

To APC

I'm sending my outline for discussion at the next parish council meeting as discussed.

Playgrounds are safe spaces where children develop critical skills.

Not only is there the obvious physical aspect but also they help to develop, social emotional & imaginative skills necessary to gain self confidence, improve coordination and advance their critical thinking capabilities.

Play is an essential aspect of learning.

When children play they gain a huge variety of skills such as

- * Coordination

- * Motor Skills

- * Cognitive Abilities

- * Social Awareness and Language to name but a few.

Free play, the kind you find on playgrounds, is exceptionally important as it allows children to explore their own imaginations in a safe and secure environment.

The health benefits of having a playground are pretty clear as we all know that exercise is good for us, but, this is especially important for our children's health development.

Running, Climbing, swinging, jumping all have benefits.... they not only strengthen the body but they strengthen the mind, the cardiovascular system and the circulatory system each nurtured through vigorous activity.

Playgrounds are great for reducing boredom in our children, boredom, as we all know, can lead to destructive behaviour as there's no means to channel their energy.

There are community benefits also ... not only do our children make friends but parents will too.

Lewannick has a beautiful well equipped playground as do many of our neighbouring villages and it seems unjust that the children of five lanes, Altarnun and Trewint don't have that available to them.

There are 12 new houses being built with a further 24 I believe, in planning ... that's potentially 36 families with children who too, will have nowhere to play out and develop the important skills I mentioned earlier.

There are 2 areas on Penpont view where a wonderful playground could be built.

1. The green, many if not most of the children in the area already play here every day, they have constructed a makeshift swing on the only tree on the green, but it's very primitive and there's only one... some of the children have caused damage to said tree through boredom and this upsets me, though, I understand why this has occurred and again, if they had a proper playground then this would more than likely not have happened.

This area would be ideal as it's overlooked by many of the parents this gives it an added advantage of extra safety and parents peace of mind.

I assume there will be opposition for this area as residents will argue they don't want laughing screaming happy children outside their homes, my argument would be that this is already happening with or without a dedicated area so isn't really a good enough argument against it.

2. The dilapidated garages at the bottom of Penpont view near the flats.

My understanding is that these structures are no longer really fit for purpose, if they were demolished then a playground could easily be built there.

The playground doesn't have to be fancy or lit up as generally it will only be played on later in the evenings during the summer months when it is light until quite late anyway.

It only needs to contain within its gated area ...

- * Swings for all ages to enjoy

- * A slide

- * Climbing Frame

- * Maybe a chalking area where they can explore their artistic abilities

- * A set of goal posts.

I truly believe this would be an extremely beneficial investment for our community for many many years to come.