

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

**Belle Vue Square Offices, Belle Vue Suite, Skipton
Tuesday 24 April 2018 at 7.00pm**

Members of the Council are summoned to consider the following business

Note: Any Member who wishes to ask a question is asked to give notice by no later than Noon on the day before the Council Meeting. This will give those answering questions time to produce a response. Otherwise written answers may be given after the meeting.

AGENDA

Exclusion of the Public: In accordance with the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules, Members are recommended to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of Appendix B to Item \$6 on the grounds that it is likely that if Members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 (relates to the financial or business affairs of any person including the Authority holding the information) of those Rules and Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Minutes** – To confirm the minutes of Council held on 27 February 2018.
- 3. Public Participation** – In the event that questions are received, the Chairman will conduct the public participation session for a period of up to fifteen minutes. Where questions are asked, one related supplementary question may be permitted at the Chairman's discretion.
- 4. Declarations of Interest** – All Members are invited to declare at this point any interests they have on items appearing on this agenda, including the nature of those interests and whether they wish to apply the exception below.

(Note: Declarations should be in the form of either:

- a “**disclosable pecuniary interest**” under Appendix A to the (new) Code of Conduct, in which case the Member must leave the meeting room; or
- an “**other interest**” under Appendix B of the (new) Code. For these interests, the Member may stay in the meeting room, although they must leave if membership of the organisation results in a conflict of interest.

(Exception: Where a member of the public has a right to speak at a meeting, a Member who has a disclosable pecuniary interest or an other interest and must leave the room, has the same rights and may make representations, answer questions or give evidence, but at the conclusion of that, must then leave the room and not take part in the discussion or vote.)

5. **Chairman’s Announcements** – A list of engagements attended by the Chairman is attached.
- \$6. **Recommendations for Confirmation** – Minutes containing recommendations for debate and confirmation by Council arising from meetings of Committees.
7. **Calendar of Meetings 2018/19** – To present the Calendar of Meetings for 2018/19 for approval.
8. **Statement from the Leader of the Council** – The Leader of the Council will deliver his statement. When the Statement has been made, Members will be invited to ask questions of the Leader.
9. **Statements from Lead Members and Chairmen of Committees** (as appropriate)
 - a. **Lead Members**
 - b. **Chairman of Select Committee** – The Chairman of Select Committee to report on the Committee’s work, and answer any questions from Members.
 - c. **Chairmen of Other Committees** – This is an opportunity for Members of the Council to ask questions of the Chairmen of the Committees listed below on any current issues, or for those Chairmen to make a statement:
 - i. Audit and Governance Committee
 - ii. Licensing Committee
 - iii. Planning Committee
 - iv. Standards Committee
10. **General Question / Statement Time** – This is an opportunity for Members to raise awareness of issues that may be affecting their Ward, and are of general interest or importance, by making a statement or asking a question.

*(Note: Council Procedure Rule 11.4 covers the conduct of this item. A Member must give **advance notice by noon on the day before the meeting** to the Democratic Services Unit of any issue to be raised. The time limit for dealing with matters under this Rule is up to 15 minutes in total, with no individual item taking more than 5 minutes. Timings may be varied at the Chairman’s discretion.)*

11. **New Playground in Aireville Park, Skipton** – Report of the Chief Executive.

Purpose of Report – To seek member approval to amend the Aireville Park Masterplan and recognise the invaluable contribution that the community group Friends of Aireville Park have made to the project.

Agenda Contact Officer:

Guy Close, Democratic Services Manager
Tel: (01756) 706226
E-mail: gclose@cravendc.gov.uk

Recording at Council Meetings: Recording is allowed at Council, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings which are open to the public, subject to

- (i) the recording being conducted with the full knowledge of the Chairman of the meeting; and
- (ii) compliance with the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at meetings, a copy of which is available on request. Anyone wishing to record must contact the agenda contact officer (details above) prior to the start of the meeting. Any recording must be conducted openly and not disrupt proceedings.

Emergency Evacuation Procedure

In case of an emergency, or if the alarm sounds, leave the meeting room and exit the building using the main doors onto the Square. If those doors are not available, please use the nearest available door.

The assembly point is in Belle Vue Square at the front of the building, nearest the main road. An officer will take a roll call once everyone is out of the building.

Please do not leave a meeting without telling the Chairman or a representative of Legal and Democratic Services.

COUNCIL MEETING

27 February 2018

Present – The Chairman (Councillor Place) and Councillors Barrett, Baxandall, Brown, Dawson, Graham, Harbron, Heseltine, Hull, Ireton, Lis, Madeley, Mason, Moorby, Morell, Mulligan, Shuttleworth, Solloway, Staveley, Sutcliffe, Thompson, Welch and Whitaker.

Officers – Chief Executive, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Director of Services, Chief Finance Officer and Democratic Services Manager.

Apologies: Councillors Brockbank, Foster, Jaquin, Mercer, Myers, Pighills and Rose.

Start: 7.00pm

Finish: 8.05pm

CL.1014

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Resolved – That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 30 January 2018 are confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CL.1015

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no questions received.

CL.1016

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that Standards Committee had granted a dispensation to all Members to allow them to participate and vote in relation to setting the Council Tax or a precept under the Local Government Act 1992 (or subsequent legislation) (STN.317).

CL.1017

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A list of engagements attended by the Chairman since the last meeting of Council was included within the agenda.

CL.1018

BUDGET RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONFIRMATION

The following recommendations were submitted from the Policy Committee meeting held on 16 January 2018:

(Note: For each minute the motion was proposed and seconded "That the recommendations in the minutes are confirmed.")

(a) POL.908 Pay Policy Statement 2018-2019

Whilst acknowledging the funding pressures faced by local authorities, Councillor Brown expressed concern that the proposed pay increase for Council employees was not in line with the current rate of inflation and this was not a sustainable policy for the future. The Chief Executive advised that the proposed pay increase was part of a national negotiation and was subject to agreement by Unions.

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.908 are confirmed.

(b) POL.909 Council Plan 2018-2021

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.909 are confirmed.

(c) POL.910 Capital Programme 2018/19

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.910 are confirmed.

(d) POL.911 Revenue Budget 2018/19 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 to 2020/21

The recommendations at Minute POL.911 (Revenue Budget 2017/18) were considered alongside the item on Revenue Budget / Council Tax 2018/19 (Minute CL.1019 below refers).

(e) POL.912 2018/19 Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Statement and Annual Investment Strategy

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.912 are confirmed.

CL.1019 **REVENUE BUDGET/ COUNCIL TAX 2018/19**

In accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011, the Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) submitted a report to enable the Council to calculate and approve the Council Tax requirement for 2018/19.

The Deputy Leader presented a budget speech in which he advised that a balanced budget had been delivered. He advised that the Council continued to face significant financial challenges, however, with its track record for making savings and innovative ideas for income generation, he was confident that the Council would be able to respond positively to the challenges faced.

Members were advised that the Rural Services Delivery Grant had increased to £280,000, which was an increase of £55,000 from the December provisional announcement. This additional grant was being used to reduce the support to the budget from the New Homes Bonus reserve in 2018/19. The Deputy Leader also thanked the Rural Services Network and SPARSE for the work and lobbying that they had done.

The Deputy Leader confirmed that the Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) had assessed the robustness of the budget and confirmed the adequacy of reserves. It was proposed that the Council increased Council Tax by £5 at Band D or just under 10p per week to £167.21, which was just under £3.22 per week.

Councillor Barrett thanked the Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) and her team for their hard work in delivering the budget. He also acknowledged the significant financial challenges faced by the Council.

Councillor Madeley expressed support for the budget and acknowledged the challenges delivering a balanced budget.

Councillor Heseltine commented that it was not sustainable to keep expecting council tax payers to pay more. There was also an inequitable divide between rural and urban authorities.

Councillor Mulligan thanked the Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) and her staff for delivering a balanced budget. Income generation schemes would be important in supporting future budgets.

Councillor Brown expressed concern that disproportionate cuts had been imposed on local government. He also felt that the budget was too reliant on the New Homes Bonus grant.

Councillor Solloway raised concern that financial challenges had resulted in a lack of flexibility with budget setting. He also highlighted the impact of cuts on rural communities.

The Deputy Leader concluded by adding his thanks to officers and to opposition members for their support.

The following motions were then voted on:

1. That the recommendations contained in Minute POL.911 (Revenue Budget 2018/19 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2018-19 to 2020-21) as set out below are confirmed:

- (a) That the revenue budget assumptions, as detailed within the Chief Finance Officer's report are noted.
- (b) That the revenue budget for 2018/19 of £6,788,689 is approved.
- (c) That the schedule of growth bids of £128,980 as identified in Appendix C to the report now submitted are approved.
- (d) That the savings of £185,010 as identified in Appendix D to the report now submitted, are incorporated into the budget.
- (e) That a contribution from the New Homes Bonus Reserve of £100,000 is made to support the 2018/19 budget, in addition to £317,160 for approved projects, giving a total of £417,160.
- (f) That the assessment of the robustness of the budget and adequacy of reserves in Paragraph 10 and Appendix F of the report now submitted are approved.
- (g) That, the estimated sum of £995,000 as identified as the General Fund Balance as at 31st March 2017 in Paragraph 10 and Appendix F of the report now submitted is approved.
- (h) That the Council Tax is increased at Band D by £5 to £167.21.
- (i) That the revenue budget incorporates the net contributions to/(from) earmarked reserves as detailed in tables 1 and 2, Paragraph 4.8, Appendix A and Appendix F (annex 1).
- (j) That should additional resources be available through the retained business rates scheme, a matching contribution to the business rates contingency reserve is made to mitigate against future uncertainties.
- (k) That the Section 25 report on the robustness of the budget contained at section 10 of the report and Appendix F is noted.
- (l) That the funding sources identified in the report and Appendix A now submitted are approved:

		£'000
a)	Revenue Support Grant	141
b)	Rural Services Grant	225
c)	Housing Grant	46
d)	New Homes Bonus	513
e)	Retained Business Rates	1,600
f)	Business Rates Collection Fund (Deficit)	(20)
g)	Council Tax Collection Fund Surplus	98
h)	Council Tax	3,755
i)	Contribution from General Fund Balance	0
j)	Contributions (to)/from Earmarked Reserves	431
	Total Funding	6,789

2. That the recommendations contained in the report of the Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) as reproduced below are confirmed.

- 2.1 It be noted that on 31 October 2017 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base 2018/19
- (a) for the whole Council area as 22,455 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached Appendix A.
- 2.2 Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2018/19 (excluding Parish precepts) is £3,754,701.
- 2.3 That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2018/19 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
- (a) **£24,915,186** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - (b) **£19,800,618** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) **£5,114,568** being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
 - (d) **£227.77** being the amount at (c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2.1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
 - (e) **£1,359,867** being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix B).

- (f) **£167.21** being the amount at (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by Item T (2.1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

- 2.4 To note that the County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire and Rescue Service have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.
- 2.5 That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2018/19 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Valuation Bands

CRAVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
151.84	177.15	202.46	227.77	278.39	329.01	379.60	455.54

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
832.56	971.33	1,110.09	1,248.85	1,526.37	1,803.89	2,081.42	2,497.70

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER NORTH YORKSHIRE

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
155.21	181.08	206.95	232.82	284.56	336.30	388.03	465.64

NORTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
46.13	53.82	61.51	69.20	84.58	99.96	115.33	138.40

AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1,185.74	1,383.38	1,581.01	1,778.64	2,173.90	2,569.16	2,964.38	3,557.28

- 2.6 The Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2018/19 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

- 2.7 If the formal Council Tax Resolution is approved, the total Band D Council Tax will be as follows:

	2018/19 £
Craven DC	167.21
North Yorkshire County Council	1,248.85
Police and Crime Commissioner North Yorkshire	232.82
North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service	69.20
Sub-Total	1,718.08
Town & Parish Council (average)	60.56
Total	1,778.64

Resolved –

1. That in respect to Motion 1, Minute POL.911 – Revenue Budget / Council Tax 2018/19 as set out above is confirmed and adopted.

For the Motion: Councillors Barrett, Baxandall, Dawson, Graham, Harbron, Heseltine Hull, Ireton, Lis, Madeley, Mason, Moorby, Morell, Mulligan, Place, Shuttleworth, Solloway Staveley, Sutcliffe, Thompson, Welch and Whitaker. (22)

Against the Motion: None (0)

Abstain: Councillor Brown (1)

2. That in respect to Motion 2, the recommendations contained in the report of the Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) as set out above are adopted.

For the Motion: Councillors Barrett, Baxandall, Dawson, Graham, Harbron, Heseltine Hull, Ireton, Lis, Madeley, Mason, Moorby, Morell, Mulligan, Place, Shuttleworth, Solloway Staveley, Sutcliffe, Thompson, Welch and Whitaker. (22)

Against the Motion: None (0)

Abstain: Councillor Brown (1)

CL.1020 OTHER RECOMMEDATIONS FOR CONFIRMATION

The following recommendations were submitted from the Audit and Governance Committee meeting held on 23 January 2018:

(Note: For each minute the motion was proposed and seconded “That the recommendations in the minutes are confirmed.”)

- (a) AC.308 Anti-Money Laundering Policy

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute AC.308 are confirmed.

- (b) AC.309 Whistleblowing Policy

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute AC.309 are confirmed.

CL.1021 **DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2018/19**

The Democratic Services Manager submitted a report which presented the draft calendar of meetings for 2018/19. It was reported that the draft calendar was to be brought back to the April Council meeting for confirmation.

There were no comments on the draft calendar of meetings for 2018/19.

CL.1022 **STATEMENT FROM THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Deputy Leader provided an update on the Draft Local Plan, which included representations that had been submitted and the deadline for responses. The next stage involved preparation for formal submission to the Secretary of State by 29 March 2018.

It was advised that the Secretary of State was supportive towards securing a devolution deal for Yorkshire, possibly by May 2020.

CL.1023 **STATEMENT FROM LEAD MEMBERS AND CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES**

Councillor Staveley advised that the Select Committee was undertaking a review of Bereavement Services and its findings were being finalised next month.

It was reported that due to the adverse weather conditions, the Select Crime and Disorder Committee meeting on 28 February 2018 had been cancelled.

CL.1024 **GENERAL QUESTION / STATEMENT TIME**

A question was submitted by Councillor Brown to the Deputy Leader of the Council as follows:

“Could you please outline for us the measures that CDC has put in place to avoid single use plastic on CDC premises and by our staff during working hours?”

The following response was provided by Councillor Lis, Lead Member for Greener Craven:

“Single Use Plastics can be defined as plastics that are only used once before they are thrown away or recycled. This includes plastic bags, straws, coffee stirrers, water bottles and most food packaging.

The Council in its everyday business uses very little of these commodities. The major commodity is paper for copying and printing. This is delivered in cardboard boxes with individual reams of paper within the box wrapped in paper wrapping. Where we do use single use plastics such as cartridge tonners for printers these are recycled via the supplier.

Finally, the Council does not provide a vending machine service to provide hot and cold drinks for staff, therefore such plastics are not produced.”

A question was also submitted by Councillor Solloway to the Lead Member for Greener Craven as follows:

“Having recently done a few journeys from Skipton to Northallerton, the difference in levels of litter and plastic waste on the roadside verges in Craven, is much more than when you cross other District Boundaries, and given that Hambleton District Council and Harrogate Borough Council seem to have teams of litter pickers clearing their verges, could we see to it that we too get our roadside verges cleared, please?”

The following response was provided by Councillor Lis, Lead Member for Greener Craven:

“Officers are aware of the situation and are in the process of arranging road verge litter picking in March for the following ‘A’ roads –

Spring Verge Purge Timetable	
‘A’ Road	Week commencing (indicative)
A65 Skipton through Gargrave, Coniston, Hellifield, Long Preston, Settle By-Pass to boundary	To be confirmed
A6068 to boundary through Glusburn and Crosshills	To be confirmed
A59 from West Marton boundary to Beamsley	To be confirmed
A629 to boundary	To be confirmed
A56 from Broughton Roundabout to Thornton boundary	To be confirmed

The ‘A’ roads verge litter annual litter picking is an annual event and requires some planning as the Council will need the assistance of NYCC to create a rolling road closure programme so that litter picking can take place.

Non ‘A’ roads are dealt with via an established road sweeping daily programme delivered by Waste Management Services. Occasionally, there may be difficulty providing this service, especially during periods of heavy rain.”

Chairman



The Chairman of Craven District Council

(Councillor Stephen Place)

Civic Engagements

During the period – March/April 2018

March

- **Friday 9th** – Richmondshire Civic Dinner
- **Monday 12th** – Commonwealth Day – Flag raising at Skipton Town Hall
- **Thursday 15th** – Spring Reception – RAF Menwith Hill
- **Friday 23rd** – Hambleton Civic Dinner
- **Saturday 24th** – Military Brass Band Concert at Sutton Parish Church
- **Thursday 29th** – World War 1 Memorial Concert – Harrogate International Conference Centre (To commemorate 100 years since the end of WW1)

April

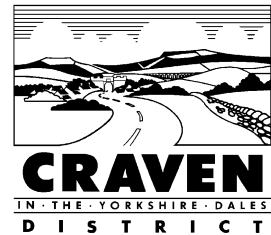
- **Tuesday 10th** – Street Angels Skipton – Service of Thanksgiving and Commissioning at St Stephen's Church, Gargrave Road, Skipton
- **Sunday 15th** – Lunch at Rendezvous Hotel, Skipton in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Formation of the Royal Air Force and also 100 years since the end of World War 1
- **Saturday 21st** – VC Commemorative Stones Dedication Service at High Bentham (short service of dedication of the Commemorative Paving Stones for Victoria Cross winners – Charles Robertson VC MM and Theodore Bayley Hardy VC DSO MC)

AGENDA ITEM 6

COUNCIL MEETING

24 April 2018

Recommendations for Confirmation



Report of the Democratic Services Manager

Ward(s) affected: Not applicable

1. **Purpose of Report** – To present recommendations of Committees which require confirmation by Council.
2. **Recommendation** – To approve recommendations within the minutes reproduced in the appendices to this report.
3. **Report**
- 3.1 In the current cycle of meetings the following Committee has made recommendations which require confirmation by Council. Those recommendations are contained in the following minutes, the full text of which is set out within the appendices to this covering report.

Policy Committee

The Chairman of Policy Committee will present recommendations in respect of the following minutes:

6 March 2018

POL.920	Revenues and Benefits Shared Service Arrangement/Partnership with Bradford Metropolitan District Council
\$POL.921	Shared Ownership Housing Development

- 3.2 Any Members requiring a copy of any of the reports associated with the above minutes are asked to contact the Democratic Services Team.
4. **Author of the Report** – Guy Close, Democratic Services Manager, Telephone (01756) 706226, E-mail: gclose@cravendc.gov.uk.

5. **Appendices**

Appendix A	POL.920	Revenues and Benefits Shared Service Arrangement/Partnership with Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Appendix B	\$POL.921	Shared Ownership Housing Development (Exempt)

POL.920

**REVENUES AND BENEFITS SHARED SERVICE
ARRANGEMENT/PARTNERSHIP WITH BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report seeking approval for the Council to enter into a shared service partnership with Bradford Metropolitan District Council (Bradford). In 2015, a decision had been taken to pursue the opportunity for a strategic partnership with a commercial provider and a temporary arrangement was put in place with Bradford to provide management cover and back up resilience whilst the procurement exercise was undertaken.

However, expressions of interest received in February 2016 did not align sufficiently with the Council's aspirations and since that time, Bradford had continued to provide resources for management and team leader roles.

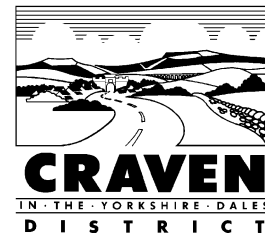
The team at Craven was small and it was now considered sensible to make a decision to either continue under a more formal arrangement or revert back to individual arrangements. In order to increase resilience and provide in-depth technical expertise, the preferred option was to formalise the arrangement under a shared service arrangement for a period of up to five years.

RECOMMENDED – (1) That, delegated authority is given to the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Lead Member for Financial Resilience to negotiate a mutually acceptable shared service arrangement with Bradford Metropolitan District Council for the delivery of the revenue and benefits service.

(2) That, a further report is brought back to Members when the details of the arrangements are finalised.

MEETING OF COUNCIL

24 April 2018



Calendar of Meetings 2018/19

Report of the Democratic Services Manager
Lead Member: Not applicable

Ward(s) affected: Not applicable

1. **Purpose of Report** – To ask Council to consider and adopt the Calendar of Meetings 2018/19.
2. **Recommendation**
 - 2.1 That, subject to consideration of the proposed changes listed within the body of this report at Paragraph 3.2, and any additional changes made at this meeting, the Calendar of Meetings for 2018/19, now presented at Appendix A to this report is adopted.
3. **Report**
 - 3.1 Members will recall that on 27 February 2018 Council provisionally approved the Calendar of Meetings for 2018/19 and agreed that the Calendar be presented to this meeting for final adoption.
 - 3.2 In the period since Council provisionally agreed the Calendar the following changes, have been requested / suggested:
 - **Planning Committee** – room not available – Membership of Planning Committee consulted on 9th April - put meetings back from 19th November 2018 to Tuesday 20 November 2018 and from 8th April 2019 to **Tuesday 9th April 2019 respectively.
 - ** **Licensing Committee** – 9 April 2019 – Planning Committee can involve morning site visits followed by meetings which may sit for the entire afternoon. With some Members serving on both committees Members / Council may wish to consider whether they / it would prefer to move the meeting of Licensing Committee to an alternative date; suggested dates being 3, 8 or 10 April 2019.
 - **Standards Committee** – Re-schedule meeting provisionally listed for 5 September 2018; suggested alternative Wednesday 19 September 2018; the same evening as the **Parish Liaison Meeting**, which could be put back a week to 26 September 2018 should this be felt necessary.
 - **All Member Briefing Session** on the Peer Review – add to the Calendar for Monday 11 June 2018; Mark Edgell, Principal Adviser for the Local Government Association will be delivering the presentation.

- **Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee** – dates are included in the Calendar for use, if required, for meetings of the Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee, the following changes are proposed to those listed in the provisional calendar

6 September, put back to Thursday 13 September 2018.

11 October, put back to Thursday 18 October 2018.

- 3.3 Each committee, sub-committee, etc. will be asked to set the start time for their meetings for the rest of the year at their first meeting in the new municipal year, and accordingly the timings shown within the provisional calendar attached as the appendix to this report may be subject to change.
4. **Implications**
- 4.1 **Financial Implications** – No direct financial implications, although the number of meetings has a bearing in terms of the costs associated with servicing and Members attendance at those meetings.
- 4.2 **Legal Implications** – None associated with this report.
- 4.3 **Contribution to Corporate Priorities** – Not applicable.
- 4.4 **Risk Management** – Not applicable.
- 4.5 **Equality Analysis** – All meetings are held in venues which are accessible. Adoption of the Calendar is not considered to have the potential to cause a negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community within the meaning of the Equalities Act 2010.
5. **Consultations with Others** – Council Management Team consulted on the draft Calendar presented to Council in February 2018.
6. **Access to Information** No background documents.
7. **Author of the Report** – Chris Waterhouse, Committee Officer.
Telephone 01756 706235. E-mail cwaterhouse@cravendc.gov.uk.
8. **Appendix**

Appendix – Provisional Calendar of Meetings 2018/19 as agreed at Council on 27 February 2018.

Craven District Council

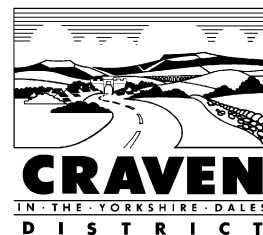
Calendar of Meetings 2018-2019 Provisional

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	
May		1	2	3 Elecs	4	7 Bank Hol	8 PIng 1.35	9	10	11	14 Sel 6.30	15	16	17 Las	18	21	22 Ann CL 7	23	24	25	28 Bank Hol	29	30	31		May
Jun					1	4 PIng 1.35	5	6 Selec 6.30	7	8	11	12 Lic 6.30	13	14 Las	15	18	19 Pol 6.30	20	21	22	25	26 Audit 6.30	27 Selec C+D 6.30	28	29	Jun
Jul	2 PIng 1.35	3	4 Stn 7	5	6	9	10	11	12 Las	13	16	17	18 Selec 6.30	19	20	23	24 Pol 6.30	25	26 Audit Accs 6.30	27	30 PIng 1.35	31 Audit Accs Res'sv				Jul
Aug			1	2	3	6	7 CL 7	8	9 Las	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27 Bank Hol	28	29 PIng 1.35	30	31	Aug
Sep	3	4	5 Stn 7	6 Las	7	10	11 Pol 6.30	12 Selec 6.30	13	14	17	18	19 Par Lias 6.30	20	21	24 PIng 1.35	25 Lic 6.30	26	27	28						Sep
Oct	1	2	3	4	5	8	9 CL 7	10	11 Las	12	15	16	17 Selec 6.30	18	19	22 PIng 1.35	23 Pol 6.30	24	25	26	29	30 Audit 6.30	31			Oct
Nov				1	2	5	6	7 Stn 7	8 Las	9	12	13	14	15	16	19 PIng 1.35	20	21 Selec 6.30	22	23	26	27	28	29	30	Nov
Dec	3	4 Pol 6.30	5	6 Las	7	10	11	12 Selec C+D 6.30	13	14	17 PIng 1.35	18 CL 7	19	20	21	24 Xmas Eve	25 Xmas day	26 Box'g day	27	28	31					Dec
Jan		1 NY's Day	2	3	4	7	8 Lic 6.30	9	10 Las	11	14 PIng 1.35	15 Pol 6.30	16 Selec 6.30	17	18	21	22	23 Stn 7	24 Mbr Budg Bfg 6.30	25	28	29 Audit 6.30	30	31	Jan	
Feb					1	4	5 Pol Budgt 6.30	6	7	8	11 PIng 1.35	12 Budgt Res'v 6.30	13	14 Las	15	18	19	20 Selec 6.30	21	22	25	26 CL Tax Mtg 7	27	28 CL Res'v 7	Feb	
Mar					1	4	5 Pol 6.30	6	7	8	11 PIng 1.35	12	13 Stn 7	14 Las	15	18	19	20 Selec 6.30	21	22	25	26	27 Par Lias' 6.30	28	29	Mar
Apr	1	2 Audit 6.30	3	4	5	8 PIng 1.35	9 Lic 6.30	10	11	12	15	16 Pol 6.30	17 Selec 6.30	18	19 Good Fri	22 East Mon	23	24	25 Las	26	29	30 CL 7			Apr	
May			1	2 Elecs	3	6 Bank Hol	7 PIng 1.35	8	9	10	13 Sel 6.30	14	15 Las	16	17	20	21 Ann CL 7	22	23	24	27 Bank Hol	28	29	30	31	May

Audit CL Lic Las	Audit and Governance Committee – 6.30pm Council Meeting – 7pm Licensing Committee – 6.30pm Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee 10am (if required)	Png Pol Selec Selec C+D	Planning Committee – 1.35pm Policy Committee – 6.30pm Select (Scrutiny) Committee – 6.30pm Select Crime and Disorder Committee – 6.30pm	Sel Stnd Mbr Strat Sess	Selection – 7pm Standards Committee – 7pm Member Strategy Session (if required)
---------------------------	--	----------------------------------	--	-------------------------------	---

Council – 24 April 2018

New Playground in Aireville Park



Report of the Chief Executive

Lead Member: Councillor Linda Brockbank

Ward(s) affected: All

1. **Purpose of Report** – To seek member approval to amend the Aireville Park Masterplan and recognise the invaluable contribution that the community group Friends of Aireville Park have made to the project.
2. **Recommendations** – Members are recommended to:
 - 2.1 Approve the proposed amendment to Aireville Park Masterplan namely resiting the playground from its current location at the bottom corner of the park to near the main entrance and car park.
 - 2.2 Formally recognise the invaluable contribution Friends of Aireville Park have made to deliver the Master Plan through developing the new play area plans and securing funding for the Masterplan projects which as a direct result enable the facilities within the park to be improved.

3 Report

3.1 Background

On 10th September 2013 Members approved a Master Plan for Aireville Park setting out shared Council and community aspirations for the park. The plan identified a number of priority projects for the park, a number of which have since been delivered.

- New Pumptrack installed in July 2016
- New Skatepark installed in August 2016

3.2 A copy of the existing Master Plan can be found in Appendix A

3.3 The council has been working closely with the community group Friends of Aireville Park (FOAP) to make planned improvements to the park as set out in the Master Plan. This enables the improvements to be community led whilst still meeting the Council's strategic objectives. FOAP is a registered charity whose aims are:

- To conserve and enhance Aireville Park

- To help provide opportunities for everyone to enjoy the benefits of the park.
- To act as ambassadors to help promote the benefits of Aireville Park
- To provide opportunities for public participation in Craven District Council's management of Aireville Park, including the allocation of existing and additional resources

3.4 Masterplan Project – Priority 3: New Playground

3.4.1 Background

In 2016 the Council carried out a major piece of work assessing the Open Space, Playing Pitches and Sports facilities in the District - over 300 sites. The assessment set out 11 key actions. The first 4 priorities related to improving multi-purpose Parks and Gardens, create more challenging and exciting play, more teenage and youth provision and use of "green play"

- 3.4.2 This assessment highlighted that the Skipton area had a deficiency in both quantity and quality of play provision against the national Fields in Trust standards for play area space per 1000 population. This situation is and will be exacerbated by the current and future housing growth in the town,
- 3.4.3 The assessment neatly sums up the quality deficiency of play: "Because of the variability in provision for children and young people, an upgrade is necessary in a number of communities. This should include the provision of safer surfaces in places, and the installation of challenging and exciting pieces of equipment. This is particularly important in Aireville Park, with its large potential catchment"
- 3.4.4 There are several new housing developments within the catchment of Aireville Park, totalling over 250 units and consequently planning gain has been negotiated and agreed from these developments in order to invest in play facilities.
- 3.4.5 As part of the ongoing priority project to improve the playground facilities in the park the council and FOAP jointly commissioned an independent play value assessment of the Aireville Park play area and wider park which also took place in February 2016 by Simply Play. The play area was given an average score of just 35% across a 10 domain assessment of play value (The wider park was given a quality value score of 64%). This mirrors the scores for the site as captured in the Craven District Open Space Assessment 2016. A copy of the Simply Play report can be found in Appendix B
- 3.4.6 This report was used alongside the results of the Council's Open Space Assessment, to inform a design brief for a new play area design. It was at this stage of the project the idea was first explored of re-siting the play area of the park.

The Simply Play report highlights the *"limited space of the current play area despite being situated in a park with a great deal of space"* as well as noting *"The physical environment within the play space currently is flat with little topographical variety which can offer so much play value for rolling, hiding behind mounds, climbing to the top and gaining a new perspective on the space"* whilst *"The physical*

environment in the wider park is much richer in its variety in terms of topography, planting and textural quality.”

- 3.4.7 A business case was put together of the added value of moving the playground to a new location near Craven Leisure and the car park. This would also mean that the play space is closer to toilet and refreshment facilities at Craven Leisure, as well as the pump track and skate park. This would mean that families with children over a range of ages, or elderly relatives, will be able to enjoy an extended visit to the same area of the park rather than being split across different geographical sections of the park or cutting short times of play because there isn't something suitable for the whole family.

Over the expected 25-year life span of the new play area we have estimated 1 million people visits will be made to the new space. The primary beneficiaries will be children aged 1-14 years of which there are 4,128 with in the catchment of Aireville Park. Of this, it is expected that 103 children locally with a disability will benefit from this facility.

This combination of play and leisure will make Aireville Park, and Skipton, a destination attracting both residents from the wider area and tourists. This will bring wider economic benefits for Skipton and CDC have estimated that the new play area will generate a growth in income for onsite services at Craven Leisure

- 3.4.8 Following discussion with local Ward members plus the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, draft new play area designs were progressed in the new location in the park shown in Appendix C taking into account the points raised in the Simply Play report.
- 3.4.9 The Council appointed Newground Landscape Architects to carry this work out during September 2016. An initial draft design was produced and following extensive community consultation in November 2016 which included children and young people plus local ward members a final play area concept design was produced as well as a site topographic survey for all levels. A copy of the final concept design can be found in Appendix D and the consultation results can be found in Appendix E. The new play area has been designed with local people in mind. The design provides areas of shade and shelter, seating areas and picnic facilities throughout so that it also acts as a social venue and meeting place that will be accessible to all.
- 3.4.10 FOAP have been integral in driving the community engagement, establishing the principles and concept, championing the design details as well as the look and feel of the new play area.
- 3.4.11 We would therefore ask Members to approve the recommendation in 2.1 to amend the Aireville Park Masterplan to include re-siting the playground as detailed in Appendix C to enable the project to progress to the delivery phase.
- 3.4.12 During this development phase FOAP were successful in securing £12k from Tesco Bags for Help scheme. This funding pot had a deadline for the funding to be spent

(April 2017) and so in order not to lose out on this piece of funding a piece of equipment (a double zip wire) from the agreed concept design was chosen to be installed that could equally be incorporated into the new playground (if fundraising attempts were successful) or stand alone as an additional play feature in the park if necessary. The zip wire was installed in April 2017 and has since proved to be a very popular feature in the park.

3.5 Funding for Playground

3.5.1 The total cost of the new playground was estimated (from the final concept design) to be in the region of £180,000 - £200,000.

3.5.2 As at 2017 nearly £100k planning gain monies had already been committed as follows:

- £45k – Lambert Hills Development
- £62.5k – Raikes Road Development

This left FOAP with a fundraising target of £100k

3.5.3 FOAP put in a number of funding bids as well as undertaking direct fundraising through community events and support. In conjunction with CDC a direct sponsorship appeal was launched which has been very successful. During the course of 2017 it became apparent there could potentially be a funding shortfall of approx £15k due to a number of bids made by FOAP being unsuccessful. As a result a Capital Bid (for the shortfall) was submitted to the Council as part of the 2018/19 budget setting process and this was approved by Members in February 2018.

3.5.4 The current funding position at the time of writing the report is now set out below:

Confirmed Funding Source	Amount Raised
Granville Street/Lambert Hills Planning Gain	£48,316
*Tesco Bags for Help (<i>To be spent by 27 Nov 2018</i>)	£4,000
Memorial donations	£1,000
*PCC Community Fund (<i>to be spent by September 2018</i>)	£5,024
Vinci Foundation	£250
Tarn Moor Trust	£2,500
*Yorventure (<i>To be claimed by 12 Oct 18</i>)	£43,845
CDC Capital	£15,810
Community fundraising/donations	£5,440
Sponsorship Scheme	£7,450
*Raikes Road Planning Gain (<i>awaiting trigger point</i>)	£62,500
Skipton BID	£6,000
Keelham Farm Shop Bag charge	£750
Cllr Habron – Ward Member Grant	£500
Total Funding Confirmed	£203,385

- 3.5.5 To date FOAP are directly responsible for fundraising £76,759 which is 38% of the new playground costs.

FOAP are still waiting to hear back from a small number of remaining bids, which could potentially total £8k.

*From the table above it is noted that three of the funding sources have deadlines for the monies to be spent whilst being in the position of awaiting the trigger point for the planning gain monies from Raikes Road development being reached before that funding will be released.

3.6 Delivery Phase

- 3.6.1 A project delivery plan has been drafted by the Property and Assets Manager which takes into account compliance with the grant deadlines set out above.

- 3.6.2 In order to meet those funding deadlines the new playground contract has been put out to tender at the beginning of April (date to be inserted).

- 3.6.3 Please note the tender documentation states that awarding the contract is subject to Policy Committee approval amending the Aireville Park Master Plan and re-siting the playground.

- 3.6.4 Given that we are still waiting on the second pot of planning gain monies to reach the necessary trigger point for payment a two phase approach to delivery may need to be implemented. The tender specification and contract explicitly sets out that the project may potentially need to be delivered as a phased scheme so either:

1. a one phase scheme for the funds raised at the time of contract appointment or
2. a two phase scheme with phase one being to deliver part of playground for the funds raised at the time of appointment and then phase 2 being for the rest of the playground using the additional planning gain fund amount only.

Any 2 phase scheme should also have a break clause in case we are not satisfied with performance of the contract.

- 3.6.5 The tender also specifies that the plans must have some flexibility in terms of enhancement given the FOAP continue to raise funds for the playground.

4 Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

The Council has made a direct Capital contribution of £15,810 which was agreed at Full Council on 27th February 2018. The funding for the project has been confirmed as follows:

Confirmed Funding Source	Amount Raised
Granville Street/Lambert Hills Planning Gain	£48,316
*Tesco Bags for Help <i>(to be spent by 27 Nov 2018)</i>	£4,000
Memorial donations	£1,000
*PCC Community Fund <i>(to be spent by September 2018)</i>	£5,024
Vinci Foundation	£250
Tarn Moor Trust	£2,500
*Yorventure <i>(to be claimed by 12 Oct 18)</i>	£43,845
CDC Capital	£15,810
Community fundraising/donations	£5,440
Sponsorship Scheme	£7,450
*Raikes Road Planning Gain <i>(awaiting trigger point)</i>	£62,500
Skipton BID	£6,000
Keelham Farm Shop Bag charge	£750
Cllr Habron – Ward Member Grant	£500
Total Funding Confirmed	£203,385

4.2 **Legal Implications** – No implications

4.3 **Contribution to Council Priorities** – The new playground directly contributes to Corporate Priority – Resilient Communities; Enabling communities groups across the district to meet their ambitions.

4.4 Risk Management

4.4.1 If the proposed amendment of the masterplan to re-site the playground is not approved then we would lose the agreed grant funding as we would not be able to deliver the new playground in the timescales identified.

4.4.2 The delivery phase of the playground has been structured in such a way so that the time critical funding will not be lost if there is a delay in a receipt of any other monies

4.5 **Equality Analysis** - A number of the play items that was included in the consultation design are accessible for disabled users and the consultation supported the use of these play items to ensure that the area has a range of accessible and useable play spaces for disabled people. The main path is also fully accessible in terms of slope and width

5. **Consultations with Others** – Property and Assets.

6. **Access to Information: Background Documents** – Open Space, Playing Pitches and Sports Facilities Assessment

7. **Author of the Report** – Sharon Hudson, Communication, Customer Services and Partnerships Manager.

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.

8. **Appendices**

Appendix A – Aireville Park Masterplan

Appendix B – Simply Play play report

Appendix C – Proposed siting of new play area

Appendix D – Concept design of new play area

Appendix E – Results of new play area concept design consultation.

APPENDIX A: Aireville Park Masterplan 2013





Simply Play – Background

Simply Play is an assessment of play value in any given environment. It was developed over two years as part of a *Knowledge Transfer Partnership* between Sheffield Hallam University and Timberplay Ltd. The project was supported by European Social Research funding allocated through the Technology Strategy Board. The development of the assessment process involved extensive research into play theory, play design guidance and rigorous site testing. It has resulted in a simple 45 question assessment which distils the complexities of play, drawn from decades of experience from the play field to deliver an overview of the strengths and weaknesses in the play potential of a space. Professor Perry Else, an expert and author in the field of play was responsible for the original draft assessment and supervised the project.

Simply Play – Aims for Aireville Park

By identifying the strengths and areas for improvement in the current play offer at Aireville Park, Simply Play aims to support the understanding of the potential for play in the redevelopment of the space. An evaluation of the play value of both the designated play space and the wider park is a good starting point for redesigning the space to maximise play opportunities in the future.

It is hoped that alongside the support of Craven District Council and the dedicated Friends Group associated with the park, Simply Play will support the provision of high quality, effective play provision, rich in play value in the play area and throughout the Park resulting in a sustained and increased use of this green space.

Play

Play is the means by which children communicate with and experience the world. It is vital to the healthy development of the child helping their body and brain grow in flexibility and adaptability. It is how we learn about our environment and develop our mechanisms for survival. The impulse to play is innate and supports the healthy development and well-being of individuals and thereby communities.

Currently there are mental and physical health concerns for children in the UK due to, among other reasons, a lack of quality access to play. This is due to reduced provision, the reduction in roaming distances for children due to restrictions placed on their opportunities for unsupervised play and the pressures on their time to be free to play.

It is acknowledged that access to the outdoors and free time to play can improve the health of us all, not just children. A valuable resource such as Aireville Park with its open spaces areas of woodland and varied topography provides great opportunity to create a landscape which supports all manner of play behaviour, supporting the healthy development of the children, young people and adults who use this space.

Simply Play Process at Aireville Park

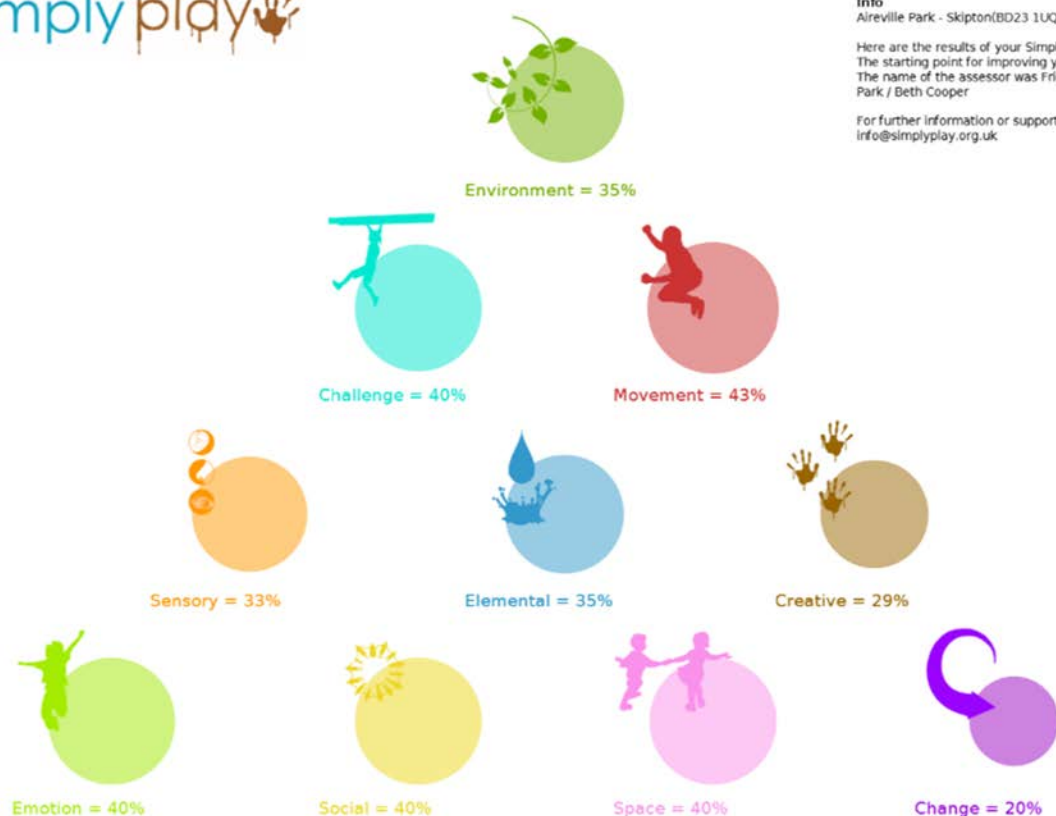
On 4th February 2016 the Simply Play assessment was undertaken by Beth Cooper, Creative Play Consultant from Timberplay Ltd. and representatives from the Friends of Aireville Park and Craven District Council to look at the play value of the current provision. This was with the aim of both looking at the current provision and creating an opportunity to discuss the potential for the future redevelopment of the site. By addressing the 45 questions which look at the 10 identified themes of play the assessment revealed the strengths of the current provision and areas for improvement from the perspective of play on site. The assessment was undertaken on both the designated play area and the park as a whole.

Simply Play – Results

The images below are a visual representation of the results of the play value assessment. A fuller explanation across the 10 themes can be found below.

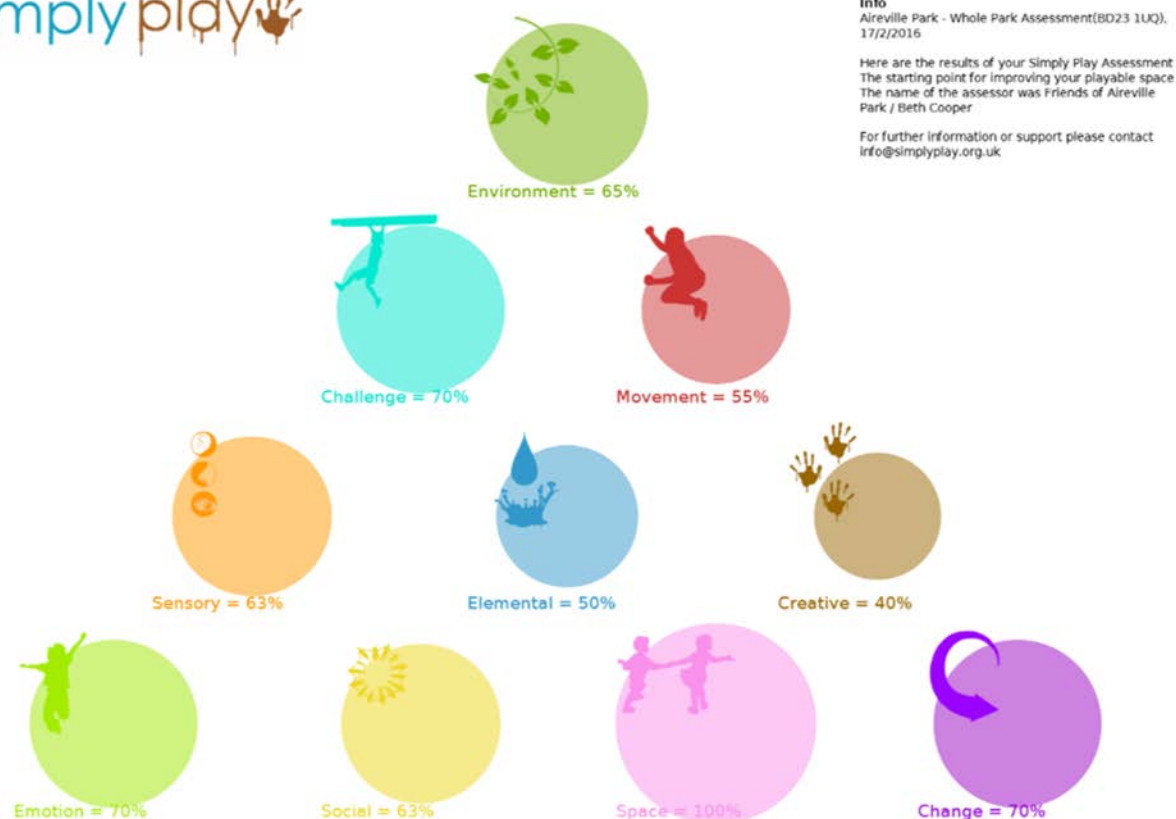
Results from the Play Area

simply play



Info
 Aireville Park - Skipton(BD23 1UQ), 17/2/2016
 Here are the results of your Simply Play Assessment
 The starting point for improving your playable space
 The name of the assessor was Friends of Aireville
 Park / Beth Cooper
 For further information or support please contact
info@simplyplay.org.uk

Results from the Whole Park



Play at Aireville Park – An Overview

Aireville Park Play Area is an enclosed play area. It has been designed and supplied with equipment which is aimed at the younger child and does not cater for a broad range of activities or ages. There are a number of pieces of equipment which suit ages from babies through to children of maybe 8-10 years old. It is delivered in a very traditional and somewhat prescriptive style. It has a border of a metal fence with an internal fence separating the younger children from the older children in that age range. The visitors range from local residents to incidental visitors from varying distances. The play area was not being used during the time of the assessment undertaken on a cold, wet day during school hours. There was a steady stream of people passing through the park on the day of the assessment. The wider park has varied topography from which to take in the views of the whole park and the surrounding countryside, as well as pass into valleyed areas, dips, sloping green spaces and areas of more enclosure. Visitors can explore and engage with areas of woodland, formal avenue tree planting and open green

space. There is a pump track, skate park, on site refreshment and toilet facilities in the leisure centre and an adjacent pitch and putt facility.

The border of the play area both offers enclosure and defines the area as a space for play however it also shuts the play area off from the play offer of the wider park. There is some variety in the surfacing of the play area with some natural loose fill but there is little natural play or nature within this boundary. In addition there is little shade in this space and perhaps this also could be considered in any redesign. The balance between this sense of enclosure and extending the experience of the playing child by linking more fully to the park and its play opportunities is something to also be considered in the redesign.

The play equipment is fairly traditional with bright primary colours used across the area. The surfacing is in the main tarmac or soft surfacing which looks to be ageing and in need of some maintenance although there is some loose fill. It is in stark contrast to the greenness of the park. There is also a lack of natural elements such as grassy surfaces or planting in the site to offer a balance between the hard surfaces inside the fence line and the enriched environment of the park.

There is a degree of variety to be found in the equipment with provision of swings and two climbing play structures with slides and walkways which offer playful scenarios to be acted out. There was a small trim trail which is reported to have been very popular. The environment which supported this equipment however lacks richness and variety. This is in stark contrast to the surrounding park. Within the play space there could be greater consideration for the wider curriculum of play; sensory play, elemental play and creative play amongst them.

What follows is a review of each of the ten themes assessed by Simply Play in the play area but with reference to the results of the wider park. There are also comments on the current opportunities and the potential for play in the future. This report is an assessment of the current provision but future development is suggested with a view to consideration of extending the play offer in the whole park including offering play opportunities throughout the park. The percentage scores are an indicator of the successfulness of the site in each of those ten themes. So the highest score of 43% for the opportunities for movement is scored out of a potential 100%, the score of 23% for change out of a potential 100% offers an area to consider for raising the play potential on this site.

Movement 43%

Inside the boundary of the play area this is the highest scoring theme of Simply Play with a score of 43%. There is a range of equipment which offers opportunities for movement in the space. Players can hop and jump and slide and climb. There is some space for running offered by the spaces in between the equipment. This is limited by the size and layout of the space and by the additional divisional fence separating ages in the play area. Within the fenced area play value may be enhanced by including a more diverse range of equipment but also by softening the hard edges in the space, creating playful routes which draw people into and around the site. This could be through pathways, including textural paths and cruising routes for the very young, changes in topography and differences in the levels to inspire different movement as well as planting schemes that link to the wider park. Playful interventions such as stepping logs

to hop between have been very popular but if a fence is considered to be important to maintain in this play area then playful access routes such as stiles or tunnels to enter the play area create a link between the space inside and the space outside the play area and encourage different movement possibilities at the same time. Currently there is little playful interaction in the space other than the fixed equipment.

The score jumps to 55% in the wider park with the slopes and woodland offering rolling, hiding and many other movement possibilities. A redevelopment might look to incorporate some of these existing qualities in a design.

Emotional Environment 40%

The boundary of the play area may, for some, create a sense of security enabling the opportunity to experience and express emotions in this space. It could be improved by creating a less stark contrast to the atmosphere of the rest of the park, boundaries through landscaping, planting or a more natural fence could help add to the ambience creating a greater palate for the space. In turn this would create a more varied and rich environment in which to experience and express emotion.

For the future, the development of the aesthetics of the site to provide spaces for reverie or quiet reflection, hidden spaces for testing ones nerve such as play tunnels, challenging climbing opportunities and greater challenge for experiencing the sense of achievement that comes from overcoming fear would enhance the play offer. The psychological safety provided by the enclosure of the space which enables the expression of emotion is satisfactory but the lack of richness in the topography and planting create a rather stark place. In the wider park the scores rise to 70% because of the richness of the environment.

Challenge 40%

There is social challenge offered by this space as there will be users who come together having never met before. The current play units offer some opportunity to play alongside each other and potentially, if they wish, support and help each other in playing. This could be extended but is a good example of mitigating social separation on the site.

Some physical challenge is offered in this space by some of the larger play pieces but the challenge is limited to the younger or less confident child. Once a particular skill level is reached then the play area offers less physical challenge and its lack of linking to the wider park mean that there is little graduation offered to the opportunities for challenge in the rest of the park. The lack of connectivity means that there is not a play narrative for the child to progress to when they feel they are ready.

The results of the assessment of the park showed the theme of challenge to score 70% in the wider park.

Social Environment 40%

The site offered some opportunities for children with different physical and there is an easy access pathway into the site but the limitation on the age range of the equipment and the barrier created by the boundary separating it from the rest of the park does limit the play value of this space to a particular age group. This restricts the diversity of the social environment. The prescriptive nature of much of the play equipment also limits its

use to physically able children in the main as it has to be accessed or used in a particular way. The limitation to a younger age range restricts its usage. A more varied a play offer would extend the appeal to a broader range of visitors.

In developing a plan for the future the more diversity and variety the space can offer, the more it will draw a diverse and varied demographic to the site. The improvement of the offer visually, spatially and sensorially will create a space which encourages different people to visit whether that be difference in terms of age, temperament, interest, or physical ability. The seating areas with the picnic benches are not interspersed amongst the play features but separated. In the wider park the social environment was scored as 63%.

Space 40%

There is a limited space on this play area despite being situated in a park with a great deal of space (The whole park scored 100% showing great capacity for flexibility of use, opportunities to change and adapt the space and plenty of slack space even after development). The boundary lessens the flexibility for different uses. The possibilities for team games, individual play, different activities and events and future development could be enhanced through greater connectivity to the wider park. Consideration could be paid to developing a dog free area and sectioning off some of the park so that parental concerns regarding dog mess are not barriers to children's play in this space.

Physical Environment 35%

The physical environment with in the playspace currently is flat with little topographical variety which can offer so much play value for rolling, hiding behind mounds, climbing to the top and gaining a new perspective on the space. The planting and plant texture is limited offering little play potential to the children who use this space. Lower level planting and change in the landscape would offer a wider play palate; long grasses to move through and hide behind, scented plants to touch and smell and greater variety in the textures of the site would enhance the atmosphere. Consideration for the placement of benches to lessen the barrier effect between the play space and the grassy areas may also be valuable.

The physical environment in the wider park is much richer in its variety in terms of topography, planting and textural quality. The score for the whole park was 65% demonstrating that it already is a rich environment for play so any enhancement of the play offer should aim to build on this opportunity rather than reduce it.

Elemental Play 35%

The play area would be greatly enhanced with the consideration of more elemental play opportunities. The opportunity to play with sand offers connection with the earth, there could be planting and digging areas which offer children access to earth play, mud play and the benefits that this offers. – The park scored 50%

Currently the opportunity to experience water, fire and air is lacking in this space. Whilst fire may not be able to be provided as the rules of the park do not permit it, other elemental play opportunities could be considered.

Water play could be provided for either in the infrastructure with formal water play equipment, or through incidental opportunities such as the development of a rain garden which would offer play when the weather permitted or even through loose parts resources such as buckets and jugs and channels through which to pour water.

Contact with air can be enhanced through child level plants which move in the wind, flags, kites or sound equipment which responds to the wind.

Sensory Play 33%

One of the potential areas for development in the future planning of this site would be the provision of a wider sensory palette for play. Textural variety in the space is currently limited by the boundary separating it from the park and the lack of natural features within the play area and the dominance of hard surfaces. The consideration of the colours and textures offered by the space such as mounding or planting swathes could offer texture, scent, sound and taste. Edible plants could provide for this as one example. There are ways to provide for sound play through built play structures or the provision of a box of sound making resources on an incidental basis. Sensory play is an important aspect of the play experience, especially for the younger child. In the wider park the environment is rich enough to provide additional sensory experiences and play opportunities. The score for the wider park is 63%.

Creative Play 29%

Creative play is one which was not assessed as being abundant in the space at present. The opportunity to draw, dance, make music, and be creative would offer a wider play palette at Aireville Park. This could be through a non prescriptive, flexible space which offered the opportunity to perform or display creativity adding to the sense of permission to be creative. In the park (which scores 40%) there is a bandstand but it is not utilised as much as it could be. Perhaps a redesign would encourage the use of this space. Creativity is an important aspect of playfulness for all.

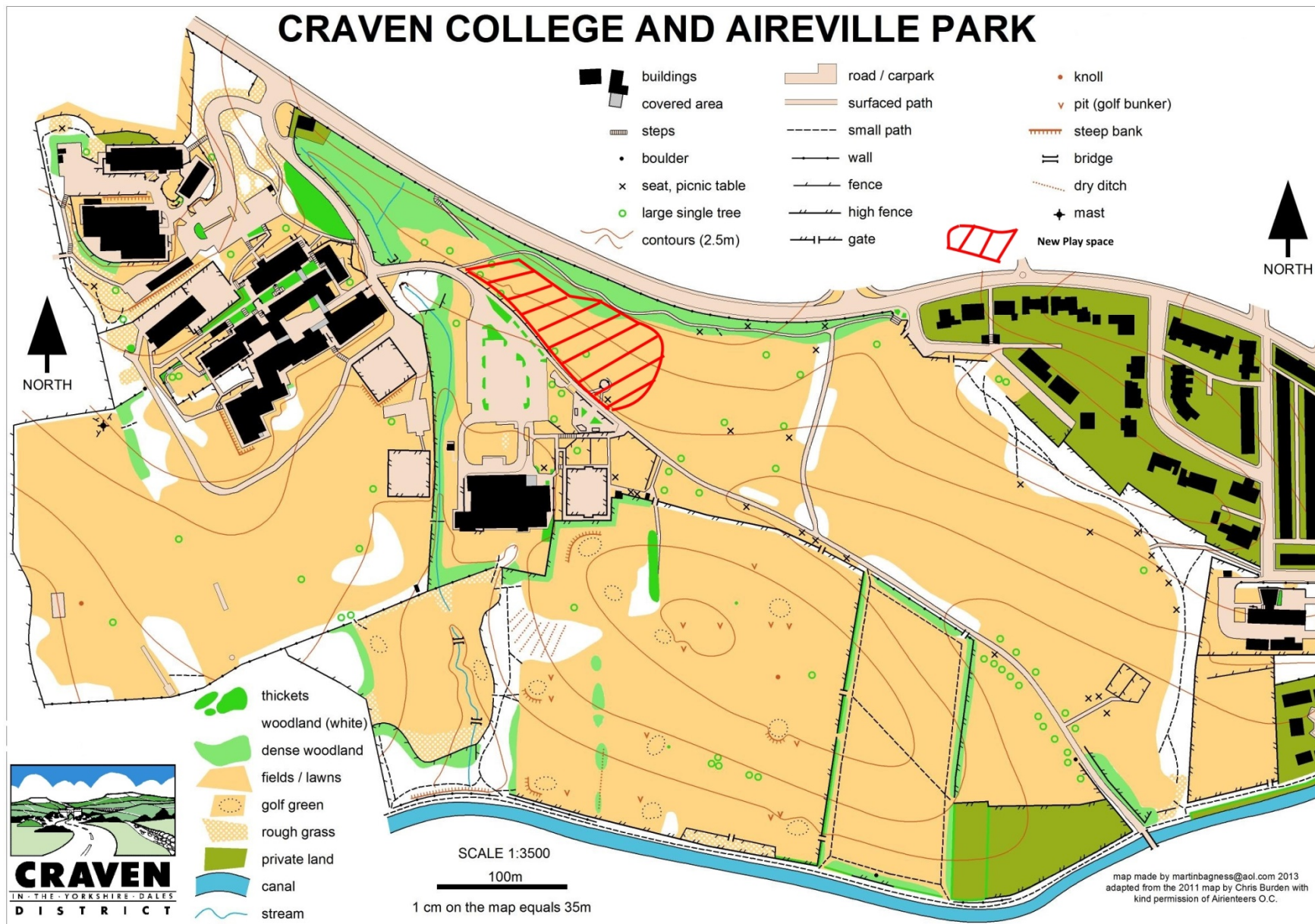
Opportunities for Change 20%

Within the site at present much of the provision is fixed and allows little adaptation by the player. The score is low at only 20% and in sharp contrast to the 70% the whole park offers. Play elements which allow the children to change the space can offer deep benefits during play. An example of this is den building. The provision of malleable, movable resources allows children to play as they feel is necessary in that moment. There is the potential, through the natural course of the woodland management, to leave loose parts on site, for example branches for children to adapt their own environment and engage fully with the space through activities such as den building. The opportunity to change and adapt the space through activities and events offers such a deep experience to the child it is considered important to be part of this planned redevelopment.

Simply Play – A final comment

When considering providing for play often equipment is the first consideration. However the landscape, the planting, the pathways, the sightlines, the resources and the activities available can all offer a great deal alongside equipment. Equipment offers great physical movement opportunities for children and done well can offer sustainable provision in

areas of heavy usage over time. There are also pieces which offer sound play, sensory play and elemental play. When given the opportunity to redesign a site, the consideration of playfulness throughout can be a valuable process. For further information on Simply Play please visit www.simplyplay.org.uk or contact info@simplyplay.org.uk



Aireville Park Play Area Consultation



The Council has received 122 consultation results for the above survey, which it considers as a good return rate to give viable and valid survey question results. The Council wishes to thank everyone who took part and the time that people took to share their views on the proposed design. Below are the headline results.

82% and 84% of respondents felt that the new design had enough play experienced for very young children, young children and teenagers.

Over 75% of respondents liked the inclusion of sand and water play as well as how the Bandstand had been incorporated into the design.

Over 90% of respondents felt that the play area paths were in the right place and 80% liked the proposed different play surfaces.

The results for which 2 “Climbing” feature were as follows:

Climbing net, ropes and beams	63.4%
Climbing Boulder	51.5%
Pyramid Climber	34.7%
Dome Climber	33.7%



The results for which “Swing” play equipment were as follows@

Titan	38.9%
Tractor tyre swing	24.2%
Whirlwind	13.7%
Maypole	11.6%
Cross Scales	11.6%



The highest response rate was 93% in support of the proposed natural woodland play space under and around the blue cedar trees. Including welly walks, den building, balancing beams, tunnels, bridges, timber sculptures, seating and a tree house.

Over 75% of respondents were in support of the low knee rail and planting boundary, but there were several comments about how this would control dogs not getting into the play area.

Nearly 250 other comments were received about things that people liked or disliked, which will be used to fine tune the design to ensure people views are considered and the new play space addressed as many want, needs and dislikes as possible.

Thank you for taking part in the new play area consultation. If you wish to help any further, with things like fundraising for the project, then please contact Friends of Aireville Park friendsofairesvillepark@gmail.com

