

Site visit to Thanckes park playpark - Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025 @ 4pm

In attendance: Cllr John Tivnan, Gemma Lee, Archie, Phil Griffiths , Claire Bell and Lizeta Fellows.

We all met at the entrance to Benodet park, we began our site visit by confirming details of the disabled toilet. Phil explained that he was awaiting confirmation the door and whether the cover was required, he discussed the plan was to renew the door frame, move the door handle lower as its currently too higher a child or wheelchair user and as we had previously spoke about, confirming that we would be changing the door direction to open outwards for health and safety reasons.

We then discussed previous options that we have looked at for accessible entrance into the playpark.

Archive and Claire demonstrated the difficulty of not only opening the gate, keeping it open then attempting to get up the slope and navigating the different textures of the ground just as you begin the incline up the path into the park. Claire struggled to grip the first part of the slope as it was too smooth, after the smooth area it is extremely uneven and stony which found Archie's wheels got stuck, so any momentum gained to access then comes to a halt.

We then talked about the gate at some length, as the gate is heavy and hard to manoeuvre when you are trying to navigate a wheelchair at the same time. A member suggested a sliding gate, so that we maintain the security from dogs and wildlife but create an easier more manageable option for all. We discussed the safety awareness for this kind of gate particularly focusing on the possibility of trapping fingers etc.

At our last site visit we discussed taking part of the wall away from the right-hand side and moving the bin that is sited just at the entrance. It was thought that we would potentially still need to remove a part of the wall, but if regulations allow it may be more cost effective to remove from the left-hand side.

We have now reverted back to the original idea that came from our disability audit with Disability Cornwall to create a slope on the lead up to the park and graduate the incline so that it reduces the risk of toppling or slipping.

There may be a requirement to replace the part of wall removed for this slope with railings.

We talked about entering the playpark via the back entrance walking through the skatepark. We did agree it would be a good idea to have two options potentially. We have previously looked at this option. Lizeta stated it may be worth having a discussion with the Torpoint Ramps forum to see if this could be incorporated within their plans to rejuvenate the skate park.

Phil stated he was trying to arrange a visit from Cornwall council for some other items in the area and would discuss this area for additional views and insights into these potential plans.

Please see enclosed pictures.

Thanks go out to all those Dap members that came out to the site visit and special thanks go to Claire, Archie and Gemma for their assistance using their wheelchairs.

Cllr Lizeta Fellows

