



PLAY AREA CONSULTATION AND DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN



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INTRODUCTION

Horsley Play Project, Stroud



In November 2021, Stroud District Council (SDC) were successful in gaining £300,000 of funding from Gloucestershire County Council for capital investment into SDC owned play areas to help reduce health inequalities by providing accessible play spaces for all.

The government and Sport England recognise the importance that physical activity has on the health and wellbeing of children and young people. This play area consultation and development action plan is supported by the Leisure & Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2041 and the Green Open Spaces and Green Infrastructure Study 2019.

Stroud District Council manage 21 play areas and 2 Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA) throughout the district, while the General Fund (GF) manage a further 10, including Stratford Park. Stratford Park will not be considered as part of this action plan but included in the feasibility study as part of the Leisure & Wellbeing Strategy Facility Interventions. The feasibility will be taking place at the same time at the Play Action Plan.

This action plan will aim to ensure residents will have good access to high-quality play areas in key locations across the district. It is key that children and young people and relevant external partners are involved in the development of the play areas to ensure that they are fit for purpose and provide exciting opportunities to play.

LOCAL AND NATIONAL CONTEXT

Gloucestershire is generally a healthy county, but not everyone experiences good health and wellbeing and this is influenced by a wide range of factors, including our environment. Gloucestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy support the vision 2050 ambition of Gloucestershire as a place where everyone can live well, be healthy and thrive and set priorities for tackling health inequalities and addressing the wider determinants of health and wellbeing in our communities including physical activity, mental wellbeing, social isolation and loneliness and health lifestyles.

The National Planning Policy Framework identifies achieving sustainable development has three overriding objectives, economic (including identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure); social (to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that support communities' health, social and cultural wellbeing) and environment (to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, and mitigating and adapting to climate change).

Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. Therefore the emerging Stroud District Local Plan and its accompanying evidence base has sought to not only to protect existing facilities but going forward plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as meeting places, sports venues and open space) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities. Policies seek to enable and support healthy lifestyles through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling. (Source: NPPF paragraphs 8, 84, 93, 98-100)

The council has completed a comprehensive audit of recreation provision across the district which is set out in the Stroud District Open Space, Green Infrastructure, Sport & Recreation Study 2019. Having regard to existing provision, local views through surveys and stakeholder engagement and nation best practice, this major study has recommended defining new local minimum standard for play, recreation, space and build indoor sports facilities which have been incorporated into the Local Plan. This information will be key when considering the development of play areas.

The action plan will consider the relevant advice and guidance of the Fields in Trust Policy Framework and Plan Inclusive Play Area (PiPA), which have been created to assist local authorities, architect, planners as well as families with disabled children to created inclusive outdoor play areas as well as accessing installed play areas.

Cashes Green, Stroud



Fig 1. Uniting the Movement - Sport England

THE **BIG** ISSUES

RECOVER AND REINVENT

Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

POSITIVE EXPERIENCES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.



CONNECTING WITH HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.



ACTIVE ENVIRONMENTS

Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.



Sport England's has a number of priorities of which tackling inactivity and providing positive experiences for children and young people (see fig 1) are just two of. This action plan can support these priorities with improved play areas offering a range of inclusive and accessible equipment.

One of Stroud District Council's Leisure & Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2041 key priorities is to promote the use of outdoor play as a way for people to be physically active, improve their mental health and wellbeing so this will be taken into consideration when putting the action plan into practice.

THE FIELDS IN TRUST FRAMEWORK



The framework set out the required provision of outdoor sport, play and informal open space to ensure that it is:

- Of sufficient size to enable effective use
- Located in an accessible location and in close proximity to dwellings
- Of a quality to maintain longevity and to encourage its continued use.
- The provision of Equipped or Designated Play Spaces is as follows:
- Local Areas for Play (LAPs) and informal play; aimed at very young children
- Locally Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs) and informal recreation; aimed at children who can go out to play independently; and
- Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs) and informal recreation, and provision for children and young people
- These can be complemented by other facilities including Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and skateboard parks etc.



Fields in Trust provides guidance for open space and equipped play areas. These are subject to local circumstances and planning consideration.

Table1: Quantity requirements per 1,000 population, the indicative walking distances and the quality guideline.

Open Space typology	Quality Guideline	Walking Guideline	Quality Guideline
Playing Pitches	1.20	1,200m (15 min. walk)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality appropriate to the intended level of performance, designed to appropriate technical standards • Located where they are of most value to the community to be served • Sufficiently diverse recreational use for the whole community • Appropriately landscaped • Maintained safely and to the highest possible condition with available finance • Positively managed taking account of the need to repair and replacement overtime as necessary • Provision of ancillary facilities and equipment • Provision of footpaths • Designed so as to be free of the fear of harm or crime
All Outdoor Sports	1.60	1,200m (15 min. walk)	
Equipped/designated play areas	0.25	LAPs- 100m (1-2min. walk) LEAPs- 400m (5 min. walk) NEAPS- 1,000m (10-15min. walk)	
Other outdoor provision (MUGAs and skateboard parks)	0.30	700m (10 min. walk)	



Table 2 - General design principles for children's play areas

Children's Play Council's Quality Assessment Tool

Appropriate to the needs of the local community	Visible from nearby dwellings or well used pedestrian routes
Accessible for every child within the appropriate walking time for LAP, LEAP and NEAP	Accessible by footpaths with a firm surface
Sited in open, welcoming locations	Surfaced in a manner fitting the intensity of use
Separated from areas of major vehicle movements and accessible directly from pedestrian routes	Provided with seating for accompanying adults, carers and siblings
Sited on land of natural topography or on land capable of being landscaped for the type of play experiences intended	Designed to provide a stimulating and challenging play experience that may include equipment and other features providing opportunities for balancing, rocking, climbing, overhead activity, sliding swinging, jumping, crawling, rotating, imaginative play, social play, play with natural materials such as sand and water, ball games, wheeled areas of other activities
Designed in accordance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, 1995 *	Designed, manufactured, installed and maintained in accordance with European Standards EN1176 and EN1177 in respect of any play equipment provided; if any equipment is non-compliant to those standards then it should be audited and approved on a risk assessment basis by a competent third party.
Designed so that any high climbing structures are as far away as possible for nearby dwellings and any potential visual intrusion is minimised	All equipped play areas should be subject to an independent post-installation inspection
Integrated , as far as possible, with other open spaces and areas of amenity planting, to provide separation from nearby dwellings	Accessible without having to cross main roads, railways or waterways

PLAN INCLUSIVE PLAY AREA (PIPA)

PiPA sets out guidance for inclusive design to consider more than just access into a space as providing play activities that engage all is vital. The PiPA assessment tool not only helps the Council to design play areas but also to assess existing play areas. The assessment tool helps local authorities to understand a wide range of disabilities without being an expert, so that the public are offered the best inclusive provision.

Some children find it easier to engage with play areas more than others. Consider a wheelchair user when faced with a traditional play park – or think about how a busy, brightly coloured and noisy space must feel for a child with Autism.

The action plan will try to apply the PiPA community standards across all of the play areas.



PiPA provide some tips when designing inclusive play areas such as:

- Clear route through the playground. Ideally there should be 2 or more routes so there is interest in moving around the space.
- A variety of accessible high points, these can be landscaped mounds, decks and climbing units.
- Incorporating sensory play, this is the most accessible type of play for everyone and is often ignored in play space design. Think about offering visual, sound and tactile opportunities.
- Ensure at least one of your moving items is highly accessible, the most accessible and inclusive item available on the market is a ground flush roundabout
- Locating dynamic pieces in easy reach of entrance points and access routes.
- Where children may not be able to access a challenging climbing unit, ensure they can get close, ideally with a route that allows them to be in the heart of the action if they so choose.
- For a site to be truly inclusive it still needs to provide challenge to those children who require it!
- Water and Sand offer the most fantastic play experiences, where possible use! A hardstanding access point to a sand space increases inclusion
- Sensory experiences are vital. Children love sound, touch, smell and visual stimulation.
- Some quiet areas that have gentle sensory experiences benefit young children or children who need time out away from high tempo action

Stratford Park, Stroud



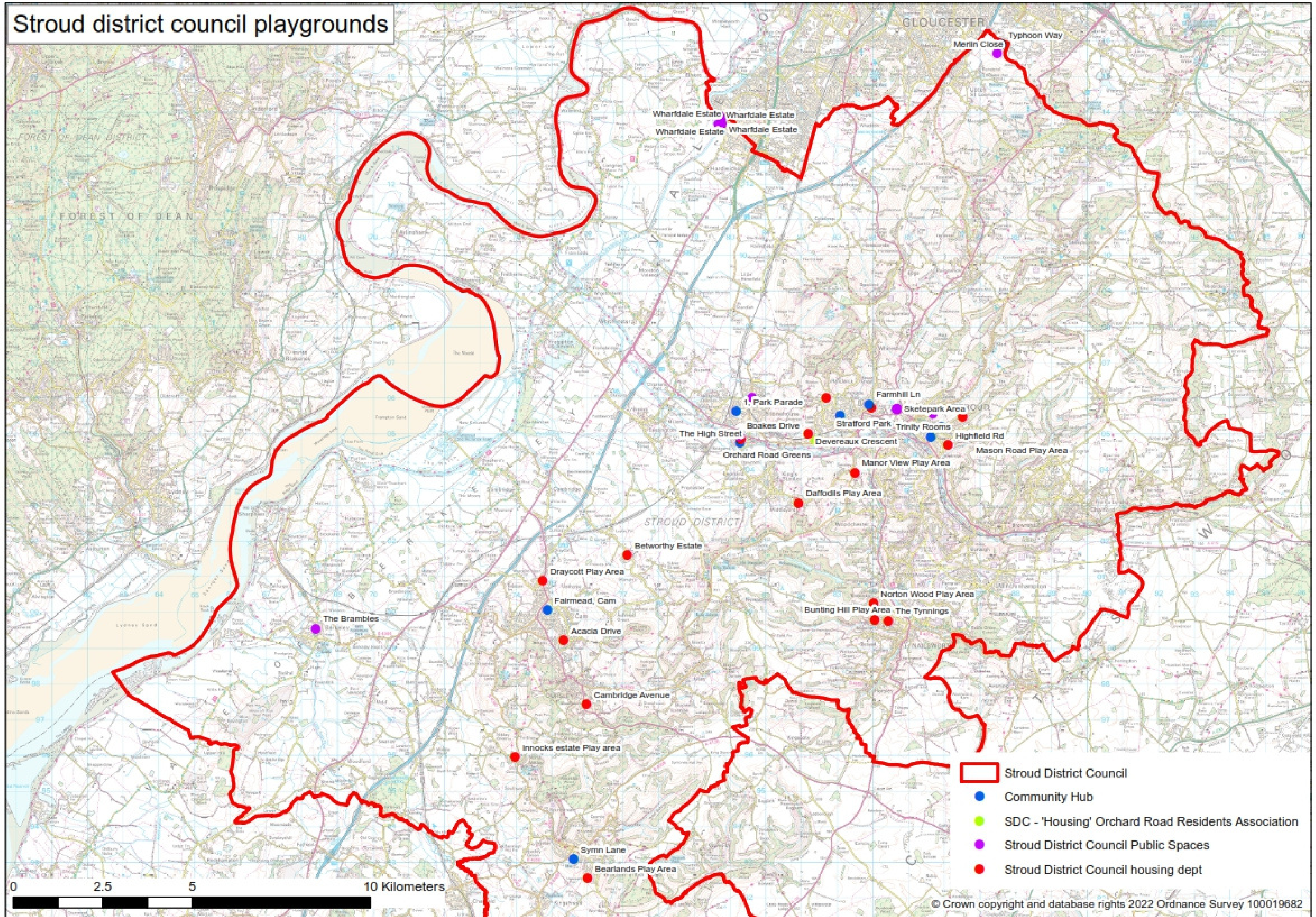
LIST OF STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL OWNED PLAY AREAS

Play Area	Town/Parish Council	General Fund (GF)/ Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	Play Area	Town/Parish Council	General Fund (GF)/ Housing Revenue Account (HRA)
Acacia Drive Play Area	Dursley	HRA	Archway Garden Play Area	Stroud	HRA
Bearlands Play Area	Wotton-Under Edge	HRA	Betworthy Estate Play Area	Cam	HRA
Blackwell Close Play Area	Stonehouse	GF	Boakes Drive Play Area	Stonehouse	GF
Bunting Hill Play Area	Nailsworth	HRA	Bunting Hill MUGA	Nailsworth	HRA
Cambridge Avenue Play Area	Dursley	HRA	Daffodils Play Area	Kings Stanley	HRA
Devereaux Crescent Play Area	Cainscross	HRA	Draycott Play Area	Cam	HRA
Highfield Road Play Area	Dursley	HRA	Innocks Estate Play Area	North Nibley	HRA
Little Mill Court Play Area	Stroud	GF	Manor View Play Area	Kings Stanley	GF
Mason Road Play Area and Skate Ramps (part of Bisley old Road Playing Field)	Stroud	HRA	Martyn Close Play Area	Upton St Leonards	GF

CONT.

Play Area	Town/Parish Council	General Fund (GF)/ Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	Play Area	Town/Parish Council	General Fund (GF)/ Housing Revenue Account (HRA)
Merlin Close Play Area	Upton St Leonards	GF	Norton Wood Play Area	Nailsworth	HRA
Orchard Road Play Area	Cainscross	HRA	Pitman Place Play Area	Wotton Under Edge	HRA
Queens Drive Play Area	Cainscross	HRA	Stratford Park Play Areas (multiple)	Stroud	GF
Summer Crecent/Street Play Area	Stroud	HRA	The Brambles Play Area	Berkeley	GF
The Tynings Play Area	Minchinhampton	HRA	Westrip Place Play Area	Randwick	HRA
Wharfdale Way Play Area	Stonehouse	HRA	Wharfdale Estate 1	Hardwicke	GF
Wharfdale Estate 2	Hardwicke	GF	Wharfdale Estate 3	Hardwicke	GF
Wharfdale Estate 4	Hardwicke	GF			

Stroud district council playgrounds



CURRENT SUPPLY AGAINST THE STROUD DISTRICT STANDARDS

The table below shows the existing supply (in hectares) of open space for each typology for each of the Parishes. The supply is calculated using the population figures for each Parish, and the quantity of open space compared to what the requirements for open space are against the standards set³⁴.

Those parishes with less than 1000 people (or 500 people for children’s play space) have been greyed out in the table below, to reflect where a parish would not be expected to meet the quantity standard for a particular typology due to it’s population size.

The figures of ‘Park and Recreation Grounds (Combined)’ includes a combination of the following typologies:

- Park and Recreation Ground; and
- Outdoor Sport (Fixed).

**Supply by Parish (hectares) against the Stroud quantity standards (Stroud District Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study
(Main Report – part 1 of 2 pg 122-123)**

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Greenspace	Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Play (child)	Play (Youth)	Population (2017 ONS mid-year estimate)
Berkeley	-0.72	-0.37	-0.57	-0.03	-0.12	2044
Cainscross	0.88	-1.14	-2.11	-0.13	-0.26	6993
Cam	-1.34	0.08	-2.65	-0.29	-0.29	8458
Dursley	-2.2	0.16	-3.08	-0.23	-0.26	7424
Hardwicke	-0.68	3	-3.99	-0.09	-0.3	5113

Parish	Allotments	Amenity Greenspace	Parks and Recreation Grounds (combined)	Play (child)	Play (Youth)	Population (2017 ONS mid-year estimate)
Kings Stanley	-0.58	-1	-0.37	0.15	0.12	2496
Nailsworth	-0.52	-0.33	-4.33	0.02	-0.28	5760
North Nibley	-0.32	-0.36	0.53	-0.04	-0.05	901
Randwick and Westrip	-0.42	-0.59	2.14	-0.01	-0.09	1470
Stonehouse	-2.83	-0.53	-1.25	-0.1	-0.28	8074
Stroud	-0.29	-3.38	8.62	0.14	-0.61	13709
Upton St Leonards	0.61	1.76	-0.94	0.01	-0.12	2851
Wotton-under-Edge	-0.43	-0.41	3.78	-0.11	-0.02	5752

VISION

"Stroud District Council aims to plan and manage high quality, accessible play spaces that positively contributes to the wellbeing of the community it serves"



Snakey Park, Stroud

The plan will aim to achieve the following:

- The play areas are Well Designed to encourage play and community cohesion.
- The play areas are Well Located where possible near to other community facilities and good pedestrian and cycle networks.
- The play areas are Well Regarded to ensure the communities value the sites and have ownership of them and are engaged in the redesign and maintenance of the spaces.

Play improves the cognitive, physical, social, and emotional well-being of children and young people. Through play, children learn about the world and themselves.

ACTION PLAN STRUCTURE

STAGE 1

Physical Condition Survey

A review of all SDC owned play areas will be conducted by ROSPA.

STAGE 2

Insight

Understanding the community around the play areas including current user profile, demographics now and future, activity levels, current budget provision.

STAGE 3

Identify

How the insight can be delivered including an Management options appraisal, play area investment and links to community delivery and community hubs.

STAGE 4

Commitment

Secure commitment to the identified play areas that will receive capital investment and redevelopment.

STAGE 1

Physical Condition Survey

Task	Time Frame	Resource/Lead Officer
To complete a ROSPA inspection of all SDC owned Play Areas.	March-April 2022	Officer Time ROSPA Inspectors
To produce a report based upon ROSPA finding and site visits on SDC owned Play Areas	April 2022	Officer Time
To conduct site visits in partnership with SDC Neighbourhood Warden & Neighbourhood Management Officer	April 2022	Officer Time
To create an up to date inventory of all equipment on SDC owned Play Areas	April 2022	Officer Time
To establish a task and finish group to support the delivery of the Play Area Consultation and Development Action Plan	April 2022	Officer Time Councillor Time

STAGE 2

Task	Time Frame	Resource
To appoint an external company to conduct a comprehensive consultation with key stakeholders	April 2022	Office time
To work in partnership with appointed consultants and key community VSC organisations to complete consultation events on SDC owned play areas	May-July 2022	Officer Time Consultants Time VSC Organisations, Community Hubs
To work in partnership with appointed consultants to complete consultation events with Town and Parish councils	May-July 2022	Officer Time Consultants Time Town and Parish Councils
To work in partnership with appointed consultants to complete consultation events with residents who live close to SDC owned play areas.	May-July 2022	Officer Time Consultants Time Residents
To review Sport England's "Active Lives Data" to help evaluate the current activity levels in each parish listed on pages 9-10	April 2022	Officer Time
To complete a comprehensive evaluation following the ROSPA inspections taking into consideration the evidence from the Open Spaces and Green Infrastructure Study relation to supply by parish	April 2022	Officer Time
To set up a youth voice focus group in partnership with SDC Youth Council to ensure that young peoples views and options are sought during the action plans life span.	April 2022	Officer Time SDC Youth Council Members

STAGE 3

Identify

Project/Intervention	Time Frame	Resource
To create "key finding/key messages " that outlining the insight and data gathered for each SDC owned play area consultation including local and national data.	July-August 2022	Officer Time
To conduct an options management appraisal and make recommendations for future management.	July-August 2022	Officer Time
To create a set of recommendations for the development of SDC owned Play areas for Community Services and Licencing Committee to consider.	September 2022	Officer Time

Commitment

STAGE 4

Project/Intervention	Time Frame	Resource
To implement the decision approved by CSL committee for the development of identified SDC owned play areas.	October 2022	Officer Time
To develop a list key actions which will indicate the time frame for the development of SDC owned play areas.	October 2022	Officer Time
To complete the development for indentified SDC owned play areas	October 2022-March 2023	Officer Time
To hold further discussion with Town and Parish Council about the ongoing management		