

Appendix 3

Briefing note on play areas to remain within Somer lease

The two sites proposed to remain within the existing Somer play area lease are Cranmore Place in Odd Down and Homemead Park in Weston. The reason for this outcome is that although these are sites which Somer wanted to surrender to the Council, they were unable to afford the level of commuted sum required. More specific detail for each site is:

Cranmore Place – it is agreed by both parties that this is a poorly located site and that an alternative use should be sought e.g. allotments. However, play provision in this area is poor and the use of Cranmore Place could not be changed without making alternative provision for play near-by. For this reason a high commuted sum was required by the Council which Somer could not afford.

Homemead Park – this is a large site relatively poorly located to serve the majority of residents in the area. As a large site the level of commuted sum required meant that it was unaffordable for Somer. In addition, as it is felt that this site is poorly located consideration needs to be given to whether the provision on this site would be better located on alternative site(s).

It is recognised that it is unsatisfactory to leave these 2 play areas with uncertain futures so joint work between the Council and Somer has been agreed for spring 2011, to determine the way forward. This will include consulting with local people, the consideration of potential options and full feasibility assessments. Identifying sources of funding, for example through developer contributions and grant applications, will be essential, along with further negotiations with Somer to agree the level of commuted sum and ultimate surrender of the sites to the Council.

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