

UPDATE ON THE PUBLIC PLAY FACILITIES STRATEGY

Report by Service Director Assets & Infrastructure

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

27 August 2020

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 Following the meeting Scottish Borders Council on 19 December 2019, this report sets out the process and outcomes of engagement with Ward Members on proposals for the decommissioning of some play equipment in some play parks within the Scottish Borders, as agreed.**
- 1.2 The strategic review of Play facilities is integral to the planned future investment in Outdoor Community Spaces including Public Play parks, agreed as part of the 2018/19 Capital Investment Plan and updated within the Capital Investment Plan 2019-20 and 2020/21. The current 2020/21 capital budget includes funding of £4.809m into Outdoor Community Spaces over a 10-year period. This investment aims to unlock community aspirations in this area creating high quality destination play parks, as well as facilities for skating and small wheels, youth shelters and opportunities for people of all ages to take part in physical activity. Investment in these destination play parks has already completed in Galashiels (2018), Harestanes (2019), Selkirk(2016), Hawick (2017), Coldstream (2019) and Kelso (2019) with Peebles currently being procured and expected to be delivered in 2020.
- 1.3 The new investment creates a financial revenue burden and, in order to ensure a cost neutral impact of the investment to the Council, a programme of decommissioning of aged and underutilised play equipment is required.
- 1.4 Council agreed in May 2018 to review the distribution of play equipment provision across play parks in the Borders, to firstly inform decision making around future investment in communities and secondly guide the rationalisation of play facilities which are deemed no longer fit for purpose, ensuring a cost neutral impact on established budgets.
- 1.5 This review resulted in proposals to decommission equipment in 74 play parks, based on assessment criteria that included, location and context, play value (quality) and usage – thereby ensuring cost neutrality and the continuity of maintenance and investment across the remaining play parks.

1.6 Officers consulted on these proposals at the five Area Partnerships, with a period of public consultation inviting peoples comment on the proposals, which ended on 19 August 2019.

1.7 2 petitions were received opposing these proposals in Kelso and Hawick respectively, which were both heard at the Audit & Scrutiny Committee on 24 October 2019. The Committee decided to recommend to Council the following;

“that Scottish Borders Council re-assesses its original decision made on 31 May 2018 in relation to the capital programme 18/19 and investment in play areas and outdoor community spaces to ‘delegate authority to the Service Director Assets and Infrastructure, after consultation with local Members, the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Legal Officer, to declare play parks obsolete or those surplus to requirements and arrange for the removal of equipment and disposal, if appropriate.’ The Service Director should be requested to prepare a fully costed report on options for future and existing play park provision for consideration at the next meeting of Council.”

1.8 Following a subsequent Members Sounding Board to agree a way forward, this was then taken to Scottish Borders Council on 19th December 2019, where it was agreed to;

‘undertake a series of meetings, on a Ward by Ward basis, with all Members of that Ward, with detailed proposals indicating which play equipment is intended to be removed and which will be retained as part of a future programme of planned investment and upgrades’ and ‘following these meetings, the Service Director Assets & Infrastructure brings a further report initially to the Members Sounding Board on the way forward for play parks.’

1.9 These meetings have now been held and the recommendations for the 74 play parks, following those discussions with members are set out in the report

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Council:

a) note the outcome of the Ward meetings requested by the Sounding Board

b) agrees the following;

i. 18 play parks should be retained as agreed at the Ward meetings, and will now be opened at the earliest opportunity (see Appendix for details)

ii. 54 play parks should be decommissioned as agreed at the Ward meetings.

- iii. 2 playparks should be decommissioned in the Hawick and Hermitage Ward (Leaburn Drive & Green Terrace) noting that Ward Members were unable to agree to the proposal.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Scottish Borders currently has 243 play parks, including those located within schools, ranging from smaller local areas for play (LAPs) to strategic destination play parks. Benchmarking informs us that the quantity of provision per head of population is significantly higher than the national average; however, the play value of the facilities (i.e. quality of provision) is significantly lower than the national average.
- 3.2 In recent years a significant level of investment in play across the Scottish Borders has been delivered through the Council's capital programme supplemented by a range of different opportunities that have been realised by community led initiatives including funding from developer contributions, Scottish Government or Heritage Lottery Fund grants. These include Wilton Lodge Park in Hawick, Pringle Park in Selkirk and Galashiels Public Park.
- 3.3 The investment in play parks is progressing with the provision of further high play value destination play parks at main towns throughout the Borders encouraging play, greater physical activity in young people and outdoor access for children and adults with attendant benefits in terms of general health and wellbeing for people of all ages.
- 3.4 The programme of investment in play establishes destination play parks that serve both the wider community and visitors to the area. In this context, and under the delegated powers approved by Council in May 2018, officers undertook an assessment of play facilities across the entire network. This assessment was based on;
- Play Value
 - In house inspection of value/usage levels (as assessed by Inspection officers)
 - Geography
- 3.5 The outcome of this saw equipment in 74 play parks identified for decommissioning. It was noted that in all instances, the 74 sites would be left open to future use as non-equipped areas of play, or for alternative community uses where there is a community desire to do so.
- 3.6 Scottish Borders Council subsequently received two petitions from communities in Hawick and Kelso, containing 581 and 492 signatures respectively, objecting to the proposed equipment removal. Both petitions were heard consecutively at Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 24 October. As well as deciding to refer the matter to Council as outlined in 1.7, the Committee also heard that the Service Director Assets and Infrastructure would reconsider 4 play parks from the proposed list, specifically;
1. Rosewood Gardens, Kelso
 2. High Croft, Kelso
 3. Burnfoot School, Hawick
 4. Hislop Gardens, Hawick

- 3.7 Following the meeting a further petition was received from a community in Chirnside, however this was not specifically considered as the concerns raised by the Chirnside petition would be addressed as part of the Audit and Scrutiny Committees referral to Council.
- 3.8 The Political Sounding Board subsequently met on 5 November and agreed a suggested way forward:
- (a) Officers should compile detailed maps for all 11 Wards, showing all the existing play parks and highlighting those where it was proposed to remove equipment, the criteria used, the high level cost of inspection/maintenance of equipment, travel distance to play parks;
 - (b) Officers should then set up meetings on a Ward by Ward basis with Elected Members where they could talk Members through the proposals;
 - (c) At these meetings, Members should seek to agree the play parks from which they would support the removal of equipment and which play parks they would prefer to see maintained, including where future investment should be aimed;
 - (d) There should be no option of retaining equipment in all play parks; and
 - (e) Based on these meetings with Elected Members, the Service Director Assets & Infrastructure would then compile a report on the way forward for play parks, to come back to the Members' Sounding Board for further discussion and review the way forward.
- 3.9 This was subsequently agreed at Scottish Borders Council on 19 December 2019, and officers invited Ward Members in each locality to attend meetings to review these proposals. The discussion and outcomes of these meetings are detailed in the Appendices.

4 WARD MEETING OUTCOMES

- 4.1 Members were invited to attend special meetings to discuss proposals for their Ward area. Plans for each relevant settlement were presented, along with site photos and settlement maps detailing the distribution of play parks. The detailed outcomes of each Ward meeting are set out in Appendices 1-11. Summary is set out in Appendix 12
- 4.2 Of the original 74 play parks agreed for decommissioning, 54 were endorsed by Members. Of the remaining play parks, it was agreed that 18 would be retained based on Member consensus. No agreement on a further 2 was reached. The table below summarises, by ward the position;

Ward	Originally proposed for removal	Agreed to be retained	Agreed for removal	Undecided
Tweeddale West	5	1	4	
Tweeddale East	6	1	5	
Galashiels & District	12	1	11	
Selkirkshire	6	1	5	

Leaderdale & Melrose	13	3	10	
Mid-Berwickshire	4	1	3	
Berwickshire East	4	2	2	
Kelso & District	9	2	7	
Jedburgh & District	4	1	3	
Hawick & Denholm	8	4	4	
Hawick & Hermitage	3	1		2*
TOTAL	74	18	54	2*

** Ward Members have stipulated that prior to agreeing to decommissioning investment in retained play parks situated at Millers knowe and the Mote is quantified and delivered, and at the Mote/the Loan road safety measures are also delivered.*

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

The recommendations in the report are designed to ensure that the costs of supervising and maintaining play equipment are sustainable within the existing revenue budget. The costs of employing an additional play equipment inspector with associated transport, training, insurance tools equipment and maintenance costs totalling approximately £100k per annum will be avoided by decommissioning play park equipment as recommended by the report. There is no budget to cover this cost.

5.2 Risk and Mitigation

There is a risk that additional burden will be placed on resources, specifically the Play Inspection team, arising from the capital investment in Play infrastructure. However in agreeing to decommission as detailed this revenue burden is substantially addressed.

Some of the facilities have been derived from Developer contributions, there will be a legal process to follow prior to fully decommissioning of these facilities which may delay the decommissioning. This will be minimised to ensure timely removal in an agreed way.

5.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

There are no negative impacts on specific user groups identified in the Integrated Impact Assessment. While there is a perception of loss of equipment at a community level evidenced by previous petitions, the actual net effect is increased play value in strategic locations. To mitigate local perceived loss, it is being highlighted to communities that all SBC owned areas where equipment is removed are still available to communities for informal non-equipped play. It is also noted that no communities are being

left without an equipped area of play – where there is only one serving a community this is safeguarded as an important local facility.

5.4 **Acting Sustainably**

There are no direct economic, social or environmental issues with this report although there may be within individual projects and these will be identified and addressed as appropriate as part of their specific governance arrangements.

5.5 **Carbon Management**

There are no direct carbon emissions impacts as a result of this monitoring report.

5.6 **Rural Proofing**

This report does not relate to new or amended policy or strategy and as a result rural proofing is not an applicable consideration.

5.7 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

None.

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Executive Director Finance and Regulatory, the Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Service Director HR and Communications, have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the report.

Approved by

Martin Joyce

Service Director Assets & Infrastructure Signature

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Jason Hedley	Chief Officer Roads ext 8037
Craig Blackie	Parks and Environment Manager ext 8036

Background Papers:

Capital Programme 2018/19 – Investment in Play Areas and outdoor Community Spaces, Report by Service Director Assets & Infrastructure, 31 May 2018

Kelso Play Parks Petition - Report by Service Director Assets & Infrastructure, Audit & Scrutiny Committee, 24 October 2019

Play Parks Petition - Report by Service Director Assets & Infrastructure, Audit & Scrutiny Committee, 24 October 2019

Previous Minute Reference:

Audit and Scrutiny Committee, Thursday, 24 October, 2019 - Item 2.0

Scottish Borders Council Thursday, 19th December, 2019 – Item 7.0

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Contact us at:

Contact- Jacqueline Whitelaw, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, TD6 0SA, 01835-824000, ext. 5431.

APPENDIX 1 –TWEEDDALE WEST

DATE	Thursday 27 th February 2020
PRESENT	Councillor Anderson, Councillor Chapman, Councillor Small, Stuart Young (SY) & Craig Blackie (CB)
OUTCOMES	<p>Eddleston Councillors agreed to decommission Elibank Road play park.</p> <p>Peebles Councillors agreed to decommission Crossburn Farm Road, Hay Lodge Park (Small) & Kingsland Square play parks.</p> <p>Councillors wanted to retain the Eliot’s Park play area.</p> <p>Councillors requested that future priorities for investment should be No.1 Halyrude Primary School, assuming access is available & No.2 Eliot’s Park.</p> <p>Summary Originally 5 play areas were proposed to be decommissioned. New proposal to decommission 4 play areas & retain 1 (Eliot’s Park, Peebles)</p>

APPENDIX 2 –TWEEDDALE EAST

DATE	Friday 7 th February 2020
PRESENT	Councillor Bell, Councillor Haslam, Councillor Tatler Martin Joyce (MJ) & Craig Blackie (CB)
OUTCOMES	<p>Peebles Glen Crescent Juniors & Seniors play area names have been printed on the plan the wrong way round.</p> <p>Councillors agreed to decommission Glen Crescent Juniors, Provost Melrose Place & Kingsway.</p> <p><i>CB confirmed, after the meeting, that the existing safety matting at Glen Crescent Juniors will be reinstated with bituminous material, similar to the rest of the play area, to allow the area to be used as a small-wheeled play area (skate board & scooters)</i></p> <p>Councillors stated that that Kingsway site could be potentially be used for allotments.</p> <p>Innerleithen MJ confirmed after contacting SBC's Architect's Department that provision is made in the on-going Primary School Extension project to provide new play equipment.</p> <p>Plans for the Caerlee Housing Development, which are available on-line, include access into Victoria Park. Councillors agreed to decommission the Memorial Hall play area, but only after the Caerlee Development was complete. Councillors wanted to retain the Caddon Court play area & this was agreed.</p> <p>Clovenfords Councillors agreed to decommission Caddonhaugh play equipment & retain the area as an informal play area. Parks & Environment Department to annually weed kill this area.</p> <p>Summary Originally 6 play areas were proposed to be decommissioned. New proposal to decommission 5 play areas & retain 1 (Caddon Court, Innerleithen)</p>

APPENDIX 3 – GALASHIELS AND DISTRICT

DATE	Tuesday 18 th February 2020 & Monday 24 th February 2020
PRESENT	18 th Feb - Councillor Scott ,Jason Hedley (JH) & Craig Blackie(CB) 24 th Feb - Councillor Aitchison, Councillor Anderson, Councillor Jardine, Jason Hedley (JH) & Craig Blackie(CB)
OUTCOMES	<p>The re-use of play equipment is limited by engineering requirements, plus anything that pre-dates 1998 standards cannot be re-used for public play.</p> <p>CB confirmed that the up-grade of the Galashiels Skate Park is not a named scheme in the current Capital Budget, however, it is within the unallocated budget for future years.</p> <p>Galashiels Councillors agreed to visit Woodlea & Pringle Lane play parks in the west end of the town to consider most appropriate play park to retain. <i>Subsequently, councillors agreed to retain Pringle Lane, as per proposal, & decommission Woodlea.</i></p> <p>Councillors agreed to decommission Lee Brae, Balnakiel Terrace, Rosebank Place, Croft Street, Waverley Place, Netherbank, Kingsknowe, Syke’s Acre & Broom Drive.</p> <p>Councillors wanted to retain the Roger Quin Gardens play area & this was agreed.</p> <p>Fountainhall Councillors agreed to decommission Still Haugh play area.</p> <p>Councillors requested that priority be considered for Victoria Park, Galashiels & Heriot play park, subject to landownership & drainage issues being resolved in Heriot.</p> <p>Summary Originally 12 play areas were proposed to be decommissioned. New proposal to decommission 11 play areas & retain 1 (Roger Quin Gardens, Galashiels)</p>

APPENDIX 4 –SELKIRKSHIRE

DATE	Monday 24 th February 2020
PRESENT	Councillor Edgar, Councillor Penman, Councillor Thornton-Nicol, Craig Blackie and Fraser Dunlop
OUTCOMES	<p>Selkirk Councillors agreed to decommission Bannerfield (A), Heatherlie Park & Rosebank Quarry play parks. Consensus was to keep Fairfield Crescent play park, albeit there can be drainage issues at this location. CB agreed to retain.</p> <p>Priority for future investment - #1: Bog Park & #2. Drainage at Fairfield Crescent</p> <p>Newtown St.Boswells Councillors agreed to decommission Whitefield play park. Councillors could not agree on the decommission the King George V play park.</p> <p>Summary Agreed to decommission four play parks. Agreed to retain one play park originally proposed for decommissioning.</p> <p>Councillors future priority would be for the existing Bog Park play park & drainage at Fairfield Crescent play park, both in Selkirk.</p> <p>Officers proposal is to close the King George V play park due to its close proximity to the Sprouston Road play park which is due for major investment in 2020/21</p>
Follow up meeting	A further meeting took place on Friday 7 th August, at which agreement was reached to decommission the KGV site (Newtown St Boswells). The meeting was attended by Craig Blackie, Fraser Dunlop, Councillors Nicol-Thornton, Edgar and Cochrane

APPENDIX 5 –LEADERDALE AND MELROSE

DATE	Wednesday 12 th February 2020
PRESENT	Councillor Drum, Councillor Miers, Councillor Parker, Jason Hedley (JH), Craig Blackie (CB)
OUTCOMES	<p>Melrose Councillors agreed to decommission play parks at Eildon View & Fairways. Agreed to retain Priors Walk play park.</p> <p>Earlston The existing East Green play park will be replaced as part of the new school, programmed for 2023/24. Councillors agreed to decommission the play parks at Acorn Drive, Gun Road, Summerfield & Everest Road. However, all existing play parks will be retained until after the new play park is completed as part of the new school project.</p> <p>Darnick Councillors agreed to decommission the Lady’s Walk play area.</p> <p>Gattonside Councillors agreed to decommission the Upper Gattonside play area.</p> <p>Lauder Councillors asked was there play provision included within the new Thirlestane housing estate. To be checked before agreeing to the decommissioning of the Millburn Park play area.</p> <p>Newstead Councillors agreed to decommission the Dean Park play area. Councillors agreed to prioritise investment in The Orchard play area. Councillors agreed to reconsider the proposed decommissioning of the Rushbank play area until after the up-grade of The Orchard play area was completed.</p> <p>Tweedbank Councillors agreed to decommission the Craw Wood play & remove the surrounding fencing.</p> <p>Summary Originally 13 play parks proposed for decommissioning. New proposal to decommission 10, retain 1 (Priors Walk, Melrose) & delay decision on 2 (Millburn Park & Rushbank)</p>
Follow up	Following dialogue between Members and Officers during July 2020, it was agreed to retain Millburn Park and Rushbank at this time.

APPENDIX 6 – MID-BERWICKSHIRE

DATE	Friday 14 th February 2020
PRESENT	Councillor Greenwell, Councillor Moffat, Jason Hedley (JH) & Craig Blackie (CB), apologies were received from Councillor Rowley
OUTCOMES	<p>Coldstream Councillors agreed to decommission the play parks at Douglas Court & Lees Farm.</p> <p>Duns No agreement with councillors regarding the proposed decommissioning of the play parks at Ainslie Terrace & Trinity Park.</p> <p>Councillor Rowley asked for clarification over the Duns Ainslie Park one - his understanding it might be semi-private, was created from developer contributions?</p> <p>Councillors agreed that the priorities for potential future investment should be #1 Gavinton & #2 Greenlaw, subject to landownership being confirmed.</p> <p>Summary Agreed to decommission the two proposed Coldstream play parks.</p> <p>Officers recommendation remains to close Ainslie Terrace & Trinity Park in Duns.</p> <p>Future investment priorities – Gavinton & Greenlaw (subject to landownership being confirmed)</p>
Follow up meeting	A further meeting was held on 4 th August at which Councillors Moffat and Rowley attended along with Jason Hedley and Craig Blackie, at this meeting it was agreed to decommission Trinity Park, however given the usage at Ainslie terrace that this location would be retained and monitored. Both play parks are situated in Duns

APPENDIX 7 – BERWICKSHIRE EAST

DATE	Friday 14 th February 2020
PRESENT	Present – Councillor Hamilton & Councillor Laing Jason Hedley (JH) & Craig Blackie (CB)
OUTCOMES	<p>Eyemouth Councillors agreed to decommission the play equipment in the lower section of Stebbings Rise only. Councillors do not want to decommission the play park at Hallydown Crescent.</p> <p>Chirnside Councillors do not want to decommission the play park at Lammerview.</p> <p>Burnmouth Councillors do not want to decommission the play park at Lower Burnmouth.</p> <p>Councillors had no preference for prioritising any potential future investment.</p> <p>Summary Agreed to decommission the lower section of Stebbings Rise play park only.</p> <p>Officer recommendations remain to decommission the play parks at Lower Burnmouth, Lammerview & Hallydown Crescent.</p>
Follow up	All Ward Members and officers entered into dialogue during July from which agreement was reached to decommission Lammerview (Chirnside) and Hallydown Crescent (Eyemouth), and the sites at Lower Burnmouth and Stebbings Rise, Eyemouth were to be retained and monitored.

APPENDIX 8 –KELSO AND DISTRICT

DATE	Wednesday 12 th February 2020
PRESENT	Councillor Mountford, Councillor Robson, Councillor Weatherston. Jason Hedley (JH) & Craig Blackie (CB)
OUTCOMES	<p>Kelso Councillors requested that Wallaceneuk (B), originally recommended for retention, be decommissioned & Spylaw Park, which was originally proposed for closure, be retained. Councillors requested that Croft Park, originally recommended for retention, be decommissioned & High Croft, which was originally proposed for closure, be retained.</p> <p>Agreed to retain Rosewood Gardens, which was to be reconsidered following the Scrutiny Committee, 24th Oct '19.</p> <p>Councillors agreed to decommission the play parks at Sydneham Court (A), Meadow Court, Woodside Gardens & Springwood Rise.</p> <p>Councillors requested that proposed decommissioning of Orchard Park & Berrymoss Court be reversed. JH & CB recommend that Orchard Park be retained, however, Berrymoss Court should be closed as per original proposal.</p> <p>Summary Rosewood Gardens play area to be retained following reconsideration, as per request from Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Originally 9 play parks were proposed to be decommissioned, this included 2 play parks to be re-considered following Scrutiny Committee. New proposal to decommission 6 play parks & retain 2 play parks (Orchard Park & Rosewood Gardens)</p> <p>Officers recommend decommission of Berrymoss Court play park.</p>
Follow up meeting	A further site meeting took place on 12 th August at which Councillors Weatherston, Robson and Mountford attended along with Craig Blackie and Fraser Dunlop, it was agreed at this meeting that Berrymoss would be decommissioned, due to its proximity to other facilities and the age/condition of the equipment.

APPENDIX 9 – JEDBURGH & DISTRICT

DATE	Friday 31 st January 2020
PRESENT	Councillor Hamilton, Councillor Scott, Craig Blackie (CB) & Jason Hedley (JH)
OUTCOMES	<p>Jedburgh Councillors agreed to decommission the play parks at Howden Road & Fort Hill</p> <p>Councillors requested that proposed decommissioning of Jedbank Grove be reversed. JH & CB agreed that Jedbank Grove be retained.</p> <p>Councillors agreed to decommission either Hume Place (proposed to retain) or Priors Meadow (proposed to decommission). Councillors agreed to discuss with Jedburgh Community Council. Further to the meeting – <i>Councillors agreed to decommission Hume Place & retain Priors Meadow.</i></p> <p>Councillors proposed that consideration be given to decommissioning the Howdenburn Play Park, if the land could be used to increase the length of the new running track being constructed as part of the new school campus. If not suit suitable, consider in future, to decommission depending upon Planning conditions for the redevelopment of the existing Howdenburn Primary School. Further to the meeting – <i>CB checked with the Major Projects Team & this area of land would not permit the running track to be extended due to the area available & the need for other additional land.</i></p> <p>Future skate park provision – Councillors requested an options appraisal to ascertain the most suitable location within Jedburgh for the proposed skate park. The original location at “the dip” adjacent to the A68, may not be the most suitable & councillors suggest that Allerley Well Park may be a better location. CB & JH agreed to undertake an options appraisal prior to the construction of the proposed skate park.</p> <p>Summary Agreed to decommission two play parks, plus an additional one following discussion with Jedburgh CC. Agreed to retain one play park originally proposed for decommissioning. Agreed to undertake an options appraisal regarding the future provision of the proposed skate park.</p> <p>Councillors future priority would be for the existing Allerley Well Play Park to be fenced off.</p>

APPENDIX 10 – HAWICK & DENHOLM

DATE	Wednesday 5 th February 2020
PRESENT	Councillor Marshall, Councillor Ramage, Councillor Richards, Craig Blackie (CB) & Neil Pringle (NP)
OUTCOMES	<p>Hawick Councillors agreed to decommission the play parks at Wellington Court & Wilson Drive. No agreed consensus between councillors regarding the proposed decommissioning of the play parks at Waverley Walk, Bowden Road & Mayfield.</p> <p>Agreed to retain Hislop Gardens & Burnfoot School play parks, which were to be reconsidered following the Scrutiny Committee, 24th Oct '19.</p> <p>No agreement with councillors regarding future priorities, although possible Housing Developer contribution in the Stirches area was mentioned.</p> <p>Denholm No agreed consensus between councillors regarding the proposed decommissioning of the play park at The Loaning in Denholm. Councillor Marshall requested information about a possible Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the local community to take over responsibility for The Loaning play park. <i>Further to the meeting – CB forwarded MOU details to Councillor Marshall on 8th Feb '20.</i></p> <p>Summary Hislop Gardens & Burnfoot School play areas to be retained following reconsideration, as per request from Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Agreed to decommission 2 play parks</p> <p>Officers recommend decommission of play parks at Bowden Road, Mayfield & Waverely Walk in Hawick. Officers recommend decommission of play park at The Loaning in Denholm, unless agreement can be reached for local community to take over responsibility.</p>
Follow up meeting	At a meeting on 29 th July at which Councillors Richards, Ramage and Marshall attended along with Jason Hedley and Fraser Dunlop it was agreed to retain The Loaning (Denholm) and Bowden Road (Hawick) whilst it was also agreed to decommission Waverley Walk and Mayfield (both Hawick)

APPENDIX 11 – HAWICK AND HERMITAGE

DATE	Monday 17 th February '20
PRESENT	Present – Councillor McAteer, Councillor Paterson, Councillor Turnbull Jason Hedley (JH), Craig Blackie (CB) & Neil Pringle (NP)
OUTCOMES	<p>Hawick Councillors could not agree on the decommissioning of any of the three proposed play parks – Green Terrace, Leaburn Drive or Millers Knowe.</p> <p>Councillors asked about the possibility of constructing a footpath from Leaburn Drive to the Millers Knowe. <i>Further to the meeting – CB checked with Estates & some of the land is in private ownership, so footpath couldn't be constructed.</i></p> <p>Councillors asked about build-outs on The Loan to facilitate safer crossing points to The Mote Park. <i>Further to the meeting – CB confirmed there are build-outs on The Loan.</i></p> <p>Councillors agreed that priority for future investment would be in The Mote Park.</p> <p>Summary No agreement with councillors to decommission any of the proposed play parks.</p> <p>Priority for future investment is The Mote Park.</p> <p>Officers recommendation is to decommission the proposed play parks at Green Terrace, Leaburn Drive & Millers Knowe.</p>
Follow up meeting	<p>At a further site meeting on 11th August, which was attended by Councillors Turnbull and McAteer along with Jason Hedley and Craig Blackie. Officers agreed with the Members representations about the value that Millers Knowe presented if it were to receive future investment and agreed to its retention. Members also understood the proposal to decommission both Leaburn Drive and Green Terrace however were unable to agree to this unless they could be advised of the following;-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - The timing of future investment; 2 - The scale of that investment, <p>They also could not agree to decommission before investment was delivered. Members were advised that whilst a future capital investment programme was identified, the programme had yet to be specified in terms of locations, value and critically timing of investment. Members also advised that they felt that the same issue of investment to mitigate road safety concerns arising from decommissioning of Green Terrace was required at the Loan. Whilst</p>

initial discussions have taken place with the relevant officers, neither an agreed location, funding source or timeline for delivery have been identified at this time.

Based on these discussions an agreed position could not be reached at the meeting.

Members also raised with officers the potential to access funds to invest in play parks within the ward from other available sources including the Common Good and the Councils communities fund and wished this to be noted in the feedback to Council.

Appendix 12 – Summary

WARD	RECOMMENDED TO RETAIN	RECOMMENDED TO DECOMMISSION
East Berwickshire	Lower Burnmouth, Burnmouth	Lammerview, Chirside
		Hallydown Crescent, Eyemouth
Mid Berwickshire	Ainslie Terrace, Duns	Douglas Court, Coldstream
		Lees Farm, Coldstream
		Trinity Park, Duns
Jedburgh & District	Jedbank Grove, Jedburgh	Fort Hill, Jedburgh
		Howden Road, Jedburgh
		Hume Place, Jedburgh
Kelso & District	Orchard Park, Kelso	Berrymoss Court, Kelso
	Rosewood Gardens, Kelso	Croft Park, Kelso
		Meadow Court, Kelso
		Springwood Rise, Kelso
		Sydenham Court (A), Kelso
		Wallaceneuk (B), Kelso
		Woodside Gardens, Kelso
Galashiels & District	Roger Quin Gardens, Galashiels	Still Haugh, Fountainhall
		Balnakiel Terrace, Galashiels
		Broom Drive, Galashiels
		Croft Street, Galashiels
		Kingsknowe, Galashiels
		Lee Brae, Galashiels
		Netherbank, Galashiels
		Rosebank Place, Galashiels
		Syke's Acre, Galashiels
		Waverley Place, Galashiels
		Woodlea, Galashiels
Leaderdale & Melrose	Prior's Walk, Melrose	Lady's Walk, Darnick
	Millburn, Lauder	Acorn Drive, Earlston
	Rushbank, Newstead	Everest Road, Earlston
		Gun Road, Earlston
		Summerfield, Earlston
		Upper Gattonside, Gattonside
		Eildon View, Melrose
		Fairways, Melrose
		Dean Park, Newstead
		Craw Wood, Tweedbank
Selkirkshire	Fairfield Crescent, Selkirk	King George V, Newtown St Boswells
		Whitefield, Newtown St Boswells
		Bannerfield (A), Selkirk
		Heatherlie Park, Selkirk
		Rosebank Quarry, Selkirk
Hawick & Denholm	The Loaning, Denholm	Mayfield, Hawick
	Bowden Road, Hawick	Waverley Walk, Hawick
	Burnfoot School, Hawick	Wellington Court, Hawick
	Hislop Gardens, Hawick	Wilson Drive, Hawick

Hawick & Hermitage		Green Terrace, Hawick
		Leaburn Drive, Hawick
	Millers Knowe, Hawick	
Tweeddale East	Caddon Court, Innerleithen	Caddonhaugh, Clovenfords
		Memorial Hall, Innerleithen
		Glen Crescent Juniors, Peebles
		Kingsway, Peebles
		Provost Melrose Place, Peebles
Tweeddale West	Eliot's Park, Peebles	Elibank Road, Eddleston
		Crossburn Farm Road, Peebles
		Haylodge Park (Small), Peebles
		Kingsland Square, Peebles