

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

**To: All Members of the Grounds & Environment Committee (Kate Bailey, Jane Baker, Leslie Campbell, Georgia Cheshire, Peter Gibbons, Bill Hatton, Chris Hobbs Darryl Sinclair and Ian Weir) and Co-Opted Members (Tony Copeland and Penny Wadsworth) with copies to all other Councillors for information.**  
**cc Richard Higgs**

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A meeting of the **GROUND AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** will be held on **Thursday 30 March 2017 at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.**

Clerk  
23.3.17

1. To accept Apologies for Absence.
2. To Accept Declarations of Interest.
3. MINUTES
  - 3.1 To accept Minutes of the Grounds and Environment Meeting held on 27 February 2017. (Previously Circulated)
  - 3.2 Matters Arising.
4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.
5. SuDS MAPPING PROJECT AND NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT. Update from Bob Kenhard (Hassocks Amenity Association), Rachel Paget (Ouse and Adurs Rivers Trust) and Juliet Merrifield (HKD Transition).
6. ADASTRA PARK FUN FAIR. To note that the annual Fun Fair has been booked to take place at Adastra Park over the weekend of 5-7 May 2017.
7. HANGING BASKETS. Verbal Update (Penny Wadsworth)
8. STREET TREES. Verbal Update (Penny Wadsworth)
9. ADASTRA FACILITIES HIRE CONDITIONS, FEES AND CHARGES. To approve the fees and charges for the hire of Adastra Park facilities for 2017-18. To approve Terms and Conditions of Hire for all facilities. (Appendices 2 & 3)
10. ADASTRA SKATEPARK AND PLAY FACILITIES. To consider the content of the report provided by Playlink providing options for consideration regarding play provision in Adastra Park. (Appendix 4)
11. PROPOSAL FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A GOAL POST IN ADASTRA PARK, NORTH FIELD. To consider a proposal by Cllr Chris Hobbs for the installation of a single goal post in the North Field, Adastra Park for informal use. Verbal Report (Cllr Chris Hobbs)
12. HASSOCKS TWINNING ASSOCIATION. To agree a suitable location and species for the planting of a tree in Adastra Park as part of the Twinning Association 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. Verbal Report (Cllr Georgia Cheshire)
13. PARKLANDS ROAD ALLOTMENTS.
  - 13.1 To note that allotment security is still being reviewed.
  - 13.2 Verbal Update (Tony Copeland).
14. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY. Verbal Update (Cllr Leslie Campbell).
15. Urgent Matters at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda.
16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING. 24 April 2017 at 7.30pm

## FILMING, RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS AND USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

During this meeting members of the public may film or record the Committee and officers from the public area only providing it does not disrupt the meeting. The Confidential section of the meeting may not be filmed or recorded. If a member of the public objects to being recorded, the person(s) filming must stop doing so until that member of the public has finished speaking. The use of social media is permitted but members of the public are requested to switch their mobile devices to silent for the duration of the meeting

### **Please Note**

All members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Parish Council and its Committees.

**Item 4** – a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for the public statements and questions relating to the published non-confidential business of the Meeting.

It may be necessary to consider particular items in confidential session and where this arises, these items will be considered at the end of the agenda.

## Appendix 2

### HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

To: Grounds & Environment Committee

Agenda Item 9

Date: 30 March 2017

Contacts for this report: Deputy Clerk

Subject: **Adastra Park and Pavilion Charges**

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1. The purpose of this report is to ask the Committee to consider and agree charges for the hire of Adastra Park Facilities from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.
2. Charges have been currently calculated to date based on the Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) charging structure in most cases. The revised charges have been kept primarily in line with MSDC.
3. Attached are a copy of the Hassocks Parish Council charges for 2016-17 and the proposed charges for 2017-18.
4. Members are asked to consider the revised charges as provided with particular attention drawn to the following:

#### Cricket Charges

- i. Juniors on Artificial Pitch.  
This historically has been free of charge to any junior cricket in Adastra Park. However MSDC have always charged a nominal fee for this as the outfield is still being used. Therefore it is proposed that HPC introduce the same charge as MSDC.
- ii. Cricket Net Practice.  
Historically this has been charged at a set amount for up to 16 sessions, however MSDC (and HPC) have found that this is difficult to monitor and therefore to invoice. Therefore for 17/18 MSDC have removed block session charges and introduced a new reduced charge for each individual session. It is suggested that HPC uses the same structure.

#### Tennis Charges

- i. It appears that HPC have chosen not to increase Casual Hire charges for the Adastra Tennis Courts since 2011. However Club Member charges have consistently increased in line with MSDC.
- ii. ***Members are asked to consider whether an increase in Casual Hire Charges should be implemented, and if so to agree the level of increase.***

#### Training Charges

- i. The discounted block booking rate has been removed by MSDC to be consistent with other charges, and individual training rates have been

reduced to compensate towards this. It is proposed that the block booking rate is removed from HPC training charges and that the individual rate session is reduced slightly. The individual rate suggested for HPC is higher than MSDC but still offers a benefit to the football clubs. HPC Charges for fitness trainers have previously been set at the following rates:

ii.

*Not for Profit Groups and Classes with 5 or less attendees (Small Groups)*

*£5.00 per session (4 hour slot)*

*Classes with 6 or more attendees (Large Groups)*

*£15.60 per session (4 hour slot)*

*£120.00 for 16 sessions if booked in advance*

It is recommended that this should be changed for 2017-18 to a single charge of £10.00 per session in line with MSDC.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS. It is recommended that the Committee approve the proposed increases in charges and fees for the use of Adastra Park facilities

<b>HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL</b>			
<b>Adastra Park Sports Facilities Fees and Charges 2016/17</b>			
<b>General Conditions</b>			
1.	The charges included in this leaflet are effective from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 in relation to the sports facilities operated by Hassocks Parish Council. Summer and Winter season dates are specific to each facility and activity.		
2.	All hirers must complete an official HPC application form and adhere to the Council's published Terms and Conditions of Hire prior to the booking period.		
3.	Payment for the hire of facilities must be made in advance unless otherwise are agreed.		
4.	Discounted Rates - where a discounted rate (50% of the full rate) is provided, the following conditions apply:		
	Juniors-to qualify for the discounted rate, facility users must be under the age of 17 at the time of hire.		
	Senior Citizens - to qualify for the discounted rate, facility users must be 60 or over at the time of hire.		
		Full Rate	Discounted Rate
<b>SPORTS HIRE - SUMMER</b>			
	Cricket Turf Wicket - per use	41.50	20.75
	Cricket Turf Wicket - evening rate	21.80	
	Juniors on Artificial Pitch	no charge	
	Cricket Net Practice		
	Per season (max.16 sessions)	118.50	59.25
	Water for cricket square will be recharged at cost		
	Stoolball - South Field per use	20.20	10.10
	North Field	N/A	5.00
	Bowls - Club Members	120.00	60.00
	Water use will be recharged to the Bowling Club		
	Tennis - Casual Hire per Court	7.00	3.50
	Key Deposit - returnable	5.00	5.00
	Tennis - Club Members	85.40	42.70
	Couples	128.10	N/A
	Children of Adult Members		15.00
	Croquet Lawns and use of pavilion per week	45.50	
<b>SUMMER PAVILION HIRE</b>			
	Changing Rooms/Toilets/Kitchen/Bar/Storage	35.00	N/A
	Changing Rooms/Toilets/Kitchen/Storage	24.00	12.00
	Toilets/Kitchen/Storage	12.00	6.00
<b>SPORTS HIRE - WINTER</b>			
	Football - per use	53.40	
	Junior Football on Senior Pitch		26.70
	Mini-Pitch		13.35
	Junior Training Session (per session)		7.70
	Junior Training Sessions (per 16 sessions)		120.00
	<b>WINTER PAVILION HIRE</b>	29.00	14.50
	<b>COMMUNITY PAVILION HIRE</b>	8.80 ph	

		<b>HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL</b>			
		<b>Adastra Park Sports Facilities Fees and Charges 2017/18</b>			
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4.	Discounted Rates - where a discounted rate (50% of the full rate) is provided, the following conditions apply: Juniors-to qualify for the discounted rate, facility users must be under the age of 17 at the time of hire. Senior Citizens - to qualify for the discounted rate, facility users must be 60 or over at the time of hire.				
			Full Rate		Discounted Rate
<b>SPORTS HIRE - SUMMER</b>					
Cricket Turf Wicket - per use			42.30		21.15
Cricket Turf Wicket - evening rate			22.30		
Juniors on Artificial Pitch					11.10
Cricket Net Practice					
Per session			22.20		11.10
Water for cricket square will be recharged at cost					
Stoolball - South Field per use			20.60		10.30
North Field			N/A		5.10
Bowls - Club Members			122.00		61.00
Water use will be recharged to the Bowling Club					
<b>Tennis - Casual Hire per Court</b>			<b>7.00</b>		<b>3.50</b>
Key Deposit - returnable			5.00		5.00
Tennis - Club Members			87.00		43.50
Couples			131.00		N/A
Children of Adult Members					15.30
Croquet Lawns and use of pavilion per week			45.50		
<b>SUMMER PAVILION HIRE</b>					
Changing Rooms/Toilets/Kitchen/Bar/Storage			36.00		N/A
Changing Rooms/Toilets/Kitchen/Storage			24.40		12.20
Toilets/Kitchen/Storage			12.20		6.10
<b>SPORTS HIRE - WINTER</b>					
Football - per use			54.40		
Junior Football on Senior Pitch					27.20
Mini-Pitch					13.60
Training Session (per session)			14.00		7.00
<b>WINTER PAVILION HIRE</b>			29.60		14.80
<b>Community Pavilion Hire</b>			9.00 per hour		
6	Fitness Training Charges (4 hour session)		10.00		

## Appendix 3

### HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

To: Grounds & Environment Committee

Agenda Item 9

Date: 30 March 2017

Contacts for this report: Deputy Clerk

Subject: **Adastra Park and Pavilion Terms of Hire**

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1. The purpose of this report is to ask the Committee to consider and agree Terms and Conditions of Hire for Adastra Park Facilities from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.
2. Copies of the following documents are attached:
  - i. General Terms and Conditions of Hire for Adastra Community Pavilion
  - ii. Pavilion Use for Fitness Trainers / Commercial Hirers. (Additional Conditions)
  - iii. Use of Adastra Park by Groups and Commercial Enterprises
3. RECOMMENDATION. It is recommended that Members approve the proposed Terms and Conditions of Hire for Adastra park Facilities

# HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF HIRE ADAstra PARK COMMUNITY PAVILION

### 1. APPLICATION FORM

All applications for the hire of facilities must be made in writing on the Council's official application form and forwarded to: **Hassocks Parish Council, Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks, BN6 8QH**. The Council reserves the right to refuse any application. If the Council accepts the application, the person, or persons, signing the application form, who must be 18 years of age or over, shall be deemed to be the hirer as well as the Society, Association, Club or other body or organisation on whose behalf the application may be made and will be jointly and severally liable to the Council for the payment of the hiring fees and charges, and for the strict observance of these Conditions of Hire.

### 2. HIRE SESSION

The Pavilion is available for hire on an hourly basis during the standard period of hire as follows:

Monday to Sunday - 8.00am to 10.30pm

### 3. INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE

The hirer shall indemnify the Council and keep the Council fully indemnified against all damage, losses, costs, expenses, actions, demands, proceedings, claims and liabilities made against, suffered or incurred by the Council arising directly or indirectly.

In addition, all REGULAR hirers shall obtain a policy of insurance against third party risks/public liability to the value of £5 million. A copy of the policy must accompany the application form or be received by the Council not less than 28 days prior to the date of the first hire session, except in circumstances approved by the Council.

### 4. RISK ASSESSMENT

Each hirer, either regular or occasional, is responsible for performing a risk assessment prior to each and every use of any of the facilities provided by the Council. The Council may, at its discretion, require a copy of said risk assessment prior to allowing the hirer to use the facilities.

### 5. HIRERS' EQUIPMENT

Hirers' equipment or property may only be stored on the premises with the prior written consent of the Council. Any such property shall be stored entirely at the risk of the owner and the Council shall not accept responsibility for any loss of (or damage to) any equipment or property stored. The hirer may not bring portable electrical equipment to the premises without first obtaining the written permission of the Council. Permission will only be granted if the equipment concerned has been tested and certified by a PAT registered electrical inspector. The hirer may not hold or store controlled substances or other chemical agents on the premises without the written permission of the



Council. In order to obtain this permission, the hirer must provide all relevant information about the substance (e.g. COSHH Data Sheets, Risk Assessments etc.)

**6. DEPOSIT**

All regular hirers may be asked to pay a deposit of up to £300 which would be used if necessary to defray the costs of any damage or additional cleaning. The deposit will be returned at the end of the hire season if the hire conditions have been met and the pavilion left in a satisfactory condition.

**7. TEMPORARY CLOSURE**

In the event of any accident or occurrence whatsoever necessitating temporary closure of all, or part, of the facility hired, the hirer agrees that the Council shall not be liable for any loss or claims arising from such closure.

**8. CATERING & FOOD HYGIENE**

Under Food Hygiene Regulations, kitchen facilities are subject to inspection by an Environmental Health Officer. When making use of kitchen facilities for catering purposes, the hirer is responsible for food safety and hygiene. Any hirer wishing to provide catering to the public on Council premises must hold a valid Basic Food Hygiene Certificate and the Council must be provided with a copy of this certificate. The Council will not be held responsible or liable for the hygiene of any food prepared on or off the premises

**9. BROADCASTING OR FILMING**

No broadcast or television performance, either live or recorded, shall be made from the hired facilities without prior consent, in writing, from the Council. Applications for such consent are to be made at least twenty-eight (28) days before the date of the proposed recording or transmission.

**10. CHILD PROTECTION**

All hirers of our facilities should seek to publish and adhere to a Child Protection Policy. This is a statement that makes it clear what an organisation or group will do to keep children safe and should include a statement setting out the organisation's commitment to protecting all children. A copy of which must be provided to the Council.

**11. PAVILION HIRE**

The named hirer is responsible for the following;

- a. The conduct of all users of the pavilion facilities hired under the authority of the hirer during the hire session with specific attention being paid to excessive noise after 8pm to ensure that residents in the locality are not unduly disturbed.
- b. All pavilion facilities are to be left in a clean and tidy condition by the hirer. Where the facilities are not left in a clean and tidy condition, the Parish Council reserves its absolute right to employ such cleaning resources as may be required and to recharge the full cost of such resources to the hirer.

- c. Ensuring that the pavilion building is secured at the end of each hire session with particular reference to: the return of the keys, the securing of all doors and windows, all lights and where applicable, showers and taps to be turned off, equipment to be secured and all furniture to be secured in an appropriate storage area and left in a clean and tidy condition. The Council reserves the right to introduce the use of the alarm facility.
- d. Reporting all damage occurring to the pavilion or any facility during each hire period to the Parish Council on the first working day following the hiring. Where any damage has been caused as a result of negligence on the hirers' behalf, the Parish Council reserves its absolute right to employ such resources as may be required to repair pavilion facilities and to recharge the full cost of such resources to the hirer.
- e. Ensuring footwear containing spikes and/or studs are not worn in any area of the pavilion (excluding the changing rooms). The cost of repairing/replacing any such damage to any of the pavilion floors will be recharged to the hirer. Muddy footwear is to be removed when entering the main hall.
- f. Where the nature of the hiring so requires, the number of persons to be admitted by the hirer shall be in accordance with the Fire Officer's recommendations and shall be brought to the attention of the hirer at the time of the hiring. The hirer, if specifically requested to do so, shall keep a record of the number of persons admitted, to be available for inspection. (The maximum occupancy of the building at any one time is 60)
- g. In the event of a fire, the hirer will be responsible for the evacuation of the building, and calling the Fire Service if necessary. A Fire Emergency Plan is attached. Those using the building during the hire period should be advised of the location of emergency exits and the arrangements for evacuating the building. Fire exits should be kept clear at all times.
- h. The hirer shall not use the facility for any purpose other than the purpose stated on the application form and approved in advance by the Council. All publicity produced in connection with a hiring must be approved by the Council before being issued for display.
- i. No sweepstake, raffle or any other form of lottery shall be promoted, conducted or held on the facility hired, except such a lottery as is deemed to be lawful by virtue of any enactment relating to gaming, betting and lotteries and for which prior written approval has been given by the Council, and the relevant statutory licence or permit has been obtained.

**12.** The named hirer should note the following;

- a) All keys issued by the Parish Council in connection with each hire session are to be collected from the Parish Council prior to the first hire session and returned as instructed by the Parish Council at the time of collection.

The hirer will be required to complete and sign a key hire form. Any loss of key/s must be reported to the Parish Centre.

- b) Lost or stolen keys may result in the Pavilion locks being changed and associated costs will be the responsibility of the Hirer and charged accordingly.
- c) Smoking is not permitted in the Aداstra Community Pavilion or under the canopy of the pavilion.
- d) Barbeques are not permitted anywhere in Aداstra Park or in or next to the pavilion unless prior permission has been sought from the Council.

**13.** The Parish Council reserves the right to modify any of these conditions, or to further impose conditions where the Parish Council considers necessary.

April 2017

## Pavilion Use for Fitness Trainers / Commercial Hirers.

Additional Conditions of Hire. April 2017

1. Bookings for the Pavilion must be applied for using a Hire Application Form.
2. Bookings must be pre-booked, confirmed and agreed by Hassocks Parish Council.
3. Bookings must include 'set up and 'de-rig time.
4. A Pavilion door key will be issued to the hirer and must be signed for. \*
5. Pavilion bookings will be invoiced and payable unless 48 hours' notice of cancellation is received.
6. The Pavilion is available for hire on an hourly basis during the standard period of hire, 8.00 hrs to 22.30 hrs on any day. \*\*
7. A copy of current Public Liability Insurance for £5 million must accompany the application form.
8. The Parish Council reserves the right to enter upon the facility at any time during the period of hiring to ensure conditions of hire are being adhered to.
9. The Terms and Conditions of Hire for Adastral Park Community Pavilion have been read and understood and I / we agree to abide by Hassocks Parish Council's "Conditions of Hire".

Name.....

Signed .....

Dated.....

### Notes

- \* Key/s must be returned at the end of the period of hire.  
The above-named person (hirer), is responsible for keys.  
Any loss of key/s must be reported to the Parish Centre.  
Replacement keys will be charged to the Hirer.  
Lost or stolen keys may result in the Pavilion locks being changed and associated costs will be the responsibility of the hirer and charged accordingly.
- \*\* Please note regular sports clubs such as Cricket & Football have Pavilion use as part of their hire. Fitness groups will be advised of the availability at the start of the hire period.

## **HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Use of Adastra Park by Groups and Commercial Enterprises**

1. This note sets out the basis on which:

- Organised groups may use the Adastra Park.
- Commercial enterprises may use the Adastra Park on a regular basis.

### **General Use of Adastra Park**

2. The Adastra Park is a public space to which all people have reasonable access at all times. It is expected that any person may use the space in any way within the terms of the Law and without interfering with the use, or causing a nuisance to any other person.

3. From time to time groups of people or organisations will propose to use some or all of the space in Adastra Park. These will be events which take place infrequently and irregularly. An event is where there is a planned activity involving several people, which is organised by a definable person, group of people, organisation or company (the organiser). These can be small events or large events.

4. Individuals or businesses with a commercial interest i.e/ fitness training, fairs, professional coaching etc. can apply to the Parish Council for permission to run one off or regular activities on a commercial basis on areas of the Adastra Park.

### **Small Events**

5. A small event is defined as complying with all of the following:

- Less than 50 people (adults and children) gathered
- There being no machinery or vehicles deployed
- There is no trading (the sale of goods, food, drink or services) for commercial purposes.
- There are no public address systems (loudspeakers)
- There are no fires lit, including BBQ'S
- There are no fireworks.

6. The organiser is asked to seek the permission of the Parish Council, in writing. The following information will be required:

- The name and address and contact details of the organiser
- The date and approximate times of the event
- A brief description of the expected activity
- The area of the Adastral Park to be used
- An estimate of the numbers of people (adults and children) attending
- Confirmation that the terms of the small event will be complied
- Confirmation that all litter will be removed and any damage will be made good before leaving the recreation ground on the day of the event
- Confirmation that appropriate health and safety issues have been considered.

7. The Parish Council may make a nominal charge for a small event to be decided in accordance with individual applications.

### **Large Events**

8. A large event occurs where any of the following apply:

- More than 50 people (adults and children) gathered
- There being machinery or vehicles deployed
- There is trading (the sale of goods, food, drink or services)
- There are public address systems (loudspeakers)

9. Organisers of a large event must apply to the Parish Office for permission to use the land and the following conditions will apply:

- A charge will normally be made
- A returnable bond might be requested
- The organiser will be required to remove any litter and to make good any damage to the Adastral Park
- The organiser will have to submit a Risk Assessment covering the activities, to demonstrate that proper attention has been given to all matters including safety, crowd control, emergencies, traffic and parking.
- The organiser may be required to obtain an Entertainment Licence from the Licensing Authority (Mid Sussex District Council)
- Evidence will be required of public and third party insurance of up to £5 million.

## **Commercial Activities**

10. Individuals or Business who wish to use areas of the Adastra Park to run regular or one off commercial activities i.e/ fairs, fitness training, for which they are charging a fee, must apply to the Parish Office for permission to do so.

11. The organiser is asked to seek permission of the Parish Council, in writing. The following information is required:

- The name, address and contact details of the organiser
- A brief description of the business and activities involved
- The day and time on which the activity is proposed
- The area of the Adastra Park to be used
- An estimate of the number of people attending and fees being charged
- Confirmation that public and third party insurance is held
- Confirmation that any damage will be reported and made good.

12. The Parish Council will make a charge for such activities, to be decided on individual arrangements specific to each application.

13. No equipment is to be used which is likely to damage the turf, and the playing of music for fitness training is prohibited.

April 2017

## Appendix 4

### HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

To: Grounds & Environment Committee

Agenda Item 10

Date: 30 March 2017

Contacts for this report: Deputy Clerk

Subject: **Adastra Park and Pavilion Charges**

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# PLAYLINK



PLAYLINK schemes: Above: Thornbury Wheelpark. Below: Fortress Park.





We believe that play environments should be beautiful, individually designed, should please and stimulate the senses, and be sources of delight and surprise.  
Nothing less will do.

## **A report to Hassocks Parish Council**

**23 February 2017**



### **PLAYLINK**

PLAYLINK is a multi-disciplinary grouping working to improve people's – children, teenagers, adults - experience and enjoyment of the outdoors. We work across a variety of settings: schools, nurseries, children centres, general public realm, parks, social and mixed tenure housing.

Our energies are deployed over six main areas:

- design and implementation;
- consultancy and learning;
- acting as a critical, independent friend to design practices, local authorities, specialist agencies;
- risk issues
- advice and information;
- policy formulation.

Our ability to work across all six areas is a key PLAYLINK strength. Each aspect of the work informs the other.

### **PLAYLINK: Fusion of theory and practice**

PLAYLINK is, and always has been, about play and learning. Its values and practice are firmly rooted in an understanding of children, how they like and need to play, coupled to a commitment to create aesthetically pleasing environments that offer children and teenagers a rich, varied palate of play opportunities. PLAYLINK project teams comprise, as required, landscape architects, architects and play consultants.

PLAYLINK ([www.playlink.org](http://www.playlink.org)) has a national reputation for being at the forefront of design and policy in respect of play with PLAYLINK Associates and its director co-authors of Play England guidance that includes 'Design for play: a guide to creating successful play spaces' (Phil Doyle), and the UK Play Safety Forum's 'Managing risk in play provision: an implementation guide' (PLAYLINK Director, Bernard Spiegel). Bernard is also an advisor to the Play Safety Forum.

## **Section One Overview and wider perspective**

### **Introduction**

The context for this report is the one day consultancy commissioned by Hassocks Parish Council to undertake:

*'...an Initial assessment, to assess the current [Adastra Park] site, look at current plans and consider proposals to include integrating improvements to play provision as well as together with skate and wheeled sports provision within the park.... The approach would be exploratory, to review the relocation site in question and provide a written report of recommendations for the Council.'*

Our task, then, is to offer an impartial view as to what, in our estimation, is the best way forward for Hassocks Parish Council in respect of a potential skatepark facility, and play provision in general. We note also that whilst Adastra Park is to a significant degree laid out and used as a recreation ground, it is designated a park both in the area's title and in the terms of the brief set out above.

We note also that a certain amount of discussion has occurred within Council not only about proposed skatepark provision, but also play facilities in general. We do not and cannot comment on the nature and extent of commitments, or otherwise, Council may have made in respect of any provision. Our role is simply to express a view as to what we believe might be the best way forward for children, teenagers and the wider Hassocks Parish Council community.

### **Overview: Where we are coming from**

No assessment, certainly not of the subject under view, is value free. Every assessment is made from a particular value-base. Here we briefly state ours.

It is a prime value that ‘Children and teenagers being seen and heard in shared public space is the hallmark of a society at ease with itself’. The emphasis being on ‘shared’ – the creation of a public realm where a community can come in contact with itself. We say this is one of the prime functions of a park. What follows from this, for example, is that we do not assess any particular feature or provision in isolation from its actual or potential wider social purpose. By way of shorthand, we sometimes refer to this as a ‘village green approach’.

In addition, we believe in the creation of more ‘natural’ play provision using, for example, boulders, sand, water, fallen trees, planting and landscaping to create a rich variety of play opportunities. Here, play provision works with the grain of nature, rather than in isolation or contradiction to it. There is a place for manufactured equipment, but its role is to supplement what in any particular site nature cannot provide.

Above all, play environments should be *designed* and add value to the area of which it is – or should be – an integral part. A play environment should contribute to the *genius loci* of a place, that sense of individuality and uniqueness that makes a place what it is. Finally, in line with going with the grain of nature, play environments should enhance bio-diversity, encourage, for example, tree planting, creating shade and a variety of habitats, this both from an ecological standpoint, and the simply aesthetic beauty that trees and planting endow to an area<sup>1</sup>.

Finally, play opportunities should offer children and teenagers opportunities to take acceptable level of risks. Learning to assess and manage risks are essential life skills for any one, and it is important that children and teenagers develop their own judgment-making capabilities. As the Health and Safety Executive states in its Higher Level Statement<sup>2</sup>

*‘HSE fully recognises that play brings the world to life for children. It provides for an exploration and understanding of their abilities; helps them to learn and develop; and exposes them to the realities of the world in which they will live, which is a world not free from risk but rather one where risk is ever present. The opportunity for play develops a child’s risk awareness and prepares them for their future lives.’*

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<sup>1</sup> Much of what has been said here is to be found in two Play England (PE) guides: ‘Designs for Play: creating a successful play space’; ‘Managing Risk in Play Provision: implementation guide. Declaration of interest: the authors of this report are co-authors of these PE guides.

<sup>2</sup> See CHILDREN’S PLAY AND LEISURE – PROMOTING A BALANCED APPROACH  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/entertainment/childrens-play-july-2012.pdf>

## **Section two**

### **The assessment**

#### **Introduction**

On the 22 February, a site visit was undertaken along with a very useful meeting and walk round the site with the Ian Cumberworth the Parish Clerk and Tracey Bates the Assistant Parish Clerk. We are grateful to both for their briefing.

An Initial assessment was undertaken to assess the current site, look at current plans and consider proposals to include integrating improvements to play provision as well as together with skate and wheeled sports provision within the park. Following a meeting to discuss the background and related issues with the Ian and Tracy from the Parish Council a joint visit to the park took place and further discussions were held on site and also following the site visit to the park. The assessment visit was exploratory, to review the current location of provision and provide a written report of recommendations for the Council to consider which are detailed below

Adastra Park is a large green space within the village of Hassocks. It is the main park in the village and in essence provides a town park function incorporating significant sports, play and informal recreation opportunities for the people of Hassocks and the outlying areas.

In this section we raise a number of points and concerns about the skatepark project in its present form. Notwithstanding these concerns we offer an outline process for achieving a skatepark facility if one were to take a design-led approach by PLAYLINK.

#### **Terminology**

Our preference is to refer to a 'wheelpark' rather than a 'skatepark' simply because it more accurately embraces the range of wheeled equipment – for example, scooters, bmx bikes, skateboards, inline and roller skates, wheelchairs - that are likely to want to use the proposed facility.

#### **Issues**

The issues appear to us to be:

1. the current proposal presents as an isolated, stand-alone initiative that seems not to be part of a wider, strategic, long term view of Adastra Park's actual and potential wider role as a key outdoor resource for the community
2. that the proposed siting of the wheelpark may not be best from the perspective of wider park users
3. That the *limitations* of the budget for the proposed wheel park facility have not been sufficiently considered. There is a question as to whether the proposed wheelpark, within its budgetary and space constraints, can provide the richness of experience that proponents of the project desire to achieve.
4. that children and teenager's play wants and needs beyond the wheelpark have not been considered

5. that an opportunity to think about the park *as a whole*, its current and potential use, may have been missed.

We briefly address each point below.



- 1. The current wheelpark proposal presents as an isolated, stand-alone initiative that seems not to be part of a wider, strategic, long term view of Adastra Park's actual and potential wider role as a key outdoor resource for the community.**

Although the park itself covers a relatively substantial area, much of the area is devoted to single, seasonally-determined usage that, whatever the inherent merits (and there are many) of the activities provided for— football, cricket, bowls, tennis – has the effect, in the current configuration, of constraining the park's developmental potential.

The question is: Is there potential for maintaining the commitment to provide for the activities as set out above, and at the same time enhance the quality of experience of park users as a whole?

- 2. That the proposed siting of the wheelpark may not be best from the perspective of wider park users.**

As we understand it, the current proposal is to site any new wheelpark in the area of the current one. Note here that the likely size of a new wheelpark is likely to be around double the size of the current facility. That translates to a doubling of hard surfacing in one of the most attractive areas of the park.

Our clear impression of this *southern* end of the park is that it has a 'natural', intimate and friendly feel. The vegetation is well-established, and the oak tree is simply magnificent. Taken together, this area with its sense of containment, yet openness strikes us an area whose potential for gentle development should be considered. The aim would be to draw out and enhance its inherent qualities, enhance bio-diversity, and create an informal sociable realm.

*We do not believe this area is the optimum area for location of the proposed new wheelpark (see below).*

- 3. That the *limitations* of the proposed wheel park facility have not been sufficiently considered. There is a question as to whether the proposed wheelpark, within its**

**budgetary and space constraints, can provide the richness of experience that proponents of the project desire to achieve.**

Here we are concerned to ensure that the proponents and potential users of the proposed wheelpark are not ultimately disappointed by what can realistically be provided. Aficionados of Wheelparks – and here we are almost certainly right to include the young proponents of the project – often have hands-on knowledge of what makes a superior facility. The only point we seek to make here is that it should be crystal clear to potential users just what type of facility circa £100,000 can buy, particularly when that figure includes not only capital costs but design and other costs and fees. We wish to avoid disappointment and the potential for people to feel let-down.

We note, also, that wheelparks seem primarily attractive to males and this raises the question of the degree to which the park provides for girls, in particular for early and late teens.

In addition, wheeled sports constitutes a sort of sub-culture, with devotees visiting other area's facilities, as indeed we understand some of Hassocks' youngsters do now. Thus, the Parish Council needs to be aware that there is every possibility that a new wheelpark may well act as a magnet for out of parish visitors. We say this neutrally, with no judgment made as to the potential benefits or potential disbenefits of this.

**4. That children and teenager's play wants and needs beyond the wheelpark have not been considered.**

The brief for this review was specific in the need to address play facilities. The wheelpark proposal takes no account of children and teenagers wider play and informal recreation wants and needs. The current formal play offer is largely restricted to a fenced area, divorced from its wider environment and dominated by manufactured, standard equipment almost certainly of interest to a mainly younger age group, notwithstanding that, as is to be expected, older youngsters use it as a gathering venue in the evenings. The area has no shade, nor does it offer any engagement with the natural environment which is a rich source of play experience if designed with play wants and needs in mind.

We believe that the 'play offer' is limited both in extent and age group catered for. We also believe that there is much scope for improvement if that were to become a council priority.

**5. That an opportunity to think about the park *as a whole*, it's current and potential use, may be being missed.**

Our overriding impression is that the park has developed in a broadly ad hoc way, with decisions about land configuration and use being determined to a significant degree by priorities that appeared pressing at any particular time. Thus there is:

- fitness equipment (of questionable utility, certainly in its current location) in one place
- a formal playground, bowls green, and tennis courts (one of which because of position suffers from periodic bouts of moss) effectively cutting the park in half
- a skatepark and (artificial) climbing boulder at the other end of the park

## Recommendations

### **R1. Develop a park Masterplan**

Development of an overarching masterplan based on an agreed shared vision for the park for 2020 and beyond. The masterplan will look at all elements within the park, for example, improved landscaping and planting, enhancing bio-diversity, tree planting, enhancement of pedestrian routes, ball court and table tennis provision etc. and improvements to existing provision e.g. tennis courts, range of play opportunities, Memorial Garden.

Proposed period for Masterplan development: March – July.

Whilst we have a view that formulation of a Masterplan is the first, necessary step to developing a coherent and cohesive vision for the park, and that logically such a plan should pre-date any decisions about location of a wheelpark, or indeed any other development, we recognise that council may feel that it wishes to press ahead with the wheelpark without undertaking this step.

**R2. Location of new wheelpark** – For the reasons set out earlier in this report, we do not believe that the new wheelpark should be situated in the currently proposed position i.e. in the (extended) area of the existing skatepark. Our initial view is that the new wheelpark should be to the area north of the current playground and outdoor gym equipment (which could be moved).

This new location would enable the current use of the upper north field still to provide the current mini pitch provision but will need some slight adjustment to pitch markings for the 2017-2018 season. This new location will also provide the required buffer zone from neighbouring properties to the park. The new location will also allow the existing skatepark provision to be used during the summer holidays whilst the new wheelpark facility is being constructed.

Locating the wheelpark in the proposed area would allow the creation of unified and connected 'nature' and landscape-based play opportunities, serving a wide age range. This does not preclude the use of equipment, as appropriate.

In addition, locating the wheelpark here would create the context for the sympathetic development of the area currently housing the skatepark and climbing boulder.

**R3. Improve the play and informal recreation offer within the park** - in terms of scope, approach and age ranges served. Institute a design-led, landscape-based approach incorporating a cohesive integration of play, ball games and the wheeled play provision within the park that appeals to all ages. Identify and/or raise capital resources required.

**R4. Commission a condition survey** - of the fixed play provision and the outdoor gym equipment assessing both its condition and life expectancy. This could be commissioned in March for completion by May.

## **Process for commissioning wheelpark**

If Council wishes to proceed with a design-led approach to develop the wheelpark it will need to appoint a landscape-led design organisation (PLAYLINK is one such)

- formulate a concept design (with indicative costings) for the wheelpark and its immediate environment i.e. the wheelpark should feel as though it is part of the landscape rather than merely sitting atop it. In addition, it should provide for good access and seating and planting. This for consultation with client and others as agreed
- Once Concept Design agreed, detailed design, specification details and Contractor Tender Documents formulated
- Design-led body undertakes and oversees Contractor Tender Process
- Design-led body recommends which of bids against Tender is recommended and also conducts any negotiations required
- Contractor appointed. Design-led body acts as contract manager, authorises payments against satisfactory work done
- Design-led body signs off works when satisfactory
- A percentage of contractor's fees retained for an agreed period. Released on authorisation of design-led body.

## **Endword**

We hope that the perspective offered within this report is helpful. We are of course happy to respond to any queries.





PLAYLINK schemes: Above: Abbey Gardens Below: Thornbury Wheelpark

