

Replacement or repair of the village seats

1. The Parish Council owns 12 public seats around the village. These vary considerably in age and condition.
2. It will be recalled that at the June meeting, Cllr Toogood reported that the Playing Field Association, having reviewed its latest safety report, had concluded that the seats located in the children's play area needed either repair or replacement. The Parish Council minute says "As regards the benches, the Clerk would undertake an audit of all the benches in the Parish with a view to replacing all those which required attention with benches made of recycled plastic which require no maintenance."
3. I carried out the audit of the benches on 21 June. My findings are set out in the spreadsheet which follows. This includes information on the age of each seat, its present state and my recommendation on each. You will see that for six of the seats I cannot ascertain the exact date of purchase. I have invoices for the purchase of three seats in 2000 and three more in 2002 but no information on where they were installed.
4. You will see that I am recommending the replacement of the two seats in the play area plus the one at the junction of Woodlands and Chalky Road. I would like a second opinion on the one at the junction of Chalky Road and Martell Close. The rest only require treatment. They were last treated in 2017. The seat half way up Knighton Lane does not require treatment this time round. This seat is not exposed to the sun and not subject to the weathering experienced by the other seats.
5. Once the Parish Council has decided whether it wishes to replace three or four of the seats (see above), I will obtain estimates for their purchase and installation. Hopefully, the company we use will be willing to take the old seats away. I will also get quotes for the treatment of the remaining seats and hopefully the work can be done this summer.
6. For reference, the total cost (including installation) of the three seats which were purchased in 2019 was £2,738.80 so I reckon it will probably be in the region of £1,000 per seat this time.

Location of seat	Installed	Material	Condition in June 2022	Recommendation
Broadmead (facing proposed development site)	2000 or 2002	Wooden slats, concrete legs	Woodwork sound, surface poor	Treat
Chalky Road (near junction with Martell Close)	2000 or 2002	Wooden slats, concrete legs	Woodwork OK, surface poor	Replace ?
Woodlands (near junction with Chalky Road)	1993	Wooden slats, concrete legs	Woodwork failing	Replace
Churchyard	2000 or 2002	Wooden slats, concrete legs	Woodwork sound, surface poor	Treat
Playing field (carpark)	2005	Wooden slats, concrete legs	Woodwork sound, surface poor	Treat
Playing field (under trees)	2000 or 2002	Wooden slats, concrete legs	Woodwork sound, surface poor	Treat
Children's play area (nearest field)	2000 or 2002	Wooden slats, concrete legs	Warped, surface poor	Replace
Children's play area (nearest Chalky Road)	2000 or 2002	Wooden slats, concrete legs	Damaged by WGS, surface poor	Replace
Knighton Lane	2008	Wooden slats, concrete legs	Sound	No action
Beside village hall	2019	Recycled plastic	Sound	No action
Knighton Lane (near school)	2019	Recycled plastic	Sound	No action
Near D-Day memorial	2019	Recycled plastic	Sound	No action



Chalky Road (near Junction with Martell Close) : REPLACE?



Play area (nearest Chalky Road): REPLACE



Play area: nearest playing field: REPLACE



Playing field: under the trees



Village hall car park



Woodlands; near junction with Chalky Road: REPLACE



Broadmead



Knighton Lane



Churchyard