

BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL
Environment Committee
Thursday 27 February 2025
Decision Report

Recommendations

The Committee RESOLVE to agree: which play area will be refurbished in 2025/26, based on the recommendation of Officers where the play areas at Cottingwood Green and Briardale have been further considered.

Ward

Croft, Newsham, Kitty Brewster

Risk Management

There is budget provision of £130,000 in the play area programme to refurbish one of the above play areas play area as well as the St. John's MUGA in 2025/26. Pending receipt of tenders and quotations, this may result in a higher figure being required than the initial budget, possibly up to £10,000. Play areas are inspected weekly to maintain a safe facility.

Crime Prevention

All Town Council play areas may be covered by CCTV.

Objective

To promote the environmental, social, and economic wellbeing of the town and its community. One way this can be done is by the provision of Play/Sports Areas to create a facility for children/teenagers, up to mid-teens, to both learn and play within a secure environment.

Report

At the Committee meeting on the 10 December 2024, it was agreed that Officers would carry out an assessment of two to three play areas and consider their position within the capital programme. Officers have done this and after visiting sites at Cottingwood Green and Briardale to consider which facility to bring forward for recommendation. A number of points were considered including the condition of the play facility, play value, estimated usage and inspections.

Cottingwood Green Play Area

The play equipment at Cottingwood Green is best suited for the older age range and the equipment is now showing its age and was due to be refurbished in 2027/28 in the refurbishment programme. The current play area surface is made up of sand and it is not conducive for play particularly in wet winter months.

When Blyth Valley Borough Council originally installed the play area it was used by a much smaller number of children from neighbouring properties. In recent years three new housing estates have been built in close proximity (within a 5 minute walk) and no provision was made for the installation of play facilities on these estates. This has led to increased usage of the Cottingwood Green Play Area.

Two options have been forwarded for Cottingwood Green.

The first option, the officers preference, is for a wet pour surface and along with the equipment at an indicative cost £119k

The second option is for a carpet surface along with the equipment at an indicative cost £126k

Briardale Play Area

The play equipment at Briardale is targeted at the 3-10-year age range and is in a generally good condition. The fitness equipment is in a fair condition, but it is starting to show its age.

The Briardale Play Area is due to be refurbished in 2028/29 as part of the refurbishment programme.

Please note, that Axwell Drive Play Area is located approximately 500 metres from the Briardale Play Area and was refurbished in 2024.

The quotation supplied for the refurbishment at an indicative cost £97k

St John's MUGA – for information

The work proposed at St John's MUGA is as follows;

- repaint the metal perimeter fence & associated dug out area and replace aging fixings of panels on perimeter fence as part of works
- paint lines on the surface to support football and basketball activities
- refurbish of basketball hoops and backing boards
- new entrance signage.

As part of the works two new litterbins will be installed and a general tidy of the surrounding area will take place.

Quotations are currently being sourced for the works with the total cost estimated to be in the £10,000 – 15,000 range.

Officers will be submitting S106 requests to Northumberland County Council for assistance on the above works where possible.

Stephen Humphrey
Principal Officer

20 February 2025