

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel

Date: 06 October 2020

Report of: Director of Leisure and Community

Subject: PLAY AREA DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND PROGRESS UPDATE

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the 5-year play area improvement programme and to report the progress made to date.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel note the contents of the report and supporting presentation

INTRODUCTION

1. The Council has 43 play areas located across the Borough provided for children and young people.
2. Play areas are managed and maintained by the Council's Streetscene team, who also undertake regular inspections to ensure that the facilities are safe. The Leisure and Community Team are responsible for the coordination of refurbishment works to existing play areas and the installation of any new ones.
3. The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Leisure and Scrutiny Panel with an update regarding the improvements made to the Council's existing play areas and the development progress of any new play areas.

BACKGROUND

4. In March 2015, the Executive approved a three-year priority improvement programme to refurbish 13 of the Borough's existing play areas, which are:

Year 1 (2015/16)	Year 2 (2016/17)	Year 3 (2017/18)
Segensworth Play Area (Titchfield Common)	Coldeast Play Area (Park Gate)	Newtown Play Area (Portchester)
Stubbington Rec Play Area (Stubbington)	Drake Close Play Area (Locks Heath)	Sarisbury Green Play Area (Sarisbury)
Course Park Play Area (Titchfield Common)	Fareham Park Play Area (Fareham North- West)	Howerts Close Play Area (Warsash)
Blackbrook Park Play Area (Fareham West)	Priory Park Play Area (Park Gate)	Warsash Rec Play Area (Warsash)
		Funtley Rec Play Area (Funtley)

5. In order to continue maintaining the current standard of existing play provision within the Borough, after the priority play areas were attended to, it was estimated that a minimum of four play areas would need refurbishing every year.
6. In March 2018 a new five-year £500,000 play area improvement programme was agreed by the Executive, funded from the Community Infrastructure Levy to enable a further 20 play areas to undergo improvement works. This also provided the opportunity to include some new, challenging and inclusive play equipment.
7. The five-year play area improvement programme (2018 - 2023) agreed by the Executive is as follows;

Year	Play Area
Year 1 (2018-2019)	Portchester Park Play Area (Portchester)
	Sweethills Crescent Play Area (Whiteley)
	Castle Street Play Area (Portchester)
	Eastern Parade Play Area (Fareham East)
Year 2 (2019-2020)	Barry's Meadow Play Area (Titchfield)
	Harbour View Play Area (Portchester)
	Bath Lane Play Area (Fareham East)
	Swanwick Play Area (Sarisbury)
Year 3 (2020 – 2021)	Dore Avenue Play Area (Portchester)
	Locks Heath House Park Play Area (Locks Heath)
	Longacres Play Area (Titchfield Common)
	Clydesdale Play Area (Whiteley)
Year 4 (2021-2022)	Salterns Play Area (Hill Head)
	Burridge Play Area (Burridge)
	Newtown Play Area (Portchester)
	Metcalfe Play Area (Stubbington)
Year 5 (2022-2023)	Blackbrook Park Play Area (Fareham West)
	Kenwood Road Play Area (Portchester)
	Kites Croft Play Area (Park Gate)
	West Street Play Area (Fareham East)

PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - PROGRESS UPDATE

Years 1 and 2

8. Following a competitive tendering process, the play areas identified in years 1 and 2 of the improvement programme have each benefited from having tired and outdated equipment upgraded. This includes improvements to the surfacing, as well as new floor graphics and signage where required.
9. Improvements to these play areas have all been well received by the children and families who visit them.

Years 3 and 4

10. As with all play area improvements, officers consult with users of the facilities to help understand what they like about the current facilities and what they think needs improving.
11. In Autumn 2019, officers consulted with local residents on Dore Avenue play area, Locks Heath House Park play area, Longacres play area and Clydesdale play area, with a view to tendering the works in Spring 2020 and having them completed by October 2020.
12. However, as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, officers were unable to go out to tender as planned to appoint a play installation company to carry out the works. As part of the Councils recovery plan, officers have revised the procurement time, and will now procure a contract for both years 3 and 4 play area improvement works together.
13. By tendering for both years 3 and 4 improvement works at the same time, not only will

this enable the Council to save on procurement costs, but it could potentially provide an opportunity to negotiate an improved discount with contractors.

14. The tendering process will commence in January 2021 with works being completed by the end of 2021.
15. Whilst this revised timetable will see some delay to the improvements being carried out at Dore Avenue play area, Locks Heath House Park play area, Longacres play area and Clydesdale play area, they are not significant delays.

Year 5

16. The timetable for improvements proposed for year 5 will remain the same.

DAEDALUS COMMON PLAY AREA

17. As part of the IFA2 project, National Grid agreed to fund a package of community facilities at Daedalus. Amongst these facilities, funding for a new destination children's play area was agreed.
18. Consultation with local schools and residents was carried out in Summer 2019 and children and young people were also asked to vote on a selection of themed equipment that they would like to see within the play area.
19. The installation of an aviation themed play area has now been completed and it is expected to be opened to the public later this year, following completion of necessary works to the car park that will serve the children's play area.
20. The new play area includes a wheelchair accessible multi-climbing unit with an aeroplane theme, swings, inclusive roundabout, seesaw, a toddler unit, sensory panels, inclusive picnic benches and fun floor graphics complementing its location next to Solent Airport.
21. It is the Council's second destination play area within the Borough with the other being located at Holly Hill, opposite Holly Hill Leisure Centre, which has proved to be extremely popular.

ABBAY MEADOWS PLAY AREA

22. Works to construct the new play area at Abbey Meadows are expected to commence in Spring / Summer 2021.
23. Following consultation with the local community and a competitive tendering process, the contract was awarded to Eibe Play earlier this year.
24. The play area will feature a castle themed inclusive multi-climbing unit, with a medieval theme surrounding it including a toddler play unit, swings, springies, play panels, seesaw and picnic benches. It will be located near to the car park off Cartwright Drive, helping to make it easily accessible.
25. The presentation supporting this report, marked Appendix A, provides images of play area improvements that have been completed to date.

RISK ASSESSMENT

26. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report.

CONCLUSION

27. The Council has 43 play areas located across the Borough that are provided for children and young people.

28. In March 2018 a new a five-year £500,000 play area improvement programme was agreed by the Executive, funded from the Community Infrastructure Levy to enable a further 20 play area to undergo improvement.

29. The report provides an update on the improvements made to the Council's existing play areas and the development of new play areas. This includes plans to reschedule the planned works to the play areas that were deferred as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Background Papers: None

Reference Papers: Executive Report, March 2018 – Play Improvement Programme

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Emma Watts, Leisure and Community Manager. (Ext 4440)