
GASKELL RECREATION GROUND MUCH WENLOCK



Management Plan 2016 - 2021

Prepared for: The Gaskell Recreation Ground Management Committee

Prepared by: Sharon Clayton - Secretary

Chris Bowden - trustee

7 December 2015

Proposal number: 2

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Objective

To ensure that the Ground is protected, maintained, and available for the people of Much Wenlock in accordance with the wishes of Mary Ward as outlined in the Conveyance dated 20 January 1936.

This Plan will ensure a long-term future for the Ground as a recreational focal point for community activity.

Goals

To develop a management plan for the Gaskell Recreation Ground “the Ground” for the benefit of all who use it whether it be for sporting activities or other recreational pursuits such as walking. The Ground has links with the town’s Olympic heritage thanks to Dr. William Penny Brookes, the founder of the modern Olympian Games. This Plan makes provision for the next 5 years after which it will be reviewed.

Project Outline

This management plan will include short, medium, and long-term planning strategies for facilities and functions for the following:

- management and maintenance of the Ground, including the Linden Walk
- planning events
- arrangements for working with partners including other charities

It will also include a sponsorship statement document for potential sponsors.

BUDGET

Short-term projects

Following the dissolution of the Joint Use Agreement (JUA) the Ground is being managed via a Management Plan between the Gaskell Recreation Ground charity and Much Wenlock Town Council.

The Town Council is providing financial and administrative resources. The contract for maintenance of the Ground remains with the last contractor engaged as part of the JUA.

The current prices for hire of the Ground remain the same as those which last applied as part of the JUA.

PROJECTS:	£
Facilities development:	
Sporting equipment:	
Equipment: we need goals, fencing for marking areas off when work is required etc.	2000 (50% funded) 1000
Implement a fitness trail through the recreation space suggest 9 or 10 machines	12000 (75% funded) 4000
Also we should include a woodland train around the back area of the ground. Ideal for young children to follow. (upended log stump walk, rope walk, etc.)	8000 (75% funded) 2000
Provide a MUGGA First we need to determine long-term plan as to where we would place our future changing facilities) then review remaining space to find out if we can include a MUGGA.	60000 (lottery funded)
New children's play equipment. Review space and propose we seek local public opinion on the next choice of play equipment. We should consider of the space available, or to replace an unused piece of kit?	
	TOTAL 10500 locally funded 78500 match funded

BUDGET

Medium-term projects

The medium-term strategy will include financial management. Contracts for maintenance work will be taken on with best value in mind and, where possible, will be between a 3 and 5 year term.

FIELD DEVELOPMENT	£
<u>Rough area 1- nature's hotel</u> Creation of natural hotel for the animals and releasing the buddleia for all to see, with a small way through area for younger children to see natural wild life at play	3000 (50% match funded) 1500
<u>Rough area 2 - natural meadow area</u> Rack back (with machines) and turn over sold then plant wild flower seeds	1500 (50% local sponsorship) 750
<u>Rough area 3 - winner's circle</u> Develop a winner's circle presentation of trees. this previous idea was a GOLD coloured foliage, silver coloured foliage, bronze coloured foliage and low manageable foliage in differing greens. This was to depict the winner's ceremony at an Olympic event.	2000 (50% local sponsorship) 1000
<u>Rough area 4</u> Approach the windmill trust with a view to developing this area. The idea is to create a walk through planted area with secluded seating, inset with a stone presentation depicting the Gaskell Recreation Ground theme of sport and recreation for all with a hint of our Olympic ancestry included.	6000 unknown funding at present
TOTAL 9250 locally funded 3250 match funded	

Longer-term projects

The long-term strategy will deal with fixed assets including:

- the pavilion (currently used by Much Wenlock Cricket Club) subject to permission from owner
- the old pavilion (currently used for storage by Much Wenlock Cricket Club)

Reclaim and renovate the Linden Walk

£

Claim back overgrown land/edge of path	500 local funding
Clear sweep rubbish up on path	350 local funding
Ensure clearly marked trip hazards	100 local funding
Lay back new surface where needed (cover with new topping all along)	2000 - 3000

Ground drainage (longer term projects)

Muddy patch in children's play area - resulting from glowering water off grass area in front of youth club	25000
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Main recreation ground sub-terra drainage (new pipes across all the ground)	75000 (60% s106) £25000
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Land drains on recreation ground not flowing into Shylte river correctly	15000 locally funded
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Gate access through school to use car park

Potential fencing requirement	20000 locally funded
Possible new footpath from gate to bowling area to specifications for disabled access	4000 (50% match funded) 2000

TOTAL	69450 (locally funded) 58500 (match funded)
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FUTURE GROWTH

Car parking - clubhouse/changing facilities	£
Open negotiations with Shropshire Council to determine feasibility of car parking solutions.	50000 Shropshire Council
Difficulty: youth club building green space - Town Council has declined Shropshire Council's offer.	
Railway line option for car parking - need to contact controlling bodies. This needs to be kept in view...but not in this year's budget	
New clubhouse changing facilities	400000?
	TOTAL 400000 locally funded 50000 match funded

POTENTIAL PROJECTS SUMMARY

Total budget required:

£492,800 funded locally

£190,250 match funded

One-off grounds maintenance	£
Lay hedge around children's play area (to waist height)	900 local funding
Remove the dead Chestnut tree by the bowling club	1200-£1500 local funding
Fill muddy hole by the Olympic feature (photo opportunity)	400 local funding
Cutting of hedgerow along Linden Walk	800 local funding
TOTAL 3600 locally funded	

PICTORIAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Gaskell recreation ground from GOOGLE

Rough Area 1

Rough area 2

Rough area 3

Proposed winner's circle plot

Replace existing poor randomly struck trees with defined managed presentation.

Rough area managed by Windmill Trust

Potential area for Woodland Walk

Muddy hole by Olympic Torch photo opportunity

Photographs: courtesy Chris Bowden 2015