

**Notes from the Parks & Opens Spaces Working Group Meeting
held at 7.30pm Thursday 20th October 2022**

Present:

Councillors Richard Dorling (chair), Julian Smith (vice-chair), Kerry Cassidy, Lori Reid, David Braithwaite, Christina Whitty

Jacqui Orange (Facilities Manager), Wes Pound (LDSA), Tony Knightsbridge (Liskeard & Looe RFC)

	Agenda Item	Action
1.	Opening remarks	
2.	Apologies – The Mayor Cllr. Simon Cassidy, Naomi Taylor	
3.	<p>Notes from the previous meeting and matters arising</p> <p>Play Areas – Stuart Wallace (Public Space Officer, Cornwall Council) has provided some useful information on play areas and public open space in Liskeard. The small areas are a legacy or poor planning policy. The aim now is to ensure that new houses have multifunctional green infrastructure nearby, and that all residents are within defined accessibility distances of bigger, better equipped playgrounds. Furthermore, the standards require that there be a 20m distance between play equipment and the nearest habitable building. This is to minimise disturbance to residents. Stuart recommends that the Town Council focus on developing decent multifunctional public open space.</p> <p>The play area at St Martin’s Close belongs to Taylor Wimpey. The play area at Connoc Close is owned & managed by Livewest Homes Ltd. For reasons already stated there is not much justification to continue to provide expensive play equipment here. Smaller play areas could be repurposed as pocket park, community gardens, etc.</p> <p>Cornwall Council has produced a useful guide on how communities can get involved and develop projects - www.cornwall.gov.uk/playareas. More information on the open space strategy and standards is available at - https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/parks-leisure-and-culture/parks-and-open-spaces/open-space-strategy-and-standards/.</p>	
4.	<p>Roundbury – The land at Roundbury was designated for use as sports facilities in the Neighbourhood Plan. Things have moved on since then and the Town Council have been in discussions with the landowners about acquiring the land and using Section 106 monies to develop sports facilities. A developer has come forward with proposals for additional residential development on the land to include sports facilities. Advice from the local planning authority indicates that this would be acceptable if sufficient community engagement can be demonstrated. When the planning application is submitted by the developer the Town Council needs to have ready a set of fully worked up and costed scheme that meets the needs of the local community. The Town Council will be engaging consultants to undertake the strategic assessment and detailed design. A summary of the points raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LDSA represent various sports clubs in Liskeard including indoor sports • Concern over covering rates on more than one facility • Total area is 39 acres of which 11 acres are usable for sports pitches • Pitches may require netting if close to houses (there will be a ‘green’ zone between houses and pitches) • Need to factor in parking and areas for spectators 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.5 acres is required for a rugby pitch i.e. 100mx 80m for pitch plus 5m (ideally 10m) either end dead ball area plus 5m all around run-off areas. • Dual rugby/football pitches not possible. Rugby pitches require longer grass. Football pitches have shorter turf that needs to be regularly rolled. • Trevecca is used as a training pitch. Currently 7 years left on lease. • St Martins designated for a new school. Rugby Club has a 12-month lease with a 3-month break clause. The site is flat but only 80m long so can only be used for training. • Liskeard has 3 self-funding netball teams. Costs of using Lux Park have increased and not viable for teams to use Lux Park for training so they are considering moving to Callington. They are looking at negotiating with Liskeard Community College to gain access to their outdoor netball courts for training. Currently netball not part of the LDSA. Netball would require one, possibly, two hard surface courts in the new development. Could potentially double-up as spectator area and/or car parking. • Football club needs another full size pitch. Currently use Lux Park for training. At the moment Liskeard Football Club doesn't have a junior section but with better facilities this could be developed. • There are lots of juniors playing rugby in Liskeard. Under 13 years can play on a pitch without posts i.e. marked out with cones (football the same). • Likely to be an increase in evening matches going forward to floodlights a consideration • An athletics track is compatible with all sports. Does not have to be a cinder track but might be difficult to make a business case for a running track as it is costly to maintain. • Par Running Track is located in the middle of the town with a café which helps fund the facilities. • There are strict specifications for changing facilities. These could be incorporated into other buildings e.g. café or spectator stands. • Project requires professional input. • Experience with funding bodies is that they will not support land purchase but once a site has been secured there are lots of opportunities. • Either the LDSA or the individual clubs would require a lease to make the most of the funding possibilities. The Rugby Club currently pays £400 pa for Trevecca and £300 pa for St Martins. <p>The Town Clerk has identified 3 potential consultants who could take this work forward. This will be funded using the Section 106 monies. The Section 106 is time limited (expires 22 October 2028).</p> <p>Proposed vehicle access is from the north of the site utilising the existing agricultural access.</p> <p>Cllrs Smith, Dorling, Kerry Cassidy plus Town Clerk and Facilities Manager to have a meeting in advance of the Facilities Committee meeting on 1st November 2022.</p> <p>Cllr. Lee-Julian maybe able to provide some help to the rugby club with regard to disabled access. Cllr. Cassidy to put them in touch with Cllr. Lee-Julian.</p>	FM KC
5.	<p>Devolution – Cllr Smith gave an update on the transfer of Castle Park. Cornwall Council are still waiting to receive the Deed from Government. Cllr. Smith is meeting with the CC Localities Officer, Sarah Sims to progress the transfer of the other properties identified on the devolution list. Cllr. Smith will update Facilities Committee on the 1 November.</p>	JS
6.	<p>Facilities Managers Update</p> <p>Wildflower area - the wildflower strip along the western edge of Thorn Park will be developed over the autumn/winter.</p>	FM

	<p>Equipment repairs - Still chasing Cormac for costs to replace the bench and repair the concrete base that was damaged by fire some time ago plus repairs to the pirate ship play and removal of graffiti.</p> <p>Tree Safety Inspection - the contract has been awarded to Bruce MacFarlane and he will be undertaking site visits on 1st November 2022.</p> <p>Tree planting - the FM has applied for one (hopefully two) Landmark Trees for Thorn Park. Forest for Cornwall are also supplying a Rowan tree as part of the Passmore Edwards 200th anniversary. If, we need to pay for the trees the approx. cost is £160-£200 per tree to include stages and guards.</p> <p>Golitha Rise – We have now received the TP1 Form from Barratts regarding the transfer of Golitha Rise. They also want to include the footpath which is currently unadopted. Kevin George is seeking further clarification from Barratts on whether the footpath was ear-marked for adoption as part of the planning consent. For consideration at Facilities Committee.</p> <p>Rapsons Field – Stuart Wallace has provided a copy of the agreement between what was Caradon DC and the Town Council signed in 2006 for a period of 25-years for Rapsons. However, it is probably not sufficient to cover the redevelopment of the site and/or to secure Skate GB funding against. In the meantime, we have been contacted by two local parents who are interested in helping to develop better skating facilities in Liskeard. Skateboard UK have released some information regarding funding - https://skateboardgb.org/news/2022/5/10/new-funding-announced-to-help-grow-skateboarding-in-england. FM and Cllr. Kerry Cassidy to follow-up.</p>	<p>FM/JS</p> <p>FM/KC</p>
7.	AOB	
7.	Date of next meeting – 2pm Tuesday 6 th December	