

The following matters are the general concerns made by those who are not supportive of a modest play area for young children at the Kelsey Hall & how the Parish Council intends to overcome/mitigate them.

Number	Concern	Mitigation
1.	Size (too small)	<p>In the absence of any other viable option within Ifold, the Parish Council must work within the parameters of what is available/feasible. Land costs are so high, that there is no possibility that alternative land can be purchased for the purposes of providing public open space for children and families.</p> <p><i>“Something is better than nothing”.</i></p> <p>The area has been assessed by a play equipment company and confirmed as being big enough for between 3 – 6 items of equipment (depending on type/size). You can look at an example design here.</p> <p><i>NB/. this is an indicative design only – to demonstrate the capacity of the space – the final choice of equipment and design of the area (number of items) will be informed by the survey and be subject to further public consultation in due course.</i></p> <p>For comparison, the Plaistow playpark has 8 items of equipment which includes a zipwire and large climbing frame. Given the size difference between the two areas, 3 - 6 items</p>

		<p>of equipment at the Kelsey Hall would be very worthwhile.</p> <p>Those with caring responsibilities for young children know that children find joy in the simplest things and in the most unlikely of places. The montage of images at the top of the project webpage demonstrates the <i>types</i> of play equipment that this area could host. Young children will certainly enjoy using any of the illustrated items - especially if they have met up with a little friend.</p>
2.	Appeal (limited)	<p>The survey results provide an indication of the types of equipment sought – which will inform the number of items/cost and age appeal.</p> <p>The most popular equipment in the survey were: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climbing / balance apparatus (63 respondents/ 1st choice out of 9) - Balance planks – (52 respondents) - Small slide (57 respondents / 2nd choice out of 9) - Small playhouse (51 respondents / 3rd choice out of 9) - Seesaw (42 respondents) <p>From experience at the Plaistow park, a small slide and playhouse can be combined, as can</p>

		<p>climbing and balance apparatus. This would free up more space for other equipment.</p> <p>Although a swing was not unpopular (35 respondents and 4th out of 9 in popularity) the space can only accommodate one small baby swing. The 'A frame' would reduce the space available for other equipment. Therefore, the area will not include a swing.</p> <p>Many people have swings in their garden – if they have any play equipment - and one swing could cause squabbles between children. The site will aim to offer more 'unusual' equipment not normally found in private gardens, which will increase its appeal.</p> <p>As one respondent commented - <i>"Climbing and sliding are good as it challenges kids. Most have swings at home. Make it an adventure worth going on..."</i></p> <p>The specific targeted age appeal of equipment will be up to reception age (5 years - 42%). 20% of respondents sought equipment for pre-school age and 22% up to 5 years. This age group will be 'at home' during the day and catering for their needs will provide carers with a place to go.</p>
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3.	<p>Cost (linked with size & appeal – unable to provide ‘decent’ equipment)</p>	<p>The Parish Council has a duty to support all residents, including children and families. This project is not to the exclusion of the Council’s other expenditure/responsibilities and/or commitments.</p> <p>The Council can support its £20,000 budget with grant applications.</p>

		<p>Often issues/projects matter more to some than to others. However, the Parish Council has a duty to deliver activities, services and facilities which meet the needs of a diverse community.</p> <p>Public consultation is key to determining need/support and provides the Council with a mandate to act.</p> <p>Q: Will the play area get used and represent good value?</p> <p>A: YES</p> <p>26 respondents stated they would never use the area (Q3), whereas only 20 answered they were not in favour of the project. This shows that there are members of the Ifold community that can see the value in providing a children's play area, irrespective of their own personal requirements (a sense of community).</p> <p>Q4 asked how frequently the area would be used. 44% of respondents said they would use the area either weekly or daily and 23% said they would use it monthly. Therefore, the area will be consistently well used and therefore is a worth-while investment for Council funds.</p>
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4.	Dog fouling	<p>Dogs are prohibited from entering children's play areas. The Parish Council will install a sign to remind people of this rule, which is almost universally known/complied with. The area is currently open to the public with bench seating; therefore, the area is more at risk now than it will be once play equipment is installed. Additionally, regular land management (see below) will identify and address any issues.</p>

5.	<p>Land management e.g., grass cutting and leaf clearance & equipment maintenance</p>	<p>The Parish Council will be responsible for the area (via a lease). The Parish Council has other land management responsibilities within the Parish and therefore its existing contractor will attend the site fortnightly during the cutting season (March - October), as well as undertake leaf clearance in the autumn/winter.</p> <p>The Parish Council already manages the Lady Hope Playpark in Plaistow, and its contractor is experienced in maintaining play areas.</p> <p>The trees at the site will be included in the Parish Council's Consultant Arboriculturalist Survey Schedule, to ensure they remain safe. No trees will be felled to accommodate play equipment. The trees will be professionally managed in accordance with the legal requirements incumbent upon anyone whose land is open to the public. The land is currently open to the public; therefore, tree management is already a requirement irrespective of any play equipment.</p> <p>The equipment will be subject to monthly inspections – undertaken by a member of the Council's Playground Working Group. Additionally, the site will have an annual RoSPA safety inspection in the same way as the equipment at the Lady Hope PlayPark in Plaistow.</p>
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6.	Litter	<p>A litter bin will be installed at the site. The Parish Council already contracts with Chichester District Council to empty public litter bins within the Parish e.g., at the Lady Hope PlayPark in Plaistow. The Parish Council has experience managing public litter bins and will ensure that the type of bin installed minimises the risk of unwanted visitors e.g., foxes / rats etc.</p> <p>The area will not be designed to specifically 'encourage' food consumption (no picnic tables will be included). This is partly due to its size (to maximise space for play equipment), as well as the type of use the area will attract i.e., it is not going to be a 'day trip destination', but rather Ifold residents will 'pop down the road' to get out of the house for a play. Users are unlikely to spend significant periods of time at the site where meals might be required. Whatever food may be consumed at the site can easily be done sitting on a bench. This will minimise litter / food debris, which can attract unwanted wildlife.</p>
7.	Antisocial behaviour e.g., drugs & vandalism	<p>The risk (especially from drug misuse / criminal behaviour / vandalism) is minimal given: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the frequent use of the Hall, both during the day and into the evening;

		<p>- the area's proximity to / visibility from Chalk Road and the degree of public movement along the road; and</p> <p>- the fact that the area is not secluded.</p> <p>The site does not naturally lend itself to antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>An example of 'problematic behaviour' has been provided within the survey i.e., children using the Hall's car park for cycling and skateboarding. Access to the Hall and its carpark has always been unimpeded – the gate is not locked and even if it were, the fence can be readily climbed. Inclusion of play equipment will not cause / exacerbate this issue, which is not frequent.</p> <p>If issues develop in the future, then CCTV could be considered/installed.</p>
8.	Noise	<p>It is accepted that there will be some noise, but limit. Young children at play make noise, whether in a private garden or in a play area. However, given the intended age appeal of the equipment and the times of day the area will be in typical use, it will not be significant.</p> <p>Signs such as "please respect our neighbours" will help remind adult supervisors to be mindful and courteous.</p>

		<p>The Hall is an existing popular community venue, which is used by a variety of people/ages throughout the day and into the evenings. Therefore, the site is already a busy hub with activity and noise.</p>
9.	<p>Ifold residents have large gardens and are not 'disadvantaged'.</p>	<p>Some carers e.g., grandparents do not want to install permanent equipment in their gardens. Isolation is a key issue for those who care for young children. Having somewhere public to visit / meet up / meet new people (with children) is paramount for the welfare of children and their careers, as borne out in studies from the Pandemic and the survey results. Public play areas strengthen a sense of community and social cohesion.</p> <p>The draw of the area will be the fact that it can be walked/cycled too from home. Carers who want to get out of the house / their own garden for a while, can have somewhere to go – a purpose – where they can meet other families and children.</p> <p>This is a sample of comments made by those in support, which illustrates this point: -</p> <p><i>"I think this is a wonderful idea. Ifold has lots of young families, as well as grandparents who look after their grandchildren during the week etc, and having an area specifically for children is important. I'd like to be able to</i></p>

meet up with local families and make new friends (adults and children for play dates) I think it would strengthen the Ifold community for the better. Great idea.”

“This is an excellent idea to support the local community and has been talked about for a long time amongst parents. It would be lovely to meet up for a quick play with other parents.”

“It will be great to have somewhere to go with the kids within Ifold and meet up with other families.”

“I no longer have preschool age children but feel that it is very import to have equipment that is suitable for younger children as this can be an isolating time for new parents, especially if they have moved to a new rural community. They are more likely to be home during the day, and a playpark you can walk to, albeit small would be a valuable asset to visit to help break up the day, great for grandparents too. If there had been something like this in Ifold when my children were younger, I would have used it most days as had 2 small children who were home for 2 years before old enough to go to local preschools.”

10.	Trees	No trees will be felled to accommodate play equipment. The trees at the site will be included in the Parish Council's Consultant Arboriculturalist Survey Schedule, to ensure they remain safe. The trees will be professionally managed in accordance with the legal requirements incumbent upon anyone whose land is open to the public. The land is currently open to the public (without play equipment); therefore, tree management is already a requirement.
11.	Loss of space to be used for other things	The area will be available to other hall users – parties / fetes etc. The area will offer young children a facility which is lacking in Ifold.
12.	Impact on house prices	The Hall is a community venue – house prices of near neighbours already reflect proximity to an active community centre. Impact on house prices is not a material consideration within the planning process.
13.	Parking	<p>The survey results indicate that most people will either walk - 62 respondents (50%), or travel by bike – 26 respondents (21%).</p> <p>19 respondents (15%) said they would travel by car. Of those 'car users', 61% said they would park in someone's driveway and 11 respondents (39%) stated 'other', which included "park at our house" "this is totally dependent on the mobility of the users " </p>

		<p>"Unsure" "Not in favour" "N/A" "by road blocking".</p> <p>In terms of parking on either Chalk Road or in the Hall car park, in contravention of signage/permission, the results were: - Chalk road – 3 respondents (3%) Kelsey Hall – 2 respondents (2.1%)</p> <p>If someone is minded to drive to a playpark, they will most likely go further afield to a larger park e.g., Plaistow or Loxwood. Anyone with experience of young children understands that getting them into/out of a vehicle is not straight forward and therefore the journey (especially if for impromptu recreation) is usually commensurate with the effort.</p> <p>Therefore, whilst it is accepted that there will always be some who flout the rules, the survey results demonstrate that such people will be very few, and most users will walk/cycle as intended.</p> <p>The draw of the area will be the fact that it can be walked/cycled too from home by Ifold residents - carers who want to get out of the house / their own garden for a while, can have somewhere to go – a purpose – where they can meet other families and children.</p>
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