



Westcroft Green Space Project

Recommendation from Planning and Development Committee

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.

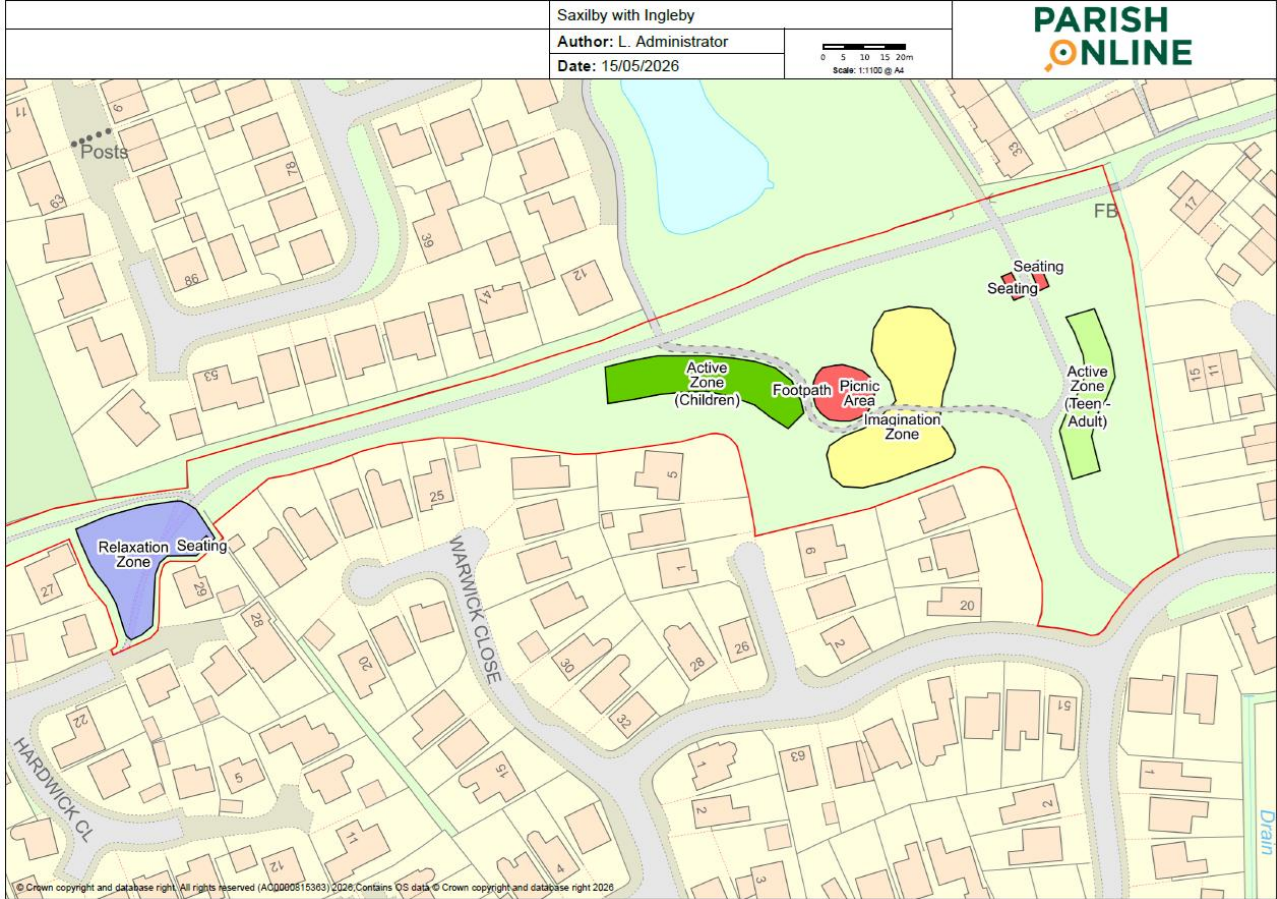
The consultation demonstrated strong support for providing more opportunities for children's play and fitness and for preserving the natural and peaceful character of the green space. The recommended agreed approach is therefore to divide the site into complementary linked areas, each designed for a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

The zones include:

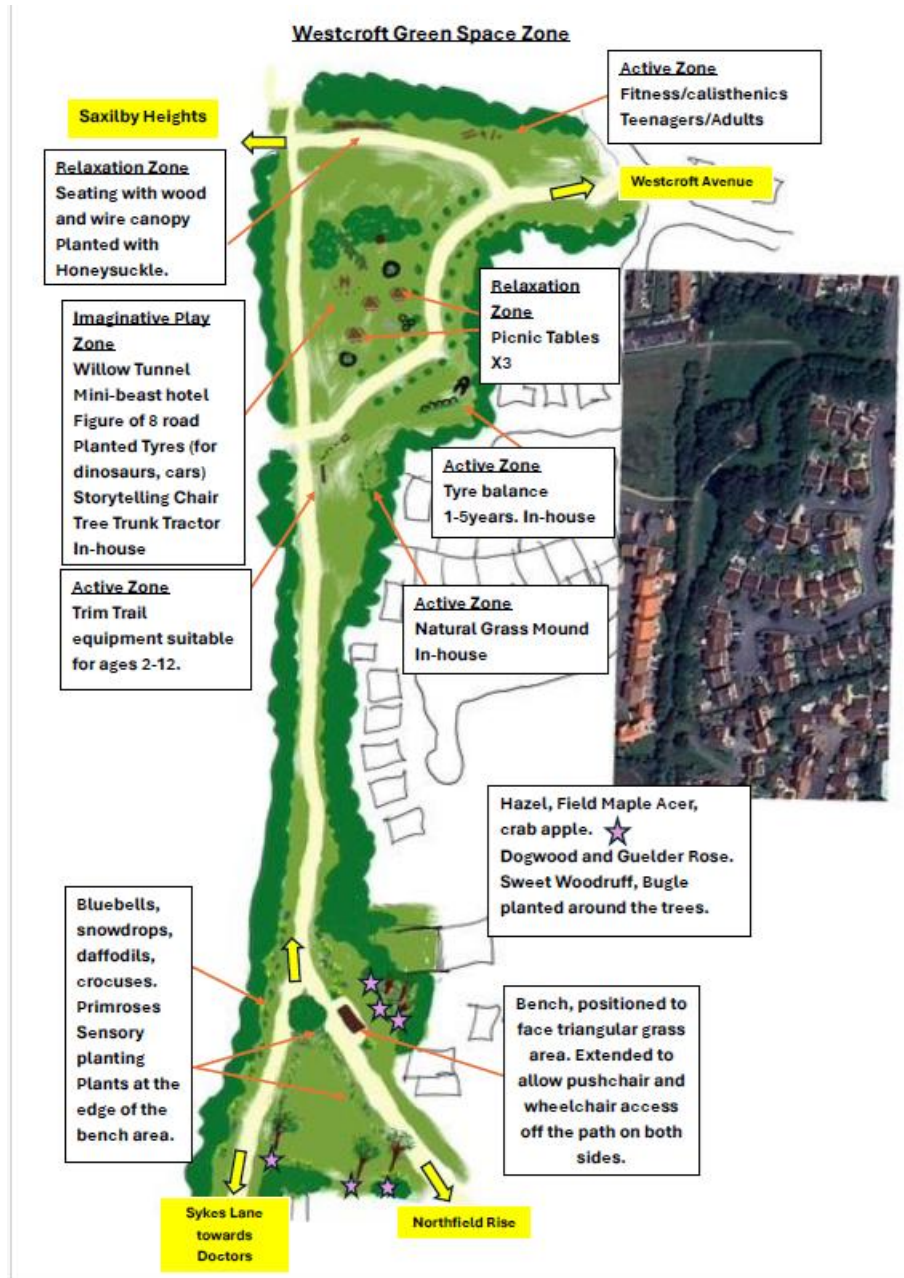
1. Active Zones (for play and fitness)
2. A Relaxation Zone (including seating and sensory planting)
3. An Imaginative Play Zone

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.

Overall Site Zone Indicative Sketch of Areas



Site Sketch with further details



Active Zone - Play Provider Engagement

Initial site visits have been arranged and held with five providers who have all provided quotes based on a £30,000 budget.

Overall Project Funding position

£12,943	Current Ring-Fenced Budget (including £1,000 One Earth Grant) <i>(if further council funding allocated e.g. Community Infrastructure Levy, £15,000 target can be met)</i>
£500	Projected CIL money
£38,550	Projected Project Cost <i>(£30,000 for active zone, £1,200 relaxation zone (remaining budget), £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>
£25,107	Project funding shortfall

Planning and Development committee have recommended to full council to apply for a minimum of £15,000 funding from WLDC for the project. Based on the above costings, an application of up to £25,000 would mean the project would be fully funded.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To apply for a minimum of £15,000 funding for the Westcroft Greenspace Active Zones from WLDC grant fund, delegating authority to the clerk in conjunction with the working group to submit the application.