

Minutes of the meeting of the Play Area Review Group held on Wednesday 14 November 2012 at 6.15pm

Members Present: Councillors Douglas McCall (Chair) and Councillors John Hawthorn and Mick Legg (substituting for Councillor Rob Middleton).

Officers Present: Rob Ward (Neighbourhood Manager), Phil Snell (Project Manager, Neighbourhood Services), Mark Haynes (Senior Landscape Architect), Robbie Caddock (Neighbourhood Improvement Team Leader), Stephen Gee (Planning Manager) and Lesley Sung (Overview & Scrutiny Officer).

Witnesses: Philip Bowsher (Parks Trust – Head of Landscape, Strategy & Development)

Also Present: Councillors John Bint and Lee Barney

Apologies: Councillor Rob Middleton

Minutes
<p>Agreed: That the minutes of the meeting of the Play Area Review Group held on 25 September 2012 be agreed.</p>
Play Area Review – Play Area Provision for Older Children and Young Adults (Including a Wheeled Sports Policy)
<p>General Discussion</p> <p>The Group discussed play provision within the Borough for older children and young adults. The group focussed mainly on the proposed Wheeled Sports Policy.</p> <p>The Senior Landscape Architect reported that the policy had been drawn up on the back of the popularity of the Broughton Gate skatepark. To address the popularity, neighbourhood play areas had become more bespoke and the Council was consulting with professional skaters to produce a successful skatepark design. However, the Group recognised that as a result of the skatepark’ popularity, some issues relating to noise had impacted on the residents living close by. However, they also recognised that small local provision of skateboard facilities did not have the same impact on residents.</p> <p>The Group discussed further, the issues relating to Broughton Gate skatepark and acknowledged that there was only one skatepark facility in the area which has added to the impact on residents. The Group made reference to and wished to highlight page 14 of the proposed Wheeled Sports Policy which stated that the policy should “avoid any prescriptive planning policies that sets a minimum buffer distance for wheeled sports areas. Their location should be decided using a strategy that includes criteria for acceptable site locations and must consider a wheeled sport hierarchy for smaller local provision, through to larger ‘destination’ type sites”.</p> <p>The Group considered if it was appropriate to provide small scale wheeled sports provision in residential areas, if appropriately sited, with the provision of larger areas further away from residential properties or away from residential areas.</p>

The Group discussed the provision of large 'destination sites' which could be located next to existing facilities such as, toilets, car parking and cafes and whether such a facility could be built on Parks Trust Land or possibly in one of the industrial areas. For this type of facility, s.106 agreements would need to be flexible enough to ensure provision could be made.

The Group would welcome the provision of destination sites and recognised the different types of provision from small, local play sites, to destination sites with free access and auxiliary facilities that may not necessarily be provided by the Council to a full commercial facility with auxiliary facilities.

The Group noted that the Parks Trust had undertaken master-planning with a view to providing some play sites with auxiliary facilities in Campbell Park and that this had been fed into the Neighbourhood Plan.

Agreed:

1. That the Review group recommend to Cabinet that the proposed Wheel'ed Sports Policy' be approved, subject to the title of the policy being changed from 'Wheeled Sports Policy' to 'Skate Park Policy.'
2. That planning policies take a more flexible approach to the siting of wheeled sports facilities, taking into account the impact a facility would have on residents living close by.
3. That the Cabinet be recommended to support the provision of strategically place Destination sites.
4. That this Review Group's final report make recommendations recommending the introduction of a Play Area Impact Assessment.

Review Group Work Plan	
Date	Item
December 2012	To recommend amendments to play area strategies and policies as appropriate.
	To feed into the Play Strategy which is to be considered by Cabinet in January 2012
	Final meeting to approve report and recommendations as appropriate.

Actions	Owner
Review Group Report and recommendations	Lesley Sung / Douglas McCall