

RE: Consultation: POS Contribution –

1. I refer to the emails from S106 Mid Devon District Council **RE: Off-site Public Open Space Contribution.**

2. I think that the first thing that we should point out is that there is no new land within Willand parish which is likely to be available as an off-site public open space. They have already been built on or are subject of planning application. We therefore have to consider enhancements to public open space in Willand or in close proximity where it would benefit residents of the parish. No land comes to mind as being in close proximity that would benefit residents and therefore we need to look at what we already have.

3. Jubilee Field – Public Footpath.

3.1 This path goes along the Eastern length of the field from by the village hall to Somerlea. It is a well used footpath for through pedestrian traffic, access to the playing field and access to one of the entrances to the primary school. The path was resurfaced a few years back and it was edged with timber to make it more stable. Raised areas caused by roots of trees within the school grounds were also dealt with but this problem is now reoccurring. There have been many approaches to widen the footpath, particularly in relation to the school entrance and this was responded to by the laying of ‘Grasslock’ matting but that is now sinking into the ground through continued use. It could not be widened in the area between the school boundary and the fence of the small fenced play area towards the Somerlea end,

3.2 Funds could be used to widen the footpath for most of its length where possible and this would make it more accessible for people passing one another and give a more solid base for parents waiting at school pick up times. The whole footpath could be enhanced to resolve the tree root and cracking problem all along the length of the path. This would need a detailed specification and costing if thought an appropriate project.

4. Cemetery – Safer Access.

4.1 The Parish Cemetery is on a backroad out of the village which is subject to the National Speed Limit. With the increased developments in and around the village this road is becoming a ‘rat run’. There is no pavement, footpath or lighting and visibility is limited in places. Elderly people walking or using invalid mobility devices to visit the cemetery feel insecure and unsafe. Frequent comments and requests to the Parish Council seek to establish a safe route to the cemetery.

4.2 There is no possibility of providing a roadside pavement or footpath due to buildings and land ownership. There is a potential to try and establish a footpath from Jaycroft around the edge of a field and establishing a rear pedestrian entrance to the cemetery. This would require land acquisition and professional assistance to achieve this plus design and construction.

5. Complete safety surfacing of some or all small play areas.

5.1 A number of smaller play areas, owned by MDDC but under lease to Willand Parish Council have safety surfaces under equipment and then grass on other areas. These grass areas have an ongoing maintenance cost for cutting etc. Some of the existing safety surfaces are old, patched with joints parting and lifting.

5.2 It is suggested that funding could be used to replace the whole surface within the fenced areas with one solid composite safety surfacing. This would provide a safe and continuous surface and remove the need for regular grass cutting etc.

6. Replacement fence/gates Victoria Park

6.1 MDDC owned area – fence and gates upgrade. Currently in poor condition. District Council have previously made attempts to remove the fence completely and make the whole park “dogs on leads” contrary to local wishes. An upgraded fence and gates would ensure current usage can continue.

*Barry G J Warren
23rd February 2026*