

Botesdale Recreation Ground Regeneration Project

Safety and Security Review

16 August 2021

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ABBREVIATIONS

BPC	Botesdale Parish Council
BRGRP	Botesdale Recreation Ground Regeneration Project
Project	Botesdale Recreation Ground Regeneration Project
Ground	Recreation Ground
Sub Committee	Recreation Ground Regeneration Project Sub Committee

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The key results of the BRGRP Safety and Security Review are set out below:

- The design for the Recreation Ground has been developed by professional designers, James Blake Associates, based on a comprehensive Project Brief (See Section 3).
- The nature and extent of the antisocial behaviour experienced to date is, for the most part, anecdotal. Unfortunately there is very limited hard data on which to assess the nature and extent of the problem. (See Section 5).
- It is believed that the existing Recreation Ground shelter, which is not part of the proposed Project, is a primary catalyst for the current levels of intermittent antisocial behaviour. It is therefore recommended that BPC immediately move to have the shelter dismantled and removed from the site. (See Section 5).
- The proposition is that antisocial behaviours will diminish when the Project is completed. This proposition is supported by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) Report entitled Decent Parks? Decent Behaviour? and the Police (See Section 5).
- RoSPA have undertaken a Plan Review. The Report identifies a few design considerations that have been addressed by JBA. (See Section 6).
- The direction of travel and launch base for the zip wire have been modified.(See Section 6).
- The recommendations of the Suffolk Police Design Out Crime Officer have been reviewed and addressed, primarily by reference to existing plans and initiatives. (See Section 7).
- There are no recommendations from the Suffolk Police Design Out Crime Officer regarding security fencing. An analysis of a sample local rural and urban recreation grounds shows an absence of security fencing.
- The conclusion of the Suffolk Police Design Out Crime Officer regarding CCTV has been considered. The feasibility of a CCTV installation has been established. The antisocial behaviour position (See Section 5), particularly the anticipation that the completed Project will lead to a decline in antisocial behaviours suggests that the case for CCTV is not definitive at this time. It is proposed that the position be reviewed 6 months after the Project is operational. (See Section 7).
- The potential noise issue re large ball sports have been addressed. (See Section 8).

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. This Report sets out the basis for and the results of the Safety and Security Review undertaken by the Recreation Ground Regeneration Project Sub Committee (Sub Committee) in respect of the proposed design for the Project.
- 2.2. The Report includes an Executive Summary at Section 1.
- 2.3. Sections 3 and 4 set out the Background to and Scope of the Review, respectively.
- 2.4. Section 5 specifically addresses Antisocial Behaviour both as a generic issue and as specifically related to the existing Recreation Ground.
- 2.5. Sections 6 and 7 set out the Review findings re Safety and Security, respectively.
- 2.6. Section 8 addresses noise.
- 2.7. Various Appendices as referenced in the Report are located after Section 8.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. Following the initial feasibility exercise undertaken by Groundworks, BPC established a Sub Committee in December 2019 to progress the Project.
- 3.2. The Sub Committee's first task was to develop a Project Brief. The Project Brief was approved by BPC at the meeting on 3 February 2020.
- 3.3. The Project Brief formed part of the tendering package utilised to obtain design tenders and select the design contractor.
- 3.4. James Blake Associates (JBA) were contracted in September 2020 to undertake the design to fulfil the Project Brief.
- 3.5. The Project Brief established a number of objectives for the Project. The objectives with respect to safety and security included:
 - *To create an amenity space that is safe and secure for the users.*
 - *To create an amenity space that reduces, as far as possible, the potential for vandalism and anti-social behaviours.*
- 3.6. JBA have developed the Project design in accordance with the Project Brief. See Appendix A.
- 3.7. At a public meeting on site on Friday 2 July 2021 some issues were raised regarding the safety, security, and noise aspects of the proposed design.
- 3.8. The Sub Committee instigated this Safety and Security Review to investigate and address the issues.

4. SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

- 4.1. To consider the nature and extent of the existing anti-social issues related to the use of the current Recreations Ground.
- 4.2. To capture JBA's thoughts regarding the safety and security of the proposed design.
- 4.3. To undertake third party reviews of the safety and security of the proposed design.
- 4.4. To consult with other arish Councils.
- 4.5. To consider any noise issues related to the design.
- 4.6. To collate all the Review material into one Report.

5. ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

5.1 Antisocial Behaviour is defined as:

'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person' (Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003 and Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011).¹

5.2 There are three main categories of antisocial behaviour:

- Personal antisocial behaviour
 - is when a person targets a specific individual or group.
- Nuisance antisocial behaviour
 - is when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community.
- Environmental antisocial behaviour
 - is when a person's actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.

5.3 Under these main headings antisocial behaviour falls into one of 13 different types:

- Vehicle abandoned:
 - This covers vehicles that appear to have been left by their owner, rather than stolen and abandoned. It includes scrap or 'end of life' vehicles and those damaged at the scene of a road traffic collision that have been abandoned and aren't awaiting recovery.
- Vehicle nuisance or inappropriate use:
 - This relates to vehicles being used in acts such as street cruising (driving up and down the street causing annoyance and bothering other road users), vehicle convoys and riding or driving on land other than a road. It also covers the misuse of go-peds, motorised skateboards and electric-propelled cycles, and the unlicensed dealing of vehicles where a person has two or more vehicles on the same road within 500 metres of each other.
- Rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour:
 - This refers to general nuisance behaviour in a public place or a place to which the public have access, such as private clubs. It does not include domestic-related behaviour, harassment or public disorder which should be reported as crimes.
- Rowdy or nuisance neighbours:
 - This covers any rowdy behaviour or general nuisance caused by neighbours, including boundary and parking disputes. It also covers noise nuisance from parties or playing loud music.
- Littering or drugs paraphernalia:
 - This includes fly posting and discarding litter, rubbish, or drugs paraphernalia in any public place.

¹ As defined by the Metropolitan Police
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- Animal problems:
 - This covers any situation where animals are creating a nuisance or people's behaviour associated with the use of animals is deemed as antisocial. It includes uncontrolled animals, stray dogs, barking, fouling and intimidation by an animal.
- Trespassing:
 - This is any situation in which people have entered land, water or premises without lawful authority or permission. It ranges from taking an unauthorised shortcut through a garden to setting up unauthorised campsites.
- Nuisance calls:
 - This covers any type of communication by phone that causes anxiety and annoyance, including silent calls and intrusive 'cold calling' from businesses. It does not cover indecent, threatening, or offensive behaviour which should be reported as crimes.
- Street drinking:
 - This relates to unlicensed drinking in public spaces, where the behaviour of the persons involved is deemed as antisocial. It also covers unplanned and spontaneous parties which encroach on the street.
- Prostitution-related activity:
 - This relates to any activity involving prostitution such as loitering, displaying cards, or promoting prostitution. It may also refer to activities in and around a brothel that impact on local residents. It does not include 'kerb-crawling' which should be reported as a crime.
- Nuisance noise:
 - This relates to all incidents of noise nuisance that do not involve neighbours (see 'Nuisance neighbours' above).
- Begging:
 - This covers anyone begging or asking for charitable donations in a public place, or encouraging a child to do so, without a license. Unlicensed ticket sellers at or near public transport hubs may also fall into this category.
- Misuse of fireworks:
 - This will include the inappropriate use of fireworks, the unlawful sale or possession of fireworks and noise created by fireworks.

5.4 The Antisocial Behaviour experienced in the Recreation Ground to date would appear predominantly to be, as defined above, Environmental related to rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour, littering or drugs paraphernalia and nuisance noise.

5.5 It appears that much of the antisocial activity is focused on the existing Recreation Ground shelter which is not part of the proposed BRGRP scheme. Given the future of the shelter, it is recommended that BPC move rapidly to arrange for it to be dismantled and removed from site. This action will assist determining its role in current antisocial activity at the Recreation Ground.

- 5.6 There are some minor animal problems related to the use of the Recreation Ground by dog owners in contravention of the “no dogs” policy applied by BPC.
- 5.7 There are no reported issues of any harassment though it is understood that when youths congregate there have been cases where users of the Recreation Ground have felt “uncomfortable”.
- 5.8 The antisocial behaviour statistics, as provided by Suffolk Police, are set out in Appendix B. The nature and extent of the antisocial behaviour experienced has not been of sufficient nature or extent to warrant any specific police actions e.g. Community Trigger ².
- 5.9 The figures in Appendix B are those extant as of 2 August 2021. It is understood that an incident occurred in the vicinity of the Recreation Ground on or about 13 August 2021 and it was reported to Suffolk Police via the appropriate reporting processes. The incident is not considered to materially affect the statistics set out in Appendix B.
- 5.10 The Neighbourhood Watch Teams in Botesdale or Rickinghall have no evidence or records of any substantive reported antisocial behaviour at the Recreation Ground.
- 5.11 It is the case that the recreation facilities at Rickinghall are largely unaffected by any substantive antisocial behaviours.
- 5.12 It is the case that most rural Parishes experience some degree of antisocial behaviour at various times. Much of such behaviour is seen as intermittent and cyclical.
- 5.13 At issue is:
- The nature and extent of the current levels of antisocial behaviour related to the current Recreation Ground.
 - The extent to which the existing levels of antisocial behaviour are sufficient to warrant significant expenditure on security measures.
 - The appropriate nature of any security measures relative to the current antisocial behaviour.

² Community Trigger can be used if an individual has complained to their District/Borough Council, Suffolk Police and/or a housing provider:

- on three or more occasions about separate incidents of anti-social behaviour in the past six months, and;
- reported each incident of anti-social behaviour within one month of it happening, and;
- request a case review within six months of when you reported the incidents

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/community-and-safety/crime-and-public-safety/Community-Trigger-Leaflet.pdf>

- The extent to which the delivery of the Regeneration Project will change the nature and extent of the antisocial behaviours experienced.
- The appropriate nature of any security measures relative to the antisocial behaviours once the Project is completed.

5.14 The only realistic approach to the issues for the Project is to address the likely position once the Project is completed.

5.15 Reference is made to the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) Report entitled Decent Parks? Decent Behaviour? (See Appendix C).

5.16 The Conclusion of this widely respected Report, including acknowledgement from Suffolk Police, states:

The case studies in this publication link the decline in condition of the park and the loss of facilities with a decline in use and an increase in vandalism. This is no chicken and egg conundrum; it appears quite clear which came first. The parks were in decline and failing to meet customer expectations long before anti-social behaviour started to become the dominant characteristic.

While fundamentally linked to the quality and the condition of the site, the reasons behind anti-social behaviour in parks and the public realm are complex. In order to reverse the problems, the root causes rather than the symptoms must be addressed. The solutions must be part of a coordinated, thorough, and holistic approach, identifying and addressing as many of the causal factors as possible.

There must be a commitment to involve communities and specifically young people in the improvement process from the early stages, offering routes for them to take lead roles where possible.

It is essential not to wait for a time when anti-social behaviour and crime are so bad that they have to be dealt with by taking extreme measures. The spiral of decline must be prevented from the beginning. As well as involving the community, this requires adequate maintenance budgets, a robust enforcement strategy utilising appropriate tools and powers, a well-planned programme of management and a position for the site within a strategic approach to green spaces, such as in a green space strategy.

6. SAFETY

JBA RISK ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 As a normal part of the design process JBA have undertaken a Risk Assessment as set out at Appendix D.

ROSPA

- 6.2 The construction process will include a completion safety inspection by an authorised Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) inspector. This is an integral part of the handover and acceptance process from the Contractor to BPC.
- 6.3 The inspection will also interface to the provision of the requisite insurance cover to BPC for the ongoing management of the Recreation Ground.
- 6.4 As is the case now, RoSPA will also undertake regular annual inspections of the equipment when the Project is complete.
- 6.5 The BRGRP Sub Committee also engaged RoSPA to undertake a pre-construction Plan Review. The Review is included at Appendix E.
- 6.6 The Review states that:

The designer is to be congratulated on achieving a nice mixture of both equipment and environment which should appeal to users of all ages and abilities who use the facility.

- 6.7 The findings of the Review have been accepted by the Sub Committee and JBA and are incorporated into the final scheme.

CABLE RUNWAY (ZIP WIRE)

- 6.8 Concerns have been raised regarding the safety of the proposed Cable Runway installation.
- 6.9 The direction of travel towards the Junior area has been reversed though this was not commented upon by RoSPA.
- 6.10 The details of the proposed installation as provided by JBA are included Appendix E.
- 6.11 The RoSPA Plan Review referenced above does not consider the Cable Runway an inherent risk item but does caution the use of a take-off mound relative to the potential speed of travel. This risk item has been addressed by JBA.

RECREATION GROUND SAFETY

- 6.12 The Project Brief clearly states that the Project will address safety for users.
- 6.13 In addition to the construction inspections noted above BPC will continue to use RoSPA qualified Inspectors to undertake regular site equipment inspections. These will as a minimum be annual, but consideration will be given to increasing the frequency.
- 6.14 As set out in Section 7 - Security, the supervision of the Recreation Ground will include regular equipment safety checks.
- 6.15 The equipment signage will include a QR code system to enable real time reporting of any equipment issues by users. Alternatively, there will be signage on site with information on who to contact by phone or email.
- 6.16 The equipment will all be provided with at least a 12-month warranty from the supplier following an on-site inspection of the installation.

7. SECURITY

- 7.1 For the purposes of this Review, Security is deemed to be such measures as may be required to address the antisocial behaviours as set out in Section 5.
- 7.2 The Security measures can be considered to be:
- Measures that dissuade antisocial behaviour.
 - Measures that physically prevent antisocial behaviour.
 - Measures that enhance the security of the Recreation Ground users.
- 7.3 The Sub Committee have consulted with Phil Kemp, Design Out Crime Officer, Suffolk Police and the Recommendations and Conclusion of his consideration of the Project Plans are as set out in Appendix G.
- 7.4 In considering the Recommendations and Conclusion the Sub Committee note the covering comments from Phil Kemp:

It is totally up to yourselves what you want or are realistically able to take from the report. I tend to go over the top with my reports and mention everything as I believe play parks are important, but it is so hard to get it right because there is always someone that won't be happy, be it a local who has to put up with the noise, or a user who is disappointed with some aspect of the proposals.

There is a real push now for investing in play parks, to promote healthy living and so create that feel good factor. There have been a number of studies particularly in the building sector that have proved that a quality public space in a built-up area has a direct impact on every person(s) daily lives.

With the knock-on effect that if people feel happy and enjoy public spaces, they feel healthier, so less impact on the NHS, hence your local surgery wanting to get involved. Another believed knock on is that it promotes more local business, because people want to be in that area to obtain items. With the further knock-on effect that people are happier and more content and less likely to commit crime.

I know there is always the problem too with local parks that they should be for young children and teenagers shouldn't be in them, because they make the younger children feel too frightened to be there and there is this fear that they are taking over the park. They have to go somewhere though and again there is this big push at the moment that youths need for future development in society to be able to interact with one another, so they can then interact with the community and play their part for later on in life.

Before I finish, I sympathise with your concerns, but in some ways having things like CCTV can also help mitigate whether perceived problems are actually happening or not.

7.5 The Recommendations as per Appendix G are addressed below:

Suffolk Police Recommendation	Proposed Action
<p>a) Legislation: Use of legislation i.e. CBO's (Criminal Behaviour Order) and CPN's (Community Protection Notice) and ALCOHOL BAN in the park area. Clear Signage about park rules should be displayed in numerous places throughout the grounds – making them polite, official, and visible.</p>	<p><i>The use of CBO's and CPN's are police related measures to address persistent antisocial behaviour. CBO's only attract to criminal convictions.</i></p> <p><i>As set out in Section 5 there is insufficient evidence currently to support such measures. The ability to escalate issues in conjunction with the Police is recognised.</i></p> <p><i>The Sub Committee in conjunction with BPC will address the application of an Alcohol Ban for the Recreation Ground.</i></p> <p><i>The Sub Committee in conjunction with BPC will ensure that the Recreation Ground rules are reviewed, updated as necessary and appropriate signage displayed .</i></p>
<p>b) Feasibility of Dispersal Order or Public Place Protection Order for times if the area is expected to be overcrowded or have ASB issues. This should be police and council lead approach.</p>	<p><i>As set out in Section 5 there is insufficient evidence currently to support such measures, but BPC would consider if such measures where appropriate in conjunction with the Police.</i></p>
<p>c) Lighting: Ensure that the area around the entrance is light in accordance with BS 5489:2020</p>	<p><i>There is no mains electricity to the site so this would need to be solar powered.</i></p> <p><i>To be effective the lighting would need to be on during the hours of darkness.</i></p> <p><i>The impact of the lighting on light pollution and local residents would need to be carefully considered against the security benefits such an installation would deliver.</i></p>
<p>d) Positive engagement: A Street Ranger or Park Keeper could be employed to walk around the park and have positive engagement with park users as should local PCSO's and SNT officers if this is not already on their engagement route.</p>	<p><i>The engagement of a Street Ranger or Park Keeper is already being actively contemplated by the Sub Committee.</i></p> <p><i>There is a linkage to the safety inspections referenced in Section 6 of this Report.</i></p> <p><i>There is a linkage to Recommendation f – Friends of the Park – see below.</i></p>
<p>e) Park Rules/Use: County/Town Council could offer some workshops or competitions and hold them in the park to “positively” engage with children/parents around “keeping your environment clean/tidy/safe” or “perceptions” of ASB etc. This could also be followed up in the schools by Police officers if offenders are of school age.</p>	<p><i>The BRGRP Plan already includes engagement with local schools and youth groups.</i></p> <p><i>The schools programme will be extended to include Police input.</i></p> <p><i>There is a linkage to Recommendation f – Friends of the Park – see below</i></p>
<p>f) Friends of the Park: Are there any such local groups that would be willing to be present in that part of the park for their ‘normal activities’ (like conservation work or people doing group</p>	<p><i>Following the identification of this initiative a proposal to set up such a group is being actively pursued by BPC and the Sub Committee.</i></p>

Suffolk Police Recommendation	Proposed Action
exercise or sport!) which increases natural surveillance and may deter anti-social behaviour.	<i>As referenced above this initiative interfaces to Recommendations d - Positive Engagement e - Park Rules/Use g- Engagement with Residents and j – Manage Expectations of Local Residents.</i>
g) Engagement with all the residents whose gardens back onto the playing fields: leaflet drop/street meet engagement with residents asking to them report any ASB issues and to be part of the community in taking care of the area. Ask the council to support this and a park ranger.	<i>Ongoing. It is hoped the residents will actively participate in the Friends of the Park – see item f above.</i>
h) Offenders: Gather more intelligence on who they are, age group, where they live (are they local to the area) etc. Active Patrols when possible, during the hours of issue.	<i>This is seen as predominantly a Police issue. It is readily accepted that greater use and supervision of the Recreation Ground will act as a very powerful deterrent to antisocial behaviour. See also CAGE Report at Appendix C.</i>
i) Work with youth engagement partners: To deliver engagement with offenders if they are youths causing the issue when found at the park.	<i>The Sub Committee are already engaged with the youth groups at Parkview Chapel. See also d – Positive Engagement above.</i>
j) Manage expectations of local residents: What is their perception of ASB. Provide support and guidance on how to deal with it and provide contact details of other agencies that could assist. If noise levels are high could environmental health be included in the evaluation.	<i>This links closely to the antisocial behaviour issues covered at Section 5 of this Report. It appears to be the case that the antisocial behaviour experienced is not reflected in the hard data statistics. There is a linkage to Recommendation f – Friends of the Park – see above.</i>
k) Consultation with the Fire Department: Information sharing around any issues that they may have been called to and any intelligence that they may be able to share in regard to offenders.	<i>Being followed up by the Sub Committee.</i>

CCTV

7.6 The Conclusions as per Appendix G relates entirely to CCTV. It is noted that CCTV was not referenced in the Design Out Crime Officer recommendations.

7.7 The Sub Committee have engaged with a CCTV Specialist to establish what measures could be introduced. The preliminary findings are that, absent the availability of mains power to the site, solar powered units could be installed that are recording for 30-day time frames and would be accessible remotely via wi-fi. The installation and set up costs would be of the order of £7,000 per unit and a minimum of three units would be required. This would not give 100% coverage of the site. The CCTV could not, without considerable additional annual costs, be operated on a “constantly monitored” basis. The recordings would be available as reference to be associated with known and/or reported issues.

7.8 At issue with respect to the CCTV are the following points:

- 7.8.1 Would the current antisocial behaviour issues (See Section 5) justify the costs of CCTV?
- 7.8.2 Will the anticipated antisocial behaviour issues related to the regenerated Recreation Ground (See Section 5) justify the costs of CCTV?
- 7.8.3 Any proposed CCTV installation would have to be the subject of widespread Community consultation. Those against have equal rights to those in favour.
- 7.8.4 We have already had representations from a number of existing users that they would no longer frequent the Recreation Ground were its use be monitored by CCTV.
- 7.8.5 Would CCTV at the Recreation Ground lead to calls for its installation elsewhere in the village? See the antisocial behaviour statistics at Appendix B which are heavily skewed to non-Recreation Ground locations
- 7.8.6 The requirement for extensive operational procedures including data protection.
- 7.8.7 The requirement for nominated individuals to provide the access and image retrieval tasks.
- 7.8.8 The ability of the CCTV to actually lead to subsequent police actions.
- 7.9 In careful consideration of all of the circumstances the Sub Committee do not believe there is a strong enough case for the installation of CCTV as part of the initial Project.
- 7.10 The Sub Committees recommendation is that, in conjunction with the Friends of Botesdale Recreation Ground, the antisocial behaviour and Recreation Ground operations are carefully monitored and reviewed after 6 months to establish whether the case for CCTV has changed.

SECURITY FENCE

- 7.11 At the 2 July 2021 Site Meeting the Design Out Crime Officer identified the possible consideration of boundary security fencing around the perimeter of the site.
- 7.12 Following further consideration of the Project Design, Phil Kemp's Recommendations (See Appendix G) regarding security measures do not include a security fence.
- 7.13 This aligns with the Sub Committee's own belief that the use of such fencing in the rural location is not appropriate. The Sub Committee's belief is supported by the absence of the use any such fencing in any local town or rural settings.

8. NOISE

- 8.1 The Project will not change the primary purpose of the Recreation Ground i.e. to provide recreation facilities for the use of the Community.
- 8.2 It is planned that the completed Project will generate an increased footfall of visitors and users across a wider demographic.
- 8.3 It is not anticipated that the increased usage will generate noise levels any greater than would reasonably be the case for a Recreation Ground.
- 8.4 The zonal layout and location of equipment is designed to place the youth and adult equipment away from the boundaries with residential properties.
- 8.5 The equipment related to large ball sports e.g. the basketball post and the football goal have been specifically designed to reduce the noise impacts of repetitive use via the employment of sound absorbing materials.

9. APPENDIX A – PROJECT MASTER PLAN

Botesdale Parish Council
 Botesdale Recreation Ground Regeneration Project – Safety and Security Review



10. APPENDIX B – ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STATISTICS AS PROVIDED BY SUFFOLK POLICE ON 2 AUGUST 2021

Suffolk Police have their own internal reporting system that covers every call received and each call has its own allocated reference number. If the person phoning does not wish to make an official complaint, there is only this one reference number. However, if the caller does want to make an official complaint or the incident is of such a nature that it warrants further investigation then a crime number will be allocated onto a Home Office Crime system that is jointly used with a large number of other forces. The Crime figures obtained for this report have been obtained from both resources, along with an external system called Crime Mapper, which is available to anyone using the following link: Stowmarket | Police.uk (www.police.uk) and another option is Suffolk Observatory – Quick Profile

The graph right below indicates a breakdown of the offences committed around this area between Dec 2020-May 2021, totalling 18 offences, the majority relating to Public Order offences, totalling 6 offences, followed by Violent and Sexual offences/Theft, which both totalled 4 offences. It should be noted that none of the offences mentioned over this period relate to the location of the play area and instead mainly relate to crimes around The Street. (Emphasis added)

Offence	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021
Burglary/Theft	1	1			2	
Robbery						
Vehicle Crime						
Criminal Damage/Arson			1			1
ASB/Public Order/Harrassment	1		1		2	2
Violent & Sexual Offences	1			2	1	
Shoplifting	1					1
Drugs						
Other Offences						
Grand Totals	4	1	2	2	5	4

As previously stated from the information received at the public meeting at that location on 2 Jul 21, it would appear that incidents of antisocial behaviour and other offences occur within this area, but they do not seem to be reported to either police or the local council. It is strongly recommended that if a local resident or anyone uses the park and they witness a criminal activity, or they are concerned as to their, or another's safety they should immediately report the matter to the police, so that a more detailed picture of what is believed to be occurring can be obtained and investigated accordingly.

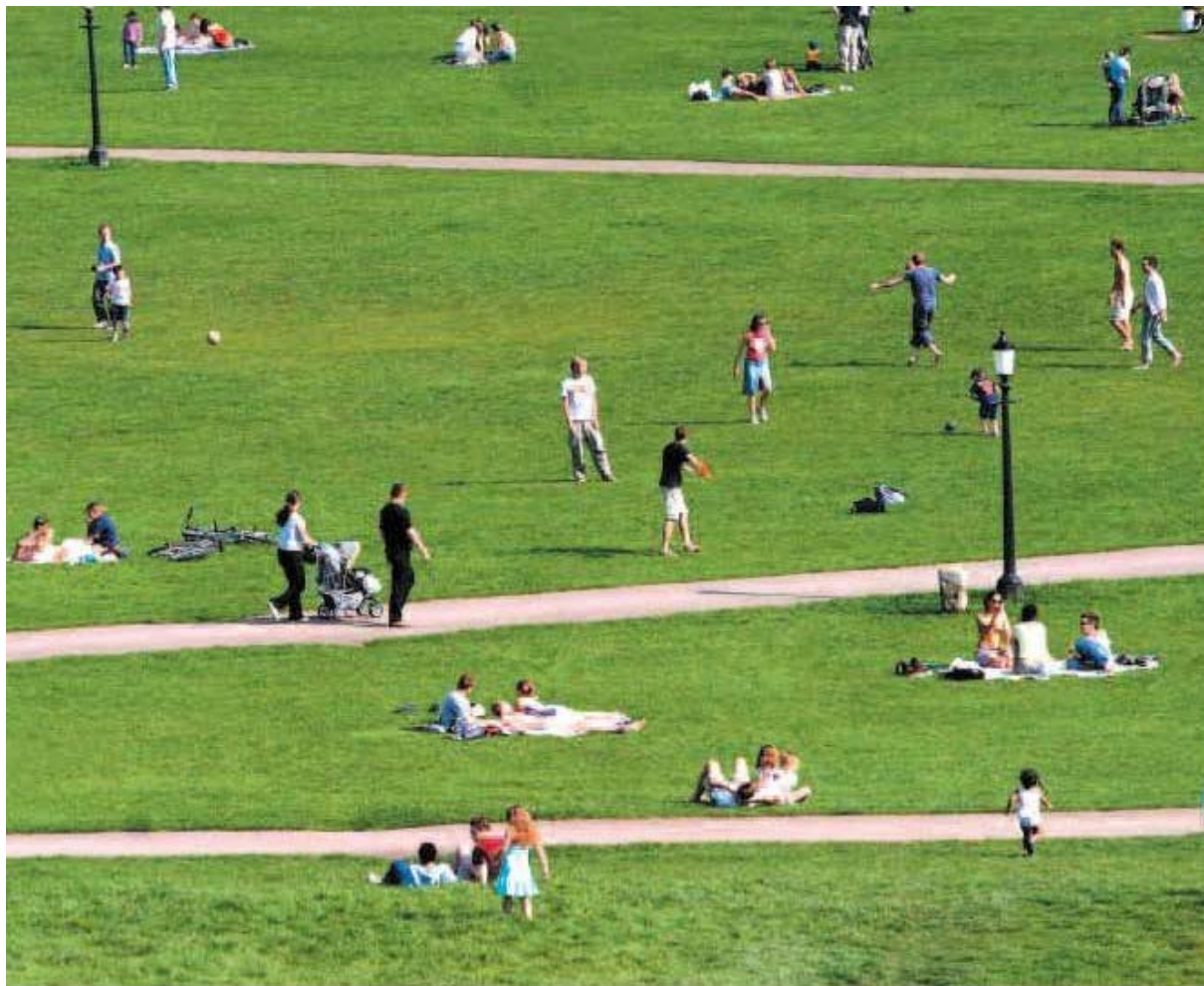
The only incidents of note that have been located for this area include:

- During the early afternoon of 19 Jul 20, a local resident phoned police to state they had just seen a group of youths within the play park and believed they were smoking weed as they could see a Bong device. The youths had attended the area in two cars and a motor bike, so the informant was concerned at least three of them would then be driving their vehicles whilst under the influence of drugs. The informant took the vehicle details, and the registrations came back to owners from the local area. However, at the time of the call, the nearest police unit available to attend was 30 miles away (SC19072020-234).*

- *During the afternoon of 9 Jun 20, around 4pm a local reported to police that whilst out riding her bike by the play park on Mill Road she encountered a group of around 10-16 teenage youths on bikes and motor bikes, who were blocking her way and being intimidating towards her. Further stating as she road past the youths, one chased after her on their bike and cut across her path, causing her to feel shaken up and scared. The informant telephoned police 20 minutes after the event occurred and the nearest unit would have to attend from Stowmarket. The informant reported the matter because they knew they would have to return that way later on that day and were afraid the youths may still be within that area. (SC09062020-258).*

The only other offence of note which has occurred within this area took place sometime between 21 May to 22 May 2017, where overnight the youth shelter within the play area had a number of Perspex sheets smashed off the structure. There were no witnesses and no forensics to identify any offenders. (37/44688/17).

11. APPENDIX C – CABE REPORT DECENT PARKS? DECENT BEHAVIOUR?



Decent parks? Decent behaviour?

The link between the quality of parks and user behaviour



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Foreword

When CAFE Space invited people to let us know what they think about their local parks and green spaces we were overwhelmed by the passion of the responses we received. Over and over again, people emphasised the very positive benefits they and their families gain from their local green spaces – the way in which they help build a sense of community, the opportunities they provide for relaxation and escape, and the space they provide for exercise and recreation.

However, they also told us about the run-down parks in their areas – and anti-social behaviour was high on the list of things that they are worried about. People are concerned about the way that neglected parks seem to attract anti-social behaviour. They see that this in turn puts off other members of the community, like older people and mums with kids, creating isolated no-go areas that decent people are scared to visit.

This publication is based on research that supports the public perception that poor maintenance of parks can, in turn, attract anti-social behaviour. But, encouragingly, it also provides examples of places where

a combination of good design, management and maintenance has transformed no-go areas back into popular community spaces.

This evidence suggests that investing in creating good-quality parks and green spaces, which are well staffed and provide a range of attractive facilities for the local community, can be a far more effective use of resources than, for instance, the blanket use of CCTV cameras.

The case studies in this guide include real places where people who are often marginalised and perceived as being 'a problem' – including disaffected young people and the homeless – have become actively and positively involved in the process of transforming a space. In many cases, the catalyst for this has been an imaginative and energetic person – sometimes from the local authority, sometimes from the community – who feels passionately about transforming a particular park or green space.

All of us instinctively know whether a place feels cared for or not. In the case of parks and green spaces, those places that do feel cared for are often those that have a

member of staff who is based in, and dedicated to, that particular site. It is for this reason that CAFE Space is campaigning for more park keepers, rangers and other parks staff.

We believe that investing in park staff, in good design, and in the ongoing maintenance of spaces is vital if parks are to be the much-valued community assets that people have told us they want. We know that many parks offer great facilities backed by very good management. But in many parks, problems remain. Many people around the country are working hard to turn around the poor-quality spaces – and we hope they find this guide both practical and inspiring.

Dickon Robinson CBE
Chairman, CAFE Space



We believe that investing in park staff, in good design, and in the ongoing maintenance of spaces is vital if parks are to be the much-valued community assets that people have told us they want

Introduction

Ninety-one per cent of people believe that public parks and open spaces improve their quality of life. However, one in five people thinks that it is 'not worth investing money in the upkeep and maintenance of local parks and public open spaces because they will just get vandalised'.² Public opinion is therefore squarely behind taking positive action where anti-social behaviour does occur in parks and green spaces.

This publication provides practical suggestions for improving public spaces in ways that can help reduce vandalism and other anti-social behaviour. It is informed by research commissioned by CABE Space in 2004. The research, carried out by GreenSpace, involved over twenty local authorities and seventy-five community representatives concerned with green spaces.³

The people interviewed by the researchers felt strongly that a decline in the quality of a public space contributes to the onset or acceleration of vandalism, anti-social behaviour and even serious crime. As a parks and landscape development manager states, 'nothing encourages the vandal more than "management by abandonment"'. The most successful approach to addressing this spiral of decline appears to be one of addressing the root causes of the problem, rather than the symptoms. Even in the most extreme cases, the right management approach can quickly reverse the decline and establish a spiral of improvement.

The research focused on two questions:

Can or does improving the condition, appearance, facilities and management of parks encourage greater respect and lead to improved (useful) behaviour?



What are the key elements in achieving a sustainable improvement in the way people behave in parks?

The research also looked at improvement programmes of a total of thirty-six green spaces in England, Scotland and Wales. This guidance includes nine of these case studies, specifically selected to illustrate important elements in achieving sustained improvements in behaviour in green spaces. The case studies can provide only a limited picture of the complexity of turning a place around. However, they provide a rich array of approaches from which to select the right ingredients for a successful improvement programme. What unites the examples is the belief of the people involved that achieving a successful outcome easily compensates for the range of obstacles along the way. In addition, the personal satisfaction of those involved should not be underestimated.

Who is this publication for?

This guidance is for anyone who wants to improve public spaces. Councillors and MPs will find examples of community-led improvements of neglected local spaces.

Park managers will find useful references to funding and measures of success. Crime reduction professionals will benefit from insight into design and care of successful urban spaces. Community representatives and enterprises will find models of working with land managers to achieve mutual aims. Designers will find a number of design-led ideas for encouraging good user behaviour.

A complement to other resources

This publication complements CABE Space's policy note, *Preventing Anti-Social Behaviour in Public Spaces*.⁴ It does not seek to replace other existing and highly regarded guidance or positive initiatives to design out crime.

Background

The desire to curb anti-social behaviour in green spaces is not new. A major objective of the Victorians' creation of many new public parks was to create opportunities for improving public behaviour. Their design principles often included laying out serpentine paths and terraces, which



The spiral of decline is a costly process. Budgets are better spent on maintaining quality improvements



is closed at night. Ultimately local solutions are necessary, although the evidence shows that investing in good design, attractive facilities and good maintenance remains the driver for improvement.

How much of a problem is anti-social behaviour in parks?

There is little statistical evidence that high rates of crime and anti-social behaviour are a particular problem in parks and green spaces. The Local Environmental Quality Survey of England 2002/4 shows environmental crime indicators such as fly-tipping, fly-posting and graffiti in public open space to be no worse than in the rest of the public realm.¹¹ The Royal Parks Constabulary crime statistics show a falling rate of reported crime annually from 2000/1 to 2002/3.¹²

created opportunities for people to observe one another, thus discouraging bad behaviour. In addition there were strict rules of conduct for the public. The Select Committee on Public Walks in 1923 stated that, among other benefits, the creation of public parks would create an alternative form of recreation to the tavern and would also reduce social tensions, since all members of society use parks and would therefore have the opportunity to learn from each other.⁵

More than a hundred years later, the report of the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce identified the role that good quality parks and green spaces have in fostering 'social inclusion, community development and citizenship'.⁶ The government's response in *Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener* picked up on this theme, recognising that 'dirty and dangerous places encourage graffiti, vandalism and anti-social behaviour'.⁷

Research by ENCAMS demonstrates that people are less likely to litter in an area that is clean and tidy and more likely to do so in an area that is already dirty and run down.⁸ This is an important finding given that numerous studies have found littering to

make up the first 'broken window' in Wilson and Kelling's Broken Windows theory.⁹

The Home Office Action Plan, *Together Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour*, notes the impact of anti-social behaviour on 'young mothers, afraid to use the park with their children and people living in streets covered in rubbish and graffiti'. It puts at the heart of its agenda the desire not just to reduce crime and disorder, but also to support 'civil renewal – to strengthen communities, revitalise our democracy and provide opportunity and security for all'.¹⁰

However, there are different approaches to doing this. The research on which this publication is based provides evidence that investing in the design and care of high quality public places is more effective in tackling anti-social behaviour than the blanket use of tough security measures such as closed circuit television (CCTV). Nevertheless, carefully targeted security measures are often part of successful improvement projects. In Mile End Park for instance, a key success was achieving funding for a limited number of CCTV cameras, and Mowbray Park in Sunderland

Furthermore, in the quarterly update to June 2004, The British Crime Survey states statistically significant falls in fear of crime across all of the seven individual anti-social behaviour measures compared to the previous year.¹³ The measures include indicators cited in the case studies as problems that may affect public spaces: abandoned and burnt out cars, rubbish or litter lying around, people being drunk or rowdy in public places and teenagers hanging around on the streets.

Environment and self esteem

There is evidence to show that some people are afraid of going to parks because they believe they will come across anti-social behaviour. *The Use of Public Parks in England 2003* states that eight per cent of people did not visit parks for fear of their personal safety.¹⁴ In *Parks and Squares: who cares?*, GABE Space found that the thing that the public most dislikes about green spaces is they are not kept clean or safe.¹⁵ Floor standards of maintenance are highly visible to the public and communicate a lack of care and authority. Whether or not anti-social behaviour is actually witnessed in these or



A positive design solution is vital, although design has only one part to play

other green spaces, the sense of its presence exerts such a negative effect on public perception that it must be taken seriously.

In 2005 CABE published views of four distinguished thinkers on how we deal with risk in public space.¹⁶ The cultural commentator Charles Landry describes how in run-down environments 'the sense of powerlessness, vulnerability and impotence begins to shape self-identity. The responsible individual as potential maker, shaper and creator of the environment becomes a passive individual always on the receiving end. He or she negotiates the world as a dangerous jungle with risks lurking in the undergrowth beyond the control of humanity.'

Satisfaction and the desire to be involved

All of the case studies in this guidance demonstrate the importance of involving the community. At St Agnes Park in Bristol, community initiatives led the improvement process, while at Coalshaw Green Park in Oldham a lone individual provides a 'guiding light' and has set up a young Friends group.

Three-quarters of people surveyed would like to be involved in improving their local area in some way. Environmentalists commonly report that members of minority ethnic communities do not tend to volunteer for involvement in public space projects. However, CABE's evidence shows that, while twenty-three per cent of black and minority ethnic people want to be more involved, only nine per cent of white people do.² The socially cohesive effect of a project to improve public space should not be overstated. However, the case studies illustrate the significant benefits of involving under-represented groups.

CABE Space has published evidence that young people can lead in the design and location of dedicated places for them to gather, e.g. shelters. This reduces potential for future damage by others.¹⁷



Creating places that feel safe

The central role of design is acknowledged in *Green Places, Better Spaces*. It states, 'Many issues can be designed out by removing the opportunities for vandalism... Spaces should be designed to reduce situations that are perceived as threatening. Lines of sight and inter-visibility of one space with another need careful consideration. Exits should be visible and long corridor spaces with no alternative ways out should be avoided... Passive surveillance from surrounding areas should be exploited in the design.'¹⁸

People's perceptions of safety are linked closely with feelings of enclosure and lines of sight for park users. Forsyth (2003) concluded, 'Many people fear natural areas for safety reasons. Parks are perceived as risky when they are more densely vegetated, particularly when that vegetation is not obviously maintained.'¹⁸ This is a complex issue, which is explored in

Jacqui Burgess's paper *Growing in Confidence: A Study of Perceptions of Risk in Urban-Fringe Woodlands*.¹⁹

It is worth noting that the key point here is that people feel safer if a place is visibly maintained. This is an important point for park managers who usually employ gardeners during weekdays, when few people visit parks, rather than at weekends, when they are at their busiest.

Authors are generally aware that, however vital, design has only one part to play, and Brunson et al. in *Safety, Crime, Vulnerability and Design* – a proposed agenda of study – state that design cannot ever deal with the reasons why people offend in the first place.²⁰ Thus it is important to resist taking blanket measures to remove shrub beds or prune low-lying tree branches. As one member of the community puts it, 'You can buy and sell drugs on street corners these days. It is not necessary to hide behind a tree.'

Checklist of key elements

Measuring success

The case studies that follow cite anecdotal evidence of increased use and patterns of use. Successes include use by 'indicator' groups, such as a group of Asian women taking morning walks in Handsworth Park, Birmingham, and children playing unaccompanied in St Agnes Park, Bristol. These indicators are often identified at the end of a project but could be usefully set at the beginning. A good green space management plan should include user surveys.²¹

Achieving national standards or awards provides useful benchmarks and can drive the motivation to improve a range of spaces. In Oldham, the Green Flag Award has marked success across its parks refurbishment programme. The community may lead applications for awards such as the Green Pennant Award.

It may be appropriate to seek more financial measures of success. Evidence of increasing house prices is cited in the success of Mile End Park, East London. A good reference point is CABE Space's publication *Does Money Grow on Trees?*²²

Reporting requirements of funding streams often drive gathering statistical evidence of actual crime rates and measuring fear of crime. These should be considered in any project. In Sunderland, the benefit of multi-agency partnerships is clear in delivering (and measuring) crime reduction.

The beneficial effect of warden services was documented in ODPM's *Neighbourhood Wardens Scheme Evaluation* in 2004. It included postal surveys of managers and wardens of the schemes, complemented by household surveys of a representative sample of residents in scheme areas and in-depth case studies using quantitative and qualitative methods.²³ At a local level, measurement will reflect the desired goals of staffing in parks. These can range from measuring reductions in crime as a result of a uniformed presence to measuring satisfaction as a result of providing support services and assistance.

These elements were considered key to the success of the case studies. Use them together rather than singly.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Restore original designs where possible at sites of heritage importance. 2 Ensure all designs are of a high standard, involving relevant professionals (landscape architects and designers) and valuing the contribution of users. 3 Manage risk sensibly and retain positive features that attract people to parks: the paddling pool, play area and shrub beds. 4 Take advantage of the potential for buildings within parks for natural surveillance, e.g. from cafés, flats and offices. 5 Involve the community early in the process and continually. 6 Involve 'problem' groups as part of the solution where possible and work hard to avoid single-group dominance in the park. 7 Build a relationship with community groups that can lead to their achieving external funding and exerting a legitimate authority. 8 Provide activities and facilities to ensure young people feel a sense of ownership. Address young people's fear of crime as well as that of adults. 9 Use publicity to let people know that management believes in the place. Send a clear message to vandals and criminals: 'your time is up, you are no longer welcome, things are about to change'. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Ensure that people know how to report damage and incidents. 11 Make sure that maintenance budgets are adequate to support after-care. 12 Employ 'target hardening' measures sensitively as part of overall improvements. 13 Respond rapidly to vandalism and anti-social behaviour, but bear in mind it is highly localised and caused by a minority. 14 Work in partnership. Others may be trying to manage similar problems and be willing to get involved and share resources. 15 Research the range of tools and powers available and use appropriate enforcement where necessary to tackle problems. 16 Reintroduce staff and gardeners, who provide a level of authority and a point of community interaction. Ensure they are provided with back up. 17 Ensure that initiatives are part of a coordinated approach. |
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Homeless people, street drinkers and rebellious youths participate in regenerating their park



The gardening project has given homeless people the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the upkeep of the park. The north-eastern edge of the park is now edged with borders of scented lavender

MINT STREET PARK

Problems of dog fouling, litter, vandalism and illegal fires, compounded by street drinking and rough sleeping, typified Mint Street Park in Southwark, London, despite being only a little over one hectare in size. Untouched since the 1970s, it had no lighting and high walls with narrow slit entrances, which people would walk around rather than through. The park was used by a number of homeless people when the weather was fine, although other visitors looked on them with suspicion and fear. The site suffered badly from vandalism. Cars were driven in and dumped there. The park also became a meeting place for drug users. It was used by street drinkers and for rough sleeping.

The opening of Tate Modern in 1998–99 triggered improvements, as heavy use put existing open spaces under increasing pressure. Local people formed Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST) and worked on a proposal to restore the park, fearing it would be built on. A steering group led the process of regeneration including local residents and businesspeople, core BOST staff, representatives from the London Borough of Southwark's parks and youth services, the St Mungo's hostel for homeless men and the landscape architects.

A Planning for Real® exercise to develop a wish list was held, at which BOST talked through themes in a way that everyone could understand. The questionnaire covered children's play amenities, a sports pitch, the wall in the Quilp Street area that restricted sight into the park, lighting, a dog exercise area, wildlife sanctuaries and other long-term plans. Locals wanted to open the space up, make the park safe and

encourage a variety of uses. Local landscape architects Planet Earth were contracted to come up with the design.

Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) money kick-started the project, later matched by Southwark Council. This funding enabled scores of improvements to be implemented. One of the entrances was widened and a new uplit walkway through the park created. New seating and column lighting were provided, herb beds sown and flower displays planted. A diagonal design approach was used. The outstanding results attracted a huge number of lunchtime visitors from local businesses.

'Within weeks, a group of excluded youths vandalised the first installation. So, without accusing them of anything, we decided, during the second phase, to find out what they wanted from the lighting, as they used the park a lot,' reports Peter Graal, the community garden facilitator from BOST. 'They came up with an idea for the new lights and, a year to this day, they have still not been vandalised.' Young people were involved in re-designing a worn-out playground. Their concerns included replacing negative graffiti with artistic graffiti on the walls, and floodlighting. They chalked out desired pitch markings for the games they played. Local businesses and schools were also involved and the site was transformed into a new football and sports pitch.

What sets this apart from other park improvement schemes is its truly innovative partnership with homeless people and the homeless charity and hostel St Mungo's. Putting Down Roots, a gardening project for homeless people, formed in 2000 to represent this partnership.

Realising the extent to which the homeless community used the park, the Putting Down Roots project and BOST involved street drinkers and homeless people in all stages of the consultation process, carrying out



surveys to find out what they wanted. Most notably this resulted in the street drinkers re-designing an area where they congregated. So far it has not been vandalised. Their involvement was continued through the gardening project, giving homeless people the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the upkeep of the park. Thanks to the work of the project, the north-eastern edge of the park is now edged with borders of scented lavender. The local hostel also adopted the principle of Street League, which uses the power of sport to transform people's lives, to organise football games at Mint Street Park. BOST worked closely throughout with St. Mungo's to get these projects off the ground. The partnership has been recognised as an example of good citizenship and it received the national Sir Roy Griffith Award in 2001.

BOST was unable to deal with the park's illegal drug users. Instead, it has attempted to design out these problems, for example by opening up sight lines. It has campaigned for proper maintenance, working with the police and other authorities. Local residents would now like to have a park keeper on site, which is proving difficult to fund. BOST is exploring the possibility of taking over the park's management from Southwark Council, a move that could open up more funding possibilities.

Making the most of limited budgets achieves visible effects through a targeted programme of refurbishment

Groundwork Oldham and Rochdale engages young people positively in two Oldham parks



OLDHAM PARKS

Like many of the parks across Oldham, north-west of Greater Manchester, Coalshaw Green Park had slipped into gradual decline over the years. Regular drug dealing and 'complete and utter devastation' by vandals of the bowling green, toilets and other features added to its general abandonment.

With four hectares to tend, the lone on-site gardener was unable to make much impact on its condition. Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council's Parks and Open Spaces service had no specific budget to upgrade the park's facilities.

There was a sense that money was being spread too thinly across all of Oldham's parks. The parks service needed to be seen to be able to deliver on people's expectations. Thanks to a clever redistribution of budgets, twelve parks have since been refurbished. Contract funds were

moved from maintenance to development, increasing the annual budget by around a million pounds. Benefits were obtained from planning obligations by persuading planners of new housing developments not to create small areas of 'green desert'.

As a result of the high profile and the quick, visible improvements, sixteen Friends groups have been established within two years as a link between the community and a park. Each group is allocated a thousand pounds to organise community events. For each refurbishment the principal landscape architect puts forward some general plans and ideas supported by images. At subsequent meetings, a masterplan is proposed, which the community amends.

'We are acutely aware of the need not to raise expectations without being able to deliver,' says Steve Smith, Oldham Council's Head of Service. 'Mutual trust was hard won and we need to keep the momentum going.'

The focal point of the regeneration of Coalshaw Green Park was a new bowling pavilion, replacing one that had been burned



down. It led to the growth of eleven bowling teams, increasing healthy exercise in the park. Barbara Wilson, a resident and leading light of the Friends of Coalshaw Green Park, persuaded the Council to develop a community centre in the pavilion. She now runs a café and events include a full Christmas dinner for forty pensioners.

Barbara has helped to start a young Friends group. Youths are rewarded for good behaviour but any who vandalise the park are photographed and put on a 'name and shame' board. The repair bill may also be sent to the child's home. Work with young people is supported by the Youth Works programme. The Friends of Coalshaw Green Park work closely with the Council's youth outreach workers to devise ideas for entertaining young park visitors. Out of this has grown an inter-parks football league and the construction of a highly popular skateboarding site. Working with Groundwork Oldham and Rochdale, a group of youths painted benches, walls and buildings around the site. This helped to give them an increased sense of ownership.

'We all feel strongly that you need to keep doing projects such as this, as children grow up quickly and it's only a few years before the next group comes along,' says Barbara, who has taken on the role of a voluntary park attendant.

The Council's mobile ranger patrol service provides valuable back up. The Friends group keeps diaries of anti-social behaviour and reports incidents to the Council's anti-social behaviour team. The Friends alerted the police to drug dealing, and as a result of surveillance the perpetrators were caught.

Coalshaw Green Park is lucky to have found such a treasure in Barbara Wilson and much of its success is due to her 'no nonsense' personality and commitment. However, relying on one individual to such an extent is likely to leave a gaping hole when she retires.

The Park is now well used by all sectors of the community, including numerous elderly visitors who would never have gone anywhere near it in the past.

Across the Borough a stolen car was driven into Copster Park by joy-riders, who were doing handbrake turns and driving over flowerbeds. Local people detained the wrongdoers until the police arrived. Action like this would have been unheard of ten years ago, and demonstrates vital community enforcement and strong sense of ownership. Friends groups are also active in painting over graffiti and removing litter and dog mess early each morning.

The Green Flag Award was achieved at four of Oldham's parks in 2004, showing a commitment to quality across a range of sites. Chadderton Police Community Support Officers are now also involved in limiting negative behaviour in the parks. In 2001, Oldham hit the news with its race riots. While thousands of pounds of damage was done to the area, Alexandra Park, recently restored with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and now the home of the Parks Service, remained untouched. Symbolically, the parks of the city had become a central focus for community cohesion.

A community and business partnership leads to re-design of a small but key local green space

TAVISTOCK GARDENS

'Dog Shit Park' was the local endearment for Tavistock Gardens, located off Portobello Road, in the middle of trendy Notting Hill, London. As a result of poor maintenance, the park became overgrown and dark. Dog owners allowed their pets to use it as a lavatory and drinkers took it over, often fighting and yelling at passers-by. People would openly congregate there and engage in drug dealing and using. Entrance to the park was via narrow, steep, brick staircases that led into a gloomy interior. It was hardly surprising, then, that the site looked dangerous and people generally avoided it. 'The park became a virtual "no-go area", as far as the wider community was concerned,' stresses James Caplin, a founder member and driving force behind the Tavistock Improvement Group.

Tavistock Gardens is just a little over two hectares in size, yet it is an important green lung in an area surrounded by densely

populated low-rise apartment blocks and Victorian terraces. In stark contrast to the affluent image presented by this area, sixty per cent of the predominantly ethnic minority residents in Cokville Ward (where the Gardens are located) live in social housing, and almost half of these live on or below the poverty line.

When representatives from the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea visited the site, they were shocked at the state of neglect it had fallen into. They agreed that minimal maintenance and the lack of permanent staff based on site had contributed to its decline and offered financial support for remedial community initiatives.

The All Saints Road Business Community Association spearheaded a campaign to get it cleaned up, forming the community-led Tavistock Improvement Group. The Group acts as an umbrella to the local authority, the Royal Borough and Notting Hill Housing Group, the area's largest social housing landlord.

The Tavistock Improvement Group conducted a survey, which found that people wanted their new park to provide amenities for the whole community, action to deter criminals and encouragement to dog owners to be responsible for their pets. The Group succeeded in raising a

regeneration grant of a quarter of a million pounds, part of which was used to launch a design competition for local architects.

The winning design – chosen by the local community – was created by Robert Ian Barnes Architects and incorporated a clean and contemporary open landscape with clear sight lines. The design made good use of the limited space and also increased visibility through the park from the surrounding area. A new infrastructure included low walls, steps, railings, footpaths, litter bins and benches. Signage to and on the site was erected and new lighting installed around the perimeter of the park, as a further deterrent to crime.

A separate, fenced, dog-free area is used for children's play, and a fenced area of lawn is dog-free. There are plenty of dog-litter bins throughout the park. The first phase of the project was completed in December 2001. The second phase, involving the construction of the new children's play area, was completed in 2002 at a cost of sixty thousand pounds.

The local community appreciates their new park and respects it by using the litter and dog-litter bins provided. People now feel safe enough to walk through the park rather than around it. Levels of vandalism are also much lower.



The new design succeeded in incorporating disparate interests and resulted in a contemporary open landscape with clear sight lines

Actively embracing cultural diversity reclaims a park for the people



Local political support has come from the three major parties

PEARSON PARK

By July 2001, cultural and racial tensions between asylum seekers, refugees and residents had turned the eight-hectare Pearson Park in Hull into an intimidating place to go. A nearby pub had been burned down and there were fights and stabbings in the area. It was enough to drive out ordinary park users. Urban Park Ranger Dilsar Ali recalls how there would be 'running battles down the streets, with people meeting in the park before they went off to fight'.

Staff of the City Council's Urban Park Ranger Service and Sports Development Unit initiated sports activities over the summer holiday period, as a way of bringing people together. Initially the teams divided themselves socially and ethnically, and this often resulted in fights between the sides. The experiment was in danger of badly backfiring. By the third week, however, they had started to integrate, and

players were picking the best footballer, regardless of race, sharing cigarettes and going to the pub together.

Unfortunately, the budget for the sports programme ran out at the end of the summer. However, the City Council soon obtained further funding to continue activities in the park. It turned the bowling pavilion, which was empty for six and a half days per week, into a popular community facility. Visitors could play pool, read newspapers and play board games. Giant chess proved to be particularly popular.

The bowls club members were initially distrustful. Elderly residents were against people playing football in the park and preferred the site to remain ornamental and 'peaceful'. Now, they have come to realise that their bowling greens are the best protected from vandalism in the city because of permanent staff presence.

The City Council succeeded in securing central government funding via the Community Facilitation Programme in 2002. They also received funding from the local



Wyke Area Committee. This meant that the City Council could employ additional summer staff to expand the work in the building and keep the centre open seven days a week. These two members of staff were a female youth worker and a local Kurdish refugee.

Steve Scott, Customer Services Manager for Parks, said: 'Having someone on site all the time has made an enormous difference. It would have been impossible to achieve what we have done without the staff on site. We have thirty-five park rangers across the city. All of them are educated in community engagement and act as an important point of contact for people, but the staff in the pavilion are especially well-known figures in the Pearson Park area.'

In the first quarter of 2004, the regular classes and sessions held in the centre attracted more than thirty per cent black and ethnic minority residents of both sexes. Some four hundred people a week currently use the centre – more during school holidays. It is also used to run classes

teaching English to Kurds and parks staff were undergoing tuition in conversational Kurdish. It is astonishing how dramatically these initiatives further break down barriers.

Recognising the centre's tremendous positive impact on the community, the City Council announced in December 2003 that it would give it permanent revenue aid. Steve Scott adds: 'The real strength of the centre is that it is run by local people, and the community feels they can freely approach the staff working there... Awarding permanent revenue funding means that we can now plan much more confidently for the future.'

Hull residents have enjoyed many new events staged in Pearson Park, such as Gay Pride and a world music Grass Roots Festival. The police have reported that since the community centre was opened, youth nuisance crime in the park and the surrounding area has fallen by around seventy-five per cent. The Learning Shop Pavilion has also been declared an official Hate Crime Reporting Centre as part of the Hull City Safe crime initiative.

Statistics show that half of all male users are from a nationality other than British and thirty-five per cent of all users come from a non-British background. Also, more women's groups are starting to use the facility. Events include health and lifestyle sessions for local young women.

Apart from the police, support for the pavilion project has come from Advantage Xtra – an initiative that takes a mobile job centre to community sites around the city. Advantage Xtra has reported that Pearson Park is their most successful outreach site to date.

An important symbol of the friendships forged as a result of this initiative was the signing of the City Council's Anti-Racism declaration by the leaders of the city's three major parties on the bowling greens. More than five hundred people enjoyed a Kurdish barbecue and bouncy castles at the event.

With the support of the local area committee, the City Council is planning to develop the old park keeper's lodge as an additional community centre, for which it has already earmarked funding.

Radical re-design has transformed a dangerous ‘green desert’ into an irresistible leisure amenity, attracting inward investment

MILE END PARK

Prostitution, drug dealing, mugging, burnt out cars, fly-tipping – whatever problems anybody could ever associate with a park – Mile End Park in the East End of London had them all.

Mile End Park’s ninety-hectare site is long and thin, dissected by busy roads and rail lines. Pockets within the park were overgrown with dense shrubbery and foliage, imparting a general air of neglect, with vandalism and graffiti unchecked. ‘If you went here to walk your dog, you felt hemmed in and unsafe,’ recalls a local resident.

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets began to take things firmly in hand. Flyers were distributed to residents in the area, inviting them to attend a Planning for Real® event hosted by The Environment Trust. This was 1995, and three hundred participants turned up with high expectations.

A major concern was the need for park rangers. Next on the list was lack of security, reducing vandalism and laying on more activities for teenagers. Heated discussions revolved round a number of issues, including whether the park should remain open twenty-four hours a day.



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The Planning for Real* event provided the basis for landscape architects Tibbalds Monro, led by George Gardner, to propose a re-design of the park, taking on board fully the community's wish list. The press were invited to report on the park's regeneration and did so positively.

Fortuitously, at around the same time, the Millennium Commission had begun looking for projects to celebrate the millennium. The local authority put in a bid and was delighted with the Commission's decision to contribute over twelve million pounds towards the park's regeneration.

Spurred on by the award, the Borough formed the Mile End Partnership in 1998, comprising the East London Business Alliance (ELBA), Queen Mary University, The Environment Trust and the Council. The Partnership explored how Mile End Park could be regenerated with its Millennium Award and how more funding could be raised.

It subsequently secured over four million pounds in funding from the Single

A special surface treatment ensures that any graffiti can be removed with soap and water

Regeneration Budget, Bridge House Estates Trust, HSBC and an ELBA member. Spitalfields Market Community Trust provided a grant to employ an appeals manager.

The Borough's officers were keen to include the public in the process right from the very start, so that they would develop a sense of ownership and pride. 'It is important that people feel the park belongs to them, if it is to be looked after,' said Partnership chairperson Denise Jones, also Deputy Leader of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Work on the restoration started in 1999. A major part of the project involved physically designing out opportunities for crime by removing gates and major fences. 'We

focused a lot of attention on opening up exits and creating "desire lines", so that people would feel at ease when walking through the space and would know where they could escape to if they encountered any problems,' explains Lorraine Hart of The Environment Trust.

This improvement has enabled pedestrians to enjoy twenty-four-hour access, with lighting throughout the main part of the park as well as along the Regent's Canal towpath and at major crossroads, and sixteen CCTV cameras providing added security. The cameras cost half a million pounds and were funded from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund as part of the Cutting Crime Together initiative.

Offering local people safety information and devices was given favourable publicity in the local papers, one of which reported that 'Mile End Park serves as a useful out-thrust at the start and end of the day'.

'The Mile End Partnership appreciates that it will take time for people to feel that the newly built facilities belong to them and are



In 2003 the Borough introduced a graffiti wall under the main railway arch at the southern end of the park, created by a hundred and fifty corporate and community volunteers. It has attracted generally good-quality 'artistic' graffiti, and the surrounding bridge now has none. In fact, the park as a whole is almost free of graffiti.

Thanks to an innovative yet informal partnership with the local police, they now exercise their horses through the park two or three times a day, creating a uniformed presence and improving the general feeling of safety. Use of the park, especially by young people, has increased enormously. Best of all is its greater use by families and single women, especially elderly folk, who are now no longer afraid to visit the park.

The Borough is currently developing an extreme sports park. A Connexions 'One Stop Shop for Youth' has been established within the park. It is hoped that by osmosis young people will be drawn to this new centre. The final stage in Mile End Park's regeneration is to employ park rangers, a request that featured high up on the residents' wish list. Currently, there are three permanent staff working on site. The desire is to have between twelve and fifteen rangers.

The different management regime has resulted in cost savings, although the introduction of new facilities has increased management costs overall. The park's redevelopment has, however, drawn considerable inward investment into the surrounding area. The park director hopes that new people who come into the area will be persistent and effective in complaining about anti-social behaviour and that existing residents will remain in the area to enjoy the park as it matures.

The combined range of improvements has resulted in a park that is well maintained and clean, safe and secure. Therefore it is fitting that the Green Flag Award was awarded to Mile End Park in 2004.

MILE END PARK (CONTINUED)

for them and should be treated with respect, but we are confident this will happen over the years,' affirms the park director Mike Rowan.

Large coloured metal crucifixes, giving details of the park's facilities and its name and indicating directions, have been erected at nearly all the main entrances and exits. They are not only welcoming but can also be seen from a distance. A special surface treatment ensures that any graffiti can be removed with soap and water. Problems with graffiti elsewhere were tackled by removing surfaces that were prone to it and replacing high, enclosed walls with lower iron railings.

A Trust leads the funding of improvements to underused land and the safety and accessibility of surrounding streets start to increase



ST JOHN'S MILLENNIUM GREEN

Stolen, joy-ridden and burnt out cars, dog excrement and bikers bent on a burn-up characterised the overgrown 'green desert' of St John's Millennium Green on Merseyside. It was an underused, waterlogged, open space, which should have been a quality green lung – the only one nearby – available for residents and children of the local estate to enjoy. Instead, the vandalised boundary fence allowed it to be used merely as a cut-through to their homes.

The Millennium Green Initiative was the spur for a councillor to propose the regeneration of this former school playing field, which was just over one hectare in size. The nearby school was also keen to release more of its underused land.

In 1998, after extensive community consultation, the Countryside Agency agreed to the creation of a Millennium Green. A steering group drawn from residents was formed to drive the project forward. They were accountable to a Trust, registered as a charity, established with the help of Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council. The members included highly respected and prominent figures in the community, such as a vicar, a policeman and a headmaster.

The Trust successfully applied to the Millennium Commission and the Countryside Agency for a grant of almost fifty thousand pounds, which the Council matched. The money was used to create improved access for everyone, better drainage and a more secure atmosphere. Signs listing contact numbers went up around the park and at the entrance, to create a sense of arrival and, crucially, to improve the public's perception of safety. A CCTV camera overlooking the neighbouring school was repositioned to cover some of

the park, as a further crime deterrent. A neighbourhood warden based in the school regularly patrols the Green.

Now that crime has been brought under control, there is a desire to open up the Green to the road and make it more welcoming

the park, as a further crime deterrent. A neighbourhood warden based in the school regularly patrols the Green.

'The community wanted to create an instant landscape, by planting large trees which would look established, and so reduce the risk of vandalism', said Trust chairman Mike Peers. 'It still goes on but it's manageable now and it happens a lot less. Any graffiti is removed immediately and we have had only one burnt out car dumped on the site since the park was transformed four years ago.' The high level of community involvement and an increased sense of place and ownership in the Green have successfully absorbed people and drawn them in from the street. This has led to natural policing and fostered a sense among residents that it is a safe place.

One of the most interesting unforeseen benefits has been the way the Green has acted as a catalyst for the regeneration of the immediate area, including a new shopping parade. The Council and Trust now want to open the site much more on to the road, making it more welcoming. The community is also pushing for improvements to nearby roads, with parking areas for parents to drop off their children safely at school and at the shopping parade. The Green is now used by children as a 'safe route to school', avoiding busy roads. The recently opened Millennium Café is symbolic of the new-found confidence in the area. Future plans include providing benches and an increase in the number of activities on site. The Trust is also working with Groundwork St Helens to develop a play and kick-about area for children and a trail/walk route.

Park wardens patrol six major parks, with an astounding effect on anti-social behaviour

SUNDERLAND PARKS

Gangs of motorbike riders were constantly revving up their engines and driving roughshod over the city's green spaces. Frequent acts of vandalism were other problems the public had to suffer when visiting any of the six largest and most central parks in Sunderland, in north-east England. As early as 1993, the local authority had carried out a consumer survey to find out how the public felt about them. 'The people of Sunderland said they didn't feel safe when they visited the parks. There was a real fear of crime, so we introduced a new park warden service,' explains Ian Coburn, City of Sunderland Council's Parks Development Manager.

The City Council decided to tackle the problems by initiating community safety partnerships. These Multi-Agency Problem Solving groups (MAPS) brought together local authority departments and members of the police and fire brigade, as well as the probation service, to address specific problems and incidences of anti-social behaviour.

Across many of the parks, hidden CCTV cameras were installed to catch specific offenders, sixteen focused meeting points for young people were created and areas of ground were tarmacked, so that a variety of games could be played on them. Additional lighting was installed in many of the parks and a severe pruning programme regularly undertaken so that sight lines could be improved and vandals were unable to hide. There was also a concerted effort to deal with noisy motorbikers and alcohol has been banned.

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The local authority instituted regular meetings with the police to check progress on particular problems. The damage to Sunderland's parks was estimated to be in the order of fifty thousand pounds every year.

The real turnaround came with the development of the park warden service. Initially, it was run as a pilot scheme and funded through the Single Regeneration Budget and the City Council's Strategic Initiatives Budget. Among other tasks wardens open and lock gates and carry out inspection services. They have also been trained in first aid. When this proved to be a resounding success, the local authority agreed to implement the service on a permanent basis, at a cost of a hundred and forty thousand pounds a year.

'Traditionally, we used to employ park attendants to collect money from the tennis players. When we compared the cost of doing so with the amount of revenue they brought in from the bookings, we realised we were running at a huge

loss,' says Coburn. As a result, the City Council decided not to charge for tennis, which freed up a number of staff. The scheme worked by encouraging community groups to help run the facilities in their parks, such as taking control of bookings for the bowling greens, proving to be very successful.

The initiative has been highly popular, as the public had stated that a visible park presence was high on their list of priorities. A mobile network of security wardens provides back up seven days a week. This has resulted in far fewer acts of vandalism, bringing the City Council's repair bills down to just a few thousand pounds a year. At present, staff are contracted out, but the local authority is taking steps to bring this in-house, not only in order to be more cost-effective but also to provide a greater focus on community engagement and outreach than is currently possible.

Mowbray Park, in particular, which had suffered more than the other parks from nuisance skateboarding and petty vandalism, has been the showpiece



of the scheme's success. In 1996, it was fortunate enough to win a Heritage Lottery Fund Public Parks Initiative grant of over six million pounds. The grant was spent on completely refurbishing the park. The makeover included building an exciting new Winter Gardens housing a tropical plant collection, constructing a new playground and modernising the adjacent museum.

A serious effort to engage with teenagers through a local arts programme has been highly effective as well. Providing a graffiti wall and 'whittling' area has been a big factor in greatly reducing damage to the trees and bringing problems down to a manageable level.

The new visitors include a much larger proportion of families who visit the park after trips to the enormously popular museum, Winter Gardens and café. The Park has won the Green Flag Award for five consecutive years, showing the City Council's commitment to sustaining quality.



The landscape of Mowbray Park is exceptionally well maintained

Involving the voluntary sector ensures that good park management centres on meeting community aspirations



The voluntary sector took an innovative approach to generating community involvement

ST AGNES PARK

The general air of neglect and virtual absence of grounds maintenance (confection) was an open invitation to drug users and dealers. Fear of crime kept the public away from St Agnes Park in Bristol. Only the brave ventured into it as a short-cut and play workers felt it was unsafe for children to use. Prominent neglected features on the site, of less than one hectare in size, included a dilapidated lodge occupied by squatters; a collapsing greenhouse and a sub-standard children's playground. Plantbed beds had become overgrown, a seating bank, secluded, uninviting area. Entrances were poorly defined and signs erected in the 1980s were well out of date, carrying incorrect contact numbers for services.

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An overgrown holly hedge formed a barrier between the park, the road and the adjacent adventure playground and drug dealing thrived out of sight. Staff had not carried out the wish of residents to remove it because of its ecological value. 'This is one example of how management of the site did not reflect community needs, with in this case nature conservation overriding community safety,' says Peter Wilkinson, Bristol City Council's Parks Service Manager.

The St Agnes Park community group had been unrepresentative of the local, predominantly Afro-Caribbean community. Interest in it waned and the group stopped meeting. Surprisingly, very few complaints were made about the park but this was ascribed to a 'shared inertia' between the community and the local authority.

When the City Council passed a resolution to convert the semi-dilapidated lodge to social housing, the prospect of losing the connection with the historic environment and weakening a planned Heritage Lottery Fund bid to transform the park galvanised park staff into action. Sadly, the funding

application was rejected on the grounds that the restoration was more closely linked to contemporary community needs than to the Victorian garden layout. However, residents were still keen to see the park improved and to support the City Council's initiative to stop the sale of the lodge.

A small group of park officers and Council colleagues got together and sought support from a voluntary organisation, Bristol Care and Repair. It co-opted another organisation, Involving Residents in Solutions (IRS), to consult local residents on what they would like to happen to the lodge. The consultation revealed a desire for the lodge to be developed for community use. From this emerged a compromise in which careful re-design permitted the establishment of small business units, office space and a cafe. The workspace was orientated to provide surveillance into the park, and sight lines into and out of the lodge garden were opened up. A flat was created for a park officer, simultaneously providing the sense of overnight presence in the park. New gates and signs were also installed and



Parents and play workers now feel that children can play there safely

railings restored, to make the park more welcoming. Lighting was also improved after persistent fundraising efforts.

The police actively supported the initiative, by arranging for offenders on probation in the UAISE scheme to be used to clear a lot of the overgrown bushes, including the holly hedge. New security planting to protect neighbouring back gardens also compensated for this loss of biodiversity.

From the collaborative effort the St Agnes Lodge Support Group emerged. IRIS recruited a community development worker from the local community, who now reports to the City Council.

The involvement of the voluntary sector created opportunities to access money not available to the City Council, such as from English Partnerships. Income was generated from rental of office accommodation in the lodge to the Neighbourhood Renewal Team and community regeneration company, St Paul's Unlimited. The combined funding with Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) Round Two money and a Neighbourhood Renewal

Fund grant helped create overall political support among elected members. But the real breakthrough came about through the community-led solutions. The City Council would never have undertaken IRIS's consultation process and innovative approach. For example, IRIS erected a huge 'Save our Lodge' banner on the side of the building. They placed a stall outside the local polling station on election day to canvass local opinion on the future of the lodge and the park. This was supplemented by door-to-door interviews with local residents. IRIS sent 'vox pop' recordings of local residents expressing their views about the area's green spaces to the City Council's senior management and members. It kept local residents informed. It was clear that residents took the consultation far more seriously than if it had been carried out by the City Council.

The project has been time-consuming, with complex relationships. Community-led funding bids had to be put together quickly in a rapidly changing funding climate. Bristol City Council stresses that adequate staff resources need to be allocated to

projects to ensure sustained success. There are still infrastructure problems unresolved by lack of funding. However, the converted lodge, with its regular flow of visitors to the café and office areas, has provided a real focal point and served to revitalise and re-animate the entire park. The natural policing that occurred as a result of the higher level of activity has played a major part in discouraging crime and drug abuse there. As the improvements were carried out in less than eighteen months, the impact was considerable at the time.

An external evaluation, part of the SRB monitoring, revealed residents were feeling better about the safety of older residents and children, as well as trusting people from ethnic backgrounds more. Children are now able to play there unaccompanied, something that was inconceivable a few years ago.

Engaging a diverse community proves highly effective in attracting park users and positive press coverage reinforces the sense of a safe place



HANDSWORTH PARK

Handsworth in Birmingham has always been a very deprived area. It was the scene of great social unrest in the late 1970s and 1980s. Its social problems, the result of racial tension and poverty, spilled into Handsworth Park from the surrounding area. Theft, muggings and physical and sexual assaults were commonplace.

Unsurprisingly, the park soon became a "no go area" for local people. For a decade – from 1990 until 2000 – there were no longer any resident park keepers. This could be directly correlated to the substantial increase in crime. The standard of maintenance and on-site facilities were in decline and the park infrastructure was degenerating. The single on-site gardener preferred to have as little involvement as possible with park users, concentrating entirely on his horticultural duties.

The most significant catalyst for change came from a newly formed community group, then called Save Handsworth Park. Ironically, for what is one of the most diverse communities in the country, its members were mainly white and middle class. The substantial pressure that the lobby group brought to bear on Birmingham City Council's elected members and staff coincided with the introduction of Best Value legislation in 1999. Seizing the opportunity to review its operations, the City Council voted to place greater emphasis on quality of service and meeting customer needs, investing in staff instead of achieving lowest cost.

The City Council decided to reintroduce resident park staff. The process started by giving responsibility for managing and improving the park to an individual with broad experience of working in parks throughout the city. He appointed four grounds maintenance staff of Afro-Caribbean and Asian (Indian and Pakistani) descent, together with a team of park wardens, also from diverse ethnic groups that reflected the local community.

The appointment of these staff members was seen as the major turning point in tackling the park's problems. Communication with the community and park users increased greatly, as did trust and respect. Additionally, management adopted a culture of shared responsibility within the team, the gardeners occasionally undertaking the role of wardens and wardens occasionally taking on horticultural functions. All staff were encouraged to interact and communicate with the community. While wardens were prepared to enforce byelaws and collect evidence for prosecutions, the motto they worked to was 'communication not confrontation'. In the summer, temporary staff are now recruited to expand the on-site team by up to eleven members.

'There was no formal structure to our approach to turning the park around. We simply recognised the importance of ensuring that whatever steps we took related to and reflected the local community,' states Gary Midvianus, of the Handsworth Park Ranger Service. 'By combining this with an active approach



to engaging the local community and improved standards of care and security, the rest of the change process fell into place.'

With these fundamental changes came an almost immediate increase in the level of park visits. Potential users could identify staff from the same cultural background as themselves and communicate effectively, even if English wasn't their first language. Crime and anti-social behaviour plummeted. Asian women began to take early morning walks, which would have been inconceivable in the past.

Large organised events now take place in the park, including Vaisakhi, an annual Sikh religious event that attracts thousands of visitors. Street Cricket, a sporting event designed to appeal to the Afro-Caribbean community, features celebrity players. Classroom in the Park involves all the schools in the area. The Park has even attracted Channel Four television coverage. Recently, Handsworth Park was awarded a substantial restoration grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). However, the total cost of the planned works to the Park exceeded

Cultural events and activities prove a huge success

seven million pounds. In order to ensure that the improvements included facilities considered important by the community (but which fell outside the remit of the HLF grant), the Council secured a substantial sum of money from its Single Regeneration Budget Round Six grant allocation.

The Save Handsworth Park group – now more aptly called The Friends of Handsworth Park – was extensively involved in the consultation process. External partners who have worked very closely with the park team include the police and Groundwork Birmingham. A newsletter keeps local residents informed of developments and improves communication, as do press releases, which regularly generate positive stories in the local press.

The use of Handsworth Park is monitored continuously by means of a 'benchmarking grid'. This monitoring shows a massive and continuing increase in the level and frequency of use by groups, including school groups. The park has been re-established as the fulcrum of a more cohesive community.

Conclusions

The case studies in this publication link the decline in condition of the park and the loss of facilities with a decline in use and an increase in vandalism. This is no chicken and egg conundrum; it appears quite clear which came first. The parks were in decline and failing to meet customer expectations long before anti-social behaviour started to become the dominant characteristic.

While fundamentally linked to the quality and the condition of the site, the reasons behind anti-social behaviour in parks and the public realm are complex. In order to reverse the problems, the root causes rather than the symptoms must be addressed. The solutions must be part of a coordinated, thorough and holistic approach, identifying and addressing as many of the causal factors as possible.

There must be a commitment to involve communities and specifically young people in the improvement process from the early stages, offering routes for them to take lead roles where possible.

It is essential not to wait for a time when anti-social behaviour and crime are so bad that they have to be dealt with by taking extreme measures. The spiral of decline must be prevented from the beginning. As well as involving the community, this requires adequate maintenance budgets, a robust enforcement strategy utilising appropriate tools and powers, a well-planned programme of management and a position for the site within a strategic approach to green spaces, such as in a green space strategy.²⁴



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Useful organisations

Bankside Open Spaces Trust.
T 020 7261 1009 www.bost.org.uk

Barratt Homes. www.barratthomes.co.uk

Bristol Care and Repair is dedicated to capacity building and improving the quality of life among elderly folk in need.
T 0117 954 2222
www.careandrepair-england.org.uk

East London Business Alliance (ELBA).
T 020 7673 4886 www.elba-1.org.uk

English Partnerships. T 020 7881 1600
www.englishpartnerships.co.uk

The Environment Trust promotes environmental improvements and educational projects, primarily in the East End of London. T 020 7264 4660
www.envirotrust.org

For details of local Groundwork Trusts visit Groundwork UK. www.groundwork.org.uk

Involving Residents in Solutions (IRIS).
T 0117 935 0022 www.Iris42.com

Notting Hill Housing Trust.
T 020 8357 5000
www.nottinghillonline.com

Planet Earth Chartered Landscape Architects. T 020 7729 8630
www.planet-earth.co.uk

Robert Ian Barnes Architects.
T 020 8964 4700
www.robertbarnesarchitects.com

St Mungo's is a leading London service for people who are homeless and vulnerable.
T 020 8740 9968 www.mungos.org

Street League is active in London, Glasgow and the Midlands. www.streetleague.co.uk

Tibbalds Planning & Urban Design.
T 020 7407 5544 www.tibbalds.co.uk

Youth Works is a national partnership that exists to help 'at risk' young people play a creative role in regenerating their community and creating safer environments for everyone.
www.youth-works.com

Resources

PLANNING TOOLS

Planning for Real is a trademark of the Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation. Organisations wishing to run exercises described as Planning for Real® events, provide Planning for Real® training or advertise themselves as users of a Planning for Real® approach should first contact the Foundation to discuss using the technique to its full effect and to obtain permission for the use of the trademark. T 0870 770 0339 www.nifonline.org.uk

RESOURCES TO TACKLE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The Home Office Anti-Social Behaviour Unit operates the TOGETHER Actionline and website. These resources provide detailed advice and guidance on the tools and powers available for practitioners when dealing with anti-social behaviour. T 0870 220 2000 www.together.gov.uk

AWARDS

The Green Flag Award scheme is the national standard for parks and green spaces, which rewards welcoming places that are clean, safe and secure. Managers of green spaces can apply for the Green Flag Award, while community groups can apply for the Green Pennant. T 0151 709 1969 www.greenflagaward.org.uk

The iNbiz Griffiths Independent Living Award is open to housing associations, managing agents and local authorities in England and Wales. www.inbiz.org/awards/about/categories.php

FUNDING

The Single Regeneration Budget is now subsumed into the regional development agencies' single programme (single pot). www.dti.gov.uk/rda

Heritage Lottery Fund Public Parks Initiative. T 020 7591 6042 www.hlf.org.uk

Planning obligations (funding from Section 106 agreements). www.odpm.gov.uk

Millennium Commission. www.millennium.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. www.neighbourhood.gov.uk

Credits

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www.green-space.org.uk

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Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)
www.odpm.gov.uk
Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)
www.dcms.gov.uk

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IMAGE CREDITS

cover Regent's Park, London (*The Royal Parks*)
p2 Steve Cornish
p3 above Steve Cornish
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p4 above Terry Cocks
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p6 St Mungo's
p7 Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST)
p8 Manchester Evening News
p9 Manchester Evening News
p11 above Notting Hill Housing Trust
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p17 Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
p18/19 below Jim McCroy/Green Flag Award scheme
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p20 Involving Residents in Solutions (IRIS)
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12. APPENDIX D – JBA DESIGNER RISK ASSESSMENT

Botesdale Parish Council
 Botesdale Recreation Ground Regeneration Project – Safety and Security Review



Designer's Risk Assessment (Landscape)

Client: Botesdale PC **Project Name:** Botesdale Recreation Ground Regeneration Project
Designer: James Blake Associates Ltd **Job No:** 20/050
By: Cherry Tian **Design Stage:** Detailed Design
Date: 12.07.21

Risk Rating:			
L = Likelihood	Low = 1	Med = 3	High = 5
S = Severity	Low = 1	Med = 3	High = 5
R = Risk (Likelihood x Severity)	Low = 1	Med = 3-15	High = 16-25
Population at Risk:			
Contractor (C) Subcontractor (SC) Maintenance Contractor (MC) Local Residents (R) Public/Visitors (PV) Staff Members (S)			

No	Element / Activity & Hazard	Persons Affected	Risk Rating			Hazard Controls (State measures taken and / or reasons why hazard remains)	Persons Remaining Affected	Residual Risk Rating			Residual Control
			L	S	R			L	S	R	
	Describe the element in question	See key above				Elimination/Reductions/Information					Describe if there is any residual risk and what it is and precautions that need to be taken
1	Designed ramps and steps	MC, R, PV, S	3	3	9	Designed in compliance with BS, including minimum fall heights, landings at intervals and tactile hazard warning elements to inform users of features.	MC, R, PV, S	1	1	1	Take special care working on slopes or steps, especially if using mechanical equipment.
2	Excavation for proposed tree root ball next to service runs.	C, SC	3	5	15	Dig tree pits by hand – not by mechanical means. Contractor to identify location of services on site using up to date service plans and appropriate scanning equipment. Trees positioned to avoid known service routes. Contractor to cordon off areas with significant level changes to allow safe access across the site. Excavating tree pits and shrubs beds clashing with services - potential encountering electric cables or high-pressure mains. Contractor to prepare record drawings to show all service routes, and include in health and safety file. Plant tree the same day as the pit is dug – minimise duration of pit being left unattended. Cover with metal sheet if left open at the end of the day. Cover to be able to support a person with equipment.	C, SC,	1	5	5	Inform contractors and sub-contractors of residual risk to create awareness. Root barriers inserted against service side of tree pit to mitigate against future root damage to services.
3	Tree lifting	C, SC	3	3	9	Trees to be lifted with multiple straps to control movement. One strap to be secured around root ball.	C, SC	1	3	3	Lifting Plan-Ensure appropriate equipment is available to lift and locate proposed trees.
4	Fitting tree guys	C, SC,	1	3	3	(tree establishment stabilisation) fitting heavy dead men and guy wires can be an issue ref lifting / finger trapping. Poorly fixed and unstable guying rigs or systems can result in wind throw, which may be of risk to pedestrians.	C, SC,	1	1	1	Care must also be taken regarding tree damage caused from planting, guying or from poor collars, and thus inviting future rot and potential for tree failure at later years - causing the tree to fall.

5	Fitting root barriers within tree pits	C, SC,	3	3	9	excavating tree trenches to up to 1 metres deep – depends on the size of the proposed tree. Risk including falling into trenches or trenches caving in. Root barriers prevent tree roots spreading (towards service runs) and this can mean that the tree grows in the tram line of the tree trench and does not have 360-degree anchor roots, causing it to blow over in stormy conditions, endangering pedestrians. Minimise the duration of trench or pit being left unattended; Cover with metal sheet if left open at the end of the day. Cover to be able to support a person with equipment.	C, SC	1	3	3	Contractor to identify precise locations of all underground services prior to excavation.
6	Play installation	C, SC, R, PV	3	5	15	Root fixing legs in concrete. Structures needs to have sufficient fixing security and rigidity to prevent failure or wind throw - with potential risk to children using the equipment. Mitigate by ensuring manufacturer recommended size of and concrete foundations.	C, SC,	1	3	3	Lifting heavy units into place. Injury from dropping units into place: crushing limbs. Suitably trained operatives only. Undertake in suitable weather conditions. Ensure appropriate equipment is available to lift and locate proposed items.
7	Play Boulder Construction	C, SC,	3	5	15	Lifting heavy units into place. Injury from dropping units into place: crushing limbs. Operative injury due to size and weight of items. Suitably trained operatives only. Undertake in suitable weather conditions. Ensure appropriate equipment is available to lift and locate proposed items. Boulders to be lifted using multiple straps to control movement and lift securely.	C, SC,	1	1	1	Potential swing whilst crane lifting, requiring care and awareness of operatives
END USER RISKS											
8	Play equipment subsequent usage	R, PV	3	5	15	Users falling off items and potential injury. Using tested items, obeying fall zones and safety matting of sufficient depth will mitigate this risk, but not eliminate it.	R, PV	1	3	3	Play is by definition - learning about the world, risk and challenge. Risk Moderate. Regular maintenance contract required.
9	Wind loading and fixings of vertical landscape.	C, SC, MC, R, PV, S	1	5	5	Play items falling over in strong winds, potentially creating a risk to the end users. Ensure all fixings are of adequate thickness, length, and comprise non-rust metals – and ensure that timber has been drilled suitably to receive fixings, and is free from splits near to fixings.	C, SC, MC, R, PV, S	1	1	1	Use of competent operatives, Suitable briefing, foremanship and experience of contractors and subcontractors. Suitably rigorous inspections of the works after construction. Suitable maintenance of the elements and periodic inspections for soundness as part of the maintenance regime.
10	Children getting hurt on higher risk play items – such as Zip wire	C, SC, MC, R, PV, S	5	5	25	Ensure route free of ground snags, potential causes of injury to anyone falling from zip wire. Ensure fall height absorption is catered for in surfacing. Ensure end stops safe and fall off area is well constructed and maintained. Ensure regular inspections of all moving parts and suitable decommissioning, signage and protection procedures in place for any fault or risks identified. Ensure RoSPA inspection before usage and at regular intervals during usage.	R, PV	3	3	0	Still possible from mis-use or breakdown in a given process e.g. faults developing between inspections
11	Use of climbing net	R, PV	3	5	15	Risk of falling/ injury. Play is by definition - challenge. Consider was given to replacing it with a lower risk items but this would sterilise critical play value and required provisions learning about the world, risk and. Ensure the safety surfacing is sufficient in extent and depth is to manufacturer's recommendations.	R, PV	1	3	3	Refer to page 38 of Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation, Supplementary Planning Guidance Sept 2012 published by The Greater London Authority. Ensure regular maintenance and inspections.

12	Fire and Maintenance Servicing Access Route	MC, R, PV, S	3	5	15	Authorised and unauthorised vehicle movement through the site. Consider signage warning of risks and banning ball games in circulation routes.	MC, R, PV, S	1	1	1	Inspections during the maintenance programme to ensure that the signs are present, that access control gate is functional.
13	Trip hazard from steps and changes in level	R, PV, S	1	3	3	trip hazard to end users: Design to respect desire lines and avoid placing changes of level in routes, ensuring hazard warning slabs are used where levels change or crossings occur within pedestrian routes and by using carbide inset strips to mitigate risk on steps.	R, PV, S	1	1	1	
14	Rotting of posts for structures	MC, R, PV, S	1	5	5	Potential, structural failure over time risking users: Mitigate through design, by seating posts in metal shoes, to minimise contact of timber with surfacing – to minimise risk of rotting timbers: Ensure all timber is cured, pressure treated and stained with preservative wood stain	MC, R, PV, S	1	1	1	Inspections annually as part of the maintenance regime.
15	Allergies to trees and shrubs	C, SC, MC, R, PV, S	1	3	3	Using low allergy species to mitigate this	C, SC, MC, R, PV, S	1	1	1	Impossible to avoid some minor risks as allergies can be very specific to individuals. A small number of people are allergic to insects, such as bees, but it would not be possible to use only non-flowering plants without losses to amenity and bio-diversity.
16	Poisoning from plants	R, PV, S	1	1	1	using non-berrying plants and low allergy/ toxic or caustic sap plants will mitigate this risk.	R, PV, S	1	1	1	
17	Water demand and paving shrinkage from roots	C, SC, MC, R, PV, S	1	3	3	Use of root barriers / root directors and choice of low water demand species of tree will mitigate this risk	C, SC, MC, R, PV, S	1	3	3	Trees to be pruned in order to reduce their height and spread and address any interference from long, overhanging branches. Tree condition to be surveyed and monitored on an annual basis, as part of the maintenance regime.
Management risks											
18	Use of herbicides and pesticides	C, SC, MC, R, PV, S	3	3	9	Manage - close off areas for agreed non-safe active periods of the compound used. Provide suitable clothing for operatives. Ensure safe storage of chemical with no public access. Suitably trained operatives only. Undertake applications in suitable weather conditions.	C, SC, MC, R, PV, S	1	3	3	Provide suitable clothing for operatives. Ensure safe storage of chemical with no public access. Suitably trained operatives only. Undertake applications in suitable weather conditions. Minimise maintenance methods requiring herbicides, pesticides etc (use judiciously).
19	Broken play equipment Decommissioning faulty play equipment – including erecting temporary chestnut paling etc, to avoid safety hazards from re-usable fencing, metal etc, finger traps etc.	MC, R, PV, S	3	5	15	management system to ensure decommissioning, temporary fencing off and warning notices being erected. Inspect elements before and after installation for snags	MC, R, PV, S	1	3	3	Regular system of inspection and monitoring and reporting of faults and reacting to reports. These are KPIs for successful play area management.

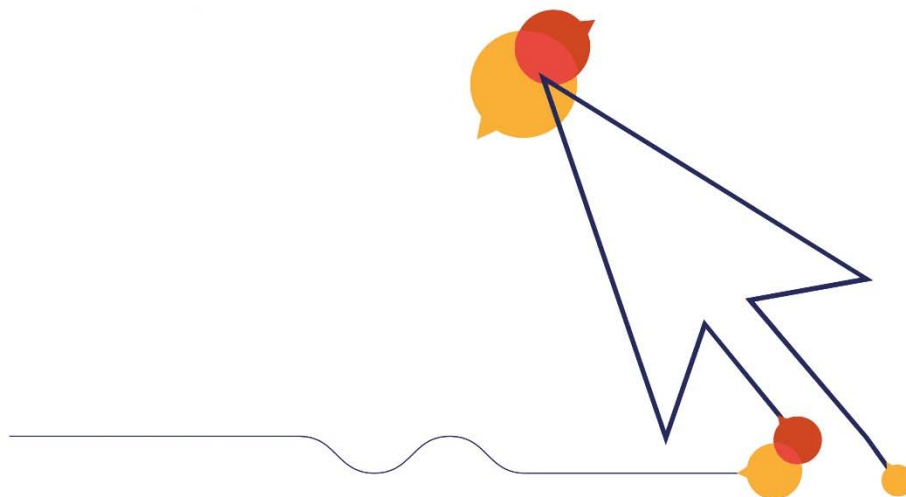
13. APPENDIX E – ROSPA PLAN REVIEW



Botesdale Recreation Ground Playground

Playground Plans Review

Date: 28th July 2021.



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Playground Plans Review

Site Name: Botesdale Recreation Ground.
Commissioning Agent: Botesdale P.C.
Date of Review: 28th July 2021.
Reviewer: Glynn Hughes

General Comments

The proposed play area has been separated by design into 5 zones. Play value is excellent for Toddlers and good for both Juniors and Youths. To achieve this the reviewer has taken into consideration cross overs between groups of different ages and abilities.

The designer is to be congratulated on achieving a nice mixture of both equipment and environment which should appeal to users of all ages and abilities who use the facility.

Within the review findings and observations section the reviewer has made some comments to assist with standard compliance and overall safety.

If there is anything within the review that requires clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me: ghughes@rospaplaysafety.co.uk

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Report Introduction and General Recommendations

Report Introduction

The commissioning agent has submitted materials for review to determine the safety of the proposed playground.

Materials submitted:
Overall Masterplan plus detail.

It is important to note that this report has been prepared by review of the submitted material and, where applicable, searches against manufacturers' specifications. The accuracy of these materials is beyond the responsibility of the report author and we cannot guarantee its accuracy.

Every reasonable care has been taken in the production of this report, but it must be understood that the material may not be truly representative of the finished installation. The report is not an absolute statement of safety or suitability. It must be used for guidance only.

A post-installation inspection of the finished installation should be conducted, as per the recommendations of British Standard EN 1176-7:2020, clause 5.3. Furthermore, EN 1176-7:2020, clause 6.1 recommends a three-tier inspection system comprising:

- Routine visual inspection
- Operational inspection
- Annual main inspection

It is important that these inspections are undertaken, at a frequency not less than that given by the manufacturer, to ensure equipment and playgrounds are inspected and maintained in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions and remain suitably safe for users.

We shall be happy to undertake these inspections for you or provide training to enable the site operator to you conduct routine and operational inspections.



Report Introduction and General Recommendations

General Recommendations

1. The Equality Act and Disability Discrimination Act apply to play areas. There is a duty to make reasonable provision for disabled persons in connection with the provision of facilities and services.
2. The equipment has been assessed against the appropriate British, European and International Standards, or recognised industry guidance where no standards exist. The standards against which the equipment in the report has been assessed is listed within the Report Findings below.
3. The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999, as appropriate, require employers to undertake a suitable and sufficient risk assessment of the play area. RoSPA can assist with the production of site risk assessments upon inspection. Such assessments must be kept under suitable review.
4. Where trees are within falling distance of a playground, we recommend that they be assessed for safety and suitability by an appropriately qualified expert. We have not undertaken any such assessment as part of this review.
5. Open water within easy walking distance of the play area should be assessed separately for its safety impact upon users. RoSPA are able to undertake such an assessment.
6. Where children are likely to visit the playground by bicycle, we recommend the provision of suitable bike storage racks. They should be installed outside of the playground.
7. Answers to many questions about the design, installation, inspection and management of playgrounds are available on our website at www.rospace.com/playsafety



Report Findings and Observations

The material submitted has been assessed against criteria in Table 1, where applicable and where possible from the material supplied. Where the assessed criteria have been found to be suitable met this will be noted in the suitability column. Observations about the findings are noted in Table 2.

Table 1 – Assessment Criteria

Assessment Criteria	Suitability	Observation Reference
Equipment complies with the requirements of the applicable standard. Standards to which the equipment is assessed: BS EN 1176-1:2017 – General. BS EN 1176-2:2017 – Swings. BS EN 1176-3:2017 - Slides. BS EN 1176-4:2017 – Cableways. BS EN 1176-5:2008 – Carousels. BS EN 1176-6:2017 – Rocking. BS EN 1176-11:2014 – Spatial Network. BS EN 15312:2007 +A1:2010 – Multi-Sports. BS EN 16630:2015 – Fitness equipment.	Suitable. Suitable. Suitable. Suitable. Suitable. Suitable. Suitable. Suitable. Suitable.	1. 2. 3.
The extent of impact attenuating surface complies with the requirements of the applicable standard.	Suitable.	4.
The critical fall height of the impact attenuating surface meets or exceeds the free height of fall of the equipment.	Suitable.	5.
The surfacing type is suitable, regardless of compliance.	Suitable.	
The equipment is suitable for the intended age range of users.	Suitable.	
The equipment layout is suitable and discourages movement clashes.	Suitable.	
Minimum signage has been planned, in accordance with our recommendations at https://www.rospa.com/play-safety/advice/signs/	Suitable.	6.
Ancillary items are suitable and are suitably located.	Suitable.	
The play provision is suitably protected from the public highway through proximity or technical measures.	Suitable.	
Planned planting is suitable (but bear in mind it will change in future)	Suitable.	
Suitable shade has been provided.	Suitable.	
Slides point in a suitable orientation (not South or near-South)	Suitable.	
The site has at least two pedestrian gates or provides a suitable alternative. They open outwards or are otherwise correctly oriented. They are of a contrasting colour to the fence.		7.
Gates open outwards or are otherwise correctly oriented.		7.
Litter bins are suitable.		8.
When assessed against RoSPA's play value scoring system the design yields an assessment of EXCELLENT/GOOD.		
The site complies with the positioning and separation recommendations of PD CEN/TR 16879:2016 (Siting of Playground and other recreational facilities – Advice on methods for positioning and separation)	Suitable.	



Report Findings and Observations

Table 2 – Observations

Observation Reference	Observation
1.	<p>Cableway – Junior area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please liaise with the supplier installer, it is unusual to position a Cableway with a starting point on a grass mound, the elevated point may cause excessive speed with the potential for injury where the user is unable to hang on at the end stop. Medium risk rating 10.
2.	<p>Multi-Sports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please ensure that the appropriate EN15312 signage “Do not hang on the Ring” is installed. Low risk rating 6.
3.	<p>Fitness Equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The equipment is intended for adults and users over 1,400mm and not for younger children. Below are extracts from EN 16630:2015. <p>7 Information for use</p> <p>Facilities</p> <p>An information sign with the following minimum information shall be provided at fitness equipment facilities in an easily conspicuous form:</p> <p>Fitness equipment facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — equipment use for youth and adults or having an overall height greater than 1 400 mm only; — read and follow the exercise instructions on the equipment. — assurance about own medical safety before use. — avoid over-exertion when using the equipment. — general emergency telephone number. — telephone number and internet URL to contact maintenance personnel. — address of the facility. <p>7 Fitness equipment</p> <p>On or adjacent to each piece of fitness equipment, the following information shall be attached in a durable and clearly conspicuous form:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) exercise instructions with the corresponding pictogrammes; b) main functions of the equipment. c) safety information, if necessary. d) highest permissible user weight, if necessary.



Report Findings and Observations

	<p>8 Marking</p> <p>The equipment shall be marked clearly and durably with at least the following information visibly positioned:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a) name and address of manufacturer or person placing it on the market. 2. b) equipment marking and year of manufacture. 3. c) number and date of this European standard (EN 16630). <p>Medium risk rating 8.</p>
4.	The extent of the safer surfacing to be verified by the installer/supplier.
5.	The impact attenuation of the safer surfacing to be verified by the installer/supplier.
6.	<p>Signage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please supply signage to: www.rospa.com/play-safety/advice/signs/
7.	<p>Gates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important that there are no finger or hand traps and shear points. This means that there should be a minimum gap of 12mm between the gate and the posts etcetera, on both sides of the gate. This minimum gap should be maintained throughout the full range of movement of the gate throughout its full arc. Medium risk rating 8. • On existing gates, it may only be possible to do this by providing a stop plate on the gate which closes onto a rubber stop at least 12mm thick. (A standard rubber doorstep works very well). The stop should be at least 700mm from the ground. • A clearance of between 60mm and 110mm should be maintained beneath the gate to reduce foot injuries. Ground should be level to prevent this gap closing through the range of movement. Hard standing at least 1m each side of the gate is recommended to prevent ground wear and thus trip hazards. • Gates should ideally be of a different colour to the fencing to make their location easily identifiable to those with visual impairment. • There should be no sharp edges and fixings and all edges should be a minimum of 3mm radius. • Gates should normally open outwards except where opening outwards may cause a hazard to others (i.e., opening into the path of pedestrians/cyclist etc). This is because dogs find it easier to push a gate than pull it and therefore can access a gate opening inwards much more easily. The gate should ideally not close quicker than 5 seconds to make wheelchair access easier and to prevent it striking the back of a child walking through. • Research suggests that most physical and sexual abuse of children is by other children. RoSPA recommend the provision of a minimum of two gates to reduce risks (one dominant child cannot easily block two gates – there is always an escape route).



Report Findings and Observations

8.	<p>Litter Bins.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RoSPA recommend that litter bins are positioned at least 2 metres from any seating area or access points. Low risk rating 4.
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Risk Score Notes

The risk scores are calculated by plotting the likelihood of harm against the severity of the injury sustained. The likelihood is given a score of 1 to 5, and the severity is given a score of 1 to 5. In doing this a matrix is produced which gives a numerical assessment of the risk on a score of 1 to 25, and a judgement is made as to which risks are low, are medium and which are high. Risk scores may be adjusted in the light of experience and therefore may not be exactly as per the table. For example, a score of 7 may be noted.

Risks are calculated in this way:

1. An assessment of the likelihood of harm taking place is made using the numbers 1 to 5, by following these descriptions:
 - a. 1 = Rare
 - b. 2 = Unlikely
 - c. 3 = Moderate
 - d. 4 = Likely
 - e. 5 = Certain
2. An assessment of the severity of the injury sustained is made using the numbers 1 to 5, by following these descriptions:
 - a. 1 = Insignificant
 - b. 2 = Minor
 - c. 3 = Moderate
 - d. 4 = Major
 - e. 5 = Catastrophic
3. The two numbers are multiplied to give a risk score on a scale of 1 to 25.
4. Scores of 1 to 7 inclusive are considered to be low risk and are considered to be tolerable,
5. Scores of 8 to 14 are considered to be medium risk and some control measures may be identified to reduce the risks to low, tolerable levels,
6. Score of 15 and above are considered to be high risk and urgent action is considered to be necessary to reduce the risks to tolerable levels.

It is important to note that where an outcome is catastrophic, but for which the likelihood is rare this will present a score of $1 \times 5 = 5$ = low risk. Similarly, a certain event for which the consequence is insignificant will present a score of $5 \times 1 = 5$ = low risk. It is important to consider likelihood and consequence, and not just one of the factors in isolation.

The multiplication of the factors into a risk matrix is given here in Table 1, with a judgement made as to risk scoring indicated by colour.

Green = LOW risk, Amber = MEDIUM risk, Red = HIGH risk.

Table 1 – Risk Score Matrix

		Severity				
		1 Insignifi- cant	2 Minor	3 Moderate	4 Major	5 Catastro- phic
L i k e l i h o o d	1 = Rare	1 LOW	2 LOW	3 LOW	4 LOW	5 LOW
	2 = Unlikely	2 LOW	4 LOW	6 LOW	8 MEDIUM	10 MEDIUM
	3 = Moderate	3 LOW	6 LOW	9 MEDIUM	12 MEDIUM	15 HIGH
	4 = Likely	4 LOW	8 MEDIUM	12 MEDIUM	16 HIGH	20 HIGH
	5 = Certain	5 LOW	10 MEDIUM	15 HIGH	20 HIGH	25 HIGH



RoSPA Play Value Assessment Sheet

Toddlers	Max	Score
Balancing	1	1
Crawling (short tunnels etc)	1	1
Rocking	1	1
Rotating	1	
Sliding	1	1
Swinging	1	1
Ground Contours	3	1
Bouncing Facility	4	2
Sand Play	6	4
Water Play	6	
Sensory Items	3	1
Textural variety	2	2
3+ Primary Colours	2	1
Toddler seating	1	
Imaginative play (Area lending to use of child's imagination)	5	3
Interactive ability (Items encouraging group play)	2	2
Parental Seating (in Toddler section)	1	1
Overall Toddler Assessment. EXCELLENT	34	22
Excellent = >22	Good = 18-22	Average = 14-17
Below Average = 9-13	Poor = <9	

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Botesdale Parish Council
 Botesdale Recreation Ground Regeneration Project – Safety and Security Review

Juniors	Max	Score		
Balancing	2	2		
Crawling (Short tunnels)	1	1		
Rocking	1	1		
Rotating	1	1		
Rotating (Multi-User i.e., roundabouts etc)	2	2		
Rocking and rotating (Mobilus, Waltz etc)	4			
Sliding conventional (i.e., slide etc)	1	1		
Sliding (fireman's pole etc)	1			
Swinging (Single)	1	1		
Swinging (Group)	2	2		
Ground Contours	3	2		
Bouncing Facility	4	3		
Gliding (Aerial runways etc)	2	2		
Hanging	1	1		
Climbing	2	2		
Gymnastics	1	1		
Agility (Clatter bridges etc)	2	1		
Ball Play (Basketball/netball/football)	4	4		
Sand Play	4			
Water Play	4			
Sensory items	2	1		
Textural variety	2	2		
Wheeled Play (for bikes, skateboards etc)	6			
3+ Primary colours	1	1		
Interactive ability (Items encouraging group play)	4	4		
Junior Seating	1	1		
Imaginative play (Area lending to use of child's imagination)	4	2		
Educational Play (abacus etc)	1			
Ground Graphics (Hopscotch etc)	2			
Overall Junior Assessment. GOOD	59	38		
Excellent = >40	Good = 32-40	Average = 26-31	Below Average =15-25	Poor = <15

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14. APPENDIX F – CABLE RUNWAY

Cable runways

This refers only to wire cable systems and not to trackway systems.

DEFINITIONS

- **Traveller:** the trolley and suspension mechanism holding the seat or handle

Safety requirements

- Stop at end or angle of cable should progressively slow down the traveller
- Angle of swing should be less than 45°
- Traveller should not be removable except with tools
- No access to internal mechanism
- Suspension mechanism should be flexible and exclude the risk of strangulation

or
 Be installed at least 2m above the ground at the middle of the cable when loaded

- Where children hang by the hands, the grip should not be enclosed (i.e. a loop)
- Climbing should be discouraged onto the grip
- Hand grips should comply to grip requirements (16 - 45mm)
- Children should be able to get off the seat at any time (i.e. no loops or straps)
- A tail may be provided under the seat for pulling the traveller back to the start but should present no risk of entrapment or strangulation
- Maximum loaded (1 x 16 stone adult) speed is 7m per second

Dimensions of suspension mechanism

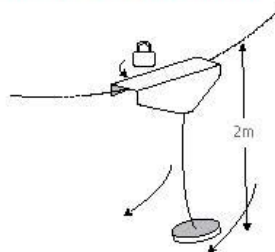


Diagram 7

Free space

- If two cables are placed parallel the minimum distance between them is 2m

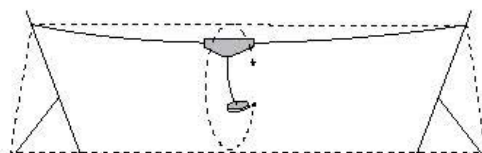


Diagram 8

Impact areas

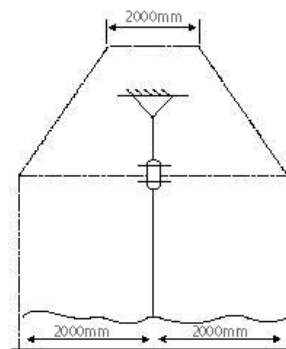


Diagram 9

- Suppliers must provide extra information (i.e. cable settings and permissible gradients) for this item in addition to the information detailed on Page 18.



Spatial networks

The requirements are:

- There should be no straight path through the structure with a diameter greater than 650mm
- If this exists the surface must meet the CFH requirements of the highest point
- For horizontal nets the mesh size should be less than 420mm diameter
- The FFH is from the highest point of direct fall to the surface beneath

15. APPENDIX G – SUFFOLK POLICE RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSIONS

As Provided by Phil Kemp, Design Out Crime Officer, West Suffolk Area, Suffolk Police

RECOMMENDATIONS IN BRIEF³

- a) Legislation: Use of legislation i.e. CBO's and CPN's and ALCOHOL BAN** in the park area. Clear Signage about park rules should be displayed in numerous places throughout the grounds – making them polite, official, and visible.
- b) Feasibility of Dispersal Order or Public Place Protection Order** for times if the area is expected to be overcrowded or have ASB issues. This should be police and council lead approach.
- c) Lighting:** Ensure that the area around the entrance is light in accordance with BS 5489:2020
- d) Positive engagement:** A Street Ranger or Park Keeper could be employed to walk around the park and have positive engagement with park users as should local PCSO's and SNT officers if this is not already on their engagement route.
- e) Park Rules/Use:** County/Town Council could offer some workshops or competitions and hold them in the park to “**positively**” engage with children/parents around “keeping your environment clean/tidy/safe” or “perceptions” of ASB etc. This could also be followed up in the schools by Police officers if offenders are of school age.
- f) Friends of the Park:** Are there any such local groups that would be willing to be present in that part of the park for their ‘normal activities’ (like conservation work or people doing group exercise or sport!) which increases natural surveillance and may deter anti-social behaviour.
- g) Engagement with all the residents whose gardens back onto the playing fields:** leaflet drop/street meet engagement with residents asking to them report any ASB issues and to be part of the community in taking care of the area. Ask the council to support this and a park ranger.
- h) Offenders:** Gather more intelligence on who they are, age group, where they live (are they local to the area) etc. **Active Patrols when possible, during the hours of issue.**
- i) Work with youth engagement partners:** To deliver engagement with offenders if they are youths causing the issue when found at the park.
- j) Manage expectations of local residents:** What is their perception of ASB. Provide support and guidance on how to deal with it and provide contact details of other agencies that could assist. If noise levels are high could environmental health be included in the evaluation.
- k) Consultation with the Fire Department:** Information sharing around any issues that they may have been called to and any intelligence that they may be able to share in regard to offenders.

³ Any emphasis via the use of italics or bold type is as provided by Suffolk Police
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The aforementioned recommendations stated are in line with being appropriate, realistic, and cost effective for this type of location .

Legislation places a duty on all of the authorities mentioned in the above recommendations. It is therefore everyone's responsibility to act under *Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – as revised by the Police and Justice Act 2006 - places a duty on:*

- Local Authorities;
- Police Authorities (and the Mayor of London);
- Fire Authorities;
- National Parks Authorities

“Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed upon it, it shall be the duty of each authority ... to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area (including antisocial and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment) and the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area”. Therefore, the Act requires local authorities and others to consider crime and disorder reduction while exercising all of their duties. This reflects the reality that there are crime and/or disorder implications in decisions made across the full range of local authority services, and to correct the current situation under which these implications are often not recognised at the time decisions are taken, with expensive consequences.

Suffolk Police are not suggesting that all these recommendations must be applied. Each should be reviewed and be in line with it being realistic and cost effective in relation to the issues being caused along with the costs incurred. These costs should be gauged in line with the cost of damage caused, the cost of repair or replacement of items, the risk of injury/death (insurance against that), the cost of time used in resources to resolve the issues etc and the demands on emergency services having to attend.

FINAL CONCLUSION

It is always difficult to deal with antisocial behaviour in a main area unless there is **good surveillance and CCTV coverage that is constantly monitored and backed up by regular police patrols and people want to use the area, so that there is sufficient footfall to assist with providing valuable surveillance and intelligence of what is occurring, or is not occurring, because possible offenders feel they are being watched.**

The points I have made are recommendations only, but the advice contained within this report is based on information supplied by yourself, records held by Suffolk Constabulary and my own observations. These preventative measures, if implemented, should reduce the risk of crime at the premises. However, this cannot be guaranteed.