

Geoff Cant (Leisure Centre Manager, Prudhoe Waterworld) is seeking ideas for a new and improved play area from 3 different suppliers. Following our first meeting with Geoff, attended by the Clerk and Cllr Jennifer McGee the initial brief will include the following prerequisites:

1. Low maintenance
2. An alternative to wet pour surfacing
3. Accessible
4. Innovative

They expect to receive an indication of costs from suppliers already contacted by 11<sup>th</sup> October. The Town Council could defer a decision on any contribution until this point, but an early indication would be welcome as would allow the project to progress.

Once ideas have been received the images of these and other like equipment will be used as part of a public consultation; schools coming into Waterworld for lessons will be invited to rate the equipment in order of preference, visitors will also be asked to do the same. The consultation will run for one-week, prior to the October half-term holidays.

NCC has agreed to contribute £65k and County Cllr Gordon Stewart is going to seek to contribute £5k. As well as considering a capital investment in the play area the Town Council will also need to seek to agree to take over the maintenance of the play area, from April 2020; the capital investment from NCC is subject to this being agreed.

Subject to the above being agreed, NCC will then run a procurement exercise, based on the results of the consultation that will hopefully result in a new and improved play area that the young people and users want. It is expected that procurement would run throughout November and possibly into the beginning of December.