

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	Tuesday 10th October 2023
Report Title	Parks & Projects Report
Agenda Reference	13
Author	Mark Weaving (Technical Officer) and Laura Cutter (Deputy Clerk & Services Manager)

Officer's Recommendation

1. To note the report.
2. To consider the budget aspirations from the Play Area Working Party.
3. To approve £4251.27 play area repair expenditure (see list below) to be met from existing budget 4305/307.

Background

The Memory Café Sensory Garden project is very near completion and is looking great, with only a few little touch ups here and there to get ready for open event in mid-October.

The team continues to assist in other areas of the Parks & Open Spaces Team with the emptying of public litter and dog waste bins, removing graffiti, hedge cutting and grass cutting within play areas and conducting some site visits on behalf of the Head of Parks & Open Spaces.

The painting of Play Areas is governed by the weather and with this in mind this is unlikely through the winter months and will be picked up again in the early spring.

The team has also helped the Office Team with the setting up of the meeting room in the Council Offices and assisted with the setting up of the Memory Café at the Bowls Club every other Wednesday.

Works Completed

Location	Work Completed, August / September	Date Completed
Various	Several play areas have been blown out and cleared of leaves or moss. Tree lines are being cut back from some fences. Wick Farm, Trent Road and Primrose Play Areas have been completed this month.	Ongoing
Goodearl Allotments	Memory Cafe Sensory Garden	Near completion
Allotments	The gate codes have now been changed and the water has been turned off.	02/010/23 – 06/10/23
Gaynor Play Area	Roofs have been rebuilt with new boards, painted and put back.	25/09/23 – 29/09/23
Skate Park	Two new bins have been fitted in place of the old wooden ones that have now been fixed and ready to be place in a new location when requested	25/09/23 – 29/09/23



Working Towards

A schedule has been drawn up throughout April/May 2023 to allow the Officers to progress with their priorities to put the team in good stead for the projects to be conducted in 2023/2024

Location	Working towards	Time Scale
Various Play Areas	Play Area floor repairs	This is ongoing weather permitting.
Various Play Areas	Working on any actions required from this year's annual external play area inspection.	Ongoing.
Capesthorpe Play Area	Further repairs to the surface and unit tidy up.	These are ongoing as unable to put time scale and will be put in works completed in future reports.
Voyager	Refit new net to play equipment.	This will be fitted when it arrives 2023.
Brookfield Play Area	To start the climbing ramps to the side of the slide will need two to three weeks constant. to get it finished	October onwards 2023
Play Areas	Completing the hedge cutting around the Play Area fences	Finish by the end of October
Play Areas	Painting of Play Areas	Over the next 4 months

Play Area Working Party

The Parks & Projects Team provided a thorough report to the Play Area Working Party about maintenance repairs that could be met from this year's budget and aspirations for 2024/25. Members of the Play Area Working Party, Councillors R Hailstone, V Manro and R Worman were in attendance.

It is apparent that none of the Play Areas need a major refurbishment next year, but many of the Play Areas could use a spruce up with fresh paint, fixing equipment and ordering the proper manufacturer parts (which can be expensive) and replacing swing seats and gate mechanisms, which over 23 play areas can become expensive.

The current budget for play area repairs is £10,000.00 (4305/307) of that there is approximately £7,900.00 still available. Some of the equipment will be being purchased between now and the end of the financial year. Some of the funds have been committed but not invoiced yet due to delays from the manufacturers (such as the netting for Voyager £600.00). It is anticipated that there is approximately £5,000.00 left in this budget.

Considerations for remaining budget for 23/24 to be met from 4305/307:

- Gaynor Close – Replacement netting £1,659.27.
- Removing the final panels of the bow top fencing at Bowls Green Play Area and consider putting CCTV in there for cost of the post £600.00 and utilising a current camera.
- Obtaining gate mechanisms and fixings £414.00 per gate – start with 3 - £1,242.00.
- Purchase the Parks & Projects Team a set of tools for maintaining the play areas up to the value of £750.00 (hedge cutter, strimmer, blower).

Total: £4,251.27

**Aspirations for 24/25:**

- Brookfield Play Area – replace the bark chippings and replace with safety wet pour surfacing – £20,000.00 already in the budget aspirations for 2024/25 (4518/302).
- Maintenance Repairs budget – could be increased for replacement panels, nets/ ropes, and gate fixings – £12,000.00 already in the budget aspirations for 2024/25 (4305/302) also there will be surplus in the Play Area EMR's due to cost saving on Trent Road Play Area tender (approx. £7,762.00). Current budget underspends will be put back in the reserves too, so no increase needed for 2024/2025.
- A reduced amount for play area refurbishments next year, but during budget setting last year it was agreed to keep £10,000.00 to build up reserves for 2024/2025 and £20,000.00 for 2025/2026. Members considered increasing accessible equipment in current play areas and suggested that this was increased from £10,000.00 to £50,000.00 (4316/302). This will result in a precept increase for 2024/25 of £4.46 / 0.11%.