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| <b>Meeting</b>          | Parks & Open Spaces Committee                                                                         |
| <b>Date</b>             | 4 <sup>th</sup> August 2026                                                                           |
| <b>Report Title</b>     | Outdoor Recreation and Wellbeing Space for Older SEND Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities. |
| <b>Agenda Reference</b> | 12b                                                                                                   |
| <b>Author</b>           | Councillor L Stevenson                                                                                |

## **Inclusive Outdoor Recreation and Wellbeing Space for Older SEND Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities, Autism and Other Additional Needs**

### **Proposal to Parks & Open Spaces**

**Proposer: Cllr Leanne Stevenson**

**Seconder: Cllr Vinay Manro**

### **Purpose of the Report**

This report seeks approval from Haydon Wick Parish Council to begin exploring the development of an Inclusive Outdoor Recreation and Wellbeing Space for Older SEND Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities, Autism and Other Additional Needs.

Haydon Wick Parish Council already provides a range of park play areas across the parish. This proposal seeks to explore whether there is an opportunity to complement that existing provision by creating an accessible outdoor recreation and wellbeing space specifically designed for older SEND children and adults who continue to benefit from inclusive play, movement, sensory experiences and outdoor recreation throughout their lives.

No decision is sought regarding construction, future capital investment or the final design.

Instead, Members are asked to approve the development of an evidence-based proposal that will assess community need, explore design options, identify suitable locations, estimate costs and investigate funding opportunities before returning to Full Council for further consideration.

### **Background**

Haydon Wick Parish Council has a strong record of identifying unmet community needs and working with partners to develop practical, community-led solutions.

Through projects such as The Haven, the Memory Café, the Companions Café, continued investment in park play areas, and the White Eagle outdoor gym, the Council has demonstrated its commitment to improving health, wellbeing, accessibility and community inclusion. These facilities have become valued local assets and show how targeted local investment can enhance quality of life whilst complementing wider public services.

This proposal builds upon that approach by exploring whether there is an opportunity to extend the Council's inclusive provision through an outdoor recreation and wellbeing space designed specifically for older SEND children and adults with learning disabilities, autism and other additional needs.

This proposal also builds upon an aspiration first submitted by Cllr Leanne Stevenson on 25 October 2025, requesting that Haydon Wick Parish Council explore the future provision of an



Inclusive Outdoor Recreation and Wellbeing Space for Older SEND Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities, Autism and Other Additional Needs.

The original aspiration proposed consultation with residents and carers, a review of existing play provision, consideration of ROSPA inspection outcomes and investigation of potential funding opportunities before any future decision regarding delivery.

The proposal now develops that original aspiration into a comprehensive, evidence-based proposal for Full Council's consideration.

The proposal seeks approval to develop an evidence-based feasibility study only. Any future recommendation regarding design, location, funding or delivery would be subject to further consultation and a separate decision by Full Council.

## **Why This Matters**

Outdoor recreation provides significant physical, emotional and social benefits throughout life.

Whilst Haydon Wick provides a number of well-used park play areas, there is currently no dedicated outdoor recreation space designed specifically around the needs of older SEND children and adults with learning disabilities, autism and other additional needs.

For many individuals, accessible outdoor recreation supports:

- \* Physical health.
- \* Mental wellbeing.
- \* Confidence and independence.
- \* Sensory regulation.
- \* Social interaction.
- \* Family participation.
- \* Community inclusion.

The proposal will also explore how accessible pathways, sensory planting, quiet spaces and appropriate seating could benefit people living with dementia, their families and carers through inclusive design principles.

If progressed, this project has the potential to become one of the first parish-led inclusive outdoor recreation and wellbeing spaces of its kind in Wiltshire, demonstrating Haydon Wick Parish Council's commitment to creating accessible community facilities for residents with additional needs.

## **Evidence and Need**

Demand for accessible community facilities continues to grow.

Current evidence indicates:

- \* Approximately 6,111 adults aged 18 to 64 in Swindon are estimated to have a learning disability, with numbers projected to increase over the coming years.
- \* The number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) is forecast to reach approximately 3,648 within the next five years.
- \* Swindon has more than 18,000 unpaid carers, many supporting people with disabilities or long-term conditions.
- \* Around 2,400 residents aged over 65 are living with dementia, with numbers expected to increase significantly over the coming decades.



These figures demonstrate increasing demand for accessible community infrastructure that promotes health, wellbeing, independence and social inclusion.

The next stage of work will establish local demand, explore design options, identify potential locations, estimate costs and investigate funding opportunities before any recommendation is brought back to Full Council.

## **The Opportunity**

Rather than creating another traditional children's playground, this proposal presents an opportunity to explore an Inclusive Outdoor Recreation and Wellbeing Space designed around accessibility, dignity and lifelong participation.

### **Potential features for consideration include:**

#### **Inclusive Recreation Equipment**

- \* Large basket swings with adult weight capacity.
- \* Inclusive swings.
- \* Wheelchair-accessible swings.
- \* Wheelchair-accessible roundabouts.
- \* Accessible seesaws.
- \* Inclusive spinning equipment.
- \* In-ground trampolines.
- \* Balance trails.
- \* Climbing equipment.
- \* Wide accessible slides.

#### **Sensory Recreation**

- \* Outdoor musical instruments.
- \* Chime panels.
- \* Sensory drums.
- \* Interactive tactile panels.
- \* Sensory planting.
- \* Textured pathways.

#### **Quiet and Wellbeing Spaces**

- \* Sensory gardens.
- \* Quiet pods.
- \* Hammocks.
- \* Swing seating.
- \* Accessible seating areas.
- \* Inclusive picnic facilities.

#### **Supporting Infrastructure**

- \* Accessible pathways.
- \* Inclusive safety surfacing.
- \* Seating for carers and families.
- \* Accessible picnic benches.
- \* Accessible parking.
- \* Appropriate lighting.
- \* CCTV where justified.
- \* Clear wayfinding signage.



The proposal will also consider accessibility, safety, maintenance requirements, long-term sustainability and opportunities for future expansion.

The examples above are intended to guide development of the proposal and should not be regarded as a final design.

### **Potential Location**

Havisham Drive will be assessed as the preferred location for initial consideration, whilst remaining open to the assessment of any other suitable sites identified through the development process.

### **Community Engagement**

The proposal will be developed through engagement with:

- \* Residents.
- \* Families.
- \* Carers.
- \* People with lived experience.
- \* Local schools.
- \* Adult social care providers.
- \* Disability organisations.
- \* Swindon Borough Council.
- \* Local health partners.
- \* Community organisations.

Their experience and feedback will be central to shaping a practical, inclusive and financially sustainable proposal.

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

This report seeks approval to develop a proposal only.

No commitment is made to construct the facility or allocate future capital or revenue funding.

The proposal should include:

- \* Design options.
- \* Indicative capital costs.
- \* Ongoing maintenance costs.
- \* Lifecycle replacement costs.
- \* Long-term management arrangements.
- \* A phased delivery approach where appropriate.
- \* Potential funding opportunities.

Potential funding sources should include:

- \* Haydon Wick Parish Council.
- \* Swindon Borough Council.
- \* Section 106 developer contributions.
- \* Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- \* Charitable trusts and foundations.
- \* National Lottery funding.
- \* Government funding programmes where appropriate.



- \* Corporate sponsorship.
- \* Other external funding opportunities.

The objective will be to maximise partnership funding before any future investment is considered by the Council.

## **Risk**

Approval of this report authorises investigation only.

Any future proposal will remain subject to:

- \* Community consultation.
- \* Affordability.
- \* Availability of external funding.
- \* Land suitability.
- \* Planning considerations where required.
- \* Separate approval by Full Council.

## **Recommendation**

Members are recommended to approve the Motion set out below.

### **Motion**

Proposer: Cllr Leanne Stevenson

Seconder: Cllr Vinay Manro

That Haydon Wick Parish Council:

1. Agrees in principle to explore the feasibility of developing an Inclusive Outdoor Recreation and Wellbeing Space for Older SEND Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities, Autism and Other Additional Needs within Haydon Wick.

2. Requests that officers prepare a comprehensive feasibility and options report for consideration by Full Council.

3. Requests that the report includes:

- \* Design options and concept layouts.
- \* Examples of inclusive recreation equipment suitable for different ages and abilities.
- \* Supporting infrastructure, including accessibility features, pathways, seating, safety surfacing and parking.
- \* An assessment of Havisham Drive as the preferred location for initial consideration, together with any other suitable locations where appropriate.
- \* Indicative capital costs, ongoing maintenance costs, lifecycle replacement costs and long-term management arrangements.
- \* A review of comparable projects and examples of best practice from elsewhere in the United Kingdom.
- \* A funding strategy identifying potential contributions from Haydon Wick Parish Council, Swindon Borough Council, Section 106 developer contributions, Community Infrastructure Levy, charitable trusts and foundations, Government funding programmes where appropriate, corporate sponsorship and other external funding opportunities.
- \* A recommended delivery approach and indicative project timetable.

4. Requests that the proposal is developed in partnership with residents, carers, people with lived experience, Swindon Borough Council and other relevant organisations.



5. Requests that the completed proposal is presented to Full Council before any decision is taken regarding future funding or delivery.
6. Notes that approval of this motion authorises the development of a feasibility proposal only and does not commit the Council to construction or future capital or revenue expenditure.