

Burnley's Play Area Strategy 2017-2027

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE



DATE	4TH July 2017
PORTFOLIO	Leisure
REPORT AUTHOR	Simon Goff
TEL NO	01282 477223
EMAIL	sgoff@burnley.gov.uk

PURPOSE

1. To approve the Play Area Strategy 2017-2026 and its recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

2. The Executive is recommended to:
 - a. Approve the recommendations contained in the Play Strategy to refurbish 16 play areas over the next 10 years in partnership with park friends and local residents groups.
 - b. Approve the recommendations contained in the strategy for the closure and relocation of 8 play areas.
 - c. Note that consultation will take place with ward members and local residents regarding proposals for the relocation and refurbishment of play areas in individual wards.
 - d. Note that capital funding of £250,000 will be required to support the proposed play area improvement programme during the period 2018 to 2026.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. The recommendations contained in this report will ensure that the Council is able to maintain a good level of equipped play area provision across the Borough, to a high standard and within the resources available.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. Provision of children's play areas is identified by the public as the fourth most important priority for the management parks after; keeping them clean, free of dog fouling and personal safety.
5. The review of play provision is necessary because future revenue and capital budgets will not be sufficient to maintain the current level provision.
6. The Council currently maintains 58 play areas plus ball courts, youth shelters and skate parks. Currently 76% of play areas are in good or very good condition. There are 14 play

areas that are in acceptable condition.

7. The Strategy makes recommendations for play provision in each of 51 residential areas across the borough and also provides a table of actions for each play area (Appendix 1. Attached within this report). The recommendations lead to one of 3 outcomes:

8. **Outcome 1: Improve**

There are 16 play areas that require some refurbishment within the next 10 years at a total cost of £350,000. Of this £250,000 will be sought from the Council's capital programme over the period 2018 – 2026 and the balance from external grants and any WOF that may be available.

The Council now only improves play areas in partnership with parks friends groups, residents associations and parish councils and supports these groups in securing grant funding. As there are only a limited number of grant sources available, it is recommended that the council will only support grant applications for play areas in this group of 16.

Where grants are being sought, the availability of local match funding is usually always necessary, particularly as the value of many external grants are being reduced. Any resources that the Council can provide through the capital programme will be targeted at play areas in this group and Councillors will be offered the opportunity to contribute WOF funding as match.

9. **Outcome 2: Maintain**

There are 33 play areas which are in good condition, offer good play value and are well used. They have relatively new equipment don't require any improvement and which can be maintained within existing maintenance budgets.

10. **Outcome 3. Closure & Relocation of equipment**

8 play areas are recommended to be closed and the equipment will be refurbished and relocated to improve nearby play areas. These are smaller play areas with low play value and low levels of use and which require a level of capital investment that is not available.

Reducing the number of play areas will also ensure that the limited revenue budget for maintaining play areas will be adequate to cover the 50 play areas that will remain.

The closure and relocation of equipment will take place over the period 2017 to 2019, using the Green Spaces & Amenities own staff.

New Play Areas

11. The strategy identifies three areas of the borough where there is a significant shortfall in play area provision: Lowerhouse, Rowley and Casterton. In these areas there may be opportunities to provide new play provision through Section 106 funding.

Capital and WOF Funding

12. It is recommended that the Council should provide £250,000 of capital funding over the period 2018 to 2026 to support the play area improvement programme. This will provide match funding for any grants that friends and residents groups apply for. Ward members may also choose to allocate WOF towards play area improvements. The programme will include an investment of £100,000 to refurbish Towneley Park play area. This is by far the most well used play area in the Borough and helps to encourage high visitor numbers to

Towneley

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

12. As set out in this report

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

13 The Strategy sets out the policy for the management of Burnley's play facilities

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

14 Public consultation through the Citizen's Panel

BACKGROUND PAPERS

15. None.

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

Simon Goff

ALSO:

Appendix 1. Play Area Assessments and Recommendations

Name of Playground	Ward	Residential Area	Use	Play value	Condition	Refurb Costs	Recommendation
Outcome 1: Play areas to be refurbished							
Queens Park	Bank Hall	Turf Moor	High	63	B	£27,500	Work with Friends of Queens Park to refurbish.
Lane Bottom	Briercliffe	Lanebottom	V Low	37	C	£10,000	Work with Briercliffe PC to refurbish or close
Burnley Rd B'Cliffe	Briercliffe	Briercliffe North	Low	22	C	£10,000	Work with Parish Council to refurbish
Towneley Riverside	Cliviger	Red Lees Road	High	79	B	£100,000	Work with Friends of Towneley on major refurbishment of this important play area
Cliviger Park	Cliviger	Cliviger	Low	56	C	£10,000	Work with Cliviger PC to secure windfarm grant to refurbish play area
Scott Park	Coal Clough	Bleakhouse	Med	52	B	£60,000	Work with Friends of Scott Park to provide new play area preferably located on lower (un-used) bowling green
Stoneyholme Gdns	Daneshouse	Stoneyholme	Med	35	C	£10,000	Relocate equipment from Burns St
Lockyer Ave	Gannow	Sycamore	High	58	A	£10,000	Improve with equipment relocated from Glamorgan Grove
Hargrove Park	Gawthorpe	Padiham East	Low	32	B	£15,000	Improve to NEAP standard. Relocate equipment from Partridge Hill play area
Barden Lane	Queensgate	Queensgate	Med	41	A	£10,000	Relocate existing equipment from Barden Lane to new play area on Disraeli Street Rec
Healey Wood	Rose Hill	Healywood Toddler PA	Med	27	C	£17,500	Develop a new combined toddler & junior play area using relocated and some new equipment
Harold Avenue	Rosegrove	Griffin	Low	26	B	£12,500	Relocate to Sunny Clough Park (work with Calico to fund this)
Vanguard Park	Trinity	Trafalgar	Low	46	C	£10,000	Work with Burnley Play Association to replace worn out items of play equipment
Picadilly Gardens	Trinity	Piccadilly	Med	39	B	£10,000	Improve with equipment relocated from Baker St
Calder Park	Whittlefield	Calder	Med	35	B	£15,000	Work with Friends of Calder Park to obtain funding to extend play area
Faraday Street	Whittlefield	Calder	Med	51	C	£10,000	replace old items of equipment
Underley Street	Briercliffe	Lanehead North	Med	50	C	£12,500	Install woodchip surfacing
Total						£350,000	
Outcome 2: Play areas to be maintained							
Hart Street	Bank Hall	Top O the Town	Med	34	A		Maintain
Holcombe Drive	Bank Hall	Turf Moor	Low	30	B		Maintain
Fulledge Rec	Bank Hall	Fulledge	High	59	B		Maintain
Thompson Park	Bank Hall	Top O the Town	High	58	B		To be refurbish in 2017, funded by HLF restoration of Thompson Park (£142K)
Standen Hall Close	Briercliffe	Lanehead North	Low	47	A		Maintain
Queen Street	Briercliffe	Briercliffe South	Med	63	A	-	Maintain

Name of Playground	Ward	Residential Area	Use	Play value	Condition	Refurb Costs	Recommendation
Underley Street	Briercliffe	Lanehead North	Med	50	B		Maintain
Sheddon Grove	Brunshaw	Brunshaw	Low	40	B		Maintain
Wycoller Avenue	Brunshaw	Brunshaw	Med	60	A		Minor improvements to replace log edging
Worsthorne	Cliviger with Worsthorne	Worsthorne	Med	58	A		Maintain
Dunnockshaw	Coal Clough	Dunnockshaw	Low	43	A		Maintain with help from Dunnockshaw PC to do weekly inspection
Tay Street	Coal Clough	Hargherclough	Med	41	B		Maintain
Forfar Street	Coal Clough	Bleakhouse	Med	39	B		Maintain
Buttercross Close	Coal Clough	Buttercross	Low	29	B		Maintain
Hargher Clough Park	Coal Clough	Hargherclough	High	70	A		Maintain
Grey Street	Daneshouse	Daneshouse	High	49	A		Maintain
Byerden Holme	Daneshouse	Daneshouse	Med	39	B		Maintain
Whitegate	Gawthorpe	Whitegate	Med	56	A		Maintain
Park Road, Padiham	Gawthorpe	Victoria	High	72	A		Maintain
Bedford Park	Hapton with Park	Stonemoor Bottom	Med	46	A		Maintain
Malvern Avenue	Hapton with Park	Stonemoor Bottom	Med	46	B		Maintain
Hapton Rec	Hapton with Park	Hapton	Med	70	A		Maintain
Memorial Park	Hapton with Park	Padiham West	High	67	A		Maintain
Thornber Gdns	Lanehead	Heasandford	High	53	A		Maintain
Rakehead Rec	Queensgate	Rakehead	High	69	A		Maintain
Barden Gardens	Queensgate	Lower Manor Lane	Med	42	A		Maintain
Rosehill	Rosehill	Rosehill	High	53	B		Maintain
Burnley Wood Park	Rosehill	Burnleywood	High	57	A		Maintain
Creswick Avenue	Rosehill	Rosehill	Low	17	A		Maintain
Owen Street	Rosegrove	Rosegrove	Med	46	A		Maintain
Hordley St	Rosegrove	Lowerhouse	High	51	B		Maintain
Barwise	Rosegrove	na	Med	26	A		New play area funded by the Friends of Towneley & Big Lottery (£22,000)
Clifton Street	Trinity	Clifton Heights	Low	36	B		Maintain

Name of Playground	Ward	Residential Area	Use	Play value	Condition	Refurb Costs	Recommendation
Ightenhill Park	Whittlefield	Ightenhill	High	67	A		Maintain
Outcome 3. Play areas to be closed/relocated							
Helena	Bank Hall	Fulledge	Low	26	B		Close. Fulledge play area is within same residential area. Relocate suitable equipment to Fulldge
Barley Grove	Brunshaw	Turf Moor	V Low	24	C		Close and relocate equipment to nearby Holcombe Drive play area
Burns Street	Daneshouse	Stoneyholme	Med	29	C		Close & relocate equipment to nearby Stoneyholme Gardens
Glamorgan Grove	Gannow	Sycamore	Low	48	C		Close & relocate equipment to nearby Lockyer Ave Play area
Partridge Hill	Gawthorpe	Padiham East	Nil	30	C		Close and relocate equipment to nearby Hargrove Park
Baker Street	Trinity	Picadilly	Low	19	C		Close & relocate equipment to nearby Picadilly Gardens play area
Healey Wood	Trinity	Healywood Junior PA	Med	22	B		Close and relocate to a new combined junior and toddler play area on same site
Richard Street	Bank Hall	Plumb St	Low	33	C		Close as this site has low play value and is regularly vandalised