

<b>Llangoedmor Community Council</b>	
Meeting Date:	March 2025
Report Title:	Report on the Field and Play Area
Agenda Item Number	11.2
Paper Reference	Mar 2025-2
Presented By	Clerk

## **Introduction**

Following discussions with the Council's insurer the Clerk and the Chairman undertook a review of Llechrhyd field and play area using a checklist form a copy of which is attached as Appendix 1.

## **Insurance Expectations**

During the course of discussions with the Council's insurers it was ascertained the grounds and play area need to be inspected on a weekly by a competent person and be subject to an annual inspection by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). The failure to comply with these requirements are likely to affect the Council's insurance cover if an accident does occur in the play area.

## **Results of the Visit**

During the course of the visit, it was ascertained that a number of recommendations in the previous RoSPA report had not been implemented by the Council.

## **Playing Field Area**

### Goal Posts

It was found that the goal posts were not anchored securely to the ground and one of the posts in particular was very easy to move. One of the goal posts had lost one strut and the remaining area was a cut/injury risk. These faults have previously been highlighted in a RoSPA report.

### Path

As discussed in Council meetings the surface of the path needs attention. This will need to go out to tender due to the costs of repair.

### Other Concerns

Excessive growth of brambles and corrugated iron debris at the edge of the field. These pose a cut risk to the public. This has subsequently been referred to the Council by the residents of 1 Maes y Llan, Llechrhyd.

## Council/Coracle Responsibilities

It needs to be established which of the pathed areas are the responsibility of the playing fields and which are the responsibility of the Coracle Hall.

## **Playground Surrounds**

### Fencing

Fencing around the playground area is damaged and requires repair.

### Toddler and Standard Swings

The structure, chains and bolts on both sets of swings are rusty. A professional assessment of their safety really needs to be undertaken.

### Junior Climbing Frame

The timber the frame is made of poor timber which is showing a lot of splitting. A loose post has previously been reported but we were unable to find this during the visit. The problems with the climbing frame have yet to be resolved with Sovereign including the ground level issue.

### Spring Mounted Items

One of the spring mounted items appeared to have an excessive amount of play in the ground mounting.

### Impact Safety Surface

There appeared some shrinkage in the impact safety area around the coloured patterns on the surface though this would need to be confirmed by an expert.

### Benches

One of the benches showed excessive wear and could be a splinter/cut risk to the public.

## **Future Operational Management of the Fields/Playground**

The management of play equipment is a specialised area and it is important that it is properly monitored and maintained by a competent professional as any accidents could lead to a claim against the Council/LPFA for damages. In this case the Council/LPFA would rely on its insurers to cover the costs of any such action.

The Council should consider handing over management of the fields and play area to a firm that specialises in managing parks. This would give the insurers the confidence they need that the fields and play area are being properly maintained.

## **Future Management of the Fields/Playground**

The Council needs to transfer the management of the fields and play area to LPFA as soon as possible. The Council and LPFA are two separate legal entities and the current operating arrangements are very blurred especially from the point of view of insurance.

The best course of action for the Council would be to transfer the management of the fields and play area to LPFA who would be responsible for the running costs and insurance.

### **Proposal**

It is proposed that the Council:

- Closes the fields and play area until essential maintenance is carried out and a Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents survey is completed, with any defects identified by the survey being remedied.
- Undertakes the clearance work at the back of 1 Maes y Llan, Llechryd.
- Appoints a contractor to manage the operation of the fields.
- Expedites the transfer of the operation of the playing fields to LPFA so that there is a clear demarcation of responsibilities between the two legal entities.