



# Westcroft Green Space Project

## Update to Planning and Development Committee

### May 2026

## Background

Westcroft Greenspace is a council owned (LL187285), well-used greenspace within a residential area that currently offers limited recreational provision. Public consultation for the Neighbourhood Plan identified the redevelopment of this space as an important project for the area.

A former small wooden play area reached the end of its life and was removed a number of years ago. This left a largely open green area with benches, mature planting, and a single football goal.

While the space is valued for its natural character, there is an opportunity to enhance its usability and appeal.

Initial public consultation identified a strong desire to improve the site in a way that retains its green, informal feel while introducing thoughtful, and engaging features—particularly for those living in close proximity.

Although the village already benefits from a range of recreational facilities, these are located some distance from Westcroft Greenspace. With continued housing growth in the area, there is a clear need for accessible, local provision that complements—not duplicates—existing offer.

## Initial Consultation

The council secured some funding from West Lindsey District Council for a consultant to carry out initial public consultation on what residents and users would like to see at Westcroft Greenspace.

The consultant's report recommends that Westcroft Greenspace re-development should be delivered using a carefully planned zoned approach, rather than as a single traditional playground or, conversely, leaving the site largely unchanged in order to meet the needs of different user types.

The consultation demonstrated strong support for providing more opportunities for children's play and fitness and for preserving the natural and peaceful character of the green space. The recommended approach is therefore to divide the site into complementary linked areas, each designed for a different purpose, so that a range of users can enjoy the space without one use dominating another or creating conflict.

The zones would include:

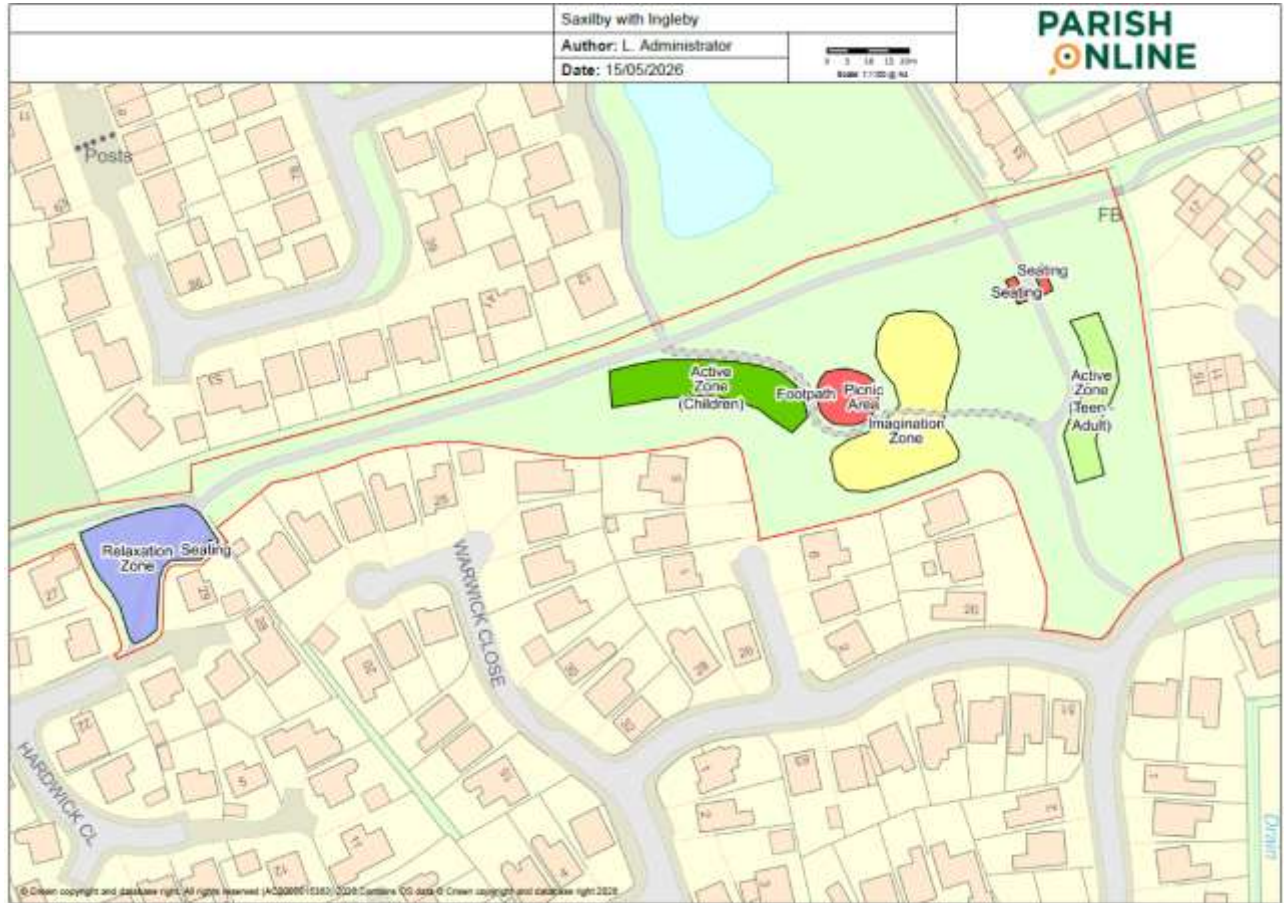
1. Active Zones (for play and fitness)
2. A Relaxation Zone (including seating and sensory planting)
3. An Imaginative Play Zone

This approach is supported by the Working Group

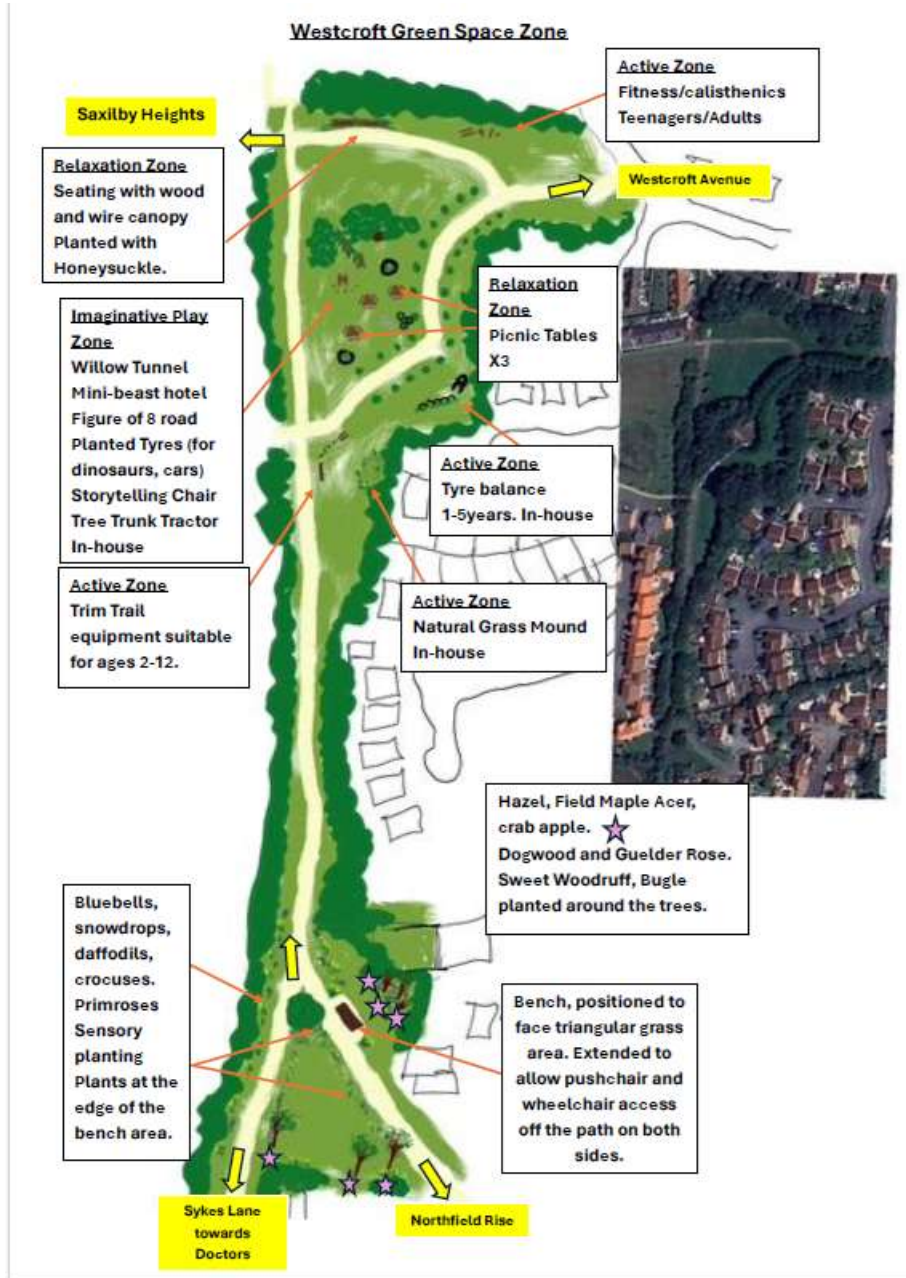
It is proposed the Active Zone would be designed and installed by a contractor, whilst the council would develop the relaxation and imaginative play areas directly, alongside community volunteers.

An initial design brief has been shared with contractors to generate ideas.

# Overall Site Zone Indicative Sketch of Areas



# Site Sketch with further details



# Relaxation Zone Visual

## Westcroft Green – Relaxation Zone 1

Westcroft Avenue  
(towards Saxilby Heights)

★ Hazel, Field Maple Acer,  
crab apple  
Dogwood and Guelder Rose.  
Sweet Woodruff, Bugle  
planted around the trees.

Bluebells,  
snowdrops,  
daffodils,  
crocuses.  
Primroses  
Sensory  
planting  
Plants at the  
edge of the  
bench area.

Bench, positioned to  
face triangular grass  
area. Extended to  
allow pushchair and  
wheelchair access  
off the path.

Northfield Rise

Sykes Lane  
towards  
Doctors



Relaxation Zone  
Proposed Location



## Working Group Update

The Working Group met in April to continue progressing the Westcroft Green Space project, with a focus on design development, early delivery elements, and preparing Planning & Development Committee recommendations:

### Active Zone - Play Provider Engagement

Initial site visits have been arranged and held with Kompan, Proludic, Online Playgrounds, Playdale, and Rhino Play. These engagements will inform design development and pricing for the next stage of the project. It was noted that programme timings may need adjustment depending on receipt of design proposals.

To date indicative designs and costings have been received from two of the five contractors. This information is purely to inform the development of the final design which contractors will then formally quote for. Final options will be narrowed down and go out for public consultation (see project plan for more information). The public consultation results will be shared with council to inform the decision-making process by council.

### Relaxation Zone and Imagination Zone

Due to the lower cost and smaller works required for the relaxation and imagination zones, these can be delivered more quickly in-house, than the active zone (which includes plans for play and fitness equipment - the timelines required for public consultation and procurement for the active zone will place its completion at the back end of the project).

The Working Group agreed a set of recommendations to be presented to the Planning & Development Committee, shown at the bottom of the report.

### Funding position

£12,383	Current Ring-Fenced Budget <i>(if further council funding allocated e.g. Community Infrastructure Levy, £15,000 target can be met)</i>
£37,050	Current budget estimate <i>(£30,000 for active zone, £1,500 relaxation zone, £2,000 picnic benches, £2,000 imagination zone, contingency £3,550) – this is likely to increase as the imagination zone is costed, and excludes contingency)</i>
<b>-£24,667</b>	Projected funding shortfall
£2,700	Additional external funding in place for a consultant to deliver community consultation

### Funding sources

- [East Midlands Railway](#) – Apply for £4,000 grant for the project. Parish council is confirmed as eligible. Deadline 22 May.
- [One Earth](#) – Apply for £1,000 grant for the project. Parish council is confirmed as eligible. Deadline 29 June.
- WLDC community grant funding scheme due to come on-stream shortly (as advised by two district cllrs) – agreement in principle sought to apply for £15,000 towards the project.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Zones

1. Approve the zoned approach as recommended by the consultant and Working Group as a mechanism to best deliver the varying aspirations from the public consultation
2. Comms to share the overall top level plan with residents

### Relaxation Zone

2. Approve the relaxation zone visual, including sensory planting, planting of six small/medium sized native trees, bulb planting under trees/hedgerows
3. Share updated relaxation zone visuals with residents as part of a wider update – “work has begun” post to keep residents informed of progress and that other work will be happening
4. Approve a budget of £1,580 for the relaxation zone, including seating, planting, and bulbs.
5. Approve the installation of the Marmax recycled plastic bench (local supplier) and base.



[Marmax \(Caistor\) £380](#)

### Further Recommendations

6. Agree to apply for funding for the Active Zones from One Earth (£1,000) and East Midlands Railway Fund (£4,000) delegating authority to the clerk in conjunction with the working group to submit the applications.
7. Recommend to full council agreeing in principle to apply for funding for the Active Zones the forthcoming WLDC fund (£15,000) delegating authority to the clerk in conjunction with the working group to submit the application.