

Report Purpose:

To update members on leisure and outdoor activity projects

Author:

Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk

7.1 Parks and Play Areas

Tytherington Play Areas:

- Project completed.
- Feedback has been positive.
- Only floor graphics remain to be completed.

West Park:

- Planning approval pending; No anticipated issues.

Once approved:

- PO order will be raised.
- Manufacturing: ~8–12 weeks.
- Installation: ~4–8 weeks.

South Park

Contractor selection pending.

Next Years allocated Budget:

CEC have inspected 26 sites in Macclesfield of parks, play areas and greenspaces and will compile a report on top 5 sites most in need, including estimated works and costs. Report due end of February so will hopefully be submitted to Full Council.

7.2 South Park Pavilion

Technical drawings and tender are in the finalisation stages.

7.3 Playing Out

Playing Out began with a national organisation (CIC) of the same name. They were the driving force behind the project and provided all of the risk assessments, advice, steward guidance and support to launch projects. After 16 years, they have decided to close the CIC at the end of March and focus on campaigning and policy change.

With the introduction of Martyns Law and the guidance around it, Playing Out sessions will require booking of a professional road closure company which comes at a cost. Last year, we funded the cost of the road closure for the Cre8 playing out session which came to £825 for two hours. This will be a consideration going forward for any future sessions.

7.4 Allotments

We have a tree on the Birtles Road site which is protected by a TPO. We have been given permission to dead wood the tree and have applied for planning permission to reduce the crown of the tree on the advice of the CEC Arboricultural Officer. The work on the dead wood has been postponed due to us needing access through a homeowners garden and their lawn being waterlogged. They requested that we postpone the work until Spring. We are now awaiting a date from the tree surgeon for this work to take place.

The planning permission has now been approved and the work will have to take place in the presence of an Arboricultural Officer from CEC. The tree surgeon was concerned about the necessity of the work and the cost and disruption (a cherry picker will be required with access over the homeowner's lawn) so we have been liaising with planning and the tree will be re-inspected in July to see if it is suffering from ash dieback. If it is, further work may need to be applied for.

In January, we conducted a tree inspection of all the trees on our allotment sites. There were only 3 trees identified as needing notable work. Although there is some smaller low level work that needs to happen.

2 of the trees needing work at the Laburnum Road site fall outside of the allotment boundary (as confirmed by land registry). We are struggling to identify ownership of it but we are working through various options.

The other tree is at Birtles Road allotments and just needs the crown lifting to 6m as it overhangs the road. Residents will be informed of the work before it takes place.

There are also significant issues with the transfer of allotments from CEC as follows:

Brookfields Lane Allotments

- Transfer from CEC to MTC pending.
- No obstacles identified; awaiting action from CEC legal department.

South Park Allotments

- Initially transferred to Peaks and Plains by mistake.
- Need to be transferred back to CEC, then properly transferred to MTC.

Laburnum Road Allotments

- Transferred with 3 garages in 2016, which should not have been included.
- CEC was supposed to reverse garage transfer in 2021 but has not yet done so.
- CEC Assets and Legal Departments are aware.
- MTC has requested urgent action to ensure garages are correctly transferred.

7.5 Street sports

Attendance figures are below.

Summer locations will return after the easter holidays.

Date (week commencing)	Tuesday Lifestyle Fitness	Thursday Lifestyle Fitness
17 November	7	28
24 November	8	27
1 December	8	28
8 December	7	22
15 December	6	24
5 January	5	8
12 January	6	12
19 January	6	12
26 January	6	10
2 February	7	16

The Town Council approved Macclesfield Community Sports Trust as the provider for our street sports sessions from April 2024 on a service level agreement for 2 years with a possible one year extension. In April 2026, we will be at the end of the initial 2 year contract. Over the last 2 years, Macclesfield Community Sports Trust have worked hard to develop a relationship with the children who attend and the sessions, particularly the Thursday session, are going from strength to strength.

We do not think it would be in the best interests of the children who attend to seek a new provider at this point, so we ask the committee to consider extending the street sports service level agreement with Macclesfield Community Sports Trust for an additional year until April 2027.

ACTION – To consider the extension of the street sports contract with Macclesfield Community Sports Trust for an additional year.

7.6 Park Fit

Currently paused.

The Assistant Town Clerk and Comms Officer have been working towards appointing a new PT for these sessions. So far we haven't yet found the right approach for the role but we are speaking to our local contacts to explore some different options.

7.7 'Fitness for the Future

Attendance figures are below.

Week Beginning	Monday Walking football	Pan Disability Tues	Supported Housing Weds
17 Nov	14	8	14
24 Nov	14	8	12
1 Dec	14	8	11
8 Dec	12	6	13
15 Dec	4	7	10
5 Jan	12	6	12
12 Jan	14	8	8
19 Jan	14	9	13
26 Jan	12	9	12
2 Feb	12	7	14

7.8 New visitor guide

In November, we launched an invitation to quote for a writer to create a new visitor guide for the town. We have had the Heritage Trail booklet for many years but we did not own the rights to the booklet and had no editing capacity. It was clear that there was a need for us to own our own document and be able to make changes when needed. The brief is to write the guide. We may need design input when this process is complete.

We received 15 submissions and after reviewing the proposals, we are recommending the attached submission as the successful proposal. After meeting with Charlotte, we have asked if she could also draw the artwork for the guide to give it a fresh appeal. There is an additional cost for the artwork which is on top of the cost within the proposal.

The final cost is:

Writing - £0.15 per word for 2500 words = £375.00

Photography - £1.00 per Photo for a guessed 30 photos = £30.00

Research - For 35 hours per the 4 weeks suggested = £1,800.00

Art - For 20 sides at £100 per side = £2000

Total £4205.00

ACTION – To approve the cost of sourcing and writing information as well as providing sketches for the new visitor guide for the town. (£4,205).