Letter sent by email 13/3/18

Dear Councillors

I would like to belatedly thank you for the programme of works to improve the amenity area near the MUGA. The picnic tables look really good however I would like to bring some issues to your attention and consideration.

I would like to request the tables are relocated for several reasons:

Firstly, they are in my opinion, too far from the children’s play area for parents and families to safely picnic and allow their children to play in the area whilst supervised from the tables.

Secondly, I feel that they would be better used if they were located in the shade of the taller trees between the roundabout and the path. In addition to moving them it would also allow an opportunity to locate the benches closer to the tables. After consulting several parents at the local pre-school, many young children cannot safely sit on the bench and eat at the table as the distance is too great for them to reach.

Finally, despite knowing that the benches were at the bottom of the ‘sledging hill’ from the MUGA many families enjoyed hours of fun in the snow during the recent cold weather. Unfortunately, I know of at least four injuries that resulted from collisions with sledges and the tables including my three year old son who broke his leg.

People will continue to sledge on the hill regardless of the tables and I have huge concerns that worse injuries are possible.

One of the other injuries was a head injury to a five year old boy, thankfully not too serious, and another was a severely bruised arm on an adult.

I appreciate that moving the tables to allow for safer sledging, on an occasional snowy day, sounds extreme.

I have been informed by a contractor who worked on building the MUGA area that the ‘sledging hill’ was landscaped in a way that allowed for sledging. I am unsure how true this fact is, in terms of planning for winter activities, however it does seem feasible and maybe the location of the tables doesn’t match the original thoughts of the landscaper?

I would like to attend the next council meeting to further discuss these issues. I would welcome your consideration on this matter and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours faithfully,

Matthew Waddilove-Carr