

Improvements to the Recreation Ground and Kronjis Piece Martlesham

Survey Results

Survey Results v1

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The Headline results are as follows:

Total number of responses received was 50

Improved signage Q1		
	Supportive	24
	Supportive with positive comments	8
	Supportive with caveats	0
	Opposed	13
Replace petanque piste Q2		
	Supportive	31
	Supportive with positive comments	0
	Supportive with caveats	5
	Opposed	1
Accessible walks and sensory garden. Additional seats and picnic benches Q3		
	Supportive	26
	Supportive with positive comments	7
	Supportive with caveats	4
	Opposed	7
New dog bin Q4		
	Supportive	38
	Supportive with positive comments	7
	Supportive with caveats	3
	Opposed	0
Planting for screening, tidied fence line (excluding removal of fence around football pitch) "Q5a"		
	Supportive	25
	Supportive with positive comments	8
	Supportive with caveats	2
	Opposed	11
Specifically with reference to football pitch as a dog "exercise" area "Q5b"		
	Supportive of removal of fence	9
	Supportive with positive comments	1
	Supportive with caveats	3
	Opposed to removal of fence	27 - 1
Improved surface for vehicular entrance track and car park Q6		
	Supportive	23
	Supportive with positive comments	1
	Supportive with caveats	5
	Opposed	15

If a dog owner will you help with future campaigns to reduce dog waste on the site?
Please supply contact details

No responses received

Supportive with positive comments means the answer seemed to presume agreement and went on to suggest problems, features, improvements and other things to think about

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Supportive with caveats means a specific statement of opposition was not made but obstacles and problems listed which implied the proposal should or could not go ahead. By implication if problems listed could be solved the respondent would not object to this going ahead

Occasionally the line is blurred between these and a judgement has been made

Not all respondents answered all questions, not all responses were classifiable and some contained multiple points which have been shown separately when the question was a composite one

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Introduction

The above survey was carried out as part of a project to establish a plan for the future development of the recreation ground and the adjacent area of Kronjis Piece.

The recreation ground itself is owned and managed by a trust and the parish council is the sole trustee. In practice day to day management is delegated to the council's Recreation and Amenities Committee. An annual meeting of the trust also takes place. Kronjis piece is owned by the parish council and managed by the same committee. To the outside observer the two pieces of land are indistinguishable. The only practical difference is that the recreation ground is managed within the terms of the trust deed which place certain limitations on what can and can't be done on that part of the area. Where applicable these constraints will be explained in this document

Although already a well used and valued facility it has been managed on an ad hoc basis and lacks a coherent identity. The overall provision has grown over the years and may not fully match present day needs. It is also removed from the bulk of the population of the parish. These factors suggest that it is not as well known and used as it should be.

The purpose of this project therefore is to map out residents needs and institute a programme of improvements to meet these. The success criteria of this project will be increased use of the ground by a wide range of residents

The survey of public opinion has been supplemented by seeking targeted responses from identifiable groups of stakeholders. Groups who have responded include, Women's Institute, Martlesham Youth Football Club, Martlesham Community Council, Martlesham in Bloom, Disability Advice Service. We have also received support and advice from East Suffolk Council Community Officer.

This methodology is recommended when conflicting demands of stakeholders may make public meetings or workshops unproductive, as has occurred in the past

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Constraints on decision making

When considering which improvements to proceed with and their respective priorities the Parish Council is working under the following constraints

1. Legal constraints on trust beneficiaries.
 - a. The beneficiaries of any expenditure must be residents of Martlesham or live within ½ mile of boundaries. While it is Impossible to police this restriction, any activities should be shown to substantially benefit this group.
 - b. Organised activities involving non-beneficiaries would be allowable if their participation made possible the continuation of the organised activities. For example. a bowls club would not be viable if only Martlesham residents were allowed to join
2. Trust and PC resources available.
 - a. The trust cannot routinely charge for any activities so there is no guaranteed income stream.
 - b. Historically the bulk of the cost have been met by the Parish Council, which has other responsibilities in the parish, both financial and in use of staff time
3. Availability of external funding
 - a. Where available grants will be applied for from East Suffolk and Suffolk County Councils, through Martlesham councillors.
 - b. Other organisations which may offer ad hoc funding where Recreation Ground projects meet their criteria will also be approached
4. Demographics and needs of the beneficiaries
 - a. It is unfortunate that much of the information about the characteristics of the beneficiaries relies on out of date census information, however the main outlines show an aging population, which needs to be catered for, as well as younger persons
5. In the context of parish wide provision of recreational facilities
 - a. The parish has other play spaces and areas for recreation therefore facilities available in one location need not necessarily be duplicated at the recreation ground.
 - b. Where duplication is necessary in the case of childrens' play equipment for example, it should be noted that provision is currently being enhanced elsewhere, so the recreation ground will currently be a lower priority
6. Sensitivity to location
 - a. The ground is situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which dictates a rural as opposed to urban atmosphere is maintained.
 - b. It is also close to a network of footpaths and cycle routes and these should be integrated into provision
7. Suitable alternative provision near to the parish
 - a. For larger scale works requiring high costs (initial and ongoing) which attract users from a wide catchment area the parish needs to be seen in the context of nearby provision. Facilities of this type which are available in Woodbridge and Kesgrave need not be duplicated. An example of this is the Skate Park in Woodbridge which is a ten minute cycle ride from the recreation ground

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The detailed issues raised now follow, (each survey question on new page)

Q1 Improved signage		24/8/0/13
Issues Raised	Responses	
Main objections were, no need for locals, expense and other priorities	A majority favoured improvements, but these comments were taken into account	
Suggestions	Responses	
Consistent format, suitable for area and no more than strictly necessary	Agreed that a consistent format should be used, with the minimum of signage and visual intrusion, to comprise name, notification of ownership, contact details, basic rules and facilities available. When the project is complete an interpretation board placing the ground in its context will be provided as funds allow	
Signs pointing to the entrances		
Signs listing facilities/rules, incl countryside code		
Interpretation boards with history and flora/fauna details, per circular walk and MCLNR		
Signs placing ground in context, incl AONB and Fynn Valley Walk		
Signs for dog poo bins		

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Q2 Replace petanque piste		31/0/5/1
Individual comments	Response	
Lack of use cited as reasons for removal	<p>No demand for the piste, which is considered unsuitable for organised competitions.</p> <p>The much valued natural setting and provision of hard surface facilities elsewhere persuaded us not to increase the size of the facility.</p> <p>The nature of the scratch games and informal practice taking place on the smaller facility would not constitute an unacceptable risk of injury from slow moving traffic</p>	
Suggestions of replacement by MUGA, skatepark or tennis courts, basketball or netball		
Resurface it with a safety play surface so that it can be used for informal play. Our concerns with netball/basketball nets are that children could easily run onto the track after stray balls and that the nets could be misused and prone to damage.		
Resurface it with a safety play surface so that it can be used for informal play; we do not think that any netball/basketball nets should be put on this as it would need more maintenance and could get vandalised.		
Any nets that need balls kicked or thrown could be a problem because being close to the track children might run across in front of vehicles and therefore a safety issue.		
Relocate to The Green	The Parish Council does not own any land near the Green	

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Q 3 Accessible walk and sensory garden. Additional seats and picnic benches		26/7/4/7
Consolidated issues raised	Response	
<p>Accessible walks widely supported, circular route, wide enough to accommodate two people, substantial surface, should it be raised? Accessible link to creek and other local footpaths requested Offer of assistance regarding suitable surfaces</p>	<p>Accessible walks will be provided, the route of which will dictate the location of seating, picnic tables etc and should be able to accommodate the suggestions given</p>	
<p>Additional dispersed seating and picnic tables supported, to support vies to creek/river, wildflower area and football pitch</p>		
<p>Sensory garden widely supported. Issues raised, needs cordoning off from dogs, no suitable accessible site, need for specialist advice and maintenance, not in keeping with natural surroundings. There is a local group Autism and ADHD who have been let down on an area for their award winning memorial garden, they have fundraising in place for seating, planting wild flowers, trees and benches</p>	<p>We will begin this project by seeking appropriate specialist advice and funding</p>	
<p>Generally care should be taken to preserve natural setting</p>	<p>This will be a major consideration in our decision making</p>	
Issues raised in individual responses		
Issues raised in individual responses	Response	
<p>Enough walks already/</p>	<p>Other feedback did not support this</p>	
<p>Spend money on youngsters, Skate Park</p>	<p>Money will be spent on youngsters at the ground and elsewhere, but the demographics of the parish dictate other age groups should also be provided for. A skate park is available in Woodbridge</p>	
<p>Bins beside benches, signs to take litter home</p>	<p>Will be provided if necessary</p>	
<p>Accessible walks won't be used</p>	<p>Other feedback did not support this</p>	
<p>Braille signs</p>	<p>To be investigated</p>	
<p>Traffic problems must be solved before ground can be accessible and pleasant</p>	<p>The Parish Council is aware of the traffic problems and consistently lobbies for solutions which will confine through traffic to the A12 and associated calming measures</p>	
<p>Offer of help researching types of accessible walkways</p>	<p>Received with thanks</p>	

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Q 4 New dog bin 38/7/3/0 and Q 8, volunteers to help with future campaigns to reduce dog waste	
Consolidated issues raised	Response
No responses were opposed, but many were despairing about the need due to lazy dog owners and their continuing lack of use	Further bins will be provided as necessary
Need to be emptied, therefore in convenient locations	
Q8 No volunteers came forward to assist in campaigns to reduce dog waste	We acknowledge that this question may have been unclear about the commitment required. Nevertheless the complete lack of response was disappointing. More targeted appeals for volunteers for specific activities will take place in the future
Issues raised in individual responses	Response
Responsible dog owners will use them	Bins will be provided as necessary. Bags will not be supplied as responsible dog owners will always carry and use them and dispose of them properly.
Needed near wild flower area	
Need to be signposted	
Need to supply bags	
Absence is just an excuse for unacceptable behaviour	

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Q5a Screening and tidied fence lines. (Excluding comments on fence around football pitch)		25/8/2/11
Consolidated issues raised	Response	
Any work should involve native flora of local provenance, include pollinators and not be too tidy to retain wildflowers and natural setting	Minimal screening will be carried out where necessary and possible so as to maintain the natural setting of the ground	
Money would be better spent on kids' activities		
Need for maintenance		
Good to hide industrial units, but problems with location of utilities		
Issues raised in individual responses	Response	
If fence around football pitch removed retain some barriers to stop excessive wear and tear on parts of pitch	Fencing as needed by the football club will be provided	
Pump station not suitable for trellis, also not PC property. Hedge with blossoms and berries preferred	We will investigate possibilities	
Football containers should be painted as not practical to screen		
Signs needed to deter dog fouling	Are any dog owners unaware of the need to prevent dog fouling?	

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Q5b Screening and tidied fence lines, comments on fence around football pitch		9/1/3/27
In favour of removal	Response	
Encourages dog owners to use the pitch, leading to mess and disease problems	The mess is become a serious hazard to other users of the pitch. The clearing up operation before every organised match can be played is in itself a health hazard. It has also been a hazard for the council's contractors when working on the pitch. Some dog owners hinder the work of contractors by not controlling their dogs	
It could be a hazard during games if people fall/collide with it	It is sufficiently far from the playing area to fulfil FA regulations and is not considered a hazard	
Temporary fences could be used by football club when in use	The MYFC advise this is unnecessary and expensive	
In favour of retaining	Response	
To fulfil its original purpose of keeping out rabbits, health and safety issue	This risk has to be considered in relation to other risks associated with the fence	
Keeps potential intruders off pitch during games (parents, other children and dogs). Stops balls going astray	MYFC advises this is not a problem	
Used widely for puppy and dog training and exercising, lack of alternative local facilities. Comment that never used for football	For health and safety reasons and liability considerations the PC has to make the choice between a facility which attracts so many dog owners the football pitch becomes unusable or maintaining it as a football pitch. Depriving the football club of this pitch would in practice mean the closure of the club as there is a severe shortage of pitches in the area To fence off the area for dog use only is arguably unlawful as the trust deed requires all beneficiaries must have access to the land. Strong anecdotal evidence exists that dog owners are willing to travel considerable distances to access enclosed facilities for dogs, which already exist at Sutton Heath. This wide catchment area also suggests that significant numbers of users will come from outside the area, so again it would be debatable whether such a facility can be provided	
Provides a safe environment for dogs not on leash away from children, picnic area and traffic		
Opportunity for dog owners to socialise		

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Stops anti-social behaviour by drivers	The bunds nearer the entrance will be strengthened and we are consulting the police on reducing ASB of all types
Rebuild and strengthen to prevent use by dog owners	This would be expensive to build and maintain
Other comments	Response
Separate fenced area for dogs, possibly bookable and chargeable	There are still health and hygiene problems associated with such areas. The administrative burden would be too significant to be met by a level of charges which people would pay. Unless 100% compliance was achieved this would not solve the problems
Remove unless football club wants it retained	The football club does not want the fence to be retained
Permanent goal posts needed with nets	MYFC advise this has been tried , but it causes too much wear and tear in the goal mouths
Perimeter track around pitch needed for running	As this would be a major and ongoing expense and only requested by one person we do not feel we can go ahead with this
The fence discourages use by dog owners	In practice the opposite is the case

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Q6 Improved surface for vehicular entrance track and car park		23/1/5/15
In favour of works	Response	
Recitation of current difficulties, Dangerous to vehicles and pedestrians, uneven, potholes, puddling/flooding. Unpleasant white residues on cars/footwear	On balance it was felt that the problems and the numbers supporting improvements were sufficient to go ahead with this project	
A better surface for people with restricted mobility		
A soakaway and drains would feed the sedge bed and keep it as a valuable habitat	This will inform the improvements	
Against works	Response	
Comments that current facilities are adequate	See above	
Natural nature of site, not at expense of surrounding flora. Need to remain permeable	This will inform the improvements	
High cost and alternative priorities, spending money on youngsters	In the context of overall PC resources, provision for youngsters within and near the parish, that young people will be ferried in cars to the ground, the demographics of the parish it was felt the project could be justified	
Current surface discourages speeding and vehicle ASB	We are consulting the police on reducing ASB of all types	
Other comments	Response	
Any new surface should be unattractive to vehicle ASB	The bunds nearer the entrance will be strengthened and we are consulting the police on reducing ASB of all types	
Entrance track and car park only. A pathway, not roadway is needed to the bowls club. Also complaints about inconsiderate driving and parking beyond the barrier by bowls and football club members	We will review the situation when the entrance track and car park have been resurfaced	

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Q7 Any other comments or improvements you would like to suggest?	
Consolidated Issues Raised	Response
Problems with illegal and anti-social behaviour Drug taking, driving stunts	The PC have been aware of this, we routinely liaise with the police to try and get action and we are liaising with the police to “design out crime”. What all residents must do is report all instances of ASB and criminality to the police and district council so they understand the scale and nature of the problem
Positioning of glass recycling bins near to play space too dangerous, need for more varied recycling containers	ESC are responsible for the placing and maintenance of this facility. We will liaise with them to deal with the concerns expressed.
Replace and enlarge existing play equipment. To cater for all 3+ age groups, informal and imaginative play incl water features. Zip line	In the context of equipment being renewed in other play spaces this will not be a priority, but the PC understands that when possible improvements will be made
“Hard” facilities for older children and young adults. MUGA, skate park, basketball, netball, football, cricket, gym equipment. Leave goalposts up (Keep Petanque piste)	Although many individual suggestions were made there was no single use which had wider support and exercises undertaken in the past have not shown widespread support for any specific type of provision. In the context of equipment being renewed in other parts of the parish and nearby this will not be a priority. There is also much support for keeping the grounds natural ambience which would be damaged by a large area of hardstanding.
Further requests for dog facilities, dedicated or football pitch, signage and illumination until 8.00	Dealt with above when discussing the fence around the football pitch
Pleasant environment for informal recreation. Seating/picnic tables. Remove barriers picnic area/play space. Shade, barriers to traffic enforced, value of existing wildflower patch (with flooding for birds), accessible paths. Open up access to river bank. Stag beetles	These will all inform the improvements to be made to the ground
Issues raised in individual responses	Response
Shingle to prevent puddling on wide path from car park needed	The new surface should remove the need for this
AED machine needed	One is available in the bowls club, paid for by ESC and a further one is being installed near the Red Lion which is near to the ground
Alcohol gel station needed	Provision was considered an individual responsibility
Spread of dangerous chemicals used by bowls club	This has been brought to the club’s attention

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Litter bin needed next to football pitch	New bins will be provided as part of the project
Drainage?	No further explanation of this comment was given. The football pitch has been raised to reduce flooding. Occasional flooding and water logging near the wildflower meadow considered beneficial to biodiversity
Narrow gap between bowls club and football pitch tight, muddy and fouled	This will be considered when implementing any improvements
Toilets needed	To provide and maintain such a facility in an hygienic state which would not attract ASB is currently well beyond the means of the parish council. If this changed due to the availability of long term funding such a facility could be provided
Until through traffic is reduced/eliminated the ground is virtually inaccessible and an unpleasant place	The Parish Council is aware of the traffic problems and consistently lobbies for solutions which will confine through traffic to the A12 and associated calming measures

Priorities for completion of project

This currently is the prioritisation to be included in the plan

Introduction

The following list of actions has arisen from the results of the Recreation Ground Consultation held during the month of January 2021 and initial analysis by the Recreation Ground & Kronji's Piece Steering Group at its meeting on 25.02.21. Actions to be shown on the proposals sketch map.

Short term

Signage

- Provide statutory information, health & safety notices including along river, dog walking code.

Accessible walk

- Research an all-weather path around the outer perimeter of the wildflower area and a shorter route along the eastern side of the football pitch, in keeping with the natural setting of the site.
- Contact Disability Advice Service.

Sensory garden

- Research whether the Recreation Ground is a suitable site.
- Contact local groups working in autism and dementia for their advice.

Additional seats & benches

- Add more benches and seats to the site, including along the proposed new accessible paths and possibly under the Weeping Willow tree.
- The Burrows family to research where additional seating can be located.

Additional dog bins

- Liaise with ESC on the location of new dog bins.

Screening

- Contact Anglian Water about tidying around the pumping station and screening the building with plants or painting, perhaps with games.
- Liaise with football club over painting containers a dark green.

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- Produce a planting plan.

Fence around football pitch

- Remove fence except along eastern edge (a possibly the corners) so as to prevent balls going into wildflower area, which when flooded is difficult to enter to retrieve balls.

Improved surface for vehicular entrance track and car park

- Seek specifications for a new permanent surface for track and car park (agreed by the PC) up to the green barrier.
- Contact Design Out Crime Officer on how to combat joy riders e.g. install speed bumps.

Spread of dangerous chemicals used by bowls club

- Remind bowls club to dispose of risings from the bowling green responsibly and minimise spread of dangerous chemical.

Dog Campaigns to note no responses were received during consultation. To be considered.

Medium term

Petanque piste

- Replace petanque piste with safety play surface and netball and basketball practice nets.

Improved surface for vehicular entrance track and car park

- Lay permanent surface on track and car park to green barrier.

Move glass recycling bins

- Contact ESC and ask to reposition away from the play area, on site or off site.

Long term

Signage

- Information boards – site facilities, context e.g. part of AONB, access to PROW etc.
- Signs on land not owned by MPC – SCC Highways signs (note existing brown sign on The Street).

Play area

- Enlarge play area.

Toilets

- Install toilets.