

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 16<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2017  
title: CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS  
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE

## 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide information on the scale and range of play areas in the Borough, which the Council operates.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities
- Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley
  - Corporate Priorities - To help makes people's lives safer and healthier
  - Other Considerations – To develop, with relevant partners, measures to support the visitor economy

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council operates 18 play areas across the Borough; these are listed in the appendix. This list also includes play areas which are in the Borough and accessible by the community. There are a number of schools which have play facilities these are specific to the school and not included in this list.
- 2.2 The Council does not manage or provide every play area in the Ribble Valley, there are a number provided by Town and Parish Councils, as well as some which have been incorporated into new housing developments which are the responsibility of the individual developer.
- 2.3 Children's Play is enshrined in the United Nations Article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As such it is seen as integral to their development and play areas provide opportunities for children to act spontaneously and in an unstructured way.
- 2.4 The play areas the Council provides range in size and space from the largest such as the one in the Castle grounds to the smallest which is Whalley Calderstones, with 3 pieces of equipment.
- 2.5 The annual budget for the 18 play areas is £40k; this sum covers all expenditure relating to their upkeep, including inspection/maintenance, equipment replacement and enhancement.

## 3 ISSUES

- 3.1 Misuse and vandalism of play areas constitute a significant portion of the annual budget. Due to the unpredictability of the damage that results from vandalism and misuse, it is very difficult to predict what the annual cost will be across the 18 play areas. Some such as Salthill are predictable because it is out of the way and often

subject to anti-social behaviour, despite attempts by Council staff and the Police to minimise it. Others such as Castle or Mardale might happen when the clocks go back and damage is perpetrated under the cover of darkness.

- 3.2 Depending upon the state of the budget, one of the play areas may be chosen to be enhanced annually if possible. This has taken the form of introducing an additional piece of equipment or introducing traditional school yard games onto tarmac areas. However with safety surfaces costing up to £90 per metre and small items of equipment costing around £400, with the larger pieces being as much as £3,000, the budget does not allow for many brand new additional items of equipment being installed.
- 3.3 It is planned to assess the current 18 play areas and determine if they are all required, in light of other play provision which might now be provided. If rationalisation of the 18 is a potential then a further report will be brought back to this committee. Until that time the Council will continue to maintain and operate the 18 areas within the budget provided.

#### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – The capital budget used for the play areas is subject to an annual bid as part of the Council's capital programme.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – Maintenance of the play areas is essential, Council staff carry out regular inspections which is supplemented by an annual inspection from the Council's insurer. The information from both forms the basis for maintenance work which is carried out on the equipment, safety surfaces, gates and fences.
- Reputation – The general public enjoy using our play areas, but they compare our offer with that of other areas they see, which can raise expectation beyond our ability to fulfil.

#### 5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

Committee note the report.

MARK BEVERIDGE  
HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

JOHN HEAP  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

For further information please ask for Mark Beveridge, extension 4479

## APPENDIX

<b>Venue Name</b>	<b>Address – If known</b>	<b>Provider</b> (Council/Private/Parish)	<b>Overview of Equipment</b>
Edisford Play Area	Edisford Road BB7 3LA	Council	4 x Swings-(Older age) Medium sized play unit
Henthorn Play Area	Henthorn Road BB7 2QB	Council	2x 2 sets of swings Slide- large Climbing Unit Wood balance unit at low level
Salthill Playground	Salthill Road BB7 1PE	Council	0-5 yr child's unit Small climbing frame Climbing/slide for older children Balancing wood beam
Castle Grounds	Eshton Terrace, Clitheroe BB7 1BA	Council	Wide range of equipment for all ages- 12 swings and 22 items in total
Hurst Green	Avenue Road BB7 9QB	Parish Council	Swings x 4 (young to older) Slide with twist Imaginative/Learning Section
John Smiths	Chaigley Road Longridge PR3 3TQ	RVBC	2x Play and slide units for early ages and older Low balance equipment See-Saw Rocking Equipment x 2

Venue Name	Address – If known	Provider (Council/Private/Parish)	Overview of Equipment
Kestor Lane Junior Play	Kestor Lane Recreation Ground PR3 3LD	RVBC	5 swings 1 Play unit – small 1 play unit – large 1 see saw
Kestor Lane	As above	Longridge Town Council	Zip line Rota play High climb unit 3 x
Mardale Rd	Mardale Rd Longridge PR3	RVBC	4 x swings 1 play unit
Redwood Drive	Redwood Drive PR3 3HA	RVBC	2 swings (early) 2 swings (older) Small Unit + Slide
Chester Avenue Tom Robinson Play Area	BB7 2AJ	Clitheroe Town Council	2 X2 Swings 4 items of balance rocker play
Mearley Sykes	BB7 1JG	RVBC	Swings x 2 See-saw (spring) Slide and climbing unit

Venue Name	Address – If known	Provider (Council/Private/Parish)	Overview of Equipment
Proctor's Field, Whalley	George St	RVBC	Variety of equipment to suit ages up to 12 years and challenging aspects of play
Langho	BB7 9NA	Parish/Other	Equipment area designed for up to 12 years. Unit with climbing frame
Mellor Brook	Fieldings Lane	Parish/Other	2 items of equipment- 1 x Toddler swing and 1 slide for young children
Mellor	St Mary's Garden's Mellor BB7 2JP	Parish	Low level balance/ continuous run crawl section, 2 person see-saw. 2x swings 1 x Rocker for Toddlers
Highfield Road Clitheroe	BB7 1LD	RVBC	Swings x 4 Young children's climbing frame and older aged unit. Rota Play unit Low level balance continuous play unit.
Colthirst Drive, Clitheroe	BB7 2EJ	RVBC	1 Pair swings for under 5's 1 climbing unit with slide 1 x balance rocker

Venue Name	Address – If known	Provider (Council/Private/Parish)	Overview of Equipment
Hawthorn Place, Clitheroe	BB7 2HU	RVBC	3 items in total 2 x 2 swings 1 play unit for under 8's.
Barrow	Washbrook Close	RVBC	2 x 2 Swings See/Saw Climbing Unit and slide 1 x Rocker 1x Rota Play
Dunsop Bridge	BB7 3BB	Parish	Large Wooden Area with swings Play Units and low level balance Fitness Trail Youth Shelter, Skate Park and Climbing Wall
Chatburn	BB7 4AS	Parish	2 Play Units for children of younger and slightly older ages-up to 12 years. 2x swings –Toddler Round-about, Balance Rocker
Rimington	BB74AS	Parish	Top section- Older child play unit with balance/ climb and slide sections 2x 2 swings younger and older ages. See Saw. Seated Round a bout. Wooden balance unit
Gisburn	BB7 4ET Burnley Rd.	Parish	Smaller child's equipment on lower section. Swings x2. Challenging wooden adventure play section and upper level Zip wire over distance of approx 20 m.

Venue Name	Address – If known	Provider (Council/Private/Parish)	Overview of Equipment
Waddington	BB7 3LF	Parish	4X Swings 2 Toddler and 2 Over 5's Climbing units- with climbing and slides. Balance low level unit with ropes.
West Bradford	BB7 4T	Parish	4X Swings 2 Toddler and 2 Over 5's Climbing frame with various types of climbing. Tunnel (3 sections) 1 X Round about Under 5's area 2x Rockers
Grindleton	BB7 4QS	Parish	Continuous balance play- wood based equipment at low level Junior Under 5's unit with slide. 2x2 sets of swings for under and over 5's. Older age climbing unit of reasonable size
Slaidburn	Village Green BB7 3ES	Parish	Wooden Fitness/ Trim Trail No children's play equipment
Sawley	BB7 4LE	Parish	Good variety to suit up to 12 years. 2x climbing units 2x2 swings Wooden balance play section- continuous play
Woodlands	Whalley	RVBC	Equipment for up to 5yrs. 3 items including balance rocker, swings and small play unit.

Venue Name	Address – If known	Provider (Council/Private/Parish)	Overview of Equipment
Billington	Whalley Rd	Parish	Wooden climbing unit in the design of a castle. Swings and also a circular type swing. Low-level balance continuous play made from wood. Educational orientated play equipment x4 Climbing Wall.
Wilpshire	Durham Road	Council	2 x Balance Rockers Slide to suit ages up to 12 years. 2 x 2 sets of swings for younger and older children
Read	Whalley Road BB12 7PE	Parish	Play Unit which has disability suitable slide. Climbing Ladder, Balance Rockers x2 6 items of exercise equipment. 2 x2 swings Play unit for younger children.
Sabden	The Holme Recreation Ground	Parish	2x2 sets of swings for older/ younger ages. 3x Balance Rockers, small play unit-slides and climbing. Larger-child's slide, continuous play- low balance, Climbing structure-roped unit, Rocket shaped see-saw, 2x Parallel bars for dips
Chipping	Chipping Village Hall	Parish	Small Wooden climbing frame. 2 x s sets of swings for different age ranges. 1 x play unit for under 12's and 1 junior / infant. Continuous low level balance equipment.
Low Moor	St Anne's Court BB7 2NN	Council	2 X Toddler aged swings 2 x Older child swings Small climbing/ slide unit which is disability friendly. 1x See Saw, 2 x Rockers for young children

Venue Name	Address – If known	Provider (Council/Private/Parish)	Overview of Equipment
Whalley-Calderstones	Pendle Drive BB7 9RH	Parish/Other	3 items of equipment for toddlers;- 2 rockers and 1 very small slide. (LAP-Toddler/ Doorstep play)
Whalley- Calderstones Whalley Moor-WOODLANDS	Off Beach Drive	Council	2x Swings High Level sit on see-saw equipment for older ages. Balance trail including 'cargo' type climbing netting. Covered sheltered 'Hammock' type area. Unit combining slide, climbing, in a woodland themed design.
Ribchester	Off Church Street Ribchester PR3 3YE	Parish	Sand Pit and wooden play, Large and smaller slides, mixed aged swings, climbing apparatus-cargo net Picnic tables x 2 and 4 benches
Park Street-Clitheroe	Park Street/ Littlemoor View	Clitheroe Town Council	2x Swings (Toddler) and 2x swings child. 1x small slide Wooden balance play area in a circuit. Grass playing space