

Area North Committee – 25<sup>th</sup> July 2007

## 10. Play Areas and Youth Facilities

*Executive Portfolio Holder:* Councillor Sylvia Seal (Leisure & Culture)  
*Head of Service:* Steve Joel, Head of Sport, Arts & Leisure  
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### Purpose of the Report

To update the committee on the progress made with play area refurbishment and youth facility provision.

### Recommendations

To note the progress made in implementing play area refurbishment and youth facility provision in the parishes across Area North.

### Background

An audit of play areas in South Somerset District Council's area north was carried out in 2001 and another in 2004. The aim was to ascertain the overall condition of play areas and to obtain information towards producing a structured approach to the prioritisation of play area improvements.

Most parishes have come forward and refurbished their play areas. Some have still to complete the final phases of their refurbishment projects. The few remaining parishes that have yet to come forward for financial support from SSDC have indicated that they intend to.

The Play & Youth Facilities Team has carried out a series of one-day workshops in 2006 and 2007 for play area and youth facility providers in area north and across SSDC. These workshops have built on the information already made available to parishes by SSDC. It supports them in carrying out their responsibilities within recommended European guidelines and British law.

### Report

#### **Current status of individual Parish / Town Council, Village Hall / Playing Field Management Committee owned Play Area Refurbishment Projects**

The following projects have been delivered by the parishes with support from the Play & Youth Facilities Officer. This support includes assisting with project planning, consultation, fundraising, design, project briefs, seeking quotes, risk assessments, installation inspections and training in management and long-term maintenance.

#### **Aller**

*COMPLETED 2007*                      *SSDC grant awarded - £7,500*  
*Total value of project - £14,904*

#### **Ash play area**

*COMPLETED first phase of refurbishment 2004*      *SSDC grant awarded £4,000*  
*Total value of project - £15,183*

The parish council is currently fund raising for the final phase of refurbishment for their play area and is hoping to complete it in early 2008. The Play & Youth Facilities Officer has carried out site visits with the parish council and attended parish meetings to discuss the funding available and possible designs.

#### **Chilthorne Domer play area**

*COMPLETED first and second phases of refurbishment in 2002 and 2005*

*SSDC grant awarded - £6,703      Total value of project - £12,569*

The Play & Youth Facilities Officer has carried out site visits with the parish council and attended parish meetings to discuss the funding available. The parish council is now considering a third and final phase of refurbishment for 2007/8.

#### **Curry Rivel – Playing Field play area**

*COMPLETED 2001      SSDC grant awarded - £8,500*

*Total value of project - £18,774*

#### **Fivehead play area**

*COMPLETED 2005      SSDC grant awarded - £9,252*

*Total value of project - £30,593*

#### **Hambridge & Westport play area**

*COMPLETED main refurbishment 2004      SSDC grant awarded £8,500*

*Total value of project - £36,000*

#### **Langport play area**

*COMPLETED 2005      SSDC grant awarded - £12,500*

*Total value of project - £35,248*

#### **Long Sutton play area**

*COMPLETED 2004      SSDC grant awarded - £12,500*

*Total value of project - £33,331*

#### **Martock - Recreation Ground play area**

*WORK IN PROGRESS 2007 SSDC grant to be awarded - £12,500*

*+ £10,000 Market Town Regeneration grant to be awarded*

*Total value of project to date - £40,000*

The first phase of this project is nearing completion. Further phases are anticipated as other funding becomes available.

#### **Montacute play area**

The parish council has set up a working party responsible for refurbishment. The Play & Youth Facilities Officer has carried out site visits with the parish council and attended parish meetings to discuss the funding available and possible designs. The parish has yet to come forward to develop a refurbishment project plan.

#### **Somerton - Etsome Terrace play area**

*WORK IN PROGRESS 2007 SSDC grant to be awarded - £12,500*

*+ £10,000 Market Town Regeneration grant to be awarded*

*Total value of project - £87,000*

This refurbishment project is very close to final completion. The combination of new play equipment, landscaping fencing and seating has transformed and enhanced this area of Somerton.

**Somerton - Gassons Lane play area**

COMPLETED 2005                      SSSC grant awarded - £12,500  
Total value of project - £110,000

**Somerton - Parklands Way play area**

COMPLETED 2005                      SSSC Community grant awarded - £1,000  
Total value of project - £8,800

**Somerton – ‘Bonds Mill’ Sutton Road play area**

WORK IN PROGRESS 2007  
Total value of project - £10,000

All play equipment has now been installed. Awaiting fencing.  
This site is due to be adopted by Somerton Town Council from Midas Homes.

**Stoke Sub Hamdon - Memorial Field play area**

COMPLETED 2003                      SSSC grant awarded - £8,500  
Total value of project - £35,250

**Tintinhull - Vicarage Street play area**

COMPLETED 2005                      SSSC grant awarded - £7,500  
Total value of project - £39,254

**Current status of individual SSSC owned  
Play Area Refurbishment Projects**

**Martock – Bracey Road play area**

WORK IN PROGRESS 2007                      Total value of project - £60,000

All of the existing play equipment has had new replacement parts and has been restored and repainted. It is anticipated that tenders will be sought in August 2007 and the installation of the new play equipment will take place by March 2008.

**Norton Sub Hamdon – Minchingtons Close**

WORK IN PROGRESS 2007

Estimated total value of project - £5,000 (From Revenue Budget April 2007)

All of the original equipment has had new replacement parts and has been restored and repainted. Installation of a small item of play equipment will take place in Autumn 2007.

**South Petherton – West End View play area**

COMPLETED 2007                      Total value of project - £10,000

Two new items of play equipment have been installed. These are a pair of toddler swings and a cone climber roundabout. All of the original safety surfacing has been repaired and restuck and all of the original equipment has been restored with new replacement parts and repainted.

**Current status of individual Parish / Town Council,  
Village Hall / Playing Field Management Committee owned  
Youth Facilities Projects**

**Barrington - Multi Use Games Wall and Youth Shelter**

COMPLETED 2005                      SSSC Community grant - £7,000  
Total value of project - £19,120

**Fivehead - Multi Use Games Wall and Youth Shelter (SSDC Active England Project)***COMPLETED 2005      SSDC grant awarded - £3,500**Total value of project - £20,164***High Ham - BMX Track and Youth Shelter (SSDC Active England Project)***COMPLETED 2005      SSDC grant awarded - £4,000**Total value of project - £17,000***Kingsbury Episcopi - Kick Wall***COMPLETED 2005      SSDC grant awarded - £500***Langport - Skate Park and Youth Shelter***COMPLETED 2005      SSDC grant awarded - £9,500**Total value of project - £31,465***Martock - Skate Park (SSDC Active England Project)***COMPLETED 2005      SSDC grant awarded - £11,500**Total value of project - £25,000***Norton Sub Hamdon - Multi Use Games Area***CURRENTLY INCOMPLETE      SSDC grant committed - £12,000**Total value of project - £71,000*

This is a County Council managed project and it has all funds in place. The project is currently incomplete. The SSDC Play & Youth Facilities Officer has continued to support Norton Sub Hamdon Parish Council by attending several site meetings with County Council and their contractors. Currently SSDC cannot accept the faulty construction of this facility and therefore is not in a position to release the SSDC grant contribution.

**Shepton Beauchamp – Multi Use Games Area***COMPLETED 2005      SSDC grant awarded - £17,000**Total value of project - £68,000***Somerton Gassons Lane – Skate Park (SSDC Active England Project)***COMPLETED 2005      SSDC grant awarded - £7,500**Total value of project - 52,000*

The Town Council has recently purchased an additional piece of skate stone product to compliment and enhance the existing skate park.

**South Petherton - Basketball Wall***COMPLETED 2006      SSDC Officer support***Conclusion**

Many parish and town councils, village hall and playing field committees have now focused on the refurbishment of their play areas and the installation of youth facilities and have come forward for grant funding from SSDC. Other parishes are still working hard on progressing their individual projects. All of these play and youth facility providers will be requiring further help and advice from the SSDC Play & Youth Facilities Officer throughout 2007 and 2008.

**Financial Implications**

The play area refurbishment programme and youth facility provision is within the approved budgets.

## Implications for Corporate Aims

Play supports the following Corporate Aims: -

- Aim Three - Improve the health and well-being of our citizens
- Aim Four - Ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities
- Aim Five - Promote a balanced natural and built environment

### **Background Papers:**

*Area North Committee Reports:  
22nd January 2007, 25th January 2006,  
28th June 2006, 27th July 2005  
| April 2005, 28th July 2004*