were undertaken on the playing field:

1. The installation of a new cableway (zip wire) and associated earthworks. The existing timber structure had reached the end of its useful life and was dismantled and a replacement 30 metre long steel structure erected in August. Earthworks were undertaken to remove the mound of earth at one end of the cableway to prepare a level platform for the new structure. Former Councillor Henry Marriott with the help of Parish Councillors completed this work in June. For safety reasons the excavated material was used to fill a non-drainage ditch by the old Lodge building on the Spring Lane path alongside the playing field boundary. Wicksteed supplied and erected the steel structure at a cost of £8,515 plus vat.

2. Refurbishment of the skateboard park. In October the ramps and galvanized steel rails were removed and repainted. New edgings were laid around the perimeter and the whole area overlaid with a free draining bituminous surfacing. The ramps and rails were then refitted. This work was carried out by local contractor C.J. and N.D. Wright at a cost of £10,375 plus vat.

3. The Outdoor Gym. An application by the Parish Council to HS2 resulted in the award of a £30,000 grant to set up an outdoor gym on the playing field for use by adults and youngsters over the age of 14 years. This money is from HS2's Community and Environmental Fund that is available to local communities and businesses that are demonstrably disrupted by the construction of Britain's new high speed railway between London and the West Midlands. A range of exercise equipment (12 items in total) was installed on the playing field behind the multi purpose games court. The equipment was supplied and erected by Proludic in October at a cost of £29,998 plus vat. An official opening event took place at the end of that month and it is planned to hold a similar event in June to promote the gym and demonstrate the use of the equipment.

The Playing Field Works

The playing field is owned and maintained by the Parish Council, including the children's play areas.

The grass is cut by contractors on a regular basis during the growing season and we work to ensure the field is safe to access and use. Litter on the playing field is also collected on a weekly basis.

The trees and shrubs around the perimeter of the grounds are regularly inspected and they are pruned when necessary to keep the growth in check.

Filling the ditch by the old Lodge created a wide verge adjacent to the Spring Lane track. Consultations with FoRGE identified solutions to allow infill of the ditch whilst at the same time sustaining a habitat for wildlife around that area.

The Parish Council decided to plant a number of young trees in this verge area to create an avenue. Eight of the trees are native (rowan, hazel and crab apple) and a further five are choice medium sized trees which flower in spring and have decorative fruit later with the autumn colour. In addition one splendid large tree was planted. This is a Liquidambar Styraciflua 'Worplesdon', a sweet gum tree with maple like leaves that turn to deep orange and yellow in the autumn. This particular tree was chosen for inclusion in the Queen's Green Canopy map for which the Parish Council has now received a virtual plaque.

Cllr. Brian Follett
Chairman of the Playing Field Committee