

Gardiner Field Playground – next steps

We are in the process of trying to secure a grant to enable us to upgrade the Bourdillon and Gardiner playgrounds before the end of 2025.

We are hoping to complete Bourdillon in September and Gardiner within this financial year.

Bourdillon has informed the council on the process we need to follow to upgrade Gardiner.

For Gardiner, we intend to:

- 1) obtain planning permission to extend the playground by 3 meters to the north to make space for enhanced play equipment and in particular to include Accessible and SEN equipment. Any extension beyond that will require the emergency access gate to be moved and could be a problem with regard to established trees. Planning application to be registered asap
- 2) continue to work with SODC (and other sources if appropriate) to secure a grant(s) which will enable us to complete Gardiner and Bourdillon this financial year;
- 3) obtain Council approval to proceed immediately to open Tender (at council meeting 14/7). This will be a positive demonstration to potential grant sources that GPC are committed to the project and may help to secure a grant;
- 4) finalise and issue the Gardiner ITT by end of July, based on the Bourdillon ITT updated to reflect Gardiner requirements. The ITT will clearly state that any decision to proceed will be subject to council approval and securing additional funds;
- 5) manage an open and competitive procurement process in the same way as we have for Bourdillon (note that the external auditor has complemented GPC on the Bourdillon procurement process);
- 6) approve an evaluation process based on the Bourdillon evaluation and lessons learned;
- 7) at an appropriate time form an Evaluation Work Group and complete an objective evaluation of all Tenders in an equal and transparent way
- 8) produce an analysis for full council and recommend a preferred supplier(s)