

Village Green update and Precept information.

We would like to keep the village informed about some changes/upgrades to our community play area on the village green.

After many years of family fun much of the equipment now needs replacing and/or significant maintenance. To that end the PC has purchased a tractor and trailer slide to replace the combine at the Village Green.

The cost of a company to supply and fit the new tractor and trailer will be £ 15,111.00 + VAT. The Parish Council have funded this from UDC Community grant for £ 3,500, Swards End Village Hall £ 5,000 and £ 7,500 from the PC maintenance funds.

The tractor and trailer is ready to be delivered but we just need to wait for the ground to dry up so that the Village Green isn't damaged when this happens the play area at the Village Green will be closed for a week.



As mentioned above much of the other playground equipment is now also coming to the end of its lifespan. The PC has therefore undertaken a program of refurbishment and will need approx. £15,000 for the refurbishment and replacement of the other equipment. This is the 2nd phase of the work.

To minimise the cost to the Parish for 2024/2025 period, the Parish Council applied for a grant from ECC (which was administered by EALC Essex Ass of Local Councils) for funding towards the 2nd phase of the playground improvements. The grant was approved and needs to be match funded by the Parish council.

So moving forward the £ 7,600 match funding will be made up from:
£ 2,500 Village Hall Committee
£ 5,100 Parish Council – raised by a one-off increase in the precept for 2024/25.

We can assure that this “one off” increase in the precept will only be for the 2024/25 period and will revert “back to normal” for the following years.

The precept has been set at £ 19,700, which is a 3.8% increase to cover inflation and £ 5,000 towards the playground refurbishment. In monetary terms this is £ 20.00 per household for one year only.

The Parish Council would like to thank the Village Hall Committee for all their financial support towards the Village Green.

Swards End Parish Council