

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	8 th July 2025
Report Title	Dog Play Area
Agenda Reference	16
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Recommendations

1. To note there is up to £3,000 allocated from Community Choices and an additional £1,500 available from sponsorship.
2. To formally agree the location, adjacent to Old Blunsdon Road & Chatsworth Road.
3. To agree the expenditure £3,780.00 associated with the project.
4. To redistribute the remaining £800.00 back into Community Choices.
5. To formally notify Swindon Borough Council of the plans to install a Dog Play Area.

Background

Following requests from residents and further responses in favour of a dog play area via the Community Choices consultations, the Parks & Projects Team has estimated the cost of the fencing and identified a space adjacent to Old Blunsdon Road and Chatsworth Road. The areas was chosen because it is already heavily frequented by dog walkers and is in the centre of the Parish. Note: that it may be necessary to move some fritillaries which are planted in this location.

The proposed fenced area is 18m x 12m which will be a basic grassed area in the initial stages, with a nearby dog/litter waste bin, a bench and signage. This could be expanded upon in future months from feedback of the users and ideas from the innovative Team who have already suggested utilising old play area equipment and tyres. Future equipment and ideas will be brought to Committee ahead of any installations.

Cost

£3,780.00 project total (fencing, bench, signage). The project will require 2 operatives over 2 days labour (£37.64 per hour incl oncosts) which is the equivalent to £526.96 but will be absorbed by the existing salary budget.

Resourcing Impact of the Park

Based on the ongoing issue at Rose Walk with increasing problems with dog mess, it will be necessary to regularly maintain this area (with a push mower and strimmer) and clean the area of dog mess. This is going to be a daily requirement and absorbed into the Team's current resources.

For noting, the operational cost/time will be approximately £1,885.00 per year.

- 30 mins per day = £7.25
- 5 days a week = £36.25
- 52 weeks = £1,885

Budget

There is £3,000.00 assigned via the Community Choices budget to fund this dog play area (to include signage). A local dog grooming business has offered £1,500.00 sponsorship money towards the cost of the project and in return have their logo on the signage to be displayed.