

<b>Report No. Appendix: Agenda Item:</b>	<b>Council  Date of Meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b>
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<b>OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL</b>
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<b>Report Author: Phil Wildbore</b>	<b>Title: Spokesperson for Environment Group</b>
<b>Subject: Impact Absorbent Play Surfaces</b>	
<b>Applicable Strategies:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To improve the quality of life for residents and businesses in Oakham Town;</b></li> <li>• <b>To protect and enhance amenities in Oakham Town;</b></li> <li>• <b>To preserve and enhance the rural, built and natural environments of Oakham Town.</b></li> <li>• <b>To provide effective, transparent and accountable local government of Oakham Town.</b></li> </ul>	

The current grounds maintenance contract covers the types of impact absorbent play surfaces – *‘They will normally be of play bark or a rubber safety surface.’*

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting on 20 September 2023 stated that the Town Clerk tabled three options for Cutts Close *‘and that would require site visits arranged by the Town Clerk.’*

All members of the Environment Group present on 4 October 2023 were in agreement that any decisions implemented for Cutts Close could have wider implications on other Oakham Town Council play areas with similar issues with the same type of current surfacing material.

Whilst the full grounds maintenance contract awaits a direction to proceed, it seems prudent to advance a future specification for impact absorbent play areas.

On 6 September 2023 Council adopted to:

- Reduce carbon footprint and improve resilience by reducing reliance on fossil fuels;
- Consider the environmental implications of all council decisions.

It is considered that before any decision is made that a fully functional base standard ought to be established to avoid the Council incurring future costs, both in installation and maintenance of any impact absorbent play surface. In addition, to take into account the parts of the Climate Action Plan adopted by Council.

### **Proposals**

1. That the Environment Group be approved to carry out a review and costings for applying a baseline standard to all Oakham Town Council play areas.
2. That all decisions by Oakham Town Council are deferred until this review advises full council.
3. That the Environment Group report to Council on 13 December 2023.