

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 14TH NOVEMBER 2001

PLAY PARK PROVISION

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the progress made by the Member Officer Working Group on Play Parks and seek approval for its recommendations regarding the future of the Council's playpark provision throughout East Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A Member Officer Working Group was established to review the Council's existing playpark service in the light of changing demand, revised safety obligations, persistent vandalism in some areas and the ageing stock of equipment, and develop a plan for future provision. The remit and membership of the working group was agreed by the Emergency Powers Committee at its meeting on 31st July 2001.

- 2.2 The remit of the Working Group was agreed as follows:-

- i) To examine the current level and standard of play park provision with reference to health and safety requirements and changing community needs;
- ii) To establish standards for future provision in terms of distribution, location, equipment and maintenance and develop a prioritised plan for roll-out across East Ayrshire;
- iii) To consult with local communities and through schools, young people, to take account of local views;
- iv) To identify costs and possible funding sources for future play park provision;
- v) To expand the remit as the Working Group considers appropriate to ensure that all aspects of the Council's responsibilities in the provision of play parks are considered; and
- vi) To report its findings and recommendations to the Community Services Committee.

2.3 The Working Group has met on three occasions and has considered the key issues facing the play park service. The recommendations of the group are presented in this report for consideration and approval.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 The Working Group received progress reports on the implementation of the Dunlop Report including the removal and/or immobilisation of equipment not meeting current safety standards and agreed that all immediate action required should be completed as quickly as possible.

3.2 New standards for regular inspections and monitoring of all play parks have now been implemented to ensure that all play parks are inspected weekly and remedial work is programmed quickly and effectively.

3.3 In considering safety standards the Working Group has accepted that East Ayrshire Council play parks should be refurbished or replaced, over time, to achieve the standards for equipment and safety surfacing as described in European Standards EN1176 and EN1177. The Group also considered the options available for safety surfacing and has selected a rubber grid surface, made from re-cycled material, as the most appropriate, cost effective surface for future play park installations.

3.4 The type and range of play park to be provided in the future has also been discussed in detail and the Group considers that where possible separate provision should be made for toddlers, juniors and teenagers. This range of provision will ensure maximum play value and will address health and safety issues that can arise when age groups are mixed. Teenager provision, in the form of multi-sport walls was considered to be the most appropriate type of facility for older children.

3.5 In drawing together all aspects of its wide ranging remit the Group has agreed a programme of play park replacement and re-instatement across the whole of East Ayrshire. This programme, with the initial priorities agreed by the Group, is shown in Appendix One to this report and is represented for approval as the basis for future financial investment in play parks by the Council.

3.6 Should the programme in Appendix One be acceptable, public consultation, regarding the location of play parks in particular, would be appropriate in all cases and it is suggested that Local Committees are invited to comment on proposals.

3.7 The Working Group considered that Portland Park, Galston should be the location for the first new play park funded from the 2001/02 capital programme. There is insufficient capital programme funding available to provide more than one new play park at present. Funding from other sources will allow the initial process of investment in new play equipment

at play parks in Cumnock (Hearth Road, Keir Hardie Hill and Flush Park) and at Bellfield in Kilmarnock, to take place. Further funding will be required to ensure that these areas meet the Council's standards in the future.

3.8 The Working group also considered the Council's approach to community groups wishing to develop either play park or skateboarding facilities. The Working Group agreed the adoption of the following approach to both types of development with the Council offering the following support.

- i) Advice regarding establishing a properly constituted organisation to apply for funds and manage projects.
- ii) Advice regarding possible sources of funding and completing external funding applications.
- iii) The offer of a lease of Council land at normal rental, if appropriate.
- iv) Advice regarding health and safety guidance and standards. The Council will not support any projects that do not meet standards adopted by the Community Services Committee.
- v) Play Parks only.
Clarification of the Council position regarding on-going maintenance and/or replacement responsibilities ie The Council will not take responsibility for maintenance of any externally provided play park unless the project aims to replace a play park previously removed by the Council and is in line with the Council's agreed replacement programme.
- vi) Skateboard Parks only
The Council will not take responsibility for management, maintenance or insurance of skateboard facilities.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Implementation of the various recommendations set out in this report will serve to assist the Council in fulfilling its legal responsibilities for the health and safety of all persons visiting or using East Ayrshire or Council playparks.

- 5.2 By adopting the standards contained in EN1176 and EN1177 the Council will ensure that play parks meet the standards now expected in play parks throughout Britain and the possibility of accidents, injury and potential for insurance claims should be significantly reduced.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A phased programme of capital investment in play parks will be required if the programme and standards recommended by the Working Group is to be implemented. Using prices obtained in September 2001 the cost of meeting the proposals highest priority areas in 2002/03 would be £300,000.
- 6.2 The total cost of meeting all the programme outlined in Appendix A would be approximately £3,100,000.
- 6.3 The revenue funding required to maintain the play parks would remain constant subject to the continued addition of annual inflation based increases.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The Working Group has fulfilled its brief and has considered a wide range of issues regarding play park provision. The adoption of new safety standards for future provision and the implementation of new inspection and maintenance programmes are significant steps in ensuring that the play park service improves in the future.
- 7.2 The programme of new play parks as proposed in Appendix One represents a reasoned, effective approach to the improvement of this service and should form the basis for future investment decisions when the capital programme for future years is considered.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the following decisions taken by the Member Officer Working Group on play parks:-
- i) All play parks provided by East Ayrshire Council should aim to satisfy the requirements of the EN1176 and EN1177 safety standards following the implementation of the programme of improvement and refurbishment detailed in Appendix One. Rubber grid tiles will be used as the impact attenuating surface at all new play parks;

- ii) The programme of improvement and refurbishment detailed in Appendix One should be approved to form the basis for decisions regarding future investment in this service. This will require investment of £300K to meet the priority 1 needs identified in Appendix One. All playparks and individual items of equipment identified for removal should be removed as soon as possible;
- iii) Investment in upgraded play parks in 2001/02 should be concentrated at Portland Park, Galston (using funds from the Community Services Capital Programme) and Bellfield (Kilmarnock) and Hearth Road, Keir Hardie Hill and Flush Park (all Cumnock) using funds received from other sources; and
- iv) The Council's response to community based projects to provide playparks or skateboard parks should follow the guidance contained in this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/JAG/SAM

24th October 2001

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1) Member Officer Working Group papers 13th August 2001, 17th September 2001, 30th October 2001.
- 2) Dunlop Report on East Ayrshire Council play parks.

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers should contact John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services on 01563 576264.

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APPENDIX A

NO	AREA	PLAYPARK	PROVISION	PRIORITY	COMMENTS
1	Auchinleck	Ballochmyle Ave			Remove - Area served by Well Road & Merlin Park
2	Auchinleck	Stoner Cres			Remove - Area served by Merlin Park
3	Auchinleck	Merlin Park	T,J		Upgrade - Suitable site well used Park
4	Auchinleck	Well Road	T,J,TS		Replace - Centrally located site
5	Bellsbank	Eriff Road			Remove - Area served by Ness Glen
6	Bellsbank	Minnoch Road	T,J		Replace - Serves local housing area
7	Bellsbank	Ness Glen Road	T, J, TS		Replace - Suitable site centrally located
8	Catrine	Blackwood Ave			Remove - Area served by Riverside Park
9	Catrine	Riverside Park	T,J		Upgrade - Centrally located suitable site
10	Catrine	Mauchline Road			Remain
11	Crookedholm	Seright Square			Remove - Site served by Crookedholm Park
12	Crookedholm	Crookedholm Park	T,J,TS		Replace - Central site suitable location
13	Crosshouse	Busbie Gardens			Remove - Served by Lindsay Park
14	Crosshouse	Lindsay Park	T,S,TS		Upgrade - Central site suitable location
15	Cumnock	Cameron Crescent	T,J		Replace - Serves local housing area
16	Cumnock	Coila Place			Remove - Area served by surrounding parks
17	Cumnock	Craigens	J,TS		Replace - Serves local housing area - suitable site
18	Cumnock	Hearth Road	T,J		Upgrade - Serves local housing area - suitable site
19	Cumnock	Keir Hardie Hill	J		Upgrade - Serves local housing area - suitable site
20	Cumnock	Walker Court			Remove - Area served by surrounding parks
21	Cumnock	McTurk Court	J		Upgrade - Serves local housing area - suitable site
22	Cumnock	Netherthird	T,J		Replace - Area suitable for junior & toddler equipment
23	Cumnock	Glen Weir			Remain
24	Cumnock	Flush Park	T,J		Upgrade - Area serves local housing
25	Cumnock	Woodroad Park (1)	T,J,TS		Upgrade - Well used public park
26	Cumnock	Woodroad Park (2)			Remain
27	Dalleagles		J		Residents Requests
28	Dalmellington	King George V	T,J,TS		Replace - Centrally located site
29	Dalmellington	Burnton	T,J		Replace serves local community - requires surface work
30	Dalmellington	Dalton Avenue	J		Replace - Serves local housing
31	Dalmellington	Loch Doon Road	T,J		Replace - Popular tourist stop

KEY
T – Toddler
J - Junior
TS – Teenager-sport

32	Dalrymple	Forglen Avenue	T,J,TS	1	Remove - New site - upgrade at Old Water Works site
33	Dalrymple	Glebe Avenue			Remove - This area would be served by the Old Water Works site
34	Darvel	Lochore Terrace			Remove - Area served by Morton Park and Hutchieson Drive sites
35	Darvel	Hutchieson Drive	T,J		Replace - Area serves local housing to the west of A71
36	Darvel	Morton Park	T,J,TS		Upgrade - Well used public park serving the east of A71
37	Drongan	Mill O'Sheil Road	T,J		Replace - Centrally located site
38	Drongan	Cairnston Avenue	T,J		Upgrade - Area serves the north of the village
39	Drongan	Games Hall			Removed
40	Drongan	Millmannoch Ave	J, TS		Upgrade - Area serves south of the village
41	Dunlop	Livingston Terrace			Remove - Unsuitable site due to size and location
42	Dunlop	Dunlop Park			Remain - Community project ongoing
43	Galston	Portland Park	T,J,TS	1	Replace - Suitable site centrally located
44	Galston	Loudoun Ave/ Millrig			Remove - Served by Portland Park
45	Galston	Sorn Road	T,J		Upgrade - Serves local estate. Would require surface work
46	Gatehead	Gatehead			Remain
47	Hayhill	Hayhill			Remain
48	Hurlford	Richardson Park 1			Remove - Served by Richardson Park (2)
49	Hurlford	Richardson Park 2	T,J		Upgrade - Suitable site serving local housing
50	Hurlford	Liffnock Park	T,J		Upgrade - Site serves east of A71
51	Kilmarnock	Newlands Drive			Remove - Site suffers continuous vandalism
52	Kilmarnock	Bellevue Road			Remove - Site not suitable. Now served by Annanhill
53	Kilmarnock	Piersland Park	TS		Replace- Equipment to be replaced with teen equipment. Site also serves Kay Park
54	Kilmarnock	New Farm Loch	T,J	1	Replace - Site serves local housing
55	Kilmarnock	Knowhead road	T, J	1	Upgrade - Suitable site serves local housing
56	Kilmarnock	Loreny Drive,			Remove - Site suffers continuous vandalism and is served by Knowehead Road & Lainshaw Park
57	Kilmarnock	Linfern Avenue	T,J		Upgrade - Suitable site serves local housing
58	Kilmarnock	Mitchell Court			Remove - Site served by Linfern or Kay Park
59	Kilmarnock	Carmel Terrace			Remove - Site served by Annanhill Park
60	Kilmarnock	Bellfield Estate	T,J		Upgrade - Suitable site serves local housing
61	Kilmarnock	Cessnock Place	T, TS		Upgrade - Serves the east area of Bellfield Estate

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62	Kilmarnock	Ken Road			Remove - Site served by Bellfield Park
63	Kilmarnock	Thorn Terrace	T,J		Upgrade - Serves local housing
64	Kilmarnock	Wardneuk Drive	T, J		Upgrade - Serves local housing. Local Community group interested in this site.
65	Kilmarnock	Dean Park	T,J		Upgrade - Well used park - Castle Park has restricted access
66	Kilmarnock	MacGregor Drive			Remove - Area served by N.F.L. and Kay Park. Resident complaints
67	Kilmarnock	Cairn Terrace			Remove - Area served by upgrade park at Peace Avenue
68	Kilmarnock	Peace Avenue	T,J		Upgrade - Serves local estate
69	Kilmarnock	Carron Avenue	T,J		Upgrade - Serves east area of Hurlford Road
70	Kilmarnock	Riccarton Park			Remain
71	Kilmarnock	Altonhill Ave	T,J		Remove-New site-replace existing site to small for toddler/junior park
72	Kilmarnock	Shiskine Drive			Remove- Site wet and in close proximity to Altonhill
73	Kilmarnock	Kay Park	T,J,TS		Upgrade- Well used public park
74	Kilmarnock	Annanhill	T,J,TS		Upgrade-Popular park
75	Kilmarnock	Glenafton Court	T,J,TS		Upgrade- This site could be upgraded and serve all the Glens area.
76	Kilmarnock	Glen Farrer Way			Remove-See Glenafton
77	Kilmarnock	Glen Shiel Cres			Remove-See Glenafton
78	Kilmarnock	Glen Truim Way			Remove-See Glenafton
79	Kilmarnock	Howard Park	T,J,TS		Upgrade-Well used public park
80	Kilmarnock	Rugby Road			Remain
81	Kilmarnock	Fleming Street			Remain
82	Kilmarnock	Lainshaw Avenue	T,J		Replace due to recent vandalism at this site
83	Kilmarnock	Dean castle c/park	T,J,TS	1	Replace with wooden equipment and add to inspection list.
84	Kilmaurs	Morton Park	T,J	1	Upgrade - well used village park
85	Kilmaurs	Habbieauld park	T,J		New Site-Create new park for north end of village.
86	Knockintiber	Knockentiber	T,J		Upgrade existing site
87	Logan	Glen Avenue	T,J,TS		Replace existing equipment. Central site within village.
88	Lugar	Braehead Place	T,J		Upgrade, Suitable site well used facility.
89	Lugton	Lugton No1			Remove
90	Lugton	Lugton (2)			Remain-This site is suitable for this small community
91	Mauchline	Jean Armour Road	T,J	1	Replace existing equipment Suitable location to serve north end of village.

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92	Mauchline	Alexander Terrace	T,J		Replace existing equipment. Suitable location to serve south end of village
93	Mauchline	Beechwood Park	T,J		Upgrade this central location
94	Moscow	Moscow Fir Park	J		Upgrade site with Junior equipment
95	Muirkirk	Coltart Drive			Remove - Area served with other parks in village
96	Muirkirk	Harwood Drive			Remove - Area served with other parks in location
97	Muirkirk	Cairn View	J		Upgrade - This site serves the south end of the village.
98	Muirkirk	Victory Park	T,J		Upgrade - Central site for the village
99	Muirkirk	Pagan Walk			New site created and maintained by community
100	New Cumnock	Farden Avenue	J		Replace - Site serves local housing
101	New Cumnock	Leggate	T,J		Replace - Well used playpark serving local community
102	New Cumnock	Greenhead P/Fields	T,J		Upgrade - Central location.
103	Newmilns	Claremount			Remove - This area served by Jamieson/ Greenside
104	Newmilns	Jamieson Park	T,J,TS		Upgrade - Site serves local housing area. Suitable location
105	Newmilns	Greenside	T,J		Upgrade - Site serves area on east of A71
106	Ochiltree	Kay Park	T,J,TS		Upgrade - Site serves bottom of village
107	Ochiltree	Broom Cres			Remove - Site served by remaining parks
108	Ochiltree	Douglas Brown Ave	T,J		Upgrade - Site serves top of village
109	Patna	Doonbank	T,J		Upgrade - Site serves east of A713 and local housing
110	Patna	Netherhill	J		Replace - Site serves local housing
111	Patna	Polnessan	J		Replace - Site serves local housing
112	Patna	Kilmein Avenue			Remove
113	Patna	Dallowie			Remain
114	Patna	Carnshalloch Ave	T,J,TS		Upgrade - Site serves housing west of A713
115	Rankinston	Station Site	T,J,TS		Upgrade - Central site for village
116	Rankinston	Old School Site			Remove - Area served by Station site
117	Sinclairston	Sinclairston			Remain
118	Sorn	Main Street			Remain - Community project ongoing
119	Stewarton	Main Street			Remove - Small site will be served by Strandhead
120	Stewarton	Robertland	T,J		Upgrade - Suitable serving north area and local housing
121	Stewarton	Merrygreen Place			Remove - Site served by upgraded Robertland site
122	Stewarton	Kilwinning Road (1)	T,J		Upgrade - Site serves local housing area.
123	Stewarton	Lloyd Walk			Remove - Kilwinning Road No 1 and Strandhead in close proximity

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124	Stewarton	Standalane			Remove - Site served by Strandhead Park
125	Stewarton	Kilwinning Road(2)			Remove - Site served by Kilwinning Road and Strandhead.
126	Stewarton	Strandhead	T,J,TS		Upgrade - Suitable site with central location.
127	Stewarton	Fenwick, Kirkton Road			Remain
128	Waterside (s)	School Brae	J		Upgrade - Serves local community
129	Waterside (n)	Waterside	T,J		Upgrade -

ESTIMATED COSTS FOR FUTURE PLAY PROVISION

Estimated costs have been sought from several companies for five piece toddler and junior play parks with fencing and rubber grid safety surfaces and multi-sport walls for use by older children. The lowest costs for appropriate facilities were:-

Toddler	£15,000
Junior	£26,000
Multi-Sport wall	£12,500

These estimates are based on good ground conditions being available and should be treated as guidelines only. Further reductions may be produced by a competitive tendering process once the Council's requirements are known.

AGENDA