

20th September 2021

Letter to Didcot Residents



Dear Resident,

RE: YOUR COMMENTS WELCOMED ON A NEW POTENTIAL PROJECT— INSTALLATION OF A WHEELCHAIR INCLUSIVE SWING

Didcot Town Council are currently looking into funding options to potentially install a Wheelchair Inclusive Swing in one of the Play Parks in Didcot.

- *According to Oxford City Council, there are 2,300 children across Oxfordshire who identify as having a mobility disability and approximately 1.2 million wheelchair users in the United Kingdom.*
- *There is ONE Wheelchair Inclusive Swing in Oxfordshire, which was installed late in 2020 in Sandfield Road Park, Oxford by Oxford City Council.*



These swings enable not only children in wheelchairs to swing, but adults too. Adults confined to a wheelchair will be able to give the small child in their care a swinging experience on their own, without the need for assistance.

These swings enable users to experience both the joy and the mental and physical benefits of swinging and interacting with others.

They can help to develop and improve gross motor skills including balance and co-ordination, as well as gripping, but most importantly, it will enable the users to have fun.

Due to the size of the equipment, a 'safety fence' will need to be erected around the swing, to ensure the safety of all those using the swing and all those in the park. Didcot Town Council will ensure the swing is positioned so that no user feels alienated when using the equipment.

For the funding application to be considered, Didcot Town Council need to gauge Community Support for the project.

- Do you agree that there should be more inclusive pieces of equipment in our Play Parks?
- Do you feel there is a need for this type of swing in Didcot?
- Do you feel that the swing would be used?

Although the project is in the investigative stages, Didcot Town Council are extremely excited to pursue it and to potentially add an exciting piece of inclusive equipment to our park. The most suitable park has been suggested as Loyd Recreation Ground, Brasenose Road, Didcot, due to other projects planned in Ladygrove Park and Edmonds Park.

The closing date for the funding application is fast approaching and any comments you could give the Town Council in regard to this, would be very much appreciated.

Please email Lucy Blake, the Planning and Environment Officer on lblake@didcot.gov.uk should you wish to make comment on this potential project.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Didcot Town Council