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Great Shelford Playscape – initial Consultation 2015

Great Shelford Playscape has conducted focus groups and consultations with many interested parties in the Village to ascertain their likes, dislikes, needs and wishes for the recreation ground. This document records the results of each meeting. We also launched an online questionnaire – the results of this are recorded separately – and had a stall at the Feast in July with an opportunity for people to write their thoughts on post-it notes too.

Groups consulted so far are:

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Beavers Focus Group (aged 6-7) – 14th April 2015



Welcomed by Bree who had already set the 15 Beavers a “draw your dream playground” challenge, standing at tables outside. Holly Barr and Eleanor McCrone went and talked with each table about their designs and places they’ve loved playing in. It should be noted that not all designed playgrounds, others created solar-powered flying and diving machines, dream houses that would disappear and explosives!

Places they’ve enjoyed playing in:

Centre Parcs, particularly swimming

Alps, swimming in lakes

Parks to play football and tennis

Crab-hunting on a beach in Italy

Playground with a *really* big climbing frame

Sand “love that! Like digging, love rocks! Especially jumping off them”

Like playing on the skate-ramp, like the challenge

Place in Germany that had tree houses, like climbing a tree.

Playgrounds they drew:

Designed hiding places: behind trees and bushes and under a table

Big slide that turned into a waterslide and ended up at a sweet machine

Part 2 – In the playground

Run to your favourite part of the playground and play on it:



Monkey bars – 1

Climbing frame – 4

Slide – 1

Roundabout – 9

Run to your least favourite part of the playground:



Junior swings – 2
 Senior swings – 1
 Hedgehog – 1 (n.b. should probably have excluded this and junior swings)
 Sandpit – 2
 Roundabout – 1
 Slide – 3
 Climbing frame – 1 “not big enough”
 See-saw – 2 “can't move it on own”
 Horse – 1
 Monkey bars – 1

Pick a favourite and least favourite image:

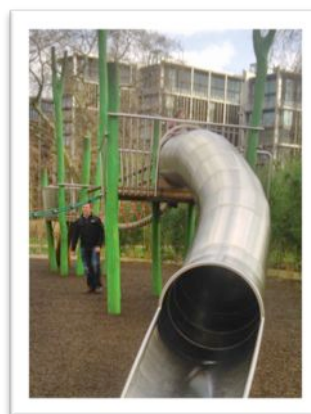
	Favourite	Least Favourite
Evelyn Court, Hackney	6	1
Abbey Gardens Sand	2	3
Abbey Gardens Willow	0	0
Teardrop Park Slide	0	0 (n.b. verbally excited about this one)
Hyde Park slide	4	2
Bewilderwood	4	0
Colourful climbing frame	0	9
Thetford Tree house	0	0

N.b. 15 beavers, one asked for an extra green sticker as couldn't decide

Evelyn court



Hyde Park



Bewilderwood



Scouts Focus Group (aged 12-14) – 14th April 2015



Welcomed by Charles (plus three other leaders) and 11 senior scouts as part of their planning meeting.

Visualisation of a favourite place and why they enjoy playing there:

We showed them some generic pictures of outdoor places (e.g. beach, woods, views etc.) and then talked them through this:

"So, close your eyes and think of a place you went to recently. Somewhere that you really enjoyed playing - either on your own or with your friends. It could be somewhere you went over the Easter holidays, or somewhere you went a different year, or it could be somewhere you go often. It can be anywhere at all that you really enjoyed playing. There might have been grass, or sand, or rocks, or trees, or walls or logs there...now you've thought of the place, think about what you played. Was there any equipment or toys there to play with too? Who else did you play with or did you play on your own? Hold on to that memory and now, open your eyes! Let's take it in turns to tell the rest of your group what you just thought of?"

- Holiday in Cornwall: the beach, swimming, café, family and friends, playing Frisbee, being out all day.
- Harston park (newly refurbished), mini-trampoline you can do tricks on, football against a big wall, atmosphere feels nice: full of families enjoying themselves, climbing rock (lots of agreement around the table) basket swing.
- Tannery Road: zip-wire, tables where you can eat and chat, colourful, nice atmosphere
- Nightingale Park (nr Addenbrookes?) like the circular thing that spins that you try to stay on like the challenge (Kompan angled roundabout?), another liked the exercise machines.
- Making a fire at the end of a friend's garden
- Centre Parcs: mini-beach, cycle paths, picnic benches, climbing walls, obstacle course

- The recreation ground: swings and roundabout but would like an older version as they get started at!
- Park in Italy: There was a McDonalds right on the Park! Somewhere you can get something to eat. Also had cool hollowed out bushes with mini-tracks and a fort with a slide off of it.
- Wimpole Home Farm: The hay maze, really fun that it was so big and you could climb on it.

Favourite thing on Great Shelford Recreation Ground

- River
- Grass and open space
- Forest, trees to climb

Negatives about the Rec

- Basketball hoop – too far away and not enough space for a game, only for shooting practice
- No climbable trees, all lower branches taken off
- Parents “own” the kiddy park – we want to hang out – they want us to move on and “go slowly” for the little ones
- Playground old “not happy”
- People sitting on benches smoking (in the afternoon) makes you feel uncomfortable.

Votes on photos suggestions (ran out of time so chose a selection)

Evelyn Court, Hackney -10

“Love that it is built into the ground, has atmosphere, looks bizarre, it's connected, like an assault course”

Bewilderwood –7 liked the tree stumps as steps, natural features, “the risk of death”(!)

Hyde Park slide - 5

Abbey Gardens Sand & Willow – 5

Excited when they heard there was a tree house too, “proper yellow sand, open space, and natural”

Teardrop Park Slide - 3

liked the challenge of the rocks, and the big slide

Other thoughts:

- BMX track in the woods, cool if a proper one
- (Leader suggestions) brick bbqs like they have on the continent, outdoor table tennis, big rope pyramids.

Guides focus Group – 1st June 2015

Welcomed by the Guide leader Lisa and watched the guides finish off their previous activity which involved wrapping their comrades in newspaper as adventurers! We then sat in a circle, explained a bit about playscape and why we wanted to hear their views and passed round some generic images of natural outdoor spaces to get them thinking (e.g. beach, Wandlebury, bluebells, rocks).

Visualisation of a favourite place and why they enjoy playing there (intro same as one used for scouts):

- Holiday in Scotland: pretty, rivers, trees to climb, trampoline in the garden.
- Newnham park (Lamas land): lots of equipment "things we've not seen before", climbing frames, some challenging, paddling pool, grass and cows!
- Outdoor area next to farm, monkey bars and place to play games like "it" (others enjoyed space just to run around too)
- Walking in Beechwoods, really pretty.
- Shelford rec: didn't play on equipment, but like the expanse of grass so brought blanket for picnic. (N.b. don't like younger children around, guides leave them to it as don't want to be intimidating to little ones). Another guide does like sitting on the swings and watching the little kids.
- Centre Parcs: loved the bluebells and pretty metal benches, enjoyed the views and all the cycle paths
- Swings by a lake one evening, nice place to chat and enjoyed the view.
- Holidays: Lots of hills, streams you can run across, rocks to sit on, v.relaxing, lots of animals & wooded area. Another enjoyed watching the birds.
- Norfolk: indoor space as well, liked the split of older/younger area, seats to sit and chat, big swings, big climbing frames
- Hot tub! Watching the sea, birds and nature.

Favourite thing on Great Shelford Recreation Ground

- Like river and copse, really nice swans
- Everyone uses the skate ramp to sit, slide, scoot, although would like to roller skate and this is too steep.
- Swings and roundabout (although paint chipping)

Negatives about the Rec

- Not much for our age group, often have a picnic (although annoying having younger children running around screaming)
- Looks run down doesn't shout, "hey come and play with me!"
- "Weird horse – what kid wants to ride that!?"
- Nothing unique in the play area e.g. a bright spiders-web something you don't see in every park.
- Like to use the swings, but feel they shouldn't in case they intimidate the younger ones (they remember being scared of teenagers when they were younger), want something they can legitimately go on separately.

Things they'd like

- "Moustache swing" (EM - no idea what that is!)
- Basket swings (v. enthusiastic)
- Fitness trails, roundabout in air
- Spinner, monkey bars that spin, weighing scales, massive climbing frames, zip-wire
- Fordham has really big crates you can climb on.
- Outdoor fitness, e.g. Stapleford, although again annoyed younger kids were playing on it, wanted a strict age limit!
- Duxford Park has a mini-climbing wall, monkey bars and pole, but they're all linked.

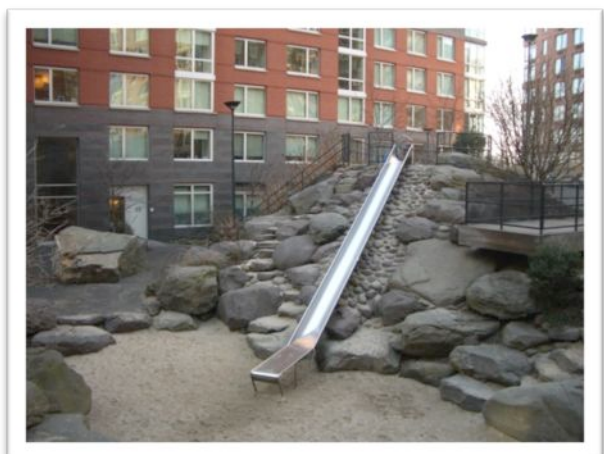
Votes on photos suggestions

Bewilderwood	12	like the logs, alternative, different routes to take
Abbey Gardens	0	
Teardrop Park	12	Cool to climb up or sit on rocks, more exiting, unique
Hyde Park	3	
Evelyn Court	14	Spacious, lots of variety, liked built into a hill "less Likely to hurt yourself"



Evelyn Court, Hackney

Tear Drop Park NYC



Great and Little Shelford School – May 2015

GSP approached Mrs Evans, the head, to ask for an opportunity for a focus group with the school. She took the request to School council and each representative went back to their year group and spent some time thinking about and designing their dream playgrounds. Jeremy Fazal and Eleanor McCrone then attended their next School Council where they presented us with their ideas and designs (200 of them!), from every class, from reception to year 6 (4-11 years).



Jeremy Fazal, looked through all the designs and summarised as follows:

- **Big structures** that you could interact within as well as without were very much in evidence. Boys tended to suggest castles, forts, rockets and also a boat (e.g. Samuel Doubleday in year 5); Girls tended to suggest houses, tree houses, mushrooms and plantlike structures. Dens and tree houses were particularly popular in year 3. These were the centrepieces of the designs, but could be used in a multifunctional way, with many other features (slides, climbing walls, nets) attached or pointing towards them, where groups can branch off (older girls particularly identifying this need).
- There were animalistic structures such as an octopus you can climb inside, or snakes that covered the play area (e.g. Clara and Pippa in year 6).
- **Speed** was a recurring theme: fast moving equipment like zip wires and spinners, were popular across all ages.
- **Water features** were also mentioned by some pupils in each year: water spouts, fountains, small pools, paddling and 'dipping' (i.e. somewhere to splash about with hands).
- Somewhere to get **food and refreshments** was also important across all years. With some acknowledgement that parents etc. need somewhere comfortable to sit and 'be' whilst children are playing!

- **Climbing walls and trampolines** were popular (e.g. Georgia in year 4). As were nets/webbing where children of various abilities can climb and clamber safely.
- Many older (7 years over) boys, possibly influenced by each other, wanted a **sports field to play ball sports** (particularly football), which is where they are focused now, and what they spend a lot of time doing (at school and outside).
- There were some mentions of 'traditional' playground equipment such as swings, slides and rockers, across ages, again possibly influenced by what they currently see in Great Shelford.
- **Themes** existed in some schemes - such as the animals or castles or vehicles mentioned above, as well as tree/forest/fairy type schemes. This wasn't a big driver however.
- Surprisingly little mention of areas to skate/board/cycle, maybe these children were too young, and not had much exposure to such schemes.
- Colour was only mentioned by a minority.
- In general it was obvious that many designs were influenced by their peers - i.e. several designs were very similar (presumably they'd sat next to each other), with their recent/most memorable experiences influencing what they felt a playground should be.

Conclusion

In conclusion, a cohesive scheme that could be used flexibly, with places to break off to and congregate in groups would seem to tick the boxes. The theme is probably not super important, but probably needs to be 'flexible' enough to be appealing to all - i.e. would all girls want to play in a rocket ship with guns, similarly how many boys would want to play in a fairy-themed scheme? There should be some exhilarating, fast equipment too, with variety of interaction opportunity, as well as challenge (climbing walls/nets). Seating and refreshments (to keep adults happy!) should be considered too.

Notes From SSYI meeting- 8th May 2015

The SSYI (Shelford and Stapleford Youth Initiative) is a Christian charity to support local young people. Effectively there is a youth club that meets upstairs at the memorial hall on a Friday night, run by Youth workers and volunteers. Holly Barr and Eleanor McCrone went along to meet Ollie Leonard. He introduced us to the young people there and invited people to come and chat with us. About a third took up the invitation.

Spoke with four 13 – 14 year-olds, 2 female, 2 male and with two keen bmxers 16+ (their comments in blue)

General feedback about the rec

Shelford rec is 'broken'. Green Shelter – too far from the ramp and impossible to sit on! Like they don't want you to sit there.

They would like a bigger climbing frame for bigger kids

They like to sit on the monkey bars, slide and the roundabout to chat.

Would like to paddle in the river but broken glass in there.

When asked: "do you feel welcomed?" a: Old people think we're thugs, others are ok.

Response to photo examples

Liked the natural features, the willow at abbey gardens picture and the climbing wall at bewilderwood. Loved the sandpit (picture of Abbey gardens) It's like being at the beach, especially if there was water there too.

Also the slide in New York 'it's big like our slide'!

Other places or elements they like

A food out let 'can we get the kebab van to come down there?'

Like the Cherry Hinton Hall sandpit and pools,

Very enthusiastic about basket swings.

Would like some form of nets down by the river so that when playing ball games balls don't end up in wood or river. At Whittlesford they are allowed to move the goals around to suit them as long as they put them back afterwards

Other than the skate ramp they made the BMX track in the woods, but now been kicked down & private notices up, want something like that again. When not bmxing they like to socialise down by the river – jump in and swim too!

An astro pitch for ball games so that it is not a problem if wet as this would not get muddy.

I Like Hunstanton there is an adventure playground there where people do free running and BMX and a skate park.

Used to like the park at Bar Hill but the skate ramp was removed [may be wise to find out what went wrong with this facility.]

Skate Ramps

"There's no variation, need boxes, quarters, transfers, rails, more travel through"

The top of the skate ramp where you 'land' is not strong enough, dented due to impact of bikes and scooters.

Ickleton have a good skate park with grind bars. Chesterford, Saffron Walden, Hills Rise St.Ives has a good ramp. Bury St Edmund's is great, has a huge variation.

The SSYI really enjoyed helping to design and paint the skate ramp – gives a sense of ownership. "Painting was pointless!" – think this opinion was out of frustration that the bigger issues (like the disrepair) weren't addressed.

Ideally would like a skate park for a variety of different abilities so that people can learn.

Vandalism / antisocial behaviour.

Would like CCTV covering entire park so that 'they would feel safe':

After speaking to adults and teenagers at the SSYI it is apparent that there is an issue with smoking / underage drinking and drug use on the rec which is 'not going to go away'. They tend to go the far side of the pavilion out of CCTV range or on the green round seat near the football club store. Young people are not allowed in the SSYI if they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol but the youth workers are there if the young people need assistance/support.

The children's play area in the past has been vandalised (swings/roundabout), graffiti / set fire to. Important to give the young people a sense of pride and ownership so that they look after the new facility. SSYI group leaders were really pleased that we had consulted the SSYI and would like to help with further focus groups later down the design timeline.

Local BMXers who had contacted GSP - 15th May 2015

Great Shelford Rec, skate ramp

Ollie Leonard (Romsey Mill Youth development worker) and Eleanor McCrone (GSP) met with Guillaume, Wilf, Tom & Harry, Sawston students and keen riders after Guillaume had contacted GSP after reading Village News piece.



Notes

- They travel by train to Great Chesterford or cycle to Foxton to use the skate park.
- Tom (v.committed to riding, Thriplow resident) rides everyday (whilst also fitting in hockey and tennis for Essex)
- Tom involved with the Foxton skate park project, very clued up with the costs (i.e. materials relatively cheap, but the construction and insurance costs are what push the price up)
- The others often only ride at weekends when they can get parents to drop them off at skate parks.
- They use the rec for football, swimming in the river, socialising "if they cleared the area out [copse/river], made it look nice with benches and had more rubbish bins, it could be a good social area"
- They would like to hang out all day, but things like the uninviting shelter don't help.
- They would like the skate ramp to be re-done in metal and concrete, expanded to include bowls, a bank etc., a design that invites different ages and abilities.
- Was talk that the skate ramp wasn't ideally located & would be better by the basketball hoop (e.g. because if bowls were added and tennis balls got in that could be dangerous). EM explained the historic reasons behind it's situation and the advantages of it being by the car park (a natural place for them to bike too)
- When asked why it's important to address the skate area:
"It increases outdoor time for kids which is dwindling all the time - a lot of kids would rather play FIFA than actual football"
- Tom has been involved in creating various "pump tracks" in places such as Thriplow and Little Shelford and they were enthusiastic about spaces that they can dig and build their own tracks, places they can invest in and make their own. All sad that the pump track in the woodland now knocked down (again EM explained that it's technically on private land unfortunately).
- EM thanked them for their time and explained that Jegar Pitchforth was now leading consultation with the skate/bmx community and to all keep in touch if anything else occurs to them. [N.b. JP has since moved so all skating consultation has moved back to info@...]

Meeting with Shelford Cricket Club (CC) – 18th June 2015

Attended by Holly Barr (GSP) Duncan Grey (GSP), Brian Higgins and Paul Ellum



Safety nets

There has recently been a meeting between the CC and the PC risk assessment person (Barry Ashurst). It is recommended that there be some high green wire-fencing (like that around the tennis court) put round the corner of the current play area nearest to the pavilion to stop balls from cricket entering the play area. This will happen in time for the next cricket season. Some high nets (10ft) will be put on top of the pavilion to stop cricket balls entering the bowls club. It does not seem feasible or necessary to add similar nets to cover the current play area.

Storage

The Cricket club needs storage for their 3 wicket rain covers (currently only have storage for 2), their practice nets, white end nets. This is currently stored to the left of the pavilion, which the CC appreciates, as there is CCTV there. There has been 1 incident of the covers being dragged out of the storage area by youths messing around. There is concern that if the equipment was moved for storage elsewhere it may be vandalised. Ideally they would be behind a locked gate (like the football goals), and under a roof. The CC feels that the CCTV definitely acts as a deterrent to antisocial behaviour around the pavilion. It was suggested there should be some signs on the pavilion indicating that CCTV was in use.

The CC would like the rain covers to be near the pavilion, as 1 person has to drag the covers on if it rains. So they need to be near to the pitch. All space to the east and west of the pavilion (adjacent to the current playground) is currently used by either football or cricket clubs to store their outdoor equipment.

The CC shares a 'cupboard' in the front of the pavilion with the FC (locked doors in the wooden façade). This is not big enough for their 14 chairs, table, scoreboards, advertising boards, kit bags, wickets, ropes flags. etc. The cupboard has no shelving so the space is not effectively used. Also there is a large secured covered walkway to the changing rooms at the back of the pavilion with plenty of room for large lockers / storage. HB suggested CC look into this as a solution for their kit storage problem.

Pavilion

The pavilion has mains water, drainage, sewerage and electricity. Internet access has been considered.

The CC showed us the front area of the pavilion under the roof. The grass is in very poor condition, worn away and dried out by use and the overhanging roof and the

ground is uneven. It looks untidy compared with the smartness of the pavilion. Some seating (suggested long benches) under the cover and some paving / decking / planting would improve the appearance and provide seating not just for players and spectators but also for the general public.

The access to the pavilion on the play area side has a ramp going up but not going down to the bowls club (they do however have a portable ramp, added recently.) Disabled access must be via three doors in the pavilion, while the ramp would enable direct access from the recreation ground. There is evidence that this was a late cost cutting measure and deserves to be improved.

The toilets in the pavilion are used by the general public using the play area when the pavilion is open on cricket match days.

General rec use

In terms of the field space the CC felt that this was currently well used. It was confirmed that Shelford Strikers FC used the second football pitch nearest the copse regularly – mainly Sundays -. It is important to be clear of the boundaries of the second pitch.

The CC also say the basketball hoop and football board and green sheltered seating are being used on a regular basis when they are there training in the evenings. Feeding the ducks by younger children and swimming / cavorting by older youngsters is common along the riverbank in summer.

There are adequate numbers of bins and benches though additional benches near the pavilion would be useful.

Other issues included Litter and dog fouling. The question of The Grange Field, or access along the riverbank was not addressed.

Ideas:

- Could the storage area where the football nets are be reconfigured to include the cricket equipment (there is CCTV there), there is a lot of unused space there, however it looks like access to the bowls green there too for vehicles?
[N.b. see bowls notes below]
- Perhaps there could be rotating storage depending on the season?
- Could there be another secure storage area on the rec for FC and CC equipment for the part of the season when it is not in use?
- The tarmac path stops as it reaches the pavilion and there is only grass eastward down to the river. Could a continuation of that path extend to at least the east end of the pavilion? We note that the narrowest point is where the hedge of the house off Woodlands Avenue is close to the cricket pitch boundary (where the goals are stored and there is maintenance access to the bowls green.
- As plans become clearer it would be useful to speak to Seamus the Village Man, for another perspective on use of the recreation ground and its regular maintenance.

Feast tour – 10th July 2015

Eleanor McCrone and Vaila Morrison met with Duncan Grey (GSP and Secretary of the Shelford Feast) to have a walk around and measure up the set-up of the Feast. This will be marked up properly on a scale site plan, however the main considerations for the feast are:

- Space for the big marquee and security fencing.
- The only vehicle access onto the rec during the feast week is past the skate ramp and along the playground rails. This can get very muddy very quickly after rain.
- One of the hog roast spits sits on the ground, so if there were to be hard standing here it would need to be heat resistant.
- The green container unit is their main storage area, there is however space behind it and it could perhaps be swung round 90 degrees to free up some space.
- The green railings (especially the corner nearest the footpath) restrict the access.
- The Main tent needs to be close enough to the Memorial Hall as that's where they get their power and water.



Container unit.



Security fencing in line with hall, skip and hog roast on grass up against tennis fence, main vehicle access onto rec for the week.



Main vehicle access onto rec for the week, between railings and catering tent.



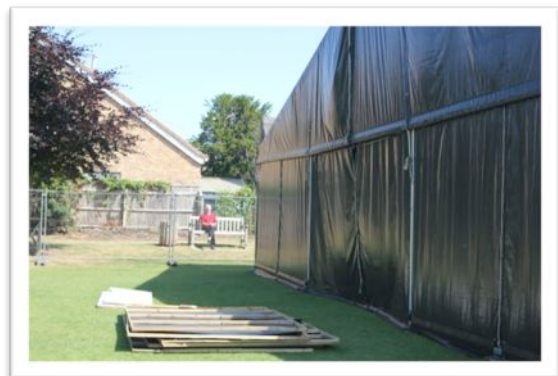
View of main tent, covered seating areas, catering tent, and tennis courts and playground to the right.



View of main tent, and catering tent through security fencing from skate ramp.



Water and mains supplies from memorial hall. Behind the scenes area, no public access



End of tent in line with bench and building, but security fencing further out.

Bowls AGM - 11th August 2015

Eleanor McCrone and Jeremy Fazal represented GSP

We were welcomed by the Bowls committee and spent twenty minutes with them explaining more about the Playscape project and listening to particular concerns or wishes that they have regarding the recreation ground.

Supportive of Playscape

They were very supportive of the Playscape initiative and enjoy seeing children and young people playing on the rec.

Access to the Pavilion

As a club they are very self-contained, with all their equipment stored on site and refreshments taken in their clubhouse. The only thing they need the pavilion for is access to toilets, which in theory they have to walk around back through their gate and up the steps to the main door. If another club is in the pavilion they are allowed to go through the French doors, however, if there is a meeting they can't disturb so they need to go back round.

Access issues

The club has no problem having to go through the main door, but there are a lot of changes in height/steps involved to go back round the side and many members find that difficult. There is a temporary ramp that can be put up, but this is not ideal. One solution would be to extend the walkway from the top of the Pavilion ramp, wrap it around the corner and put a new entrance gate there, thus keeping everything on one level.

The other access issues are due to the storage of cricket and football nets.

The cricket nets block the pedestrian entrance and the football nets block the double gates the other side, which should be left clear for emergency services. With the cricket ball incident fresh in everyone's minds, the ambulance really ought to be able to park right up at the bowl's fencing. Their external contractor also needs access to these gates for unloading heavy machinery and currently there isn't enough room to reverse and park down the side because of the football nets.

When both types of net were kept over by the shared storage hut it suited the bowls club better.

Security

Their most valuable asset is the green. If it were to be vandalised it would take a very long time to repair. Anyone who is in the Pavilion can walk straight out onto the green. A suggestion was made to keep the doors locked unless someone from the club is there. Spectators are very welcome to come and watch.

Football Club - 19th August 2015

Holly Barr and Eleanor McCrone met with Tony Holden, Secretary of the football club. Tony explained to us how the football club works and what their needs are as a club.



How the club works:

- 1st team and reserves play Saturdays, Veterans and Ladies play Sunday mornings, all on the top pitch (nearest the car park)
- Strikers (the youth football club) use the bottom pitch.
- Football nets belong to the PC.
- Things they need to store: portable dugouts, advertising boards (8' x 3'), nets/goals, training kit etc.
- They won the league last year so now in the premier league.

Issues:

- Pavilion is nice but there aren't any lockers or shelves to store kit, cups are filthy so they resort to buying catering cups.
- Had incident where young people carried the goals up and over the locked gate.
- 2 concrete strips were put down for the football nets to be wheeled on. However in practice this is hard to keep the wheels on and it's impossible for the grass to be mown around it, so by the end of the cricket season you can't get the goals out because they've been grassed in effectively. A full tarmacked/hard standing area would work much better.
- Parking – finding spaces for teams and spectators.

Wishes:

- One place to store everything safely, vandal proof. A shipping container would do, could probably get the goals in too.
- If Grange field ever becomes part of the rec, some floodlights would be great.
- If tennis club ever move, it would be a perfect all weather training facility for the club.

Other points:

- The pitch is one of the best around, however the provision is small for the size of the village (e.g. Histon has 10 football pitches).

Shelford Strikers Football Club –19th September 2015

Met with John Gilchrist Team manager of the local youth team and three representatives: Henry, Thomas and Thierry, all 13.

What do you do on the rec?

Sit and chat by the river and on the benches, play football. Come down three or four times a week.

Any issues for you on the rec?

- Would like some football goals (for when not playing with Strikers). They do use the football wall, but if you miss you have to find the ball in the trees. Would like a bigger wall, or at a different angle (although not so that balls end up in the river).
- Dogs out of control on pitches - have had issues with people being bitten. Perhaps could have a sign/rule whereby dogs should be kept on leads during matches. The new private land signs push dog walkers onto the pitch where as previously they tended to head down the woodland path down to the river.
- The shared lock-up/cupboard in the pavilion: confusion as to whose things are whose, things disappear (like their orange corner flags). JG stores the footballs himself because of this.
- John Swinton mentioned via email that there was no access to the defibrillator during matches as it's locked in the Pavilion, however this is now being addressed directly with the PC.

What would you like on the rec?

- Climbing provision, would really like something you could climb/challenging
- Trampoline
- Shelter, would be nice to have some shade for spectators near the 2nd pitch
- Skating/bmxing, a place for kids to learn on.



Great Shelford Tennis Club - October 21st 2015

Eleanor McCrone and Holly Barr met with the Chair Lydia Seymour and Jacky in the clubhouse.



The tennis club has a membership of c.400 and leases the tennis courts from the PC. They will have two new courts in Hauxton for the more serious players/matches, but the courts on the rec will retain the family club feel. They use the area outside their clubhouse (entrance strip) for bbqs and their annual tennis club day. The TC would be keen to facilitate a joint sports open day with all the clubs on the rec for everyone to have a go at sport and have fun.

Supportive of Playscape

Both members were very supportive of improving the rec and particularly the play provision "the nicer the rec, the better for us". They like having the play area right next to the courts as their children can play whilst waiting for the adults to finish their tennis matches. It is important to the club to offer a nice environment for both members and visiting teams.

Issues

- **Toilets:** The club has a kitchen, but no toilets, so they have a key for the Pavilion. The most direct route would be between the courts and the bowls club, however, the gate put up to stop general access to the bowls club is often locked, so members have to go all the way around the tennis courts and playground to access the toilets. This of course is not ideal (and many men don't bother making the trip and instead use behind the club house!). Suggestions were: move the gate or have a number lock for easy access, or put in gates the other side of the courts giving direct access into the playground and then through to the pavilion.
- **Entrance to the club:** Muddy, broken slabs around the skate ramp and no lighting once the floodlights are switched off for exit. [EM – also not obvious for visitors where the entrance is] Would be nice to have a sign outside the club, indeed a signpost at the car park for all clubs would help.
- **Playground railings:** to maintain the floodlights they require access for a cherry picker into the playground, however it can't get through the gate.

Other points

- Teenagers congregate round the floodlights – this can be intimidating – although generally fine. Suggestion: light a hangout area/shelter for them.
- The tennis fences are often used as football goals, which is mainly just a distraction, however a permanent goal for footballers would be good.
- EM asked if in principle something could be done to the windbreak/fence running along the side of the playground to make it look more attractive (e.g. coloured netting, or art work etc.). They didn't see why not and agreed it could look better.

Memorial Hall Committee – 23rd November 2015

Eleanor McCrone and Duncan Grey (member of both committees) met with the Memorial Hall Committee (Simon Sparrow, Sheila Tilbury-Davis, Wendy Seekings, Dorothy Dole, Helen Chubb and Barry Ashurst), to listen to any concerns or ideas they have for playscape.



The two major concerns for the hall committee, not surprisingly, are **car parking and toilets**.

Car park

- There is a pressure on car parking in Great Shelford in general especially when there are multiple events on in the hall and recreation ground. So, more car parking spaces somehow would be helpful.
- There was also talk that in theory the memorial hall car park should be for users of the memorial hall only [n.b. EM – this is not widely understood locally], suggestion that there could be a marked area for users of the hall.
- No clear sight lines if exiting the car park from exit nearest the deli. Suggested one-way system/separate in and out to improve visibility and safety.
- Currently not a separate pedestrian entrance, again a safety and aesthetic issue.
- Grass blocks for overspill where skate ramp is?

As a whole the car park doesn't create an enticing introduction to the rec and is "not cherished". It needs to make the rec more inviting.

Toilets

- It would be good to do a Quantity Survey style exercise to determine how many public loos there ought to be available for area/number of people. Currently the MH feels the pressure when there is no access to loos on the rec [which happens anytime there is not a team playing as the pavilion is locked then].

Other points

- The Feast green container is essential for Feast activities (though not necessarily that container and not necessarily there)
- The boiler house is immovable
- The Playscape initiative needs to make clear that it is for all generations