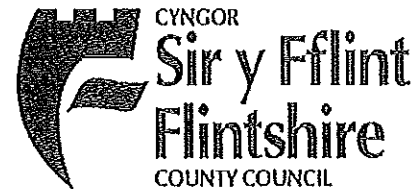


Ian Bancroft
Chief Officer (Organisational Change)
Prif Swyddog (Newid Sefydliadol)



Your Reffeli Cyt

Our Refflin Cyf

Date/Dyddiad 26 August 2016

Ask for/Gofynner am Ian Bancroft

Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 704180

Fax/Ffacs

Dear Clerk,

Community Asset Transfer Overview and Play Area Update

Further to our letter sent last month outlining our long term approach to maintaining as many play areas as possible in Flintshire we want to update you on our proposed plans. Given the importance of play areas to local communities, and the feedback we have had from our initial July letter, about which play areas the Council retains and which you might want to take on at a local level, it is clear that discussions with you would benefit from a longer period of discussion than we will have available in this financial year 2016/17.

Maintaining Play Areas in 2017/18 and Discussions about Sustaining Play Areas from 2018 onwards.

We propose to break discussions down into a number of stages that will take place over the next 12 months and to enable this we are aiming (subject to Council decision) to continue to maintain all 182 play areas during 2017/18 as they have been maintained in 2016/17. In the longer term we estimate as a Council we can continue to maintain 124 of these play areas as outlined in the July letter and believe that by working with you we can potentially sustain as many of the 182 play areas as possible. This longer term approach will now be the focus of joint discussions from Spring 2017 onwards so we have up to a full year to work with you on this ready for 2018. In the meantime during this year we want to focus on ensuring the play area grant scheme is fully allocated to maximise benefit to local play areas and in allocating this grant we are keen to start to work with you on schemes that will help demonstrate that different models of operating play areas that can work. Therefore the play area grant scheme will operate as previously outlined and as detailed below.

Play Area Grant Scheme 2016/17 – Round 1 : Closing Date 26th September 2016

The Local Authority will make a 'one off' payment of up to £5,000 per play area that has been transferred to a community group or Town & Community Council with a maximum of £10,000 available per community per year. This funding can be used to either enhance these play facilities or be put aside to support future replacement costs. A fund of £105,000 p.a. will support these payments. The first round of applications for this funding must be made before 26th September 2016. A second round will be available with a closing date of 5th December 2016.

Play Area Grant Scheme 2016/17 – Round 2 : Closing Date 5th December 2016

The highest priority will again be to make a 'one off' payment of up to £5,000 per play area that has been transferred to a community group or Town & Community Council with a maximum of £10,000 available per community per year. This funding can be used to either enhance these play facilities or be put aside to support future replacement costs.

Any unallocated funds will then be made available on a match funding basis for the enhancement of children's fixed play areas as follows:

- Match funding will be made available to Town and Community Councils or community groups where the fixed play facility has transferred out of local authority control; and/or
- Match funding will be available to improve those play areas that will continue to be managed by the County Council (as identified by Town and Community Councils).

Match funding will be based upon a maximum contribution of £10,000 from the authority per scheme and applications for this match funding must be made by the 5th December 2016.

Way Forward – Individual Meetings to help Support your Ideas

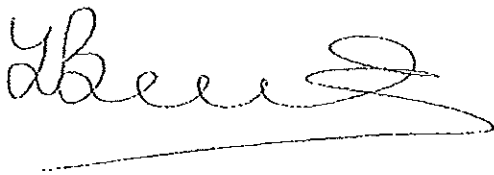
Many of you have expressed the difficulty of attending workshops on set dates and have identified a preference for doing this later in the autumn once you have had a chance to share correspondence at your meetings in September. To this end we will not now run any set workshops in August and September but offer individual (or joint) meetings for those town and community councils who want to:

- (1) Progress play area grant applications
- (2) Progress Community Asset Transfers
- (3) Explore the option of the Council retaining the play area but the town and community council paying all the costs of the play area through a service level agreement to the Council initially for five years.

To ensure we can move these meetings forward as speedily as possible, particularly for those who want to submit a play area grant application by the 26th September please contact Theresa Greenhough on 01352 704523 or at theresa.greenhough@flintshire.gov.uk

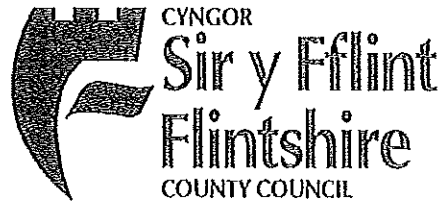
Please let us know when contacting us which discussions out of (1), (2), and (3) listed above you want to have and we will ensure the right people are involved in the meeting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I Bancroft', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ian Bancroft
Chief Officer
Organisational Change

Ian Bancroft
Chief Officer (Organisational Change)
Prif Swyddog (Newid Sefydliadol)



Mrs. S. Jones
Clerk to Hawarden Community Council
113 The Highway
Hawarden
Deeside
Flintshire CH5 3DL

Your Ref/Bich Cyf
Our Ref/Ein Cyf AR/PAJ/CAT-PA
Date/Dyddiad 4 August, 2016
Ask for/Gofyner am Alan Roberts
Direct Dial/Rhif Union 01352 702469
Fax/Ffacs

Dear Clerk,

Community Asset Transfer Overview and Play Area Update
- Hawarden Community Council

Further to the County Forum meeting held on 30th June 2016 at which a presentation was given on the above matter. I write to provide further information on how these proposals will help to secure children's play facilities in your community. These proposals take on board comments you have made previously and also outline for the first time how many play areas the Council predicts it can sustain in the future. We do encourage you and all Town & Community councillors to come to the workshops outlined at the end of the letter so the information can be discussed at your September and October Council meetings.

Flintshire County Council Play Areas

The Council estimates that it will be able to sustain 4 play areas chosen by each Town & Community Council utilising the Play Unit to continue to inspect and repair equipment. In addition to this, the Council will also maintain the 5 play grounds located within destination sites and the 10 wheeled play facilities safeguarding 124 of the 182 children's equipped play areas in Flintshire.

Options for Town and Community Councils in relation to remaining Play Areas

For those Councils who have more than 4 play areas there are two options available to Town and Community Councils

Option 1 - Apply through the Community Asset Transfer Scheme to take the play areas through asset transfer. Responsibility for the play areas will then be that of the town and community council with the advantage that these play areas will be the highest priority for receipt of play area grants (as outlined below).

County Hall, Mold, CH7 6NF
www.flintshire.gov.uk
Nauadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug, CH7 6NF
www.siryfflint.gov.uk

Cont'd 1 of 3..



The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English
Mae'r Cyngor yn croeso i chi gyswrtu yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg

Option 2 - The Council retains the play area but the town and community council pay all the costs of the play area through a service level agreement to the Council initially for five years. The only difference to (1) is that this means insurance costs for the play area will still sit with Flintshire County Council. These play areas will be considered for play area grant funding but only after allocations have been made each year to those that have transferred to communities,

For both options the Play Unit will offer an inspection and maintenance service if the Town and Community Council wants to buy this back with an annual recharge. The Town & Community Council may also consider carrying out inspections itself rather than buying back this service.

For the purpose of identifying an average maintenance cost play areas have been placed into 3 categories and an annual fee would be as follows:-

- Neighbourhood Sites £1,700
- Local Sites £1,350
- Ball Play Sites £1,000

An indicative example of the implications of this to your community is shown below:-

Number of play areas 5

Local Sites	Level Lane	£1350	Play Unit
	Little Roodee	£1350	Play Unit
	Sheridan Avenue	£1350	Play Unit
	Spenser Close	£1350	Play Unit
	Fron Heulog Ewloe	£1350	Halkyn C.C.

The Council is currently in discussion with the developer to formally adopt Fron Heulog play area. Upon completion of the adoption the cost implication to your council would be £1350 per annum. Additional to routine maintenance, Town and Community Council's would need to pay for replacement parts and obsolete or damaged equipment would only be replaced via the match funding play area grant.

Play Area Community Grant

A community grant fund has been set up to support the community transfer of children's equipped play areas. The Local Authority will make a 'one off' payment of up to £5,000 per play area that has been transferred to a community group or Town & Community Council with a maximum of £10,000 available per community per year. This funding can be used to either enhance these play facilities or be put aside to support future replacement costs. A fund of £105,000 p.a. will support these payments.

The first round of applications for this funding must be made before 26th September 2016. A second round will be available with a closing date of 5th December 2016.

Any unallocated funds will then be made available on a match funding basis for the enhancement of children's fixed play areas as follows:

- Match funding will be made available to Town and Community Councils or community groups where the fixed play facility has transferred out of local authority control; and/or
- Match funding will be available to improve those play areas that will continue to be managed by the County Council (as identified by Town and Community Councils).

Match funding will be based upon a maximum contribution of £10,000 from the authority per scheme and applications for this match funding must be made by the 5th December 2016.

Way Forward

For those town and community council's considering Option 1 (CAT) then a workshop to help organisations develop community asset transfer applications and play areas grants for the September closing date will be held on:

- August 22nd : 5-6.30pm at County Hall Or
- September 12th : 5-6.30pm at County Hall

For those town and community council's considering Option 2 (SLA) then a workshop to help determine how the service level agreement will work in practice will be held on:

- August 23rd : 5-6.30pm at County Hall Or
- September 14th : 5-6.30pm at County Hall

Please can you contact my colleagues from the Play Unit, Alan Roberts and Richard Roberts if and which workshop you intend to come to. There are limited places so please do register. Contact details: 01352 702469 alan.roberts@flintshire.gov.uk

The aim of this approach is to sustain as many play areas as possible in Flintshire having taken on board your previous comments. We do hope you will work with us to achieve this. Based on your response the Council will consider later how it will de-commission play areas that are no longer sustainable as they are not the responsibility of the Council and they have not been taken on by local communities through either of the two options outlined above.

Yours sincerely



MIKE WELCH
Principal Leisure Officer