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New Play Areas for Saltash Children

From this autumn, young people in Saltash will have two new play areas to enjoy enabling them to have fun, socialise and stay fit.

Work will shortly begin to regenerate both Honeysuckle Way and Grassmere Way play areas on Pillmere housing estate through installation of a wide range of brand new equipment and safety surfacing that will offer great play value all year round.

The project, which is costing £95,000 has benefitted from £75,000 of grant funding from Cornwall Council's Community Infrastructure Levy fund with the remainder of funds being provided by Saltash Town Council.

Creative Play, an experienced and skilled contractor have been selected to carry out the works following a tender process. They have confirmed that work will begin on site on or around 9th September. The Honeysuckle Way play area, aimed for use by children aged 7 and under will be first in line for works followed by the larger Grassmere Site which will provide facilities for children up to 12.

Both projects have been designed following extensive community consultation with residents of Pillmere last September whose priorities have been incorporated into the final designs. Over 100 surveys were completed demonstrating both a need and enthusiasm for new facilities.

The Chairman of Pillmere Community Association Iain Gdanitz who worked in partnership with Saltash Town Council on this project and who along with colleagues and councillors, delivered over 600 leaflets to houses across Pillmere said, "It's really exciting that this project has come to fruition and that young children and their carers will have the opportunity to use smart and innovative new equipment providing hours of free fun and exercise."

Grassmere Play area will also benefit from an adventure trail and traverse wall along with wet pour surfacing allowing the site to be used all year around whilst Honeysuckle Close will provide spring riders and play boards. Both play areas will be kitted out with the equipment that the community prioritised including swings, climbing apparatus, slides, seating areas and equipment for children with special needs.

The survey responses indicated that two thirds of children would use the new play areas either daily or several times a week.

The Mayor of Saltash Councillor Julia Peggs said, "We identified a gap in play provision on Pillmere, an area of Saltash that is home to many families, some of whom have been travelling substantial distances to use alternative play areas. We are delighted therefore that we have secured funding following our grant application to Cornwall Council to allow children to access play facilities close to where they live."

Linda Taylor, Cornwall Council leader, said: "The Community Infrastructure Levy allows us to raise funds from new developments and pass this on to community projects making a real difference.

"Giving young people free and easy access to opportunities for exercise and fun, this project fits perfectly with our aspirations for creating healthier and safer lives as well as vibrant and supportive communities"

Visuals of the play areas can be seen by clicking on the following link -
<https://www.saltash.gov.uk/consultations.php>

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Some quotes from the consultation were as follows:

'A significant portion of the community consists of lower-income families, making it imperative to create safe and accessible play areas for their children.'

'It would be lovely to have some play equipment here in Pillmere for all ages. We have nothing and the young children play football, basketball etc making their own games up around cars etc as they have nothing here to do. Some children are as young as 5-6 years playing in the street as they have nowhere that parents can take them to play nearby.'

'Currently, there is a glaring absence of nearby playgrounds for the kids in this neighbourhood. The closest park is located at the far end of Saltash, making it inconvenient and, at times, impossible for children from Pillmere to access. It is our moral duty to provide these children with a new playground, ensuring they have a safe and enjoyable place to play.'

'I have two daughters aged 4 and 1 and would love to see some sort of decent play area.'

'It's about time our kids had somewhere nice to play!'

'I've lived in Pillmere for almost 20 years there were lovely parks here and my children loved them. Now they are gone and my youngest doesn't have anywhere here to play. So, I'd love more parks.'

'Have 2 children aged 9 and 7. We definitely need a decent play area for my children to enjoy.'

'Just really thank you for doing this survey. Thank you for gauging what people in the community would like and feel would fit their families.'

'I fully support this play area, just wish it was done years ago. Well done.'

'My son loves playing outside, socially important skills at his age to be able to walk a safe distance from his home to play with friends.'

'Can't wait to see the new play equipment!'