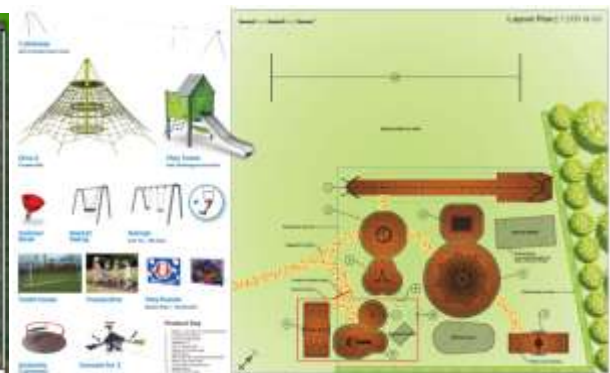
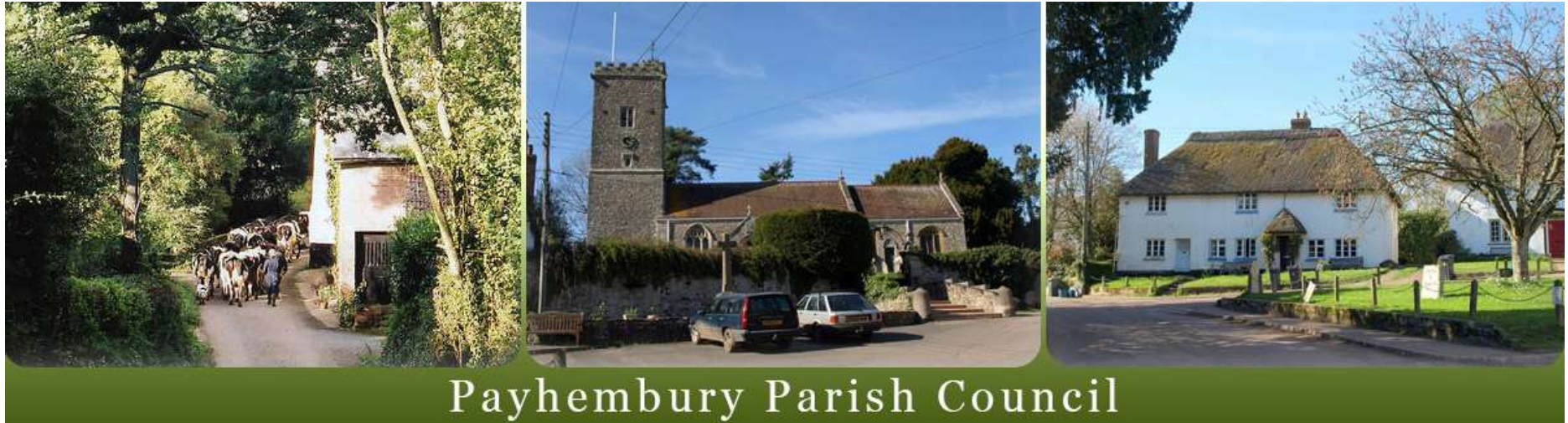


Version 2 11 November 2020

Payhembury Village PlayPark Project 2020-2024



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Payhembury Village Playpark

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Overview and Background

The Playing Field committee have looked after the PlayPark for many years, and last “pepped up” the playpark in 2013 <https://www.theexeterdaily.co.uk/news/local-news-family-life/payhembury-play-park-pepped> the responsibility of running and managing was passed to the Parish Council in 2018.

On examining the existing equipment ensemble and the need for some repairs and adaptations to modern play designs and standards (as highlighted in latest ROSPA report), the Parish Council also recognised the opportunity to deliver some exciting changes to the PlayPark, and a budget in for initial changes was set-aside from existing funds received from local developments. This was approved for the 2020 council budget.

The cost of replacing equipment is significant. This document proposes a phased approach to changes allowing each phase to be the end goal if affordability is an issue. The aim is to improve the facilities significantly for the benefit of the village over the next few years within an overall plan.

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So what's the Problem?

- Surfaces are old or poor: No impact surface beneath infant swings, spinner, rocker or junior climber.
- Fencing is currently in a poor state and may not be needed.
- Swings to be serviced. Spinner bearings worn.
- Wooden equipment is in poor state.
- Designed organically over many years, so no overall plan.
- Very little for toddlers.
- Inappropriate mix of non-play items with play (some items require removal).
- Though a couple of pieces were installed in 2013, the remainder is over 15 years old (some over 25 years).

This is no criticism of the playing fields committee - they did the maximum which could be done over the years with the funding available. Time has moved on, equipment has deteriorated and standards have changed. We have some initial funding - now it is time to act.

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Let's start with some Playground Design Goals/Principles

- **Separation of “Pre-school” (0-5) and “infant/Junior” (5-14) equipment** - There is currently no clear delineation between these areas and equipment.
- **Equipment to be well-placed** - Entrances to be moved appropriately, fencing restricted to infant area, flow of children to equipment to be considered.
- **Inclusivity** – For any new equipment where at all possible.
- **Range of activities** - Play goal is to support as wide a range of activities as possible.
- **Safety First** - Any new equipment built to modern safety standards with appropriate safety surfaces. No “DIY” – all play units to be fitted professionally and be professionally inspected annually.
- **Cost-effectiveness** - Specify top-quality long-lasting equipment and surfaces to extend life, and reduce maintenance cost. Durability = cost-effectiveness.
- **Sustainability** – Though “wood is good” and renewable, it generally has poor durability and requires annual maintenance. Metal is recyclable (steel is the world’s most recyclable material), plastics should be used sparingly.
- **Environmental Impact** - Minimise impact on wildlife and nearby residents (e.g. noise of equipment, wildlife entrapment). In-line with village “green space” as identified in Neighbourhood Plan.
- **Signage** – in all cases, signage will be provided saying how the equipment, playing fields and toddler area should be safely used.

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Gathering Requirements

There are 2 main age groups considered as users of the PlayPark:

- Pre-school (0-4) Toddler
- Junior/Senior (5-14)



As part of a re-landscaping of the Playing Fields area, the community was asked via the local Parish paper to consider their views of what they would like in their play park.

The teachers at Payhembury junior school also worked with their age range of children to come up with ideas of things they would like to see in their playpark. The “indicative image” above was a kick start for their imagination.

Children using the park were also asked which features they valued and what they would like added.

“Zip Wire” and “trampoline” were top favourites, followed by nest swings, play house/castle, spinner, climbing walls, monkey bars (and anything which the picture indicated would be removed, like slides).

There is no toddler equipment apart from the rocker, so this is in need of attention.

There is no separation between young children and older ones.

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What are we planning to do?

Several phases over a number of years depending in what the Parish can afford.

We would like to give the children at both end of the age range something they can use fairly quickly (and for which we have some funding). This would start with replacement goalposts (with nets), a new toddler area with new fencing and the removal of the old. This would be followed by some exciting additions once sufficient finding had been raised, and finish with a replacement for the “cube”.

Worked with “TK Play” who won a bid to perform the works as presented, and who drew up a plan.

Phase 1 – Goalposts, repair swings, create toddler area with fencing, 2 swings, play panels, spinner bowl, inspection

Phase 2 –Aerial Runway + inspection – we can’t have this until we have made space for it in Phase 1

Phase 3 –See-Saw and Nest swing – (or trampoline to replace them both) + inspection

Phase 4 – Cube replacement includes groundworks to remove existing surfaces + inspection

Ideas on hold – see “Items not included” section - Toddler play castle, trampoline, roundabout, pathway

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Phase 1 Aims: Fix Issues, add Football goals/nets and Create Toddler area

- Fix the Football! Replace football goals with posts which include nets sourced and installed by Parish
- To replace existing swing chains & seats (with flats)
- To remove redundant equipment not suitable for a PlayPark and/or in the wrong place (BBQ)
- To remove existing fencing to make more use of the available space
- To create a specifically pre-school area to separate them (with fencing) from the more “boisterous” older ages
- To provision pre-school area with
 - play panels,
 - spinner bowl (replaces current spinner)
 - swing frame with you and me swing and cradle swing

Existing Items Removed:

- BBQ & fencing (including clearance of brambles)
- Junior climb & spinner (retain junior climb for possible later re-installation)
- Existing cradle swing seats outside toddler area replaced by flats

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Phase 1 visuals:



Swings
with You + Me Seat



Youth Goals



**Spinner
Bowl**



Play Panels
Make it Rain + Tumble Ball

This phase will be completed, as funding is currently available to be spent.

Phase 1 Target: Completion in 2021

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All phases following phase 1 will require additional funding.

Phase 2 Aims: Add excitement! An Aerial Runway

- To remedy the lack of exciting equipment by providing a Zip-wire!

Note that this can't be done with existing fencing present (insufficient space from cube), so requires phase 1 to remove this.

Consideration will be given to some cheap catch fencing if required between football pitch and play equipment.

This equipment will require some formal signage and an inspection.

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Phase 2 Visuals:



Phase 2 Target: Completion 2022

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Phase 3: Nest Swing & See-Saw

- To replace the old infant swings by a new nest swing
- To add a vertical bouncing shared play activity (multi-child see-saw)

The nest swing is another new playground favourite which will benefit junior and senior age children. Existing frame likely to need replacement, and new surfacing required.

There was a see-saw which was removed and replaced with the bench (now also removed). This returns some classic play to the PlayPark – but safely and with a modern twist. Collaborative and exciting play.

Formal Signage will be provided to state safe use of the equipment.

An alternative to both of these would be a trampoline (one of the most requested items) – but these are expensive, especially as we would be looking at an inclusive one (and there are higher injury risks).

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Phase 3 Visuals:



**Basket
Swing**



Seesaw for 3

Phase 3 Target: Completion 2023

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Phase 4: Climbing Tower centrepiece

- To add a “showpiece” creative structure to the PlayPark
- To increase physical dexterity and challenge
- To increase creative play

Formal Signage will be provided to state safe use of the equipment.

Formal inspection after work.

Cut & fill existing bases to fit new equipment surfaces

This will be a big budget item!

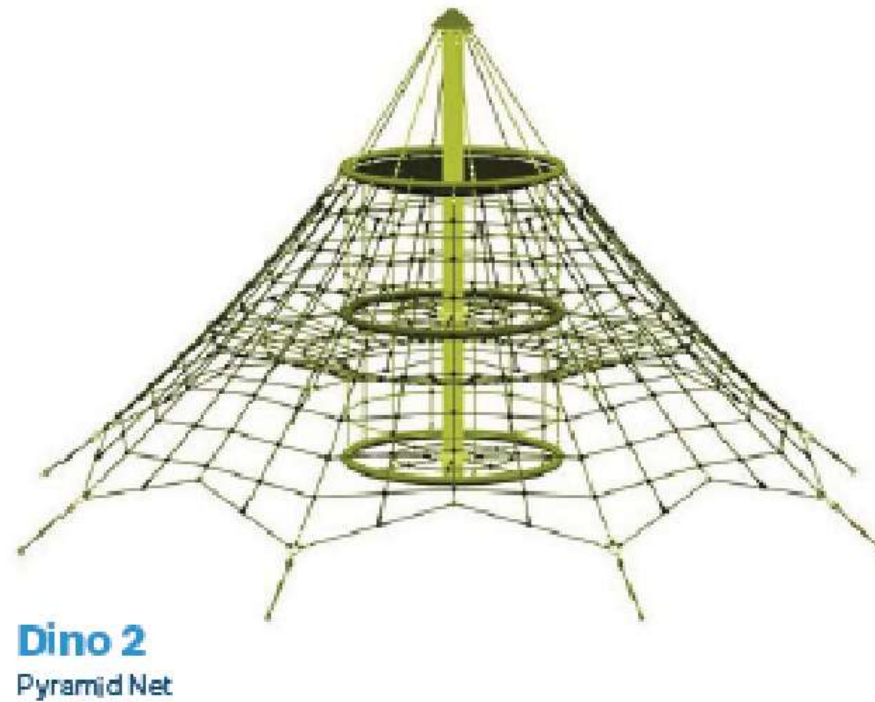
Removal of the “Cube” (if not already removed for safety reasons).

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Phase 4 Visuals



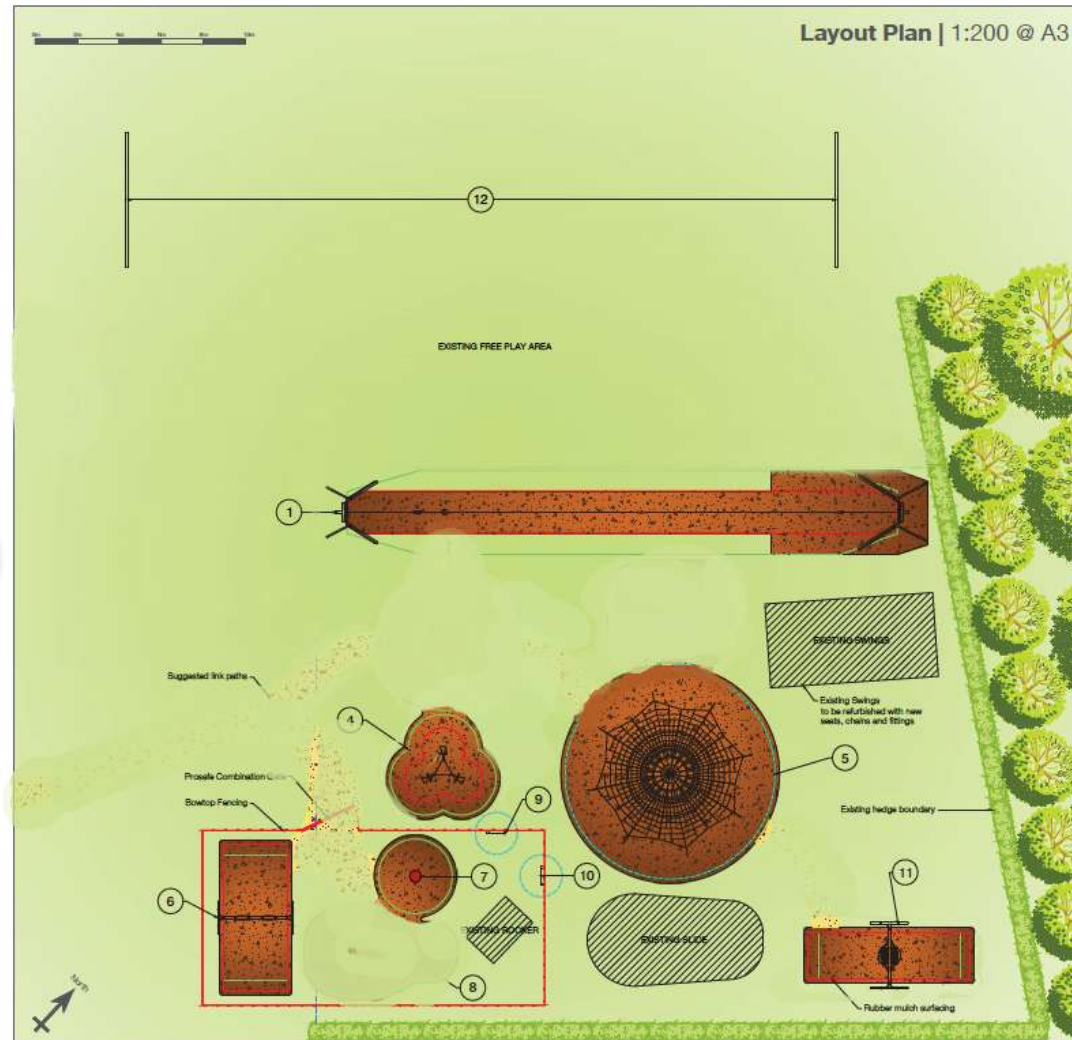
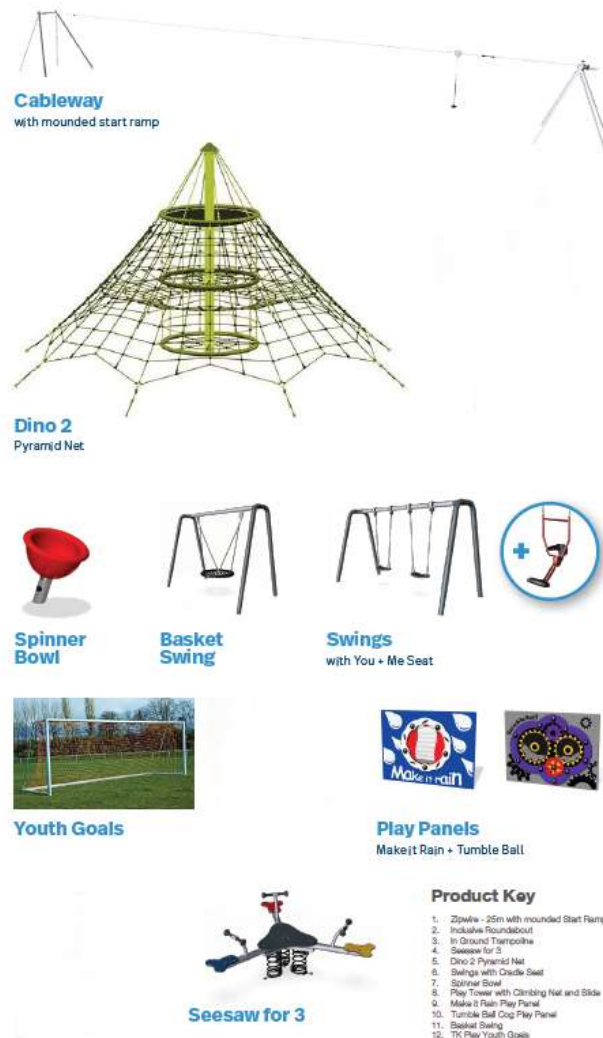
Phase 3 Target: Completion 2024

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Overall Vision (Phase 4): TK Play design (Adapted - optional items removed)



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Optional Items not included

There is space within the area for the following equipment. These have been excluded from the phases primarily for cost reasons.

This includes some exciting, but expensive additional options.

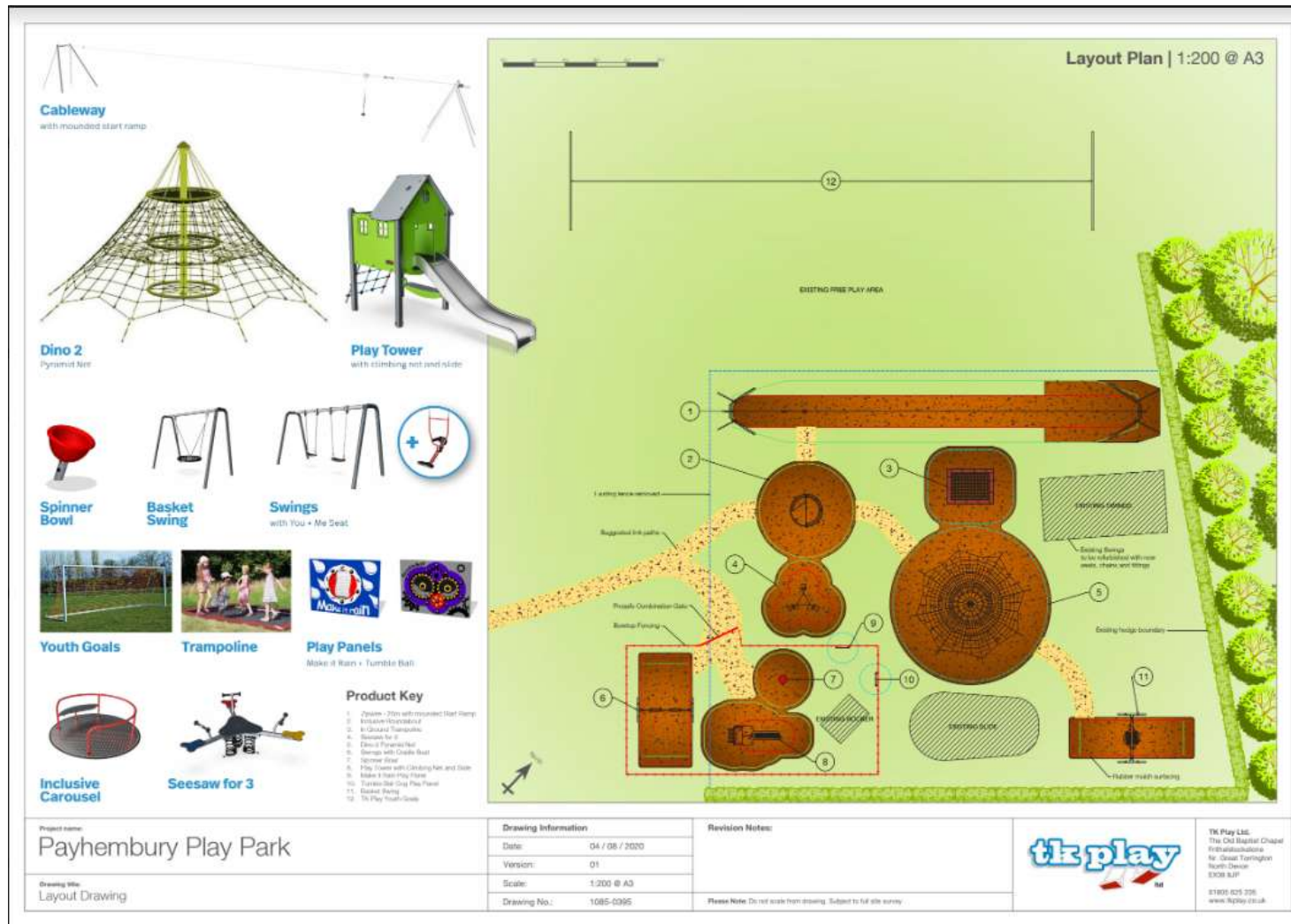
These could be included in future phases, implemented when funds allow.

- Toddler area – play tower with net and slide and safety surface to complete the toddler area.
- Inclusive Roundabout - Wheelchair friendly sunken roundabout.
- Trampoline - 2m x 3m accessible trampoline with safety surface
- Agri-flex pathway - Grippy pathway to the site, up the slope.

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Overall Vision: TK Play Design (including all optional features)



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Funding - After Phase 1, we'll need everyone's help!

The Parish Council can raise some money through the precept (charges to households through council tax) – but this is likely to be limited to paying increased maintenance costs only.

The community levy (CIL) imposed on new developments usually provides some income which we can legitimately use for this purpose, but is variable year on year.

Try to identify as many grant sources as possible and pursue. At the present time, this is unlikely to be a successful source of funding.

As the above may not prove fruitful, Community help will definitely be needed – everything from raffles & tombola's to legacies, grants from local businesses and even local business sponsorship.

Funding will require an enormous community effort.

Payhembury - we know you can do it!

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