

Report on inclusive roundabout suitability

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

Report by: Elaine Atkin

Date: 04/03/25

Report to: Parish Council 3/2025

We have provisionally earmarked a space just inside the play area fencing (to the right) for possible installation of an accessible roundabout. A number of potential roundabouts from different suppliers had been identified.

There is a gentle slope in the play area and before proceeding further, we needed to confirm whether this would present an issue.

Proludic have confirmed that the ground would have to be 100% level for an accessible roundabout to be viable. Our location would therefore need appropriate groundworks to level it off first. (Proludic admitted they would be prohibitively expensive to do these groundworks, and we would need to organise this ourselves).

Inclusive Play have said that a level surface with good drainage would be required. From the photos we sent, they don't think the slope is extreme. They have confirmed that we would be responsible for preparing the ground and that their products are 'drop-in' (requiring a forklift or similar to put into position).

Neither supplier have actually been out to site, although details of the slope/location were provided to them.

There is no other flat ground available in the play area.

Risks

The Clerk has experience in a different council, whereby an accessible roundabout was not installed by the supplier (but by another supplier who were also installing their own equipment at the same time). There were issues after a while with the roundabout and the original supplier wouldn't accept any responsibility as they hadn't installed it (so couldn't guarantee it had been installed to their specification), and the supplier who had installed it wouldn't accept any responsibility as it wasn't their equipment, and they installed it as a favour.

There is therefore a risk if the equipment (and preparation of the ground) is not done by the roundabout supplier. So, if we organised the groundworks, and there were issues with the equipment, could the supplier claim this is down to the ground preparation and not their equipment?

Further items for consideration:

- Is there room for machinery to do the groundworks?
- Would levelling off a small area create further hazards? For example, how will the difference in height be managed? Will this create further trip hazards?

Recommendation:

1. Council to decide whether progressing an accessible roundabout is viable, taking into consideration the issues and risks identified above.
2. If it is deemed not viable, Council to consider whether to investigate an alternative piece of equipment.