

## **Parish Council Meeting – 4 June 2024 – Picnic Tables at St Marks/Battery**

### Background

The picnic tables have been very well used and although the benches can be moved, they are quite heavy, consequently they have remained in the same position as placed originally. If they are not moved it is a more difficult to cut the grass close to and under the picnic tables and strimming will eventually damage the timbers. The situation has been made worse by the exceptionally inclement weather recently. Consequently, it was suggested that options to help protect the legs on the picnic tables should be investigated.

On 5 April, Infinity Playgrounds was asked to provide alternative prices for a "hardstanding" under the two picnic tables at the front and side of St Marks Church Hall. One option would be the same as you recently installed at the Recreation Ground under the new picnic tables there, or alternatively perhaps precast slabs. This is to protect the picnic tables from the effects of the timbers being directly on the ground and also to help with grass cutting/trimming around them.

### Proposals

Having visited the site, Infinity provided a few options.

The first option is a grass mat, which is similar to those recently installed at the recreation ground. The second and third options will provide a solid base for the picnic tables to sit, which will prevent the grass from growing under and closely around the tables. This will help with grass cutting generally and it will not be necessary to trim around the legs.

#### **Option 1:**

Supply and installation of 18m<sup>2</sup> total of grass mat surfacing under 2no picnic benches (9m<sup>2</sup> under each bench).

Total costs of works: **£724.00 Plus Vat**

#### **Option 2:**

Supply and installation of 18m<sup>2</sup> of rubber bonded mulch under 2no picnic benches (9m<sup>2</sup> under each bench).

Total costs of works: **£1,782.00 Plus Vat**

#### **Option 3:**

Supply and installation of 2no 9m<sup>2</sup> concrete pads (these can be either poured concrete or paving slabs).

Total costs of works: **£1,880.00 Plus Vat**

### Brief Commentary

It appears for usage to date that the picnic tables will not be moved very often, if at all.

Although Option 1 (grass mat) provides added protection to the feet of the picnic tables, a difficulty with grass cutting remains.

Option 2 (rubber bonded mulch) is more appropriate for playgrounds than this location.

Option 3 (paving slab option) is more appropriate for this location and flexible if the picnic tables do need to be moved.

Re.vive Café/St Marks contributed towards one of the picnic tables and Rev Marianne Foster has been approached for a contribution of £600 towards the cost.

Recommendations

Accept the quotation for Option 3 and the Clerk to order the works.