



Troopers Hill Field – Replacing the Red Slide

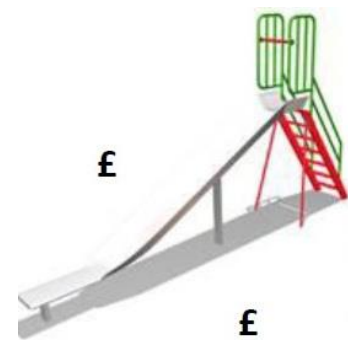
Friends of Troopers Hill are delighted to have secured funding for a new large slide to be added to the [play area on Troopers Hill Field](#) that was constructed in 2016.

The majority of the funding is being provided by [Ibstock Enovert Trust](#), but this was only secured due to the support for the project from local residents through a [crowd funding campaign](#) run by Friends of Troopers Hill.

The total of over £1,300 donated to this fund from over 50 individuals provided the necessary match-funding and also demonstrated the strength of support for the project.

The new slide will replace the much loved red slide that used to stand on Troopers Hill Field and had to be removed in November 2019. The total cost of the new slide, together with the necessary safety surfacing will be around £11,000.

The red slide was the last remaining part of the 1980s play area. The rust had finally reached the point where it had become structurally unsafe putting users at risk.



Red Slide FAQs

a) Why does a new slide cost so much?

- The cost covers new safety surfacing as well as the new slide, including taking off the turf, putting down a 10 cm layer of stone and the safety surfacing itself.
- The slide is not the kind of slide you have in your back garden - it has to take all the stresses and strains of being outside in a public space, taking the weight of many bodies other than the small children we would like to be the only users.
- The guarantee period for most play equipment of this type is 15-25 years.
- A small amount of this sum is to allow for changes in cost while we raise the funds and for costs such as the website we are using for fundraising and doing any kind of publicity to raise funds. All fundraising websites make charges.

b) Why couldn't the old slide be repaired?

- The slide had completely rusted through in places, [in particular some of its supporting legs](#).
- To repair it would have been a specialised engineering job, in effect it would have meant building a new slide but with some old parts.
- A new slide needs to meet modern safety standards, this may not have been possible using parts from the old slide.

Notice of play equipment removal



Site name: Troopers Hill Date of notice: 25/10/2019

Equipment description: Free Standing Steel Slide

Reason for removal:

The equipment has come to the natural end of its life span (installed 1980). The steel is eroding at the base and user safety can no longer be guaranteed.

Removal of the slide is scheduled for November 2019 with the wetpour and tarmac along with reinstatement landscaping being scheduled for the spring of 2020 due to ground conditions



c) Where will the new slide go?

- Next to the new play area so it can be used with the other play equipment.
- It will have to face north so the stainless steel slide section does not heat up too much in the sun - this was a problem with the old slide which faced west and was not in the shade.
- The proposed location is marked on this aerial view of the existing play area.



d) Why wasn't a new slide included in the new play area?

- There was a limited budget for the new play area - we raised £80,000. There was a strong plea to keep the old slide and not replace it. We chose to go for the priority list of items that parents had suggested at [our consultation](#) and with the slide still there (it lasted 3 more years), a small slide in the play area seemed to be enough.

e) Why can't the new slide be where the old one was?

- Now we have a new £80,000 play area it did not make sense to have a single piece of play equipment so far away, particularly as Bristol City Council have to make fortnightly safety inspections of all play equipment in all their parks.