

CRANNAFORD PLAY PARK – PATH REMEDIATION

Introduction

The purpose of this report is for the Committee to consider path remediation at Crannaford Play Park. Gravel is migrating from the footpath onto the Wet Pour Safer Surface.

Background

The surface installed at Crannaford Park is Wet Pour. The wet pour surfacing, being a blended mix of rubber granules bound as a continuous surface, free of seams and joints is regarded as one of the safest surfaces used in play area design.

The perimeter footpath to the play area is made up of 10mm gravel mixed with 6mm down to dust. The gravel is migrating onto the playing surface and over time is likely to cause premature deterioration of the safer surface as the gravel becomes imbedded in the wet pour. This could potentially reduce the overall standard and performance of the play area surface. Figure 1 shows the migration of gravel at the play park.

The Council's Ground Maintenance and Landscaping Contractor has been consulted on the options for remediation and their recommendation are outlined below:

Options

1. The aim would be to try and stop 10mm gravel migrating on to the playing surface by removing the larger loose gravel. This would be carried out by sweeping the gravel from the wet pour play surface and sweep the paths to remove the loose 10mm gravel. Potentially this may need to be done twice, the price includes the second sweeping. The works have been quoted as costing £687.00 (plus VAT).
2. If gravel continues to migrate after two sweepings, spread a 25mm layer of 6mm stone over the path and compact it down. No price has been quoted as not recommended in the first instance.
3. An alternative would be to lower the path and resurface with tarmac. However this will not allow for shrinkage between the tarmac and wet pour over time and a gap will appear between the two surfaces. This is not recommended as a viable solution.

Summary

It is unfortunate that this situation has arisen at one of the Council's most recent Play Equipment installations and issue was not foreseen, however it is considered important to rectify to prevent any potential damage and loss of performance requiring more costly remediation. It is further noted that there is a small area of gravel path adjacent to the fenced area of the Platinum Play Park and whilst this has not yet been identified as an issue the area will be monitored.

Recommendation

1. To approve the remediation of the perimeter footpath at Crannaford Play Park and instruct the Council's Ground Maintenance and Landscaping Contractor to carry out the sweeping of loose gravel as presented in Option 1 above at a cost of £687.00 (plus VAT).
2. To monitor the situation at Platinum Play Park as part of the weekly play park inspections.

Figure 1 Crannaford Play Park

