



Bassetlaw
DISTRICT COUNCIL
— North Nottinghamshire —

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Our Ref: CT/LE-290321
Please ask for: Craig Taylor
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Date: 07 April 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Subject: St John's Field Play Area Petition

Thank you for your letter of 29 March and associated petition seeking improvements to the St Johns Field / Gateford Park play area. It is clear that you have put a great deal of energy into presenting a case to extend play provision at this site.

Your letter mentions that the basket swing is no longer available for use. This swing was removed as it is often used by multiple children at the same time and as such is not deemed covid-safe. It is planned to be put back in June, subject to continued progress on easing coronavirus restrictions in line with the government roadmap.

By way of background, the play facilities at St John's Field including the toddler area, multi-use games area/ball-court, fitness trail, climbing wall and basket swing were originally funded using grant money the Council secured through the national Play-builder programme. Unfortunately there are currently no other similar government grants available to extend children's play facilities.

The Council manages 37 play areas across Bassetlaw, all of which are inspected weekly and repaired and maintained using an annual budget of around £30,000 per year. Whilst this is a considerable sum, it is far short of the amount required to significantly extend provision on this site which would be likely to cost upwards of £50,000. The other main source of funding available to enhance children's play provision is through contributions from developers when new housing sites are built. The two nearest large housing developments planned are at Gateford Park North and Gateford Common. The Council has negotiated play provision at both of these sites which over time will be likely to draw some play demand from existing properties.

To conclude, the Council unfortunately does not have a capital budget available to extend play provision at St Johns Field. If funding grants become available in the future or community funding is raised we would be happy to have discussions about what may be possible.

Yours sincerely

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

Craig Taylor
Head of Neighbourhoods