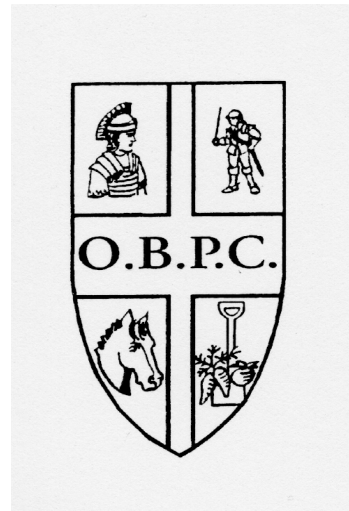


Olivers Battery Parish Council



Recreation Strategy/Plan
2005 - 2007

Background

- Recreation Ground originally purchased in mid-1970s & primarily used for junior football. Some home built play equipment installed
- Football declined but play enhanced in 1980/90s
- Current play/sports provision is 1.6 hectare (Rec. inc. conservation area) + 0.6 hectare (Battery open space) = 2.2 hectare (5.5 acres)
- WCC Open Space strategy identified shortfall of 1.5 hectare for play/sports provision in Oliver's Battery (also hold some Open Space funding)

Key Strategy Objectives

- 1) Continue to provide high quality play for children under 10
 - Respond to findings of ROSPA inspection report
- 2) Meet requirements of 2004 Disability Discrimination Act
 - Improve access for disabled of all ages
 - Respond to findings of ROSPA access report
- 3) Expand recreation opportunities for 10 – 14 year old group
- 4) Consider needs of other groups longer term

1. ROSPA Inspection 2004 Summary

- General site assessment
 - gate is grounding, sliding catch missing, finger entrapment: action needed
 - loose bolts on picnic table: now fixed
 - install dog bin/litter: action needed
 - continue monitoring + cleaning: action needed
 - remove trip hazards around safety surfacing: action
 - barrier recommended for swings: rejected

Equipment Summary

- Elephant spring
 - no action needed
- Junior swings
 - lubricate dry bearings: now done
 - check shackle wear : now done
 - insufficient safety surfacing: low risk, accept

Equipment Summary

- Cradle swings
 - swing seat damaged
 - cradle pillars + chains corroded
 - some lifting of safety surface
 - Seats & chains now replaced, safety surface repaired
- Junior Multi unit (SMP)
 - general maintenance needed
 - safety surface uneven and worn
 - Unit now refurbished & painted, new safety surface

Equipment Summary

- Small Multi unit (Wicksteed)
 - EN 1176 compliance? Awaiting clarification
 - general maintenance: done
- Slide (Wicksteed)
 - EN 1176 compliance: not in compliance
 - Wicksteed have now modified equipment
- Fort
 - no action needed

2. Disabled Access

- Require designated parking, always available
 - Car park in poor condition, gate usually locked
 - Car park resurfaced, gate repositioned & drainage improved
 - Low posts installed to keep vehicles within car park
 - Plan to install dog bin
 - Also of benefit to walkers, etc. using countryside area
- Route to play area should be clear and accessible
 - no obstructions on route, is surface ok for wheelchairs?
 - consider signage, additional seating with arms
- Steep slopes/level changes may be hazardous
 - consider options, eg. hand rail

3. Facilities for Age 10 - 14

- Propose basketball hoop in car park area
- Install tall climbing frame/shelter/climbing wall?
- Propose additional hard surfaced play area (multi-use games area) for:
 - Five-a-side football, Basketball
 - Hockey? Tennis? Badminton? Volleyball?
 - Will consult on options
- Skateboard park considered but rejected
 - Likely cost £40-50 K
 - Facility available at Somers Close, Stanmore
 - Anticipate difficulties in supervision

4. Facilities for Other Groups

- Future options to be considered:
 - Extend football pitch to full size ?
 - Earth moving to level pitch?
 - Purchase additional land?
 - Provision for adult sports eg. Cricket, Tennis?
- Can only be envisaged as longterm plans, due to likely cost

Summary

- Implement plan in phases as finance allows
- Consult with likely users for phases 2 - 3
 - Phase 0 – refurbish existing equipment
(already budgeted approx. £8000)
 - Phase 1 – resurface car park etc.
(budget approx. £12,000)
 - Phase 2 – install tall climbing frame/shelter
(budget approx. £10,000?)
 - Phase 3 – create multi-use games area
(budget approx. £20,000?)