

2014

Frampton Cotterell Play Strategy Draft 4



OPAL

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Frampton Cotterell Play Strategy

Sections

1. The brief
2. Policy, values and principles
3. Place making
4. Play and design theory
5. Developing the brief
6. Audit of existing play opportunities

The Brief

The brief provided by the parish council included an assessment of current provision, if and when it should be replaced and estimate for the cost of works to provide a replacement or alternative play offer.

My desire with this report is to provide a document that will be of most use to the parish council and of greatest service to the children of the parish. I therefore have carried out the assessment and evaluation and submitted some proposals for how play could be improved on the sites. It seems that the Council's money will not be well spent if I spend a lot of time designing and costing concepts based on values and principles that the Council does not support. My suggestion is that following the submission of the first half of the report that I meet with some members of the Council (possibly on site) and we develop a more specific brief for each site.

The scope of this piece of work does not provide for time to design in detail five play areas, to a full specification, scheme of works and accurate quote. Once I have a clearer idea of what approach the Council would like to take in each area, I will provide concept ideas and a price range.

Actions: MF and Councillors meet and agree site briefs before part 2 of the report.

Policy

The values of the provider are crucial in deciding what kind of play areas are to be designed. Frampton Cotterell is within the South Gloucestershire local authority area, and so may wish to endorse the values and principles within this document; however this may not be the case. The South Gloucestershire play policy has been attached as appendix. The kind of play area which the Council wants to provide will depend on their attitude to several factors including: risk and benefit, children's competence, sustainability, maintenance and concepts of play value.

Actions: MF to talk to Councillors to understand the council's position on key policy areas before part 2 of report.

Risk – Benefit.

Risk-benefit is an approach balancing the needs of childhood against the legal and moral duty of care endorsed by the Health and Safety Executive. The approach is explained in the 'Position Statement on Risk in Play and Leisure' (H&SE 2012). This report suggests that the Parish Council officially endorse the 2012 statement and the supporting implementation guidance produced by the Play Safety Forum (Oct 2013) as part of their policy on play and risk. <http://www.playengland.org.uk/resources/managing-risk-in-play-provision-implementation-guide.aspx>

This Risk-Benefit approach recognises that only engineered play equipment is likely to conform to European standards for play equipment, and there may be many other natural and semi-natural play opportunities where

a less prescriptive and a more common sense approach is needed if children are to be allowed to derive benefit from playing outdoors.

In recent years the National Trust and the Forestry Commission have changed the way they manage risk in natural areas. The Forestry Commission has a good guidance document called 'Ropes, Swings Dens and Fires' which supports thoughtful management of children's playful use of woodland.

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fce-rope-swings-dens-fires.pdf/\\$file/fce-rope-swings-dens-fires.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fce-rope-swings-dens-fires.pdf/$file/fce-rope-swings-dens-fires.pdf)

Further guidance can be found in 'Managing Visitor Safety in the Countryside'.

<http://vscg.co.uk/publications/>

Actions: MF to talk to Councillors to understand the council's position on risk benefit and non-standard compliance before part 2 of report.

Council to discuss its response to the Play Safety Forum and Forestry Commission documents and how it will affect their play policy.

Design

Children will play on, around and with environments which suit their needs. In the past when children had greater freedom to roam they found places in and around their home environments or further afield where they could act playfully.

Between the 1970 and the 1990's design of play environments has been dominated by manufacturers of engineered play equipment. The main principles applied have been maximising the sale of equipment and its accompanying manufactured safer surfacing, reducing liability of the provider and ease of maintenance. The kinds of play areas this has led to are now often called KFC or Kit, Fence and Carpet. This description sums up an image of places that are not unique or special, have no sense of local place and are commercial.

Since 2000 the Play England has led a movement to provide a stronger vision about what constitutes a quality play environment. These principles were set out in 'Design for Play'. (Play England 2010). The Council will need to decide to what extent they embrace the principles in Design for Play. If they wish to replace the existing KFC offer with newer versions of the same, this will be a very different proposal to wishing to create high quality play opportunities. The public has a certain idea of what a play area looks like and expectations may have to be managed through consultation and information if existing play areas are replaced by a different offer.

Place – Making

The idea of place making has been described by the Commission for the Built Environment (CABE) and its equivalent in the USA the Project for Public Spaces (PPS). It describes the idea that; people are drawn to, and will linger in, places that are attractive, social, flexible and accessible. In rural areas, commercial play spaces are often an oasis of ugliness in an attractive setting. Play spaces can be attractive, unique, reflect the character of their setting and provide opportunities for prolonged social encounters.

If a play space is for infants accompanied by parents or grand-parents, as much thought should be given to how the adults are catered for as the children. The design of places to sit, their distance from the play, the sociability of the seating layout, height and comfort all influence how long an adult is prepared to linger and whether they interact with each other.

A check on the police computer database indicated no reported problems of anti-social or criminal behaviour linked to these public spaces in 2013.

Notes: This report is based on assessment of the visual appearance and opinions on play value. It is not an engineering or safety report.

Centenary Fields



- A. **A Varied and Interesting Physical Environment.** The site is large and has considerable variety. There are many kinds of trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses. There are large and small open spaces, dense undergrowth and trees. The land has a slight slope and no many changes in topography.
- B. **Newness and Change.** The amount of natural loose part has been severely limited by the management regime which means that the woodland floors had been cleared of all panting, sticks and undergrowth in many areas. This means that despite the potential for the site to be a great place for discovery and den making there were very few place in site that were hidden or had any natural loose parts for den making.
- C. **A Varied and Interesting Human Environment.** The size, openness and lack of prescriptive play equipment gives this site the potential to have an appeal across all ages. At present there are only a couple of places that are deliberately designed to be destinations where people would come across each other and interact. These are the entrance and at the wheel where the big table is sited.

- D. **Movement.** The variety of movements here are to do with the space to which invites discovery and the amount of tree which can be swung in and climbed.
- E. **Experiencing the World.** This is a place which invites discovery. There are many types plants, animals and views to be found.
- F. **Risk and Challenge.** The main opportunity for risk and challenge here would be on feeling like you could get lost on such a big site, on climbing trees and in playing with natural loose parts such as sticks and stones.
- G. **Experiencing Variety and Change.** The action of the seasons on this space would mean that there is considerable change over a year, the site has a lot of planting which also will change over time. The management of the site introduces change to the look and feel of the planted areas.
- H. **Being Creative.** Creative opportunists here are enabled by the space to adventure, to get lost and to be able to use natural materials in play.
- I. **Space.** This is a great space with enough room to provide a good long walk for under-fives or a place of comparative safety for 7-10 year olds to feel as if they are in the wilds.

Recommendations

The appeal of this site is in its natural beauty. There are many ways to increase the play offer within a natural space without detracting from its 'spirit of place'.

The Play Trail Many parents of under-fives will want to take their children for a walk but this can be hard going because walking is not very interesting for the very young. It should be possible to construct simple natural play features along-side the main trail around the site so there is an alternate, more playful, trail for children. This would take the form of break-away paths that, every now and then leave the main path to provide a log to walk along, some stepping stones, a little bridge, a tunnel, a carved tree, a natural xylophone etc. Some of these could be in little clearings that become points of destination and others part of a more interesting journey for children. Marker posts can tell children how far and what direction the next feature is. They can run ahead and play on the next feature while the parents can enjoy walking at an adult pace. (Picture: Millside Park Chipping Sodbury)



Fallen Hardwood Trees.

South Gloucestershire Council found that providing fallen trees, that had been trimmed back to make them a bit safer, was a popular and cost effective way of providing challenging, open ended natural play opportunities. A few well-placed fallen trees imported into the site would increase play value and not spoil the look of the site. It is quite possible this could be sourced and moved without great cost using resources available in the community. (Picture: South Glos Parks)



Natural Play Features

The provision of features that can be played on is different from trying to reproduce commercial play equipment out of local wood. Playable creations can be made from tree slices, trunks, banks, tunnels, bridges or crossings, stepping stones, planting etc. Examples of some of these can be seen at Westonbirt Arboretum. (Pictures: Log Circle Millside-Yate, Tree Obstacles Westonbirt, Stone Maze Nurenburg)



Management



(Picture: Cleared woodland floor Centenary Field)

The site at centenary field was well cared for clean and tidy. There had recently been a lot of work to clear the undergrowth in most of the areas of young wood land. The work had cleared all undergrowth and dead wood from beneath the trees. The Council may wish to allow some area to maintain a wilder nature and to deliberately resource the area with lots of brash and branches so that den making can take place. This is a practice now carried out by the National Trust on their properties.

Centenary Fields Design Brief

1. All development will use natural materials with very little or no traditional play equipment.
2. Play opportunities will be provided through the use of mowing regime, woodland clearing, loose materials, logs, trees and stone.
3. Provision for exploring play for young children will be provided through changes in the mowing regime. As the grass grows longer a net-work of small and medium cleared spaces connected by a net-work of narrow mown paths will be provided. An example pattern is provided below. This pattern does not need to be fixed and can be changed year by year. This approach will provide many small and medium social spaces and lots of paths to explore.
4. The effect of the large destination space by the mine-wheel will be replicated by mowing in two or three other destination clearings in place around the site. Places that already have a sense of being a clearing amongst the trees should be used. They should just be mowed out into the long grass so that there is still a nice wide boundary of long grass around them. These need not change location year on year so that the grass stays short enough to play games on.
5. The destination spaces mentioned in 4 will be supplemented by large scale playable natural features. These may include:
 - a. A large fallen tree to climb about on
 - b. A large stone circle of rocks
 - c. A 'wood-henge' of concentric circles of blossom trees
 - d. A labyrinth of stones
 - e. Large scale climbable sculpted hardwood features.
6. Development of play opportunities for children walking the site with parents will take the form of break-out paths that veer away from the main trail for a short time and then re-join it. These break-out trails will have playful features made using arrangement of wood and rock. These may include.
 - a. Balance logs to walk along the top of
 - b. Ramp logs to walk up and jump off
 - c. Mini- hills. Mounds to run over
 - d. Stepping stones of stone or wood to jump between (Linear)
 - e. Stepping stones of stone or wood to jump between (Random Scatter)
 - f. Logs slices laid flat connected by log beams to cross
 - g. Earth embankments with a fallen tree bridge laid across the top
 - h. A big hollow trunk to crawl through
 - i. An up-ended tree root to explore
 - j. A double line of hedgerow grown close in parallel to form a tunnel-like passage.
 - k. A scatter of arranged trunks to clamber over
 - l. A series of progressively larger trunks to climb over
 - m. A very wavy path that zig-zags back and forth.
 - n. A false path that leads no-where

- o. A gap that needs jumping over
 - p. A path that leads to a hidden wood sculpture
 - q. Several trunks laid in parallel
 - r. Several trees laid end to end to form a very long balance way.
 - s. A path that splits into three paths and then back to one path
7. Den making will be more actively promoted. Areas should be chosen (Not near the fire pits if there are any) where den making is encouraged by leaving brash and cut materials for children to find and use. This should be in places where there are plenty of trees that can be used to prop den structures up against. These can be located at several places around the site and then supplemented when it is observed where the children most like to use them.
8. The idea of fire pits was discussed and is worth consideration on the site in suitable areas.

Brockridge Centre



This is a small space between a very high hedge and a car park opposite the school. It was clear from wear patterns on the ground that there had been no recent use of the space.

Assessment

- A. **A Varied and Interesting Physical Environment.** The space is all flat and there is no change in levels or topography. The surfacing is all grass or black rubber. There is one piece of equipment aimed at the under threes. The equipment is a bit mouldy, the wood on the bridge section are neatly rotted through.
- B. **Newness and Change.** There are no opportunities for change or alteration in the space.
- C. **A Varied and Interesting Human Environment.** The equipment provided a couple small opportunities for socialisation, if a couple of toddlers were playing on it, but nothing that builds social, imaginary or collaborative play.
- D. **Movement.** The space provides two climbing opportunities, one sliding and two of crossing a raised space. There is also a protected grass space where toddlers could run about.
- E. **Experiencing the World.** The space is materially poor with very little for exploration of the senses. The three main elements are short grass, metal and rubber. The edge provide does some exposure to natural materials but there are no indications that children play in the bushes here.
- F. **Risk and Challenge.** The area provides a bit of challenge for the very young with the chance to climb and slide.
- G. **Experiencing Variety and Change.** There will be some seasonal change here in the foliage and in the light. There is little the children could change here.
- H. **Being Creative.** There are very little opportunities to be creative here.
- I. **Space.** This is a small space which gives enough of a sense of enclosure and length to be attractive for the under fives. In order for children to use space then there must be destination social spaces to draw them around the site and interesting ways to travel.

Place making

The location of this space could be very valuable as somewhere where parents with younger siblings met and chatted for ten minutes before school pick-up. There are key changes that would need making

Recommendations.

The Secret Garden.

This space would work very well as a small landscaped play garden. In Berlin they call these 'pocket-parks'. It is very important for any public space to consider the 'linger-factor'. Why would the person controlling the length of the visit want to linger there for longer? Certain things will shorten the linger-factor especially: Ugliness – no one wants to be in an ugly place for longer than necessary; Comfort – people will stay in places where they are physically and mentally at ease; Sociability – People linger when they can easily see and talk with friends; Flexibility – does it suit the needs of all the people who are using the space both parents and toddlers?

The age appeal of this garden should be under-fives and parents, but I do not think that this needs either stating or enforcing in signage. The design should concentrate on the offer to parents as much as children. Adults want to sit in small social groups where they can see each other's faces and they can also keep an eye on their children. Children want a small amount of independence but to be able to easily check that parents are nearby. Seating can be provided as playable variations in the terrain. The offer of the play garden should be done through creation of two or three attractive social space with sculptural/artistic/musical features as the centre pieces and an interesting variety of way of moving between the spaces, such as along a log, between some bamboo, over and bank or through a willow tunnel. This could all be done with planning, rocks, topography, simple wooded (robina or larch) features. One or two well chosen pieces such as a slide could be included.

I would remove the play equipment and the black rubber but maybe relocate the slide on a small embankment. There are certain design approaches I would concentrate on to appeal to the under -fives.

Entrance and Boundary – Lots of arches, little tunnels and different ways of getting in and out of defined spaces.

Enclosure – A number of social spaces that give the feeling of being safe and enclosed whilst still giving adults a clear view. This could be achieved with grasses, very simple structures and terrain.

Material Richness - Little children are fascinated by the richness of what the world is made from. This garden would be an ideal place to have different types of rock, wood, metal, shapes.

Permanence and Posting - Under-fives love to put things into holes, slots etc. The site could easily provide some natural loose parts and features which enable children to put things into and through other things.

Transportation - Under-fives love to move things around from one place to another. I think that the protected space that this garden provides means that some ways to move items in the garden around such as sand, water rocks or wood should be possible.

Loose Parts - This is one of two sites where water play could be considered. This would be in the form of a feature which did not hold standing water but allowed children a limited flow and a chance to dam the flow and carry the water about. The good site protection and the proximity of a water source make this viable. An artificial stream bed running along the site with gravel, rocks, grasses and sit-able features could make this little site a real attraction especially in summer.

Site Constraints

The hedge behind the site blocks much of the light and makes the site feel over-powered. It would be good if this could be lowered. The planting towards the school needs to be kept short enough to see the school.

Adult seating should be at the gate end so they know their children are not leaving. Play offers should be at the far end and middle so they are not near the gate.

Brockridge Centre Design Brief

1. The design should cater for the needs of children 2-5 and their parents and carers. These users will include the adults and children using the toddler and parent group and also parents and young siblings waiting for the end of school.

2. The garden should be joined to the centre to allow free flow play and enable adults not to have to worry so much about small children leaving the site. This should be done by the removal of the current gate and fence into the garden. A new fence should be installed running from the edge of the centre to the small gate into the car park. A wide new gate should be installed so double buggy access can still be gained into the new courtyard and garden space outside of the community hall double doors.
3. The play garden design should provide wheelchair access along its length via an attractive but firm curving pathway.
4. The design should divide the garden into distinct spaces or rooms. As well as the main path between these spaces there should be alternative ways for children to travel between these rooms.
5. A large lockable sandpit should form the main feature of the first room. This should have paving treatment around its edges to help manage sand migration. The lockable lid should be freely air and water permeable and should be opened and raked at least once a week during times of little use. The sand pit should have features such as rocks and little play tables within it.
6. A stream bed water feature should run past the sand pit. This should have a simple system for children to release water. A water re-circulation system should be included if possible but just on a 'use for a day then drain away' system.
7. The usability of this space is going to depend on it not being damp, dark and cold. The hedge along the border should ideally be kept to a reasonable height so that sunlight can get into the play garden.
8. The design should include plenty of creative and flexible features that may be used as seating but also have play value within the landscape. This is because the site is too small to dominate with lots of seating but it needs to include plenty of opportunities for seating.
9. The existing equipment should be removed. The design should replace the affordances that the existing equipment offers with some alternatives that are integrated into the wider natural play landscape. Opportunities for instability and rotation are especially valuable.
10. The woodland owned by the PC should be opened up with a pathway and two entrances. A tree survey should be carried out to ensure safety. A number of small clearings and alternative pathways within the woodland can be provided by simple clearing.
11. The play garden should make use of a diverse range of natural materials and planting. Rocks, wood and equipment should be integrated into one design.

Schedule

Design based on the brief

Costing based on the design

Contracting based on capability

Create more variety in topography.

Install water and drainage

Install hard landscape features, small mounds, pathways, planting beds, bridges, posts, stream bed sit-able features, re-site slide.

Install loose materials. Rocks, stones, gravel, logs, planks

Install planting to create enclosure on spaces and define journeys.

Budget. £4500- £15,000

Design. £500-£1200

Groundworks £1500-£8000

Materials £2000-£4000

Planting £500-£1800

Park Farm/Heather Ave



First Impressions

At the time of visiting this seemed to be the least well maintained of the sites. The wear patterns around the equipment and on the embankment indicated low use and on the half-term day I visited no-one used the park. This is an attractive space in the middle of housing that could draw people in far more.

Equipment assessment

Piece	Assessment	Life-Span Estimate	Surface and Surface Life
Roundabout 	Mixed age play 4-11 Working condition good Paint well worn Play value –social and co-operative. Vestibular development (spinning) Motor	2-3 years	Surface: Hollow and loose. Cracked and repaired 1-2 years Wear shows little recent use
Swings	Mixed age play 3-9 Individual and pairs.	1-2 years	Surface: Weathered and

	<p>Appearance very poor. Frame Rusty. Seats very weathered and cracked. Chains rusty. Play value swinging</p>		<p>repaired 1-2 years Wear shows some recent use but declining amount</p>
<p>Slide and Bank</p> 	<p>Mixed age play 18m – 9 Non-cooperative Slide has a few minor dents. General condition handles and frame. Good.</p>	<p>5-10 years</p>	<p>Embankment: Rotting wood 1 year Surface at base. Repaired but sound 2-3 years</p>
<p>See-Saw</p> 	<p>Early Years appeal 3-5 Appearance poor Rusty, faded and worn, Seats cracked and weathered Functioning - sound</p>	<p>1-2 years</p>	<p>Surface: Sound but weathered 2-5 years. Wear indicates declined recent use.</p>

Environment Assessment

- A. **A Varied and Interesting Physical Environment.** The overall site is very attractive and varied. There are several mounds and embankments, a pond, a bit of woodland, hedges and lawn and a play area. There are many different kinds of plants and different kinds of spaces.
Improvements could include: managing the hedges and undergrowth to provide more routes for chase, and weaving in and around.
- B. **Newness and Change.** (loose parts). The woodland areas have a lot of brash, branches etc which the children had been using. The pond affords the potential for some water play.
Improvements could include: Redevelopment as a water play area (in which case leave fence). Leaving more logs, brash in the woodland.
- C. **A Varied and Interesting Human Environment.** The fence around the play area in this space seems to create an unnecessary division between the rest of the site and the play equipment. There site lacks features which might bring people of different ages together such as comfortable and socially arranged seating. The see-saw and the roundabout enable some social play but otherwise there is not much offer for group or social play.
Improvements could include: More social and comfortable seating. Barbeque points. Playable sculpture trail.
- D. **Movement.** Rotating, sliding, swinging and rocking and enabled. In addition the banks provide opportunities for rolling, stepping. The large lawn invites running and the woodland invites exploration.
Improvements could include: Removal of the fence, more ways of using the banks, ie: un-even steps. Log –zig-zags. Multiple slides.

E. Experiencing the World.

The site has a natural feel to it but the opportunities to play with natural materials are quite limited, for instance you cannot clamber on boulders, move stones or logs, walk along a tree trunk etc. The materials used within the play space are unpleasant to look at and do not add to the value of the play experience. Mossy black rubber and bright primary painted metal do not sit well in this environment.

Improvements could include: Importing fallen trees or sections of them, importing textural boulders, including aesthetically pleasing playable sculptures: Attracting a greater range of ages into the space by diversification of the appeal of the equipment and seating to bring more different people in contact with each other.

F. Risk and Challenge. The play offer on the site presents mild challenge for the under-fives but because there is not extension of the challenge the site may only hold its appeal for a quite small age span.

Improvements could include a piece of equipment that provided open ended and variable challenge and some social-hang out opportunities such as post and net structure. (Picture Post and net structure by Timber Play in Hammersmith)



G. Experiencing Variety and Change. (Activity) I am not aware if there are activities which take place on the park and open spaces in the parish. I assume not. Any variety in the kinds of activities taking place in the space to provide 'difference' in how the space is used is there for up to parents. Improvements could include greater use of the space by local nurseries, child-minders and events put on by 'friends' groups.

H. Being Creative. The woodland and rough border spaces give the most potential for creativity. None of the fixed equipment is designed to facilitate creative or imaginative play. Improvements could include sand and water play.

I. Space. There is enough room here for the space to function well as a neighbourhood play space for children who live in the immediate surrounding houses.

Recommendations

This area has been designed for the supervised under-fives and I get the impression it is not getting much use from this group. I suggest on of the following.

A. Think of the area as being for un-supervised 6-11s. Remove the fence and provide a variety of more challenging and social play offers across the site.

- B. Support local residents in creating 'friends of' groups which include a mandate to respect 'Article 31 of the 'UN convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). A good example of this is Friends of Jubilee Green in Bradley Stoke. (picture below) <http://www.friendsofjubileegreen.org.uk/welcome.aspx>



- C. Overhaul the area and provide a mixed natural and equipped area for the supervised under-fives but consult alot with parents to find out what they need to feel comfortable. I suggest comfortable social seating, attractive and inviting entrance, fun ways of getting in for children, boulders, planting and good quality sensory and motor equipment. Concentrate on a natural and aesthetic look not primary colour and black rubber.
- D. Use the fact that the site is near water to create a water play area. Use the embankment and have gravel, stones, channels, boulders and running water. (Pictures Kingsgate Park Yate, Village play area Frasdorf Germany. I think that this site is well suited to be a destination water/sand/gravel play area for the parish.



Ridings Road



First Impressions

This is clearly space that has very local use. The children on the site said it was mainly used by the children from the houses directly surrounding the site. I asked the children how the space was used they said the equipment was largely used as bases for playing 'tig' on. The boys on the site said they liked to play foot-ball but this caused many issues with the people who park their cars here. The boys wanted football goals.

Piece	Assessment	Life-Span Estimate	Surface and Surface Life
	Age- 9-18M Appearance Good Seat –sound Frame- Sound Chains – sound Greased and painted Play value -swinging	5-8 years	Very good – 8-10 years
	Age appeal – 3 – 6Y Appearance – Fair Paint – Good Seats – Good Function – Poor The pivot has worked loose and may well come away complete soon.	0-1Year	Surface Very good. 5-10 years

<p>Springer1</p> 	<p>Age appeal – 2-3 Paint – Fair Seat – Perished and crumbly Function – Good These have very limited pay appeal. Usually a few seconds</p>	<p>1-2 years</p>	<p>Surface Very good 5-10years</p>
<p>Springer 2</p> 	<p>Age appeal – 2-3 Paint – good Seat – good Function – Good These have very limited pay appeal. Usually a few seconds</p>	<p>5-8 years</p>	<p>Surface Very good 5-10years</p>
<p>Sutcliffe Play Tower</p> 	<p>Age appeal Mixed 2-12 Paint –Fair but obscene graffiti spoils it Ramp and Platforms – perished. Panels – sound Play value. Climb, social, height</p>	<p>3-5 years</p>	<p>Surface – 1 repair Good to fair. 5-8 years</p>

Environment Assessment.

- A. **A Varied and Interesting Physical** The environment is neither varied or interesting. *Improvements* could include. Mounding and embankments to diversify the topography, greater use of natural materials.
(Pictures: Two parks in Stirling Scotland which have added varied topography.)



- B. **Newness and Change.** (Loose Parts) None. An area for gravel, sand water play could be an option on this site. Planting would provide some natural loose parts. A digging mud play area would be cheap and give permission for this kind of play.
- C. **A Varied and Interesting Human Environment.** The site is well used by local children but would not attract any other members of the community to spend time here. There are no other cultural, aesthetic or local references or features on the site. *Improvements* could include the creation of 'protected spaces' for sitting and socialising to attract more of the community to use the space, hanging out features such as post and net and hammocks.
- D. **Movement.** Under 3s swinging and rocking. Over 3s clambering. Sliding, Running, *Improvements* could include: more spread-out play features that draw movement across the whole site.
- E. **Experiencing the World.** Apart from the universal benefits of being outside, the site has few additional benefits in relation to texture, smell, affinity with nature, rich materials, water, the elements, or human culture. *Improvements* could include. Diverse planting, use of materials, a place for fire/barbecues, textures, paths.
- F. **Risk and Challenge.** The play opportunities for would present some challenge for the under-fives but little past this age. *Improvements* could include features that provide more challenge, but this would have to be balanced against the fact that this is not a destination site and should not attract children from a wide area. A fallen tree may and landscaped challenge maybe more low key.
- G. **Experiencing Variety and Change.** (Activity)The small nature of the site does not warrant events but the community around the site may be encouraged to think that it is an asset. *Improvements* could include local events like a Street Play event.
- H. **Being Creative.** There are few invitations or materials to encourage children to be creative. The play tower may provide a small stimulus for imaginative or creative play.
- I. **Space.** The open space very close to the homes of the children is one of the greatest assets of the site.

Recommendations

The development of this site would need very careful community consultation. I would anticipate that everyone who lives around it has an opinion about it and many feel that it is their space because it is so close to their houses. The issues on this site would probably be between car parking and football. It may well be that there are issues of noise, but I think because there is a precedent of children playing here for a long time that their right to play has been established. The presence of play equipment is also a useful social indicator that this is a children's space. If community consultation takes place, it should not be the only input into the design as people 'don't know what they don't know' so a professional input about what makes play spaces work should also be included.

- A. The main option that I think should be discussed is: Should this space be made into an attractive place that could bring members of the community out of their houses to sit, chat, watch their children play, have a barbecue or a cup of tea or should it be only developed with children in mind?
- B. Using embankments. It may be much easier to manage both parking and football by using earth embankments. These would have play value themselves, deflect the direction of footballs away from cars and act as a deterrent to parking on the park.
- C. Other ways to manage the football might be buy quite mature trees and plant them where goal posts would be. This serves to provide the function of goals without being too much of an invitation to every child around to come and play football.
- D. Play path trail around park with social seating, natural and equipped play around the edge, keeping the central green free. The site at the moment is an informal base for non- supervised doorstep play. This kind of play can

been enriched by creating a number of social bases using mounding, planting and natural and man features such as posts and deck and ways of getting from place to place.



Ridings Road Development Brief

1. The option of a 'home zone' approach to the development of the site will be put to the housing association and South Glos Council. The main principles of this approach would be
 - a. To create a single public open space bringing together the land on either side of the road.
 - b. To create a wide paved surface without pavements or street furnishing and with a 10mph speed limit
 - c. To protect parked cars from footballs and play by protective mounding and planting.
 - d. To change the balance of use of space from priority for car use and car access to pedestrian use and access but with cars still permitted.
 - e. To create a space that invites the community out of their houses to encounter each other through their provision of playful and social features.
 - f. To remove curbs, road furniture and markings so that the space does not look and feel like a road but a square that cars are permitted to drive across.
2. Replace the infant play equipment with new equipment. Use natural colours, tones and materials rather than primary so that the play site looks more attractive.
3. Incorporate a basket swing as this caters for all ages and abilities.
4. Provide informal, social and comfortable seating for carers near to the infant equipment.
5. Use banking, terracing and level changes to create a space which has more enclosure to protect houses and cars from balls and also to provide informal seating and hanging out opportunities.
6. The recommended angle for mounding is 30%. This will need 4m width for every 1 meter height.
7. Invest in carefully placed semi-mature birch trees for use as goals for kick about football rather than goal posts.
8. Equipment should be placed and integrated into the landscaping for example a bridge over a real gap or a slide down a bank.
9. The plan will include two permanent table tennis tables, one traditional and one round.
10. The plan will include careful placement of rock feature that may double up as pic-nic tables or barbecue stands.
11. The plan will include some swings.
12. It is recommended that the plan includes a log and net scatter play feature.
13. The housing association should support residents to use the space for community events to promote ownership and should involve the community in tree and bulb planting

Park Farm Estate



First Impressions

The site is very attractive and forms a long natural corridor through the estate linking out to countryside walks. The site has good semi-mature trees and well established hedge borders giving good natural enclosure. The aesthetic value is marred by the quite ugly little playground. On the edge of the park is the St Saviours Play Area (South Glos Council). This is one of the most pointless play areas I have ever seen and quite understandably seems to have zero use judging by the wear patterns.

Equipment Assessment

Piece	Assessment	Life-Span Estimate	Surface and Surface Life
Roundabout 	Age appeal 3-8 Paint fair Function – good Play value – spinning - social	3-5 years	Surface Weathered Signs of wear indicate moderate use. 3- 5 years
Swings	Appearance poor Paint – Poor Seats – weathered	18M -4 years	Surface: Wear and moss indicates very light use

	<p>and cracked Chains –some wear. Function – Sound Play value – supported swinging</p>		<p>3-5 years</p>
<p>Springer</p> 	<p>Age appeal 2-4 Appearance – poor Paint – poor Metal – rusty Function – sound Play value - rocking</p>	<p>2-4 year</p>	<p>Surface: Weathered but sound. 3-5 years</p>

Environment Assessment.

- A. **A Varied and Interesting Physical Environment** The landscape has some gentle slopes, a variety of planting, spaces of different sizes created by the hedges and trees. It has nice views and an attractive feel. There are not very many features within the environment that children would be able to incorporate into their play. Improvements could include: Planting which created more distinct areas to play in and around. Some additional mounding and changes in topography.
- B. **Newness and Change.** (Loose Parts) There are a few opportunities to gather leaves and twigs under the trees but otherwise no loose parts. Improvements could include: Altering that annual maintenance regime to create changes in the layout of the space to have long grass, places, and pathways.
- C. **A Varied and Interesting Human Environment.** The space is accessible from many points of access in the estate so I would anticipate good casual use by the children. There are not any aspects of the design which would encourage a mix of ages to come together except the ball court. This has no seating or hangout space so I don't expect children have more than a short kick around here if the weather is not fine. Improvements could include:
- D.



- E. Addition of features that could double as playable and also usable attractive landscaped social seating. (Picture: Social seating by Jane's Pond)
- F. **Movement.** Rock, spin and swing (supervised under 5s) running, rolling. *Improvements* could include: Carefully chosen play equipment which fits into the landscape which provides some of these movements.
- G. **Experiencing the World.** The site has trees, bushes, some bugs and wild life. It has good views of the surrounding life of the estate and is at the heart of the community, not pushed to the edges. *Improvements* could include: Greater diversity of planting and natural materials.
- H. **Risk and Challenge.** There is very little or no risk and challenge on the site. *Improvements* could include: Play equipment with a greater range of risk and challenge, natural features which enable some choices about the level of risk engaged in such as jumping and balancing between rocks and boulders.
- I. **Experiencing Variety and Change.** (Activity) The central position of the site within the community means that there will be a reasonable amount of human action going on around but there are not any organised activities. *Improvements* could include: This site might benefit from greater involvement of the local community with the community using it for some public, play events or an informal 'Parks for Play' rota with local parents pledging to be in the park with their children on certain days.
- J. **Being Creative** There is nothing to stimulate creativity on the site. *Improvements* could include: The local community taking charge of providing some simple play materials from Scrapstore that the children could play with on the space at certain times. (Picture: Children use boxes and scrap to make dens in a play session in a park.)



- K. **Space.** There is plenty of space and room for different groups and ages to be able to use the site at the same times. Improvements could include: Much better integration of the play offer and the landscape. I do not feel the fences are needed on this site.

Recommendations.

The position of this site in the heart of a residential community means that sensitive and informed community consultation early in the process would be important. The existing play equipment detracts visually as much as it offers in play. In my opinion play equipment on this site should be blended around the site and should be built into the landscape. I do not believe fencing is needed because the under-fives will be accompanied and the over fives un-accompanied children are not receiving any protection from the fence. This is not a site where dogs should be running free and dog-walkers should be made to keep dogs on leads. On this space as children need priority.

Public space at its best can bring communities out of their houses and give them a neutral place to meet each other. Designed additions to this space should, I believe be: non-age specific, open ended, social or co-operative in nature.

The site could really come to life if the community could take some ownership by:

1. Pledging to a 'Parks for Play' project where parents agreed to be out with their children at certain times.
2. Providing some simple scrap material for play at agreed times/sessions.
3. Forming a 'Friends of' group to promote community events and development of the site for the benefit of children and others.

The ball court may benefit from a social piece of play equipment nearby, such as a posts and nets or social play seating (see below). In my view the provision of some natural looking equipment such as that provided by Children's Play Company, Timber Play and Jupiter would work much better than the metal. A basket swing may well be more versatile than the baby swing and a Dutch disc provide a better spinning feature than the post. (Picture: Robinia Basket Swing from Children's Playground Company. Plank and Play Amphitheatre by Jupiter Play and Leisure), Dutch Disc Play Equipment, Outdoor Table Tennis by Mantel Play)

If equipment is to be provided I think some open ended and social play opportunities would be good including a public table tennis and picnic benches as this would promote interaction between all ages. The site would also benefit from some landscaped play opportunities using, levels, tree trunks, boulders and planting.





This is also a site where a sand and water play offer might be considered. It would be necessary to some site testing first to see at what level if fouling would be a problem and it is how it might be managed.

The Park



First Impressions

This is a huge site mainly taken up by sports pitches. The site is very open which makes it quite windy and there is not much shade or shelter. The play equipment, although mainly getting on in age, has an excellent appearance and has been well maintained. The site was very clean with not litter, vandalism or graffiti. I visited during half term in October and although it was a fresh morning there was a steady stream of users. The parents I talked to at this site said that the play offer in the village was very good, they liked that different sites had a different offer and liked to walk from one to another. There is a barbecue facility on the site but in a very exposed position on the edge of the car park where it will probably not have a high level of use.

Equipment Assessment

Piece	Assessment	Life-Span Estimate	Surface and Surface Life
A-B Climber	Appearance – Good condition but dated Paintwork - Good Function - Good	3-5 years	Some signs of age and repair but sound 2-5 years

			
<p>Toddler Swings</p> 	<p>Appearance –Good Paintwork - Good Seats - Good Chains/Function –Good Chain/Bushes - not known</p>	<p>5-10 years depending on maintenance</p>	<p>Good/Fair One repair but surface sound 3-5 years</p>
<p>See-Saw</p> 	<p>Appearance – Good Paintwork – Good Seats –Good Function -Good</p>	<p>5-10 years. Condition of joint not known.</p>	<p>Surface: Good 3-5 years</p>
<p>Junior Slide</p> 	<p>Appearance –Good Paint –Good Function - Good</p>	<p>Indefinite 10 +</p>	<p>Surface – Sound 3-5years</p>
<p>Multi-Tower</p> 	<p>Appearance Fair starting to fade a little. Paint –Fair Platforms- A little weathered Function - Good</p>	<p>3-5 years.</p>	<p>Sound 3-5 years</p>
	<p>Appearance – Fair Paint –Fair Function – Good Chains - Fair</p>	<p>3-5 years, Condition of bushes not known. Life span will be determined by maintenance of bushes and lifespan of frame at points of entry into the ground.</p>	<p>Repaired but sound 2-4 years</p>
<p>Zip wire</p>	<p>Appearance –Good Paint –Good Function Good</p>	<p>10-15 years</p>	<p>Sound 5-10 years</p>

			
<p>Bench</p> 	<p>Good</p>	<p>5-10 years</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Environment Assessment.

- A. **A Varied and Interesting Physical Environment.** The borders of the site provide a little bit of environmental interest with a stone wall and some wooded scrub. The boundary between the entrance near the sports hall and car park and the play equipment has been allowed to develop into a wilder and more natural space and this has potential but at present is not managed to increase play. *Improvements* could include: Use of mounding, planting, maintenance adjustments and natural features to create a place of greater variety, interest and longer engagement. Creating an area of humps, bumps and mounds for play.
- B. **Newness and Change.** The wild edges to the greater site and the area of scrub woodland at the back of the equipped site provide some limited access to natural loose parts, twigs, leaves, mud and stones. *Improvements* could include: Some areas that were less intensely maintained that were allowed to gather more natural loose parts, brush, branches, logs etc that children could find and use in their play.
- C. **A Varied and Interesting Human Environment.** The equipment on the site provides for a range of ages and abilities. The barbecue facility is probably sited in a place that will not be attractive enough or have enough other points of attraction to have great levels of use. There is little else on the site in terms of art, landscape, history or local interest. The use of the site for sports brings lots of users to the park. Improvements could include: Designation of some areas that are clearly not sports pitches that could host larger community events. Signpost or invitations to make clear which parts of the park may be better for play.
- D. **Movement.** The equipped site promotes, low climbing (clambering), swinging, rocking, spinning. The greater site has open space for running and riding bikes. *Improvements* could include: Having a play environment that integrates play and the landscape so that children moved around the site as part of their play rather than going on each isolated piece of equipment as an individual piece of gross motor skill play.
- E. **Experiencing the World.** The site does not provide much variety other than viewing sports and going on the play equipment. This site maybe suitable for a greater vision of creating a 'park' in keeping with its name.
- F. **Risk and Challenge.** The equipment is mainly aimed at the under sevens with some challenges for them. The basket swing is fun for the older children and presents some open ended risks and challenges. *Improvements* could include: A high spider's-web climber that gives a real sense of challenge. Picture (Aeronet Climber)



- G. **Experiencing Variety and Change.** (Activity) The site is used for sport and this will bring about changes to the feel and activity of the site. Improvements could include: The Council may wish to take a strategic approach to building community involvement with its public spaces, inviting people to hold informal events such as playdays.
- H. **Being Creative.** The site does not have much stimulus for creativity. Improvements could include designating an area where it is OK for children to dig and move mud and rocks around.

Recommendations

The play offer at The Park provides a collection of traditional fixed playground equipment. It does provide age progression on site in that the offer goes from toddler swings and simple climbers, through the ages up to an offer for the teens with the zip wire. The design of this kind of play environment is based on the idea that children's play is primarily about the physical experience provided by each individual item. Over the past ten years designs in the UK have been influenced by Germany and Northern Europe. In these countries it is understood that children play in on and around all features on offer in a landscape. This requires a shift in ideas from one of; what does this equipment do to what could a child do in this landscape?

From my observations and informal conversations, I believe that residents like having play areas and being able to bring their children out somewhere to play. It is also my observation that children do not get deeply engaged in the kind of play on offer, they go on a piece of equipment, work out what the physical challenge is, do it and move on in a matter of a few minutes. In many ways the importance of the play equipment is as much about saying 'Its OK to play here'.

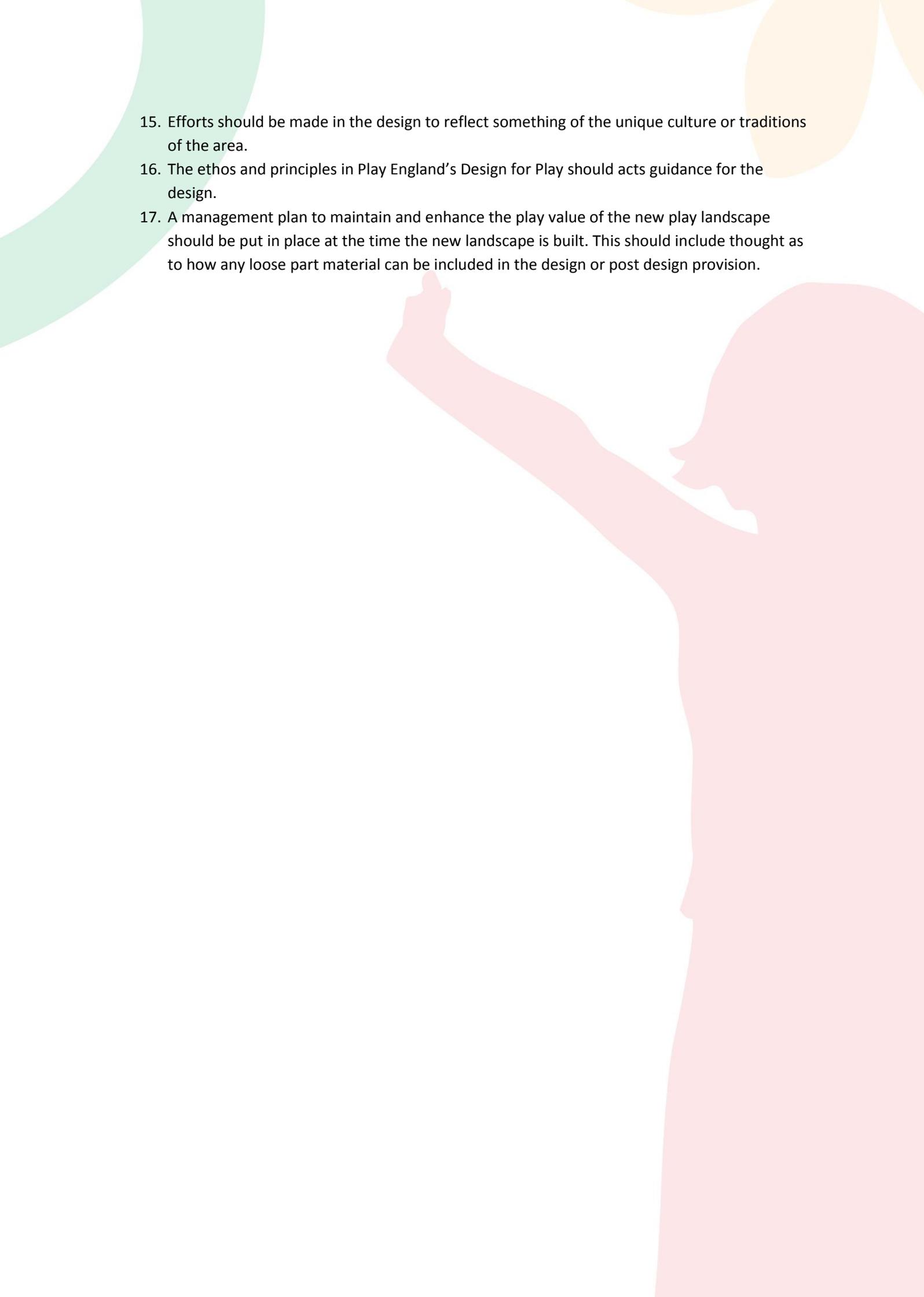
Out of the different sites across the parish this one might be the best one to think about investment in a parish 'destination' play offer, rather than a 'door-step' offer. The difference being; would you pop out and play there for ten minutes before tea (door-step) or would you and your friends head there on a Saturday morning (destination) ?

The play equipment in this space has been well maintained and clearly provides play value, however there is potential on this site to develop something that provides a place where children of different ages come together, where the landscape is more varied, where parents and carers can comfortably socialise whilst

Following the site visit with Councillors the following points should be included in the design brief.

The Park Design Brief:

1. The site will continue to offer play opportunities across a wide age range from toddlers through to lower teens.
2. Equipment should not be segregated inside or outside of the play area boundary as this does not allow children or play to flow freely across age ranges or across the space.
3. Due to the large number of dog owners using the area there was an agreement that a fence was still needed. – The fenced area should be as large as possible to create a landscape within which play takes place and not an area of fenced equipment. The fence should be as unobtrusive to the landscape as possible and plenty of use of mounding and planting made to break up its line. The fence does not need to be a box or straight and can be used to help create defined spaces.
4. Future equipment should favour use of asymmetric form long-lasting wood such as Robinia. This can easily be sanded if it is graffitied, is very long lasting and fits into a natural environment much better than brightly painted angular steel. The evidence from Kingsgate Park proves that this type of equipment is robust enough to withstand heavy use and the English climate.
5. A large challenging climber should be included such as a double tower spiders-web. This provides considerable height and challenge for a wide age range, becomes a feature on which play takes place and presents relatively low risk of falls. Using high quality play bark as an impact attenuating surface is recommended as coloured rubber will not look right in this natural setting.
6. The slide and the zip-wire should be re-used in the new design. Other pieces should be removed during refurbishment.
7. The woodland trail is a popular part of the play. It is recommended that the future design makes strong use of a combination of large rocks, fallen trees, logs, paths, shrubs, mounding and equipment to provide a landscape that is both equipped and an interesting and varied natural environment.
8. The topography and planting should create a number of natural 'room's with different atmospheres to them.
9. Plenty of comfortable socially arranged seating should be provided at a variety of heights for both carers and children. The distance of the seating from the play should be very close for the very young, an observable distance for 5-8 and well away from the 8+.
10. Teens will want equipment which they can lounge, hang out and chat on, such as hanging net platforms. These should be in and around their physically challenging equipment.
11. A variety of mounds should be included. These should be arranged so that there are still opportunities to view the wider field.
12. A number of robust and naturally sympathetic picnic tables or landscape design which gives the opportunity for table like features near to social seating should be included.
13. The site should include topographical and material variety so that children can roll, crawl climb and move in many different ways through the landscape and come into contact with many materials of different nature.
14. The design should be natural looking and sympathetic to the beauty of the place.

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15. Efforts should be made in the design to reflect something of the unique culture or traditions of the area.
 16. The ethos and principles in Play England's Design for Play should acts guidance for the design.
 17. A management plan to maintain and enhance the play value of the new play landscape should be put in place at the time the new landscape is built. This should include thought as to how any loose part material can be included in the design or post design provision.

Beesmoor Road



First impression

The site is mainly taken up by a full size playing field, parking and a club house. The L shaped equipped playground has a range of equipment of varying ages. Most of the equipment is quite old and is quite dated. The houses across the road have a good view of the site which may help keep vandalism and graffiti down. The site has been well maintained, litter and graffiti free and clean. These are all very important if families are to use play spaces.

Equipment Assessment

Piece	Assessment	Life-Span Estimate	Surface and Surface Life
Basket Swing 	Age – Any Appearance - Good Paint - Good Function - Good Chains – Good Function - Good	10-15 years	Matta with grass growing through. Will need to check for sinking into the mud. 8-10
Junior Swings	Appearance –Fair Paint – Fair Seats – Perished	5-8 years Seats 1-3 years	Fair 8-10 years Wear indicates moderate use

	<p>Chains - Fair Function - Good</p>		
<p>Arch Climber</p> 	<p>Appearance - Fair Paint – Good Function - Good</p>	<p>8-10 years</p>	<p>Weathered but sound 8-10 years</p>
<p>Rocket Rocker</p> 	<p>Appearance - Fair Paint - Good Function - Fair/Good</p>	<p>2-4 years</p>	<p>Weathered but sound. Wear indicates low use</p>
<p>Roundabout</p> 	<p>Appearance – Fair Paint – Good Seats -Perished Function - Poor</p>	<p>Coming out of ground 0 months</p>	<p>Sound 5-10</p>
<p>Bench</p> 	<p>Appearance Fair</p>	<p>The location of the bench right behind the fence make it redundant</p>	<p>Surface - Muddy</p>
<p>Climbing Frame</p>	<p>Appearance Fair Worn Paint – Fair Function - Good</p>	<p>5-10 years</p>	<p>Surface – Good 5-10 years</p>

				
<p>Springer</p> 		<p>Appearance - Good Paint - Good Function - Good but very limited play value</p>	<p>8-10 years</p>	<p>Surface: Good 8-10 years</p>
<p>Bench 2</p> 		<p>Appearance - Fair Function - Fair</p>	<p>3-5 years</p>	<p>Surface: Muddy with a concrete block in front Wear indicates high use.</p>
<p>Bench 3</p> 		<p>Appearance - Poor Function - Fair</p>	<p>1-2 Years</p>	<p>Surface: Fair</p>

Environment Assessment

- A. **A Varied and Interesting Physical Environment** The environment is not very interesting. There are mature hedgerows around the edge which soften the appearance and a few semi-mature trees. *Improvements* Could include: Defining different spaces by use of planning and maintenance. Creation of changes in topography.



Importing different natural materials such as rock and wood. (Henfield South Glos. Stirling Scotland)

- B. **Newness and Change.** (Loose Parts) There are a very few opportunities to change the environment. *Improvements* could include: Making this site the parish destination one for sand, rock, gravel type play maybe with water as well.
- C. **A Varied and Interesting Human Environment.** The space is accessible from several points of access so children from will be using the park from a fairly wide area. The long L-shaped design hinders socialisation between users and play which circulates between items. I would guess that the local children use the open space and that the equipment is used but for quite short durations for each visit. The site has a good range of offers from infants using the baby swings to teens using the basket swing. *Improvements* could include: Seating which is more sociable and not so solitary. A more attractive environment that people want to linger in. A play offer such as large scale sand that promotes co-operative play.
- D. **Movement.** Swinging, climbing, rocking, running, spinning.
- E. **Experiencing the World.** The site is in the middle of the community so is well seen by the houses and roads. Use of the sports fields means that people will come to and use the site in connection with practices and matches. The site has potential to provide some informal playful/seating features around the edges of the pitch and to provide look more inviting and comfortable. *Improvements* could include: Greater diversity of planting and natural materials. Feature entrances that look inviting. (Pictures: Millside Park Yate. Henfield Play Area S.Glos)



- F. **Risk and Challenge.** The equipment provides some risk and challenge in the swings, climbing frame and the basket swing. *Improvements* could include: Play equipment with a greater range of risk and challenge, natural features which enable some choices about the level of risk engaged in such as jumping and balancing between rocks and boulders.
- G. **Experiencing Variety and Change.** (Activity) The central position of the site within the community means that there will be a reasonable amount of human action going on around. The site itself is nearly all madmade so will not change over seasons. *Improvements* could include: This site might benefit from greater involvement of the local community with the community using it for some public, play events or an informal 'Parks for Play' rota with local parents pledging to be in the park with their children on certain days.

H. **Being Creative** There is nothing to stimulate creativity on the site. *Improvements* could include: Sand and water play. An area of wilder planting eg: hazel, dogwood managed to imaginative and playful spaces.

I. **Space.** There is plenty of space and room for different groups and ages to be able to use the site at the same



times. Improvements could include: Much better integration of the play offer and the landscape. I do not feel the fences are needed on this site.

Issues Fences between a park and equipped areas have advantages and disadvantage.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Create barrier between playing children and danger: road, canal, railway	Confines play within a fence
Keep children way from dogs	Limit play to a series of gross motor challenges
Stop people wandering in front of moving items	Hinders movement to and for movement between the park and the play area.
Stop young children running off	Looks and feels confining and unattractive.

I believe that as this site is mainly a sports pitch, dogs should not be running free anyway and that the disadvantages of the fence outweigh the advantages.

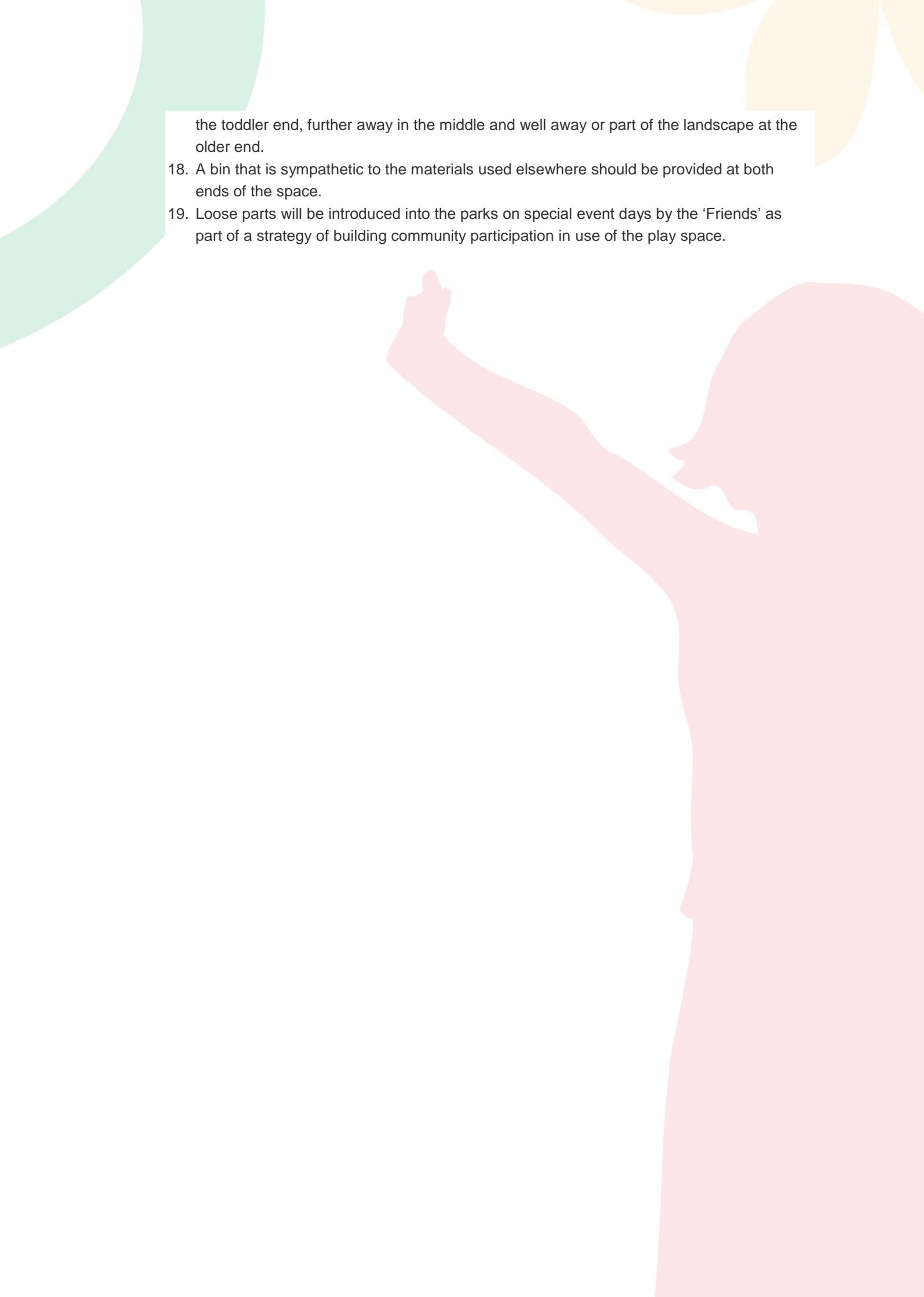
Recommended Options

These are ordered from first to last for my preference.

- A. Remove all of the metal fence facing the open park and blend the equipment into a more varied and interesting landscape across the area that is not use for pitches. Use planting, landscape natural and engineered approaches. Investigate suitability of a large scale sand-play area on this site.
- B. Or re-site the existing fence so it takes in a much larger areas and create an attractive play landscape that integrated features of landscape, planting, natural play features and engineered play features.
- C. Or replace old or outdated equipment with new equipment with some other landscape and place making improvements to make this a more appealing environment to linger and play in.

Beesmoor Road Design Brief

1. The design approach is to provide a play landscape that blends much more with the natural feel of the surrounding environment. Primary colours will be replaced by natural ones. Robinia will be the main structural material used. The three companies offering high enough quality Robinia items are Richter Spielgerate (from Timber Play), Sik-Holz (from Children's Playground Company) and Jupiter Play. Stone, rock topography and planting will be integrated with play equipment.
2. The rocket, the red arch, and the benches will all be removed
3. The swings will be replaced with more up-to-date swings, including one that is more inclusive.
4. The slide will be replaced by one or more embankment slides
5. The disc will be kept but move position
6. The teen basket swing be relocated further away from the houses
7. The metal bars for upper body movement will be replaced, but the offer of a journey using upper body strength, will be replaced in a way that integrates more with the wider playable landscape.
8. The order of equipment will be reversed; the early years equipment will be where the teen basket swing is, and the older age appeal equipment arc away towards the building
9. The enclosure size will be increased to take in the area bordering the road up to the public gate.
10. The enclosure size will be increased so that it takes in a larger curved area of the field, subject to negotiation with the parks committee.
11. The boundary between the play area and the field will use an imaginative combination of features which discourage dogs from entering but allow a much more natural and flowing access between the two spaces. This might be done with a combination of:
 - a. Clumps of planting
 - b. Sections of fence
 - c. Topographical changes e.g. Ha-ha
 - d. Walling
12. The topographical boundary between the play area and the field will serve to deflect balls and run offs. It will also be terraced on the field side to enable spectators to view action on the field.
13. The play area will have play equipment items but they will be integral to the topography and landscape.
14. There will be rocks and slabs that are suitable for use as pic-nic tables or barbeque stands but are open-ended and part of the playable landscape.
15. There will attractive feature entrances using community art to help create a sense of welcome and unique place that is Beesmoor Road.
16. Some natural play features will be provided through planting. This will include areas of resilient shrubs such as dogwood for young children to play in and around.
17. Social arrangements of seating or sitable features will be placed throughout the site. These will be arranged so that those sitting can comfortably see and talk with each other and also keep an informal eye on their children. Seating will be nearest to equipment at



the toddler end, further away in the middle and well away or part of the landscape at the older end.

18. A bin that is sympathetic to the materials used elsewhere should be provided at both ends of the space.
19. Loose parts will be introduced into the parks on special event days by the 'Friends' as part of a strategy of building community participation in use of the play space.