

# SOULDER VILLAGE PLAYGROUND

## INFORMATION FOR COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

### BACKGROUND

The much-loved and well-used previous playground opened in 1973 and was renovated in 1993. A RoSPA report condemned much of the equipment in November 2019 and so the playground had to be closed, as it was no longer considered safe. A community working party dismantled the equipment in 2022.

Over the past few years, the playground advisory group has undertaken a considerable amount of work to consult with village residents to identify needs and preferences, develop plans in line with residents' wishes and seek design proposals and costings from playground companies. Efforts are now being made to re-establish momentum in order to bring about the installation of the playground in line with the plans.

### CRITERIA FOR PLAYGROUND COMPANY

Key considerations included a range of facilities for a variety of age-groups and specific items of equipment, such as a zip wire, were prioritised by those who responded to the survey. The working party committee identified that the following criteria also needed to be fulfilled:

- Hardwood structure to ensure longevity
- Secure fixings for safety and longevity
- Confidence in a company with a good record for delivery
- An aftercare plan for ongoing maintenance

### PREFERRED PROVIDER - KOMPAN

After a selection process, KOMPAN is the preferred provider, as it has been identified that this company is able to meet the criteria. KOMPAN has created a design brief which fulfils the needs of the village as determined by the consultation.

### OVERVIEW OF THE PLANS

**Phase 1** - Under 10s area and swings for all ages:

Witches Tower, Tractor, Rockers, Balance Water Lilies, Carousel, Swings

**Phase 2** - Over 10s area:

Tree Climber, Balance Beam, Overhead and Somersault Bars

**Phase 3** - Hardsurface football/basketball area

**Phase 4** - Zip Wire

**Phase 5** - Adult Exercise Equipment and linking track

# FUNDRAISING

The project is now at the stage where fundraising must begin in earnest in order for the village to be in a position to realise the plans. It is estimated that the total project will cost approximately £150,000. Members of the playground advisory group, other stakeholders and additional members of the village community have identified a number of possible sources for grants. These need to be explored further with the help of additional volunteers and local fundraising initiatives will also help add to the funds which need to be raised. If you are able to help in ways large or small, with either time or expertise, please contact Alan ([alans.souldernpc@gmail.com](mailto:alans.souldernpc@gmail.com)) or Heidi ([heidi.souldernpc@gmail.com](mailto:heidi.souldernpc@gmail.com)).

