

Meeting	Amenities & Leisure Committee
Date	Tuesday 4 th May 2021
Report Title	Parks & Projects Report
Agenda Reference	11
Author	Dave New & Mark Weaving (Technical Officers)

Officer's Recommendation

There are no recommendations.

Background

The team has been contacting various play area companies to get quotes and designs for the two identified play area refurbishments this year, Luna Close and Gaynor Close.

The team will shortly be receiving the play area inspection report and mitigating against any medium to high risks. Actions arising will be taken to the Play Area Working Party which is set to take place prior to the Committee discussion on Tuesday 11th May 2021. To confirm members of the working party are: Councillors Fateru, Hailstone, Venkatesh, Heyes, Manro, John, Jackson, Baker Lee but all the Committee is invited please RSVP to the invite.

The team continues to assist in other areas of the Parks & Open Spaces Team with the emptying of public litter and dog waste bins due to holidays or sickness.

Due to a resident reporting a footpath between Voyager Drive Play Area and Luna Close Play Area being heavily littered with dog mess and bags in the hedges, the area has been cleaned up and a yellow bin has been attached to the fence. The footpath will be regularly monitored.

Works Completed

Location	Work Completed
Various	Several play areas have been blown out and cleared of leaves or moss.
Village Green Play Area	Dolphin character bin has been fitted.
Ventnor Allotments	New raised beds have been built on Apple Tree Allotment. The team will oversee the North Swindon Police volunteers who will be assisting on 6 th June 2021.
Gaynor Play Area	Ahead of the planned refurbishment, the climbing wall has been removed. The timber from the climbing frame was beginning to rot. Removing the climbing wall by using the internal team has saved the Council approximately £180.00.



Working Towards

A schedule has been drawn up throughout May and June to allow the Officers to progress with their priorities to put the team in good stead for the projects to be conducted in 2021/2022.

Location	Working towards
Various	Play Area floor repairs.
Heaton Close Play Area	Paint Shelter and clear edges around park.
Various Play Areas	Continuation of cleaning the surfaces and edges. Working on any high risk actions required from this year's annual external play area inspection. Also continue with repainting and cleaning some pieces of equipment ahead of the peak season.
Brookfield Play Area	Repair the flooring and replace the swings. Hope to start repairing steps and putting grass matting on slopes beside the slide.
Greenmeadow Stores	Remove and replace the noticeboard Awaiting new one
Voyager Play Area	Putting another dolphin bin inside the park.
Luna Play Area	Floor repairs prior to refurb

Haydonleigh Skate Park

The fencing work at the skate park has now been completed, the height of the fence has been increased from 2m to 3m in height.

The Council were successful in a grant application to SBC for the purchase of two cycle racks, these have now been received and installed at the far end of the skate park.

During Full Council on 27th April 2021, it was mentioned that the skate park is a busy facility and social distancing is not being observed, as cases are rising in Swindon, the skate park should be monitored closely. The Head of Parks & Open Spaces was instructed to carry out regular checks to observe the numbers, his findings confirm that whilst the skate park is busy, it is within the maximum capacity (30 skaters) and there is no evidence to suggest that social distancing is not being observed.

The Youth Worker has also been making regular trips to the skate park over the weekend and evenings to spread the messaging about social distancing and engaging with the users. The skate park sessions were stopped due to the Government and Skateboard England's messaging changing upon easing of restrictions in March 2021 and this meant that the Youth Worker could progress with other events rather than using her hours to oversee the skate park. Sessions for under 8's, girls, scooters are in discussion as this may make users feel safer and in a better environment for practicing.

Several instances of anti-social behavior have been reported. There are concerns the concrete tunnels are not being used correctly and this will continue to be monitored. However, it is acknowledged that any shelter, no matter what is installed at the park still has the potential to be used for anti-social behaviour. New clearer 'no smoking' signs have been installed.



There have been requests for more seating which we are investigating and will bring ideas back to a future meeting.

North Swindon Police have been contacted to see if there are any antisocial behavior logs at this site. Our security company has provided us with a statement confirming that there has been some conflict between teenagers and parents, also smoking and occasional use of substances. The Council will continue to work with all stakeholders to keep the site welcoming for all residents to use.

Haydonleigh Primary School has made contact to advise that teenagers are jumping over the fence of the skate park and playing in the multi-use games area (MUGA), the School has asked if we can place some signage in the Skate Park to deter this.

The skate park will continue to be monitored using the above methods and a further report will be brought to the Committee in June for further discussion.

Graffiti Workshops & Street Art on Underpass

A proposal is being drawn up by Officers to submit to Swindon Borough Council for permission at Mouldon Hill/ Thamesdown Drive. An update will be brought back to Committee.

The graffiti workshops are in negotiation with the Youth Worker and the designer from Visual Drop. Further details will be available for sharing as the event develops, this will progress via the Community Development Committee.