HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED PENARLAG

13th December 2021

1.	**Name of Councillor(s)/ Officer**	Clerk and Financial Officer
2.	**Title of Report**	Vicker's Close Play Area
3.	**Purpose of Report**	(i) To provide consultation feedback to council following the public consultation exercise. (ii) To determine what action, if any, to take at Vicker's Close play area.
4.	**Background to this request**	Members will recall that during August and September the council held a public consultation on whether to change the Vicker's Close play area into a dog agility site. Posters were displayed on the Council's website and Facebook pages and leaflets were delivered by hand to the properties surrounding Vicker's Close by members. A total of 46 responses were received with 26 residents from Hawarden and 2 from Mancot. Some responders did not indicate their home address. A total of seventeen requested that the play area remain as a play area; seven agreed that a dog agility site would be a good idea. Seven liked the idea of a combined dog area and play area and three requests were for very different purposes including the

		provision of a site for refugees and a container for a youth club! Two workshops were held with members of the Community Council on the 10th November one in the morning and one in the evening. Members reviewed all the responses and considered a number of options as shown in section 7 below. Many comments also related to the lack of security at this site as it is in a remote location and there appears to be evidence of anti-social behaviour and drug abuse which has been reported to the police. Some requests included the provision of a kissing gate, additional lighting and footpath improvements, CCTV, zip wire, MUGA and lockable gates.
5.	**Financial Implications**	There is no money in the budget for any improvement to the play area, depending which option is chosen, then budgetary provision will need to be included when the council finalises its budget in January 2022.
6.	**Environmental Implications**	Any improvements to the play area will enhance the environment. Subject to the council's decision a wild flower option could be included at the site.
7.	**Decision sought by Council**	Option 1 – leave the site as it is as no-one appears to want to play there (based on the consultation responses) Option 2 – replace the current equipment with more modern equipment and an inclusive piece of equipment (which might encourage more local people to attend). Option 3 - give the land back to the Hawarden Estate Office (not favoured by most members).

		Option 4 – consider the addition of new play equipment to be installed year on year, monitoring the use of the play area and consultation with play area users; an annual budget of £15,000 could be set aside for annual improvements. Option 5 – (*post workshop suggestion*) make a separate fenced off space for dog walkers and wild growth and move the play equipment further into the play area.
8.	**Equality implications**	All children including children with disabilities have a right to play. Inclusive equipment can be purchased such as roundabouts, swings and picnic benches.