

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

REVIEW OF THE OVERVIEW (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY) OF THE PLAY STRATEGY.

REVISED THREE YEAR ACTION PLAN

Responsible Section/Team	Operations Team	Version/Status	1.1 DRAFT
Responsible Author	Tamzin Percival	Due for review	
Date last amended	21 st January 2010	Date agreed at JCC/Cabinet	N/A

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAY STRATEGY.

REVIEW OF OVERVIEW (EXEC. SUMMARY) TO PRODUCE 3 YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORKS 2010 – 2013.

Aim:

The overview of the Rossendale Play Strategy condenses the information held within the full play strategy in to annual action plans. This report aims to use this information to develop the actions for implementation over the next three years (2010/11 to 2012/13) on items where RBC will be the lead organisation..

Objectives:

Review previous years action plans (year 1 and 2) – identify what items are outstanding and highlight reasons for this.

Review current years action plan (2009-10) – identify what is still achievable and what may not be possible.

Establish if any budget still exists to complete all or part of the outstanding projects.

Consider next three years action plans – what is achievable and what may not be possible.

Method:

Review the overview document year by year and match against completed projects to establish progress. Note which projects have not been completed then investigate and state the possible reasons for this.

Consider the current years progress, again noting which projects have not been completed then investigate and state which are still due to be completed and which may need to be deferred or cancelled with reasons.

Consider future projects as documented and produce a three year plan of those projects which are still viable while noting which are unlikely to be completed with reasons and which have already been done.

(Note: only projects whereby RBC take the lead are included in this report)

Section 1: Years 1 and 2.

Section 2: Current Year

Section 3: Three Year action plan.

SECTION 1: YEARS 1 AND 2

The following projects or part thereof have not been completed:

Year 1 2007-2008			
Site	Project	Budget allocated (RBC allocation in red)	Comments
Borough wide	Appointment of 2 x part time play inclusion officers.	£20,000 £5,000	
Whitaker Park	Phase one boundary improvements through gift in kind work.	£30,000 £15,000	Although there is a "friends of "group – they are not apparently active in such work. This work could be the focus of existing horticulture students from Alder Grange technology College with improvements carried out over a number of months. There has been a programme of tree work each year around the park boundaries and this is due to continue using the in house tree team.
Western Road Park	Extend hard surfacing to make it inclusive of all equipment. Erect high fence on side of road to prevent balls from going on the road.	£10,000 £9000	The banking is sufficient enough barrier to prevent balls going on the road. Also a 1.2m high fence is planned to be erected on top of the wall as a safety measure – this will help with ball stop issues too. Surfacing work is still required
Alden Close	Paint bin, seat and fencing	£6000 £5000	Bin and seat have been painted. Fence is tanalised and painting is not recommended. It is currently in a serviceable condition but replacement with metal bow top fencing should be considered in the future.
Loveclough Park	Repair perimeter paths. Trim hedges and set aside some land for biodiversity. Siting of youth shelter on Loveclough recreation ground.	£40,000 £0	There have been some improvements to the park including tree work, daffodil planting, establishment of a flower meadow, repairs to tennis court fencing, new shrub planting around tennis courts and some land set aside above tennis courts. Path work and shelter is outstanding; shelter would require consultation as initial thoughts would be that local residents would not approve!.
Mullards	Propose to remove the play area. Replace with a useable, interesting civic space aimed at young people.	£50,000 £7000 not play budget	Items rated as medium risk in RoSPA report. This is definitely required.
Edgeside	Play area requires seating	£1500	Small scale works – easily accommodated with in house installation.

Lumb Play area	Access near to gate to be hard surface	£2000	
Blackthorne	Consultation re homezoning to allow and make safer street play.	£1500 £0	
Edenfield play area	Planting to screen nearby houses (other works completed)	£5000	Seating and tarmac works already carried out - approx cost £3900. Planting may not be possible on long side to screen houses as gap between fence and equipment will not allow. However there is scope for planting at the bottom end of the park. A site meeting will be held on 6 th November with Cllr Smith to discuss this.
Year 2 2008-2009			
Site	Project	Budget allocated	Comments
Borough wide	Appointment of 2 x part time play inclusion officers.	£25,000 £7500	
Whitaker Park	Phase 2. Wider park improvements with a focus on youth provision. Aim for green flag status	£175,000 £25,000	Green flag status not yet possible. Green flag assessment feedback highlighted a number of crucial issues required before the park is ready for green flag. These issues are gradually being addressed.
Staghills Youth facility	New/ simple youth facility to compliment youth shelter.	£40,000 £3000	The site is not maintained / owned by RBC. The site is part of the Rossendale urban Woodlands project and is planned for development through this.
Victoria Park	Work towards whole park improvements and green flag status.	£700,000 £0	Consultation regarding play area improvements was carried out in 2008. There are some improvements planned / in progress (drainage, area around bowling green, path surfaces, seating, tree work, wildlife area). Green flag status not yet possible. Green flag assessment feedback for Whitaker Park has given us insight in to general requirements prior to further applications.

Section summary:

Where budgets are still in place outstanding work should be pursued during the current year and three year action plan. These projects include:

Western road – surfacing to include all equipment.

Loveclough park – path work and shelter

Mullards – remove existing play equipment and totally revamp!

Edenfield - planting

Work which is possible with current resources and which should be implemented or started in this current year are:

Whitaker Park – Phase one boundary improvements through gift in kind work. £0 required.

Edgeside Park – installation of seating within play area £800.

Projects which may wait until after three year action plan:

Alden Close fence replacement

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SECTION 2: CURRENT YEAR

Year 3 Current Year 2009-2010			
Site	Project	Budget allocated	Comments
Borough wide	Appointment of 2 x part time play inclusion officers.	£25,000 £7500	
Worsley Park	Work towards whole park improvements and green flag status.	£700,000 £30,000	There are some improvements planned / in progress (Cleaning tennis courts, further pruning and clearance of Rhododendron around bowling green, replanting to replace felled beech trees). Green flag status not yet possible. Green flag assessment feedback for Whitaker Park has given us insight in to general requirements prior to further applications. Continue improvements as an action over the next three years but no green flag achievement.
Whitaker Park	Phase 3. Wider park improvements. Aim to be flagship park benefiting all in Rossendale. Aim for green flag status.	£400,000 £0	Green flag status not yet possible. Green flag assessment feedback highlighted a number of crucial issues required before the park is ready for green flag. These issues are gradually being addressed. Aim for green flag status in three year action plan.
Helmshore Park	Work towards whole park improvements and green flag status.	£400,000 £10,000	There are some improvements planned / in progress (Tree planting to replace felled trees, development of spring meadow, improvements to river bank area near cottages, development of informal memorial garden with spring bulbs and donated trees in park, tree work at entrance to improve sightlines, tree work in formal memorial gardens to improve general condition). Green flag status not yet possible. Green flag assessment feedback for Whitaker Park has given us insight in to general requirements prior to further applications. Continue improvements as an action over the next three years but no green flag achievement.
Hill Street	Consultation and upgrade of park	£100,000 £30,000	Fencing is a must here.
Stubbylee / Moorlands park	Work towards whole park improvements and green flag status.	£500,000 RBC £10,000	There are some improvements planned / in progress (Tree work with replanting, development of flower meadows). A revised site plan and investigation in to further funding opportunities for park improvements such as the pond and dell, grotto and sunken garden as heritage features. Heritage lottery funding may be appropriate and green flag status can make submissions ineligible. Therefore all avenues of funding should be explored prior to gaining green flag. Green flag status not yet possible. Green flag assessment feedback for

			Whitaker Park has given us insight in to general requirements prior to further applications. Continue improvements as an action over the next three years but no green flag achievement.
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Section summary:

In this current year the upgrade of Hill Street Play ground, Crawshawbooth and Helmshore Park is still planned. All other works shown as wider park improvements with an aim to achieving green flag status should be implemented but in the form of drawing up draft management plans detailing short term works, medium term maintenance / management requirements and long term vision. Only once this has been completed ad some works implemented can application for green flag award be considered. This is the situation for all parks where green Flag is an aspiration and therefore the green Flag awards should be treated as a separate item of project work to the rest within the play strategy.

The current RBC budget remaining and available to spend this year is £ **52,523**

Hill Street was estimated at £100,000 with RBC contribution of £30,000.

Helmshore Park was estimated at £400,000 for all works including green flag with RBC contribution of £10,000.

Also note that Britannia MUGA still requires installation and so far £43,030 has been spent on this project, effectively leaving only £12523 for the MUGA if to retain the planned £40,00 required for the above projects..

SECTION 3: THREE YEAR ACTION PLAN

Within the overview / executive summary of the play strategy there is a section showing two tables: action plan 2010-2015 and action plan 2015 – 2020.

On reviewing these tables in conjunction with our play inspector it is apparent that some of the projects listed have already been completed due to availability of funding. These projects are:

- Ratcliffe pocket park (2012-13). The equipment has recently been updated and repairs to the wall as well as tree work on site now mean that this park is in good condition.
- Haslingden “Centre” Youth Provision (2012-14). The recent improvements to Greenfield gardens included the installation of a kick about area aimed at teenage users. There is little scope for further development of the site in relation to play.
- Water play area. The park has been updated this year.
- Knowsley crescent Play area. This park had new equipment, surfacing and fencing in 2008.
- Maden recreation ground (2018 – 2019). This park had new equipment and surfacing in 2008

It is also felt that other projects are not required within the timescale set. These are:

- Edenfield Play Area update (2-10-11). This play area is in good condition with a good range of equipment.
- Adelaide Street Removal (2011-12). There is no play area here!
- Loveclough Park (2012-14). The park is in good condition and there is no room for further equipment.

Remaining projects either need to be brought in to the three year plan or left as stated in the original tables.

This means that there is scope to move projects about in relation to the timescale of completion. Projects priority should also be reconsidered in light of the recent audit of our playground RoSPA report, in which a number of sites have high and medium risk items or a particularly excessive number of low risk items which can not be remedied unless new equipment is purchased.

These sites are:

Sites with at least one high priority item

Sharneyford Play area, Bacup

Sites with at least one medium priority item

Lumb Play Area, Water (note sign requirement is high but is a low cost “quick fix” and will be included in other works – not play strategy item)

Rising bridge Play Area, Haslingden.

Hill Street, Crawshawbooth

Mullards Play Area, Waterfoot.

Helmshore Play Area, Helmshore.

Victoria Park, Helmshore

Clegg Street, Haslingden

Worsley Park, Haslingden

Sites with low priority item(s) only

Station Road Play area, Healey

Edgeside Park, Edgeside (note any medium or high priority work associated with this site does not directly involve the play equipment and so can be done independently of any site development)

Moorlands Park, Bacup

I recommend, after consideration of all the above information that the three year action plan is as shown below subject to funding.

Year 4 - 6 Three Year Action Plan					
Year 4 (2010-11)					
Site	Project	Estimated Budget required	Budget available from RBC	Budget available from other	Comments
Borough wide	Appointment of 2 x part time play inclusion officers.	£20,000			Play officers can be advantageous when going for green flag status.
Sharneyford Play Area	Replacement of all equipment with new.				The park is of very low value and is the one park with a high risk item, so although not planned until 2015 this should be brought forward.
Mullards	Removal of existing equipment and replacement with whole new park.	£50,000	£7000 (not play budget)		
Western Road	Surfacing to include all equipment.	£10,000	£9000		Item has been outstanding since year one. A fence has now been erected alongside the ball court.
Loveclough Park	Path work and shelter	£40,000		S106 £40,000	There is some interest in this park and it would be good to keep improvements going while the support is there.
Edenfield play area	Planting	£250	£250		Small scale works to complete the site.
Whitaker Park	Aim for green flag standard	£738,000	£53,000	Various	Revisit initial plans and review feedback from green flag assessment. Draw up plans / works. Will span over the full three years.
Year 5 (2011-12)					
Victoria Park	Improvements to play area.	£700,000		Parks for people £700k	Cllr Morris with Andrea Goodall (communities) is currently trying to establish a friends of group. There is a lot of interest in this park and the first year will be a productive time drawing up plans / gaining ideas.
Rising Bridge	Improvements to play area.	£50k			Funding issue?
Clegg Street	Improvements to equipment.	£15,000	£10,000	GIK £5k	
Worsley Park	Improvements to play area and general works to vegetation.	£40,000	£5000	S106 £12,000 GIK £23,000	
Lumb Play Area	Improvements to equipment.	£100k	£3000		Not previously accounted for in play strategy but RoSPA report makes changes necessary. Funding issue?

Stubbylee Park	Aim for green flag standard	£500k	£10k	Parks for people £400k, other £90k	Revisit initial plans and review feedback from green flag assessment. Draw up plans / works. There are features within the park which may be eligible for heritage lottery funding which should be sought prior to gaining green flag if to potentially be successful.
Year 6 (2012 – 13)					
Station Road, Healey		£100k			Funding issue?
Edgeside Park		£150k			Funding issue?
Moorlands Park	Improvements to play area.	£100k			Funding issue?
Moller Ring Play Area	Improvements to play area.	£100k			Funding issue?
Victoria Park	Aim for green flag standard	£700k		Parks for people £700k	

Items remaining in the 2010 – 15 action plan which are not required until after year 6:

Edenfield Play Area (excluding item shown above), Loveclough park play area, Knowsley Crescent Play Area and Ratcliffe pocket park – review condition of play area in 2013 as still expected to be in good condition and not required for many years.

Edgeside Park Green Flag standard – aim for year 7 (2013-14). There is some interest from residents and working with Lucy Nearney (communities) are aiming to set up an action group and start to make improvements here.

Whitwell Bottom-Youth provision planned for 2013-14.

End of report

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