

Report Purpose:

To update members on leisure and outdoor activity projects

Author:

Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk

7.1 Parks and Play Areas

West Park

The new play equipment at West Park is now open! The equipment was purchased and installed through a 50/50 funding arrangement between Macclesfield Town Council and Cheshire East Council. The official opening was well attended, and the new equipment has been very positively received.

South Park

Macclesfield Town Council has committed £75,000 towards new play equipment at South Park. During the planning process, issues were identified with the condition of the ground, requiring the original proposals to be reconsidered. A revised proposal was subsequently developed and approved by Full Council on 20 July 2026. Cheshire East Council has been informed of the revised proposal, and an update will be on Full Council.

Linear Park

Funding for the Linear Park, locally known as the “Yellow Brick Road,” was approved at Full Council on 20 July 2026. Cheshire East Council has been informed, and the process will now begin to identify suitable artwork features for the route. Cheshire East Council will provide options to the relevant Ward Councillors for their input before a final decision is made.

7.2 South Park ‘Park Hub’

Cheshire East Council has been receptive to the Park Hub concept presented by Macclesfield Town Council. MTC has passed over the work undertaken to date, including the investigations and surveys completed for the previous pavilion build. Discussions will continue with Cheshire East Council as the proposal is developed further.

7.3 Playing Out

Following the closure of the Playing Out CIC, the Assistant Town Clerk has been invited to an online forum to find out more about how other councils are thinking of taking the idea forward. The next meeting will be held on 9th September.

There were some interesting discussions at the previous meeting about adapting play to other settings such as organised play days within parks which is something we could explore for summer 2027.

7.4 Allotments

Invoices were issued on the 1st April, reminders have been sent to those tenants who hadn't made payment and all invoices have now been paid.

Inspections have resumed and issues have already been highlighted with allotment housekeeping which are being addressed.

There is an ash tree on our Birtles Road site which borders a residential property. The resident raised concerns in 2025 that the tree was suffering from ash dieback. As the tree has a Tree Preservation order on it (TPO), the arboriculture officer from CEC came out to inspect and advised a watch and wait approach but recommended the removal of deadwood and reduction of branches by 1-2m. This work had to be applied for through the planning process and was approved. However, the arboriculture tree surgeons challenged the necessity of the reduction work in terms of the long term health of the tree. The CEC officer agreed that the reduction work could wait until a review in summer 2026. The deadwood removal took place in April.

The review took place on 6th August. The Forestry and Tree advisor from CEC observed that the tree is in general good health and there are no obvious signs of ash dieback or fungus from ground level. He recommended a climbing inspection and removal of deadwood in the coming months so we are now obtaining quotes for this work. He also recommended an annual tree inspection for this tree. The last one took place in January 2026 so we will arrange for this to take place on an annual basis.

As informed previously there are significant issues with the transfer of allotments from CEC and we still await receiving the transfers formally despite chasing:

Brookfields Lane Allotments

- Transfer from CEC to MTC still 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 below.

Winter sessions.

	Tuesday -Lifestyle	Thursday - Lifestyle
09-Feb	7	25
16-Feb	6	20
23-Feb	6	22
02-Mar	5	24
09-Mar	8	21
16-Mar	6	24
23-Mar	7	20
30-Mar	6	18
06-Apr	4	10
13-Apr	4	9
Total	59	193

Change to summer locations

Week Beginning	Monday West Park	Tuesday Jasmine Park	Weds Banbury Park	Thurs Lifestyle Fitness
20-Apr	3	9	6	14
27-Apr	4	11	6	10
04-May	BH	10	4	8
11-May	3	8	N/A	10

18-May	4	11	0	14
25-May	BH	9	0	10
01-Jun	4	13	2	16
08-Jun	5	11	2	15
15-Jun	5	10	3	18
22-Jun	5	x	x	x
29-Jun	4	8	4	12
06-Jul	4	12	x	x
13-Jul	6	11	5	12
20-Jul	5	12	4	18
27-Jul	3	10	4	15
03-Aug	4	7	3	15
10-Aug	5	8	6	19
17-Aug	4	9	8	17

We have had some issues with anti social behaviour in Banbury Park which is affecting the attendance at the sessions. For this reason, the sessions were temporarily relocated to Victoria Park. We have set up a group with Cllr Bennett-Wake, Community Sports Trust, MTC, CEC parks, the CEC anti-social behaviour officer and the police to try and resolve this issue and return to Banbury Park.

The sessions returned to Banbury Park on the 12th August.

The move back to Banbury Park has been positive, a few of the previous regular attendees have returned.

There has been no issues over the first few weeks and attendance has been good.

7.6 Park Fit

The sessions began on 4th June in South Park from 6pm-6:45pm. Attendance figures are below. The pilot is going well so far and will run until October when it will be reviewed.

Week Beginning	Attendance
04-Jun	22
11-Jun	24
18-Jun	28
25-Jun	x
02-Jul	24
09-Jul	x
16-Jul	27
23-Jul	28
30-Jul	x
06-Aug	28
13-Aug	25
20-Aug	26

7.7 Fitness for the Future

Following our support for the initial pilot and a further period of funding, this project has successfully become established and is now being sustained through alternative funding secured by Macclesfield FC Community Sports Trust. The sessions continue to be delivered, ensuring participants can benefit from the ongoing provision beyond our period of support.

7.8 New visitor guide

The first draft has now been received and is being reviewed and will be shared with the committee when initial amendments have been made.

7.9 Summer schools

The Town Council provided the opportunity for children age 4-12 years to attend summer clubs for up to 5 days. This service was for children whose families wouldn't ordinarily be able to afford for them to attend. Referrals came from social services and primary schools.

Activities on offer were multisports provided by Macclesfield FC Community Sports Trust and Sylk Dance who provided crafts, dance and cheerleading.

The Town Council funded places for 38 children.

Every child who was referred received a place. In 2027 we are looking at widening the choice of activities available.

END OF REPORT