

Report Purpose:

Parks and Play Areas

Author

Town Clerk (r

Update

Tytherington Play Areas are complete and feedback has been good. CEC are looking to complete some floor graphics. The project came in approx. £2000 under budget.

West Park showstopper is still waiting for planning approval, however no issues are anticipated. Once planning is approved, the equipment will be ordered and manufacturing will be approx. 8-12 weeks and then install approx. a further 4- 8 weeks.

South Park procurement for the children's play equipment is complete and a contractor has been chosen. CEC will update us on the timescales.

Priorities for the Oncoming Year

CEC have prepared a report of all the green spaces in Macclesfield they look after see appendix 1.

They have further recommended the following as priorities.

Linear Park – Petunia Grove, SK11 7YY

The site is currently underutilised, although investment is not essential, it warrants attention. The area possesses significant potential and is primarily used for dog walking and as a cut-through from Moss Lane to Park Lane. Opportunities exist to enhance the site as a green and wildlife-focused open space, creating an accessible nature oasis for the local community.

The main issue on the grassed areas is dog fouling. Introducing a designated area for dog walkers could help reduce overall impact, with one open space maintained as mown grass while other areas are left as no-mow zones or wildflower meadows.

Potential enhancements include:

- Establishment of wildflower meadows with mown pathways.
- Enhanced maintenance of existing wooded areas, including coppicing.
- Installation of natural art features, such as willow sculptures or tree carvings.
- Creation of habitats to increase biodiversity, including wildlife scrapes.
- Provision of picnic areas and seating in more visible locations, such as the Flowerpot entrance.
- Trim trail / gym equipment along the length of the pathway creating an active travel route.

- Work with Macc wild network to create a master plan for the site, along with an ecology survey to understand the current habitat and how best to increase diversity.

Approx Costs:

- Master plan Inc designer risk assessment – £5,000
- no mow areas with pathways
- open mown grass area to concentrate dog walking
- Ecology survey - £5,000
- Creation of scrapes (wet areas) - £3,000
- New entrance feature @ Moss Road end - £10,000
- Interpretation boards /signage -£5,000/£8,000
- Wildflower meadow planting with mown pathways (if required) – £30,000
- Willow art / archway / seating area - £10,000
- Gym equipment / Trim trail along the length of the pathway - £20,000

Total - £91,000

Sparrow Park – Churchside, SK10 1HG

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is the primary issue at this site and should be addressed before any major investment.

Short-term actions:

- Implement minor repairs to hard infrastructure.
- Increase maintenance to help manage ASB.

Long-term actions:

- Conduct a full site overhaul once ASB is reduced, including replacement of paving, capping stones, and shrub beds.
- Maintain and improve the rough ground to the east of the site to enhance visual outlook.

Addressing ASB is essential to unlock the site's potential, allowing it to become a valuable community asset.

Approx Costs

- Replacement paving & capping stone where needed - £5,000
- New signage - £2,000

- Planting improvements - £2,000

Total - £9,000

The Villas Play area – Pavilion way, SK10 3GB

The equipment at this site is approaching the end of its life and would benefit from a full site overhaul. While the equipment remains usable, several items are located on grass surfacing, which becomes unusable during wet periods. Investment in this site is recommended within the next three years.

Approx Costs

- Full overhaul - £47,000
- Alternative formal surfacing for equipment + improvements - £15,000

Bodmin Avenue – Bodmin Avenue, SK10 3JU

The play area is a small, fenced toddler play area, with a trim trail outside the fenced area and a single ended kick about football pitch.

Access is the main issue here with the foot path to the play area being very narrow and roughly 30/50 cm wide, this would benefit from a new Hop path.

The trim trail is currently installed on grass mat, which during the winter months is wet and muddy limiting its use, this would benefit from a more formal surfacing like eco mulch.

The fenced play area is in serviceable condition and just requires some tidying up, the football goals have currently been removed due to damage so require a replacement set.

Approx Costs

Hop Path footpath circa 100lm - £10,000

Safety surfacing for the trim trail circa 70m² - £13,000

Replacement football goal - £2,000

Total - £25,000

Lanark walk play area – Becks Lane, SK10 3EX

The play equipment at this site is in good condition overall, with the only real issue being some surfacing wear, the open space containing the football pitch is very wet and really needs some drainage and maintenance work to improve this.

The pump track looks to be in good condition but the access to this could be improved with a formal surfaced pathway to the site.

These improvements could be implemented in conjunction with The Villas, as the sites are in close proximity and offer complementary features. Together, they provide a broader range of sports and play opportunities, catering to multiple age groups across the area.

Approx Costs

New surfacing under 4-way carousel spinner - £8,500

Drainage improvements to the football pitch & new posts - £7,000

Access path to the Pump track - £2000

2x new benches - £2500

Total - £20,000

Banbury Close Recreation Ground – Banbury close, SK10 2NW

This site requires investment. The fenced play area is currently closed due to surfacing damage, the MUGA requires refurbishment, the gym equipment is at the end of its life, and the bike area primarily caters to toddlers learning to ride.

Primary issue:

- Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is the main concern, particularly targeting the fenced play area. Addressing ASB is essential before significant investment.

Recommendations for site management and improvement:

- Establish a local ownership scheme, such as a friends or community group, to inform site use and help reduce ASB.
- Play area equipment is structurally sound; installation of new safety surfacing and enhanced maintenance would restore functionality.
- Refurbishment of the MUGA and replacement of gym equipment would significantly enhance the site's usability.

With appropriate management and investment, the site has substantial potential to become a valuable community asset. ASB mitigation and local community involvement are critical first steps to achieving this.

Approx Costs

- Replacement surfacing - £30,000
- New Gym Equipment & install - £30,000
- Muga Refurbishment - £10,000

- Pump track on tarmacked surface - £40,000

Total - £110,000

Recommendation:

For each ward Councillor: please provide feedback to the Clerk regarding which park(s) you consider a priority and the actions you would like to see implemented.

In previous years, we have allowed each ward to use roughly half (or more) of their budget on a rotational basis. Based on this approach, Broken Cross and Huddersfield would be next in line. This would cover four of the priority parks, with the exception of Linear Park, which nonetheless presents an opportunity to develop an underused green space.

Budget Considerations:

We could split the budget three ways across the wards: South, Huddersfield, and Broken Cross & Upton, at approximately £37,000 per ward.

Alternatively, we could plan over a 2–3 year period to encompass all priority projects.

Councillors are invited to discuss and decide on the priorities and budget approach.