**14. Recreation Ground Play Equipment**

The play equipment at the Recreation Ground needs refurbishment, replacement and/or supplementing to remedy wear and tear, increase its accessibility and to part screen elements of it. The current equipment has been in place for up to 15 years. Cllrs Soanes and Mills, in their capacity as The Coddenham Centre (TCC) volunteers are assisting the centre’s trustees with the project.

An initial scope has been drafted, largely driven by comments made in the last formal inspection report of the current equipment. To ensure that the project delivers to the needs of the current users (and their parents) a survey is being undertaken, which is being door-dropped to each parish household and will be available at the recreation ground and at TCC.

Three suppliers have been approached to provide both suggestions for undertaking the work in the most cost-effective and environmentally sensitive manner and to submit overall costings/schedules of work. MSDC representatives have also been engaged to provide advice.

The project has already received grant offers of up to £10k each from the Day Foundation and Gardemau. However, financial support is being sought from MSDC. District CIL may well be available for ‘new items’ to 75% of their costs and the intention is to apply during the next funding round in May. Refurbishment/replacement costs will need to be met elsewhere and potentially from other grant pots that MSDC has available.

We have been told that parishes are expected to utilise neighbourhood CIL before applying for district CIL or that in communities where neighbourhood CIL is limited, as it is in Coddenham, for it to be a contributary element to any project. We therefore for councillors to consider awarding up to £3,000 from the neighbourhood CIL reserve to go towards the project. Not only will this send a positive message to MSDC, it will say to the wider community that we are working together with other parish organisations for the benefit of the parish’s younger members and their parents/guardians.

Cllrs Mills and Soanes