Orchard Park Playing Field Entrance Gate and Fence Project

The project is to remove the old fencing from around the village playing field, also the entrance gate and posts, and replace with new. Re-aligning the gate for better access.

The Orchard Park Playing Field opened in 1991 and the fence and gate are the original ones. Over the years they have been well maintained but in recent years more and more repairs have been needed. Several posts have rotted at the base and have been braced with other posts and a number of top rails have had to be replaced. Now, several more posts are loose and need replacing. Additionally, the local farmer has expressed concern that his stock could escape through gaps in the fence where it has deteriorated. The conclusion is that the fence, gate and posts have come to the end of their useful lives.

A public footpath that runs along two sides of the playing field is used by many local residents to walk their dogs and to avoid the risk of fouling it is important that a good fence separates the footpath from the nearby, newly refurbished, Boules Piste and the adjacent children’s playground.

This year’s RoSPA safety report conducted by PlaySafety highlighted that the gate posts have rotted and should be replaced. As a consequence the risk level rating for them was raised from low to medium.

In addition to improving safety, installing a new field gate and posts will give the opportunity to re-align the entrance to allow for easier access for emergency vehicles and also better access for large grass cutting and maintenance vehicles.

Five crab apple trees and various native bulbs (all donated) will be planted along the perimeter of the field once the new fence is installed. They will help to compensate for the unavoidable thinning of the hedge, to increase the value of the field to wildlife and to add to the enjoyment of those using the playing field.

We believe that this project fulfils the objective of the Landfill Community Fund by providing safe access and protecting and enhancing the amenities of a valuable, open community space, the village playing field.

Any grant received would be publicised on completion of the project:

On the Parish Council website: teddington-and-alstone-parish-council.org.uk

In the Parish Magazine that serves five village communities.

By contacting the local paper The Gloucestershire Echo: gloucestershirelive.co.uk

With a public notice acknowledging the source of the funds permanently displayed at the entrance to the playing field.