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***Report of the Children and Young
People Scrutiny Panel***

***Review of play, playgrounds and
open spaces in North Lincolnshire***

June 2008 - April 2009

The council's scrutiny panels examine in detail selected areas of the council's work, responsibilities and policies.

The aim is to find out if there are ways in which the council could be doing things better, and to influence national issues.

This report is the end result of a review into a particular subject. It sums up how the review was carried out, its findings/considerations, conclusions and recommendations for any improvements which could be made.

SCRUTINY REPORT

Review of play, playgrounds and open spaces in North Lincolnshire –

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INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIR OF THE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL

The Panel decided to carry out this review as they felt that play areas in North Lincolnshire may not be given sufficient priority by the council. We were aware of the problem of obesity in children, and the health inequalities seen in the population and felt that play and play areas for children had a major part to play in tackling these problems.

While we all pay lip service to the importance of play, do we provide the facilities and opportunities that children need?

Hopefully this review will go some way to answer these questions, and help to re enforce the messages in the Council's Play Strategy. Our thanks go to the officers of the council who gave us information and helped our understanding of the current position. The review should be seen as an aid to improving the quality of play and play areas for our children.

In conclusion, can I thank the members of the panel and our scrutiny officers for their contributions, and the time they have given to carry out this review.

Councillor Stuart Wilson
Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

Membership of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

Councillors:

S Wilson(Chair)
J Bromby (Vice-Chair)
L Cawsey
C Sherwood
M Sidell
M Simpson
D Whiteley

Co-opted Members:

P Bacon (Parent Governor Representative)
A Dunkerley (Parent Governor Representative)
W Egan (Diocesan Board of Education Representative)
W Witter (Diocesan Board of Education Representative)

1. **SELECTION AND SCOPE OF THE REVIEW**

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel agreed to undertake a review into open spaces and opportunities for play in North Lincolnshire in June 2008. Whilst considering a subject for investigation the Scrutiny Panel explored a variety of possible options. During the course of discussion, members acknowledged the positive impact which play provision and recreational activities has across all sections of the community. Concern was, however, expressed regarding barriers which can make play and access to play difficult for children and young people across North Lincolnshire. These include location of play areas, cost of activities, transportation problems, fear of bullying and poor, out of date equipment.

In recognition of the importance of this issue members were keen to undertake an in-depth investigation and explore possible ways of improving 'play' within North Lincolnshire. The panel established that for the purpose of this review play activities would be defined as 'those areas and activities undertaken by children and young people, aged 0-19 years, in their spare time (e.g. outside school)'.

During the initial fact finding session carried out by the panel, it was apparent that certain areas would need to be focussed on, as the subject area was so large. The panel decided to opt to base their review on the following issues: -

- To examine North Lincolnshire's play strategy;
- To investigate what progress has been made in implementing the strategy, and in ensuring that the needs of North Lincolnshire's children are being met;
- To examine play areas including parks and open spaces across North Lincolnshire;
- To consider the current provision of play areas, play activities across the area;
- To look at how play is funded;
- To carry out consultation exercises with users, stakeholders, partners, voluntary sectors etc.. who may be involved in play;

- To make recommendations if necessary to improve the provision of play/play areas and publicise the existing ones to maximise their use.

2. HOW THE REVIEW WAS CARRIED OUT

During the course of the review that followed, the panel's approach was to gather evidence in a number of ways. This included using desktop research, interviews with officers, visiting playgrounds and open spaces.

- Interviews: Were held with the following internal witnesses

<u>Date of Meeting</u>	<u>Witnesses</u>
23 June 2008	Paul Crompton and Maureen Moore, Sport, Play and Community Development Managers – North Lincolnshire Council
21 July 2008	Paul Crompton - Sport, Play and Community Development Manager – North Lincolnshire Council
22 September 2008	Mike Welton, Head of Planning and Val Wilcockson, Principal Solicitor – North Lincolnshire Council
3 October 2008	John Colby and Barry Hutchinson, Neighbourhood Services - North Lincolnshire Council
17 November 2008	Karen Boucher, Parenting Commissioner from Education Welfare and Gill Ayre, Senior Adviser (Extended and Community Services)
15 December 2008	Tom Coburn and Maureen Moore, Sport, Play and Community Development Managers – North Lincolnshire Council
23 February 2009	Cllr O'Sullivan, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Arts and Culture

- **Visits:** Members worked in sub- groups and took the opportunity to make site visits to various playgrounds and open spaces across North Lincolnshire.
- **Meetings:** A series of public meetings were held with the full panel for witness interviews and presentations, together with

planning and evaluation meetings to consider information collated and presented to members.

During the course of this review the panel spoke to a large range of individuals who added a huge amount to members' understanding of the issues relating to play in North Lincolnshire. Without the support of these individuals, who gave their time and expertise so freely, the panel would not have been able to produce this report.

3. THE PANEL'S FINDINGS/CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 BACKGROUND – NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

One of the Government's ambitions is to make this the best country in the world for children to grow up in. Children, young people and their parents all recognise that play is a vital ingredient of a happy and healthy childhood, supporting children's physical, emotional, social and educational development.

They want all children to have fun and be safe as they play. It is fundamental to the successful development of every child. Play encourages creativity, teaches children to be innovative, to learn about risk and increases their sense of independence. It is essential to children's physical health and development, and helps children learn how to get on with each other. So, what is going on nationally to support this?

'Fair Play' The Children's Plan produced by *The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)* believe that one of the principles underpinning the Children's Plan is that children and young people need to enjoy their childhood as well as grow up prepared for adult life. Play is something that children truly enjoy, and which their parents want to see their children enjoy. Government's ambition is that all children should enjoy playing in safe environments and live in communities where play is welcomed.

Play is not only a vital part of the way children enjoy their childhood, but also it is central to all the '*Every Child Matters*' outcomes. Play is essential for children's good physical and mental health development. Through taking risks whilst playing they also learn how to manage risk helping them to stay safe. Play develops learning skills, central to achievement.

Yet the Government indicates in the Children's Plan that the number of opportunities for play – particularly child-led, outdoor play – are falling. Concerns about safety, the loss of open space, the poor quality and inaccessibility of many existing play areas, including for disabled children, and the increasingly structured use of children's spare time are all barriers to children engaging in more outdoor play. This became apparent at local level too whilst carrying out this review.

One of the main messages fed back through the *Time to Talk* consultation with children and parents on the Children's Plan was that there are not

enough safe, challenging, stimulating places for children and young people to go, that children's needs are often ignored in the public.

The Government's vision and aims for play: -

Vision:

- Strong vibrant communities should offer a variety of places for children to play, places in which children have a stake and that they can help shape through their active involvement in design and decision making. All children and young people should be able to find places, near their homes, where they can play freely and meet their friends. They should feel confident and safe to play, both indoors and out, and in a manner that is appropriate to their needs and interests. Their vision is for play to support community cohesion and help keep children healthy.

Aims:

- In every residential area, there is a variety of places for play, free of charge, supervised and unsupervised;
- local neighbourhoods are, and feel like, interesting places to play;
- routes to children's play space are safe and accessible for all children and young people;
- parks and open spaces are attractive and welcoming, and are well-maintained and well-used;
- children and young people have a clear stake in public space and their play is accepted by their neighbours;
- children and young people behave in a way that respects other people and property;
- children, young people and their families take an active role in the development of local play spaces; and
- play places are attractive, welcoming, engaging and accessible for all children and young people, including disabled children, children of both genders, and children from minority groups in the community.

Delivery of these aims and vision: -

Short term: 2008 – 2011

Through the development and implementation of the national strategy, backed by dedicated investment, the Government indicates that their immediate priority is to increase the availability of safe, exciting and inclusive play facilities, putting the needs of local communities at the heart of the design process and improving facilities in the areas where children need them most. It indicates that they will establish a strong framework for local delivery, including continuing to develop the compelling evidence base on the benefits of play and identifying and disseminating best practice to help parents deliver high quality play spaces.

Medium term: 2011 – 2014

Over the medium term the Government's intention in the Children Plan is to build on their initial investment and support Children's Trusts to provide the local leadership necessary to build communities that value and respond to children, young people and parents' demands for safe and well-maintained places to play. It will rely on staff from across wider local authority and health services understanding and supporting this agenda, integrating it within local children's services. Progress will be demonstrated year-on-year by higher reported satisfaction of children with outdoor play facilities.

Long term: 2014 – 2020

Over the longer term, their objective is that all children and young people will be able to access world-class play and recreation spaces near where they live, within communities that are child-friendly. Children's Trusts will lead the delivery of excellent local play provision, with consideration of children's needs embedded in the planning of the wider Local Strategic Plan.

Key Actions: -

- The Government is investing £235 million in up to 3,500 play areas across the country;
- It is investing in 30 Pathfinder local authorities to receive additional funding, part of which will be used to develop a large, staffed adventure playground;

- Every local authority will receive at least £1 million in funding, to be targeted on the children most in need of improved play opportunities;
- In order for children to benefit from this as soon as possible, they are accelerating national rollout so that every local authority will be offered funding by April 2009. **(For North Lincolnshire Councils position see page 31)**
- Play England have been contracted as the national delivery partner and have significantly expanded their capacity. Play England will provide all local authorities with access to expertise, planning advice and guidance;

3.2 NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL'S POSITION

At the beginning of the review in June 2008, the panel received a presentation on 'Play in North Lincolnshire' from the Council's Community Development Managers. The visual presentation received outlined 'Play is Everybody's Business' and how North Lincolnshire Council's own play strategy correlated with every aspect of the 'Every Child Matters' agenda. It also fell within the remit of the Obesity Strategy for North Lincolnshire.

The managers highlighted the difference between structured play and free play and the benefits obtained enabling children to engage in free play. They also highlighted what the effects play deprivation have on children, how barriers to play such as lack of and poor quality provision, busy roads, bullying, disapproving adults' and parents' fears had lead to a dramatic decline in the number of children allowed outside to play. The panel was advised that 71 per cent of adults played outside in their childhood compared to only 21 per cent of children today. Further information was provided on the Council's Play Strategy that had been developed for North Lincolnshire aimed at 0-19 year olds. It was to be reviewed in 2009, and the managers stressed how important it was that for strategies to succeed. They needed to be supported by all partners, agencies and council services.

The Play Strategy:

The Council's Cabinet Committee approved a play strategy for North Lincolnshire in February 2004. The aim of the strategy was to increase the quantity of play opportunities for local children. The strategy was given the title 'Play Alert' chosen by children and young people themselves. The Sports and Play Development Team oversaw

the development strategy, consulting with a wide variety of stakeholders, and a multi-agency group to implement the strategy action plan. The strategy was founded on the principle of the children's right to play as stated in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Children:

- Every child has the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and arts;
- Member governments shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

Children's play is affected by, and can affect a range of provision, such as transport, health, housing, parks, childcare and early years provision, and it was the intention of the panel to investigate if the following actions and objectives had been met as outlined in the strategy action plan. It covered a period from 2004-2009, and had 37 action points requiring work as detailed below: -

Objective one: (To develop a co-ordinated approach to play)

- 1.1 Set up a play strategy implementation group;
- 1.2 Establish a play development agency consisting of all statutory and voluntary sector play providers and other interested parties;
- 1.3 Establish a play information service, as a first port of call for those needing support with play and play work information or advice;
- 1.4 Establish a central children and young people's play forum that can represent the whole of North Lincolnshire;
- 1.5 Develop a play policy;
- 1.6 Establish a comprehensive consultation process on matters affecting children's play;
- 1.7 Carry out play impact assessments on all key partners' and strategies.

Objective two: (Raise the profile of play)

- 2.1 Promote the Play Strategy;
- 2.2 Raise awareness of the importance of play, including inclusive play;

- 2.3 Promote play through events such as August Playday;
- 2.4 North Lincolnshire to adopt the New Charter for Children's Play and other significant documents that can guide the development of play opportunities for children;
- 2.5 Create a discrete, recognisable identity for the play development agency

Objective three: (Develop a play service that is accessible to all children)

- 3.1 Increase play opportunities for marginalized groups of children, particularly children from minority communities;
- 3.2 Provide transport to enable children to access play opportunities;
- 3.3 Increase play opportunities for children living in rural areas;
- 3.4 Increase inclusive play opportunities for disabled children;
- 3.5 Provide free or low-cost play opportunities to ensure all children can access good quality play opportunities;
- 3.6 Develop a network of local venues easily accessible on foot or without private transport.

Objective four: (Develop existing and new opportunities)

- 4.1 Develop a range of play opportunities that cater for different types of play and the needs of different ages and abilities of children. These should range from outdoor, unsupervised play spaces to supervised, indoor provision.
- 4.2 Work in partnership to ensure children can play safely in open spaces such as parks, streets and other public and open spaces;
- 4.3 Build partnerships with those who provide activities for children in out of school and early years settings;
- 4.4 Develop a mobile play project that can offer good quality play opportunities for children in urban and rural settings;
- 4.5 Increase community-led and local play provision.

Objective five: (Develop the quality of play opportunities for children)

- 5.1 Ensure that all provision meets the relevant national standards for play provision and that all people working in play are suitable to do so;
- 5.2 Establish a training and educational programme that develops a skilled workforce;

- 5.3 Ensure all training and education is rooted in the principles and values of play and play work as identified in the National Occupational Standards and Best Play;
- 5.4 Use existing quality assurance standards such as quality in play opportunities offered by play facilities;
- 5.5 Develop assessment criteria to assess the quality of play opportunities offered by play facilities;
- 5.6 Ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of the Play Strategy;
- 5.7 Ensure systems for effective monitoring and evaluation of spending on play provision;
- 5.8 Ensure play development in North Lincolnshire is informed by good practice locally, nationally, UK wide and internationally;
- 5.9 Ensure that play providers in North Lincolnshire have opportunities to engage in wider debates and consultations about play and play work developments at regional and national level and beyond;
- 5.10 Provide opportunities for children and young people to meet and make friends with children and young people from other localities and countries.
- 5.11 Ensure that all play providers meet relevant standards for safeguarding and protecting children.

Objective Six: (Develop a service that is properly resourced and supported)

- 6.1 Identify additional funding to develop play opportunities;
- 6.2 Identify funding that enables communities to provide play opportunities for children in the local communities;
- 6.3 Support the development of play resource centres with scrap materials; loan/hire equipment and bulk materials to enable groups to offer a wide range of creative play opportunities.

PROGRESS MADE TO DATE:-

On the 15 December 2008 the panel invited the Head of Sports Facilities for North Lincolnshire Council, and the Sport, Play and Community Development Manager to their meeting to discuss the Play Strategy and inform members of the progress that has been made on the action plan, and aims for the future.

The panel received an informative presentation and was given details on how the Play Strategy Implementation Group (PSIG) had been formed in

2004 to address the six specific areas identified within the strategy aims detailed above. The panel was informed of the following progress: -

Develop a co-ordinated approach to play

The Council set up a Play Strategy Implementation Group (PSIG) as stated above, which undertook the roles and responsibilities of a Play Development Agency, establishing a play information service for families and children to access, e.g. Lincs2leisure website, and the A-Z of Leisure Services.

In order to establish a children and young people's play forum, locality based neighbourhood implementation groups have been established in five neighbourhoods. An inclusive consultation process was being developed through various case studies involving young people in design and development of play projects e.g. 3B's, Westwoodside Play Area, Scawby Community Play, Kick Start, Fair Play Football and Street Sports.

Raise the profile of play in North Lincolnshire

The panel was informed that the play strategy has been promoted to the public and partners through a wide variety of networks, partnerships and media e.g. press releases, Lincs2leisure, and the Council's Direct magazine. Play has also been included in a variety of related plans and strategies including Parenting Strategy, Obesity Strategy and the Children and Young People's Plan. 'Playday' and other play events have also been delivered across North Lincolnshire throughout the life of the strategy to help promote and raise awareness of play.

Develop a Play Service that is accessible to all children

In order to increase play opportunities for marginalized groups of children, particularly children from minority communities, the panel was informed of the development and delivery of a number of inclusive play projects including Crosby play scheme, BEM Sports and Crosby Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Play Projects. In the Play Alert action plan it referred to transport being provided to enable children to access play opportunities. According to the officers who update the panel they have tried to develop more locally based facilities/services e.g. 3B's, Street Sports, Kick Start, Fair Play Football to minimise transport needs.

Develop existing and new provision

A new range of play opportunities have been created since the strategy has been in place including Street Sport, Kick Start, Fair Play Football, Street Dance, 3B's and Wiggle and Giggle. Throughout the review, the panel were constantly reminded of the need to ensure children can play safely in parks and open spaces, and as part of this were informed by the officers that Neighbourhood Services had recruited park wardens, and the delivery of the play opportunities mentioned above had been developed to encourage safe play in open spaces.

Develop the quality of play opportunities for children

Questions were asked by the panel as to whether all provision for children's play in North Lincolnshire met relevant national standards, and were duly informed that the Leisure Services Safeguarding Children's Policy was recognised by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board as best practice. Members were also informed that all projects that had been developed through Play Alert, had incorporated best play practice and child safeguarding standards. With regards to quality assurance standards and assessment criteria to assess the quality of play opportunities and equipment, it appeared to members that little assessment had been carried out on a continuous basis, and informal assessment had only been carried out whilst putting together the play pathfinder funding bid. Members were informed that Neighbourhood Services had carried out 'some' assessments of fixed play equipment through 'steps to quality and quest'.

Part of the action plan in the strategy highlighted that systems of effective monitoring should be put in place to evaluate spending on play provision. During questioning of this action the panel was told that e-financial systems were utilised effectively throughout key services, and that budget targets were being met year on year for Sport Play and Community Development. However, members were disappointed to discover that no fixed budget is provided annually to Neighbourhood Services for outdoor play equipment and refurbishment. Funds are met through way of grant funding.

Develop a service that is properly resourced and supported

Within this area of the action plan officers were tasked with identifying additional funding to develop play opportunities, and funding that enables communities to provide. It was highlighted that a variety of funding had been secured for large scale play projects including Kids, CAP Club, Big

Lottery Play Programme, Better Play, Street Sport/Kick Start, Fair play Football and Street Dance. Funding had also been secured for community led projects through 'Awards for All' applications, Grant Aid projects and Landfill Tax Credit schemes.

Future

Members of the panel were informed that a Play Alert Steering Group was to be established in January 2009, and the group would be putting a task group in place to lead on developing the new strategy by April 2009. The Council were expecting a strategy to be in place by 2010 that meets the vision for the area, and the Play Alert Steering Group and the PSIG would lead on implementing the new strategy from April 2010.

National Indicator

National Indicator NI 199 – Children's satisfaction with parks. The 2008 indicator for North Lincolnshire was in a 'positive' position with a score of 39.9 per cent satisfaction, having been given a target figure of 39 per cent for 2008/9. A target to achieve 41.9 per cent for 2010/11 had been set. However, the panel felt that this was not accurate and a true reflection on children's satisfaction with parks in North Lincolnshire as the figures were taken from the Tellus3 survey data, and only partial submission was provided by North Lincolnshire. This means that North Lincolnshire was allocated a score based on the average score of the Statistical Neighbour group. The panel was also informed that the prescribed score was lower than the England average and needed to be improved. It was difficult to understand how it was labelled as a 'positive' indicator?

3.3 NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE'S CURRENT PROVISION

The most up to date audit of provision obtained by the panel was that carried out during the formation of the Play Alert Strategy in 2004 and no further audits had been carried out since then. Details were provided on supervised, un-supervised play, and the level of play spaces available against the standards set by the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA).

Gaps in the strategy identified a general lack of supervised provision for open access play and out of schools clubs. However, during the review members were informed that progress had been made to improve supervised open access provision through schemes such as street sports,

kick-start and fair play football in the communities. But, the feeling was that more communities could benefit from these schemes. Also identified as a gap in the 2004 strategy was the level of provision for the different age groups. It was highlighted to the panel that whilst there was reasonable level of provision for 8-11 year olds, the younger 5-8 age range are less well provided for in terms of open access play. The panel through their site visits, consultations and research found there was also lack of provision for teenagers.

One of the strategy's conclusions was that the current level of children's play space in North Lincolnshire set against the NPFA overall standard clearly showed significant deficiencies in all wards, except Haven. Ridge, South Axholme and Bottesford wards had the most acute levels of deficiency. (See table below) The panel was disappointed that no work appeared to be carried out on these levels of deficiency but welcomed the playbuilder funding that would possibly tackle a few of these issues.

Ward	Total area of playspace (ha)	Area of playspace required to meet NPFA standard	Children's Play Space Deficiencies as identified against NPFA Standards
Ashby	1.7	6.3	-4.6
Bottesford	0.7	7.0	-6.3
Brumby	1.1	6.2	-5.1
Burton upon Stather & Gunness	0.9	3.7	-2.8
Crosby & Park	1.6	6.1	-4.5
Crowle, North Axholme & Keadby with Althorpe	1.6	4.0	-2.4
Ferry	1.3	6.6	-5.3
Frodingham & Town	2.3	6.1	-3.8
Kingsway	1.2	6.5	-5.3
Lincoln Gardens	2.0	5.6	-3.6
North West & Winterton	1.1	4.7	-3.6
Ridge	0.7	7.4	-6.7
South Axholme	0.6	7.3	-6.7
Wold	4.9	6.8	-1.9
Haven	6.8	6.8	0

3.4 SITE VISITS CARRIED OUT BY THE PANEL

The panel agreed to carry out various site visits to parks and open spaces across North Lincolnshire to obtain visual knowledge of the facilities available and how they are currently maintained and managed. The panel delegated the site visits to sub-groups consisting of current panel members. The visits were split between urban and rural, with a mixture of small, large, council owned and maintained along with sites that were the responsibility of the Town and Parish Councils. There were

significant differences between facilities, but the general observations made by the members were that apart from a few, they were all of a similar poor standard, with dated equipment for the younger generation. It was felt that more adventurous equipment would be beneficial in many of the parks and there was a big deficiency in facilities provided for teenagers. (A full summary of all the site visits can be found at appendix one) This summary has also been provided to the Playbuilder Project team for consideration when allocating appropriate funding.

3.5 SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS

Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 allows a local planning authority (LPA) to enter into a legally-binding agreement or planning obligation, with a land developer over a related issue. The obligation is sometimes termed as a Section 106 agreement. Such agreements can cover almost any relevant issue and can include sums of money.

Throughout the course of the review members of the panel became increasingly concerned with the large number of new housing developments that were apparent across North Lincolnshire with little or no provision being provided for children or recreational space. Therefore the panel invited the Head of Planning, and Principal Solicitor for North Lincolnshire Council to attend their meeting on the 22 September 2008 to provide an overview of the section 106 agreements, how these were determined for play and open space, and how they are enforced.

The Head of Planning explained to the panel that Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) 10 drawn up in 2004 defines when developers are expected to provide public open space within new housing developments. The North Lincolnshire Local Plan Policy H10 states:-

- **To the extent that the existing public open space provision in an area is insufficient to meet the needs of additional residents, any new housing development shall make provision, as follows:**
 - i) New housing developments on allocated and windfall sites of 0.5ha or more will be required to provide recreational open space on a scale, and in a form, appropriate to serve the needs of residents, or alternatively, where appropriate, to provide commuted payments for this provision to be made off-site, either individually or in combination with existing or other

proposed recreational sites and facilities. On large development sites new built facilities may be required which support the recreational sites and facilities. On large development sites new built facilities may be required which support the recreational open space.

- ii) The council will seek to enter into an agreement with developers which will set out the date of provision and arrangements for the maintenance and management of such areas during the course of development and thereafter.
- iii) On sites less than 0.5 ha, the developer will be expected to make an appropriate commuted payment to off-site recreational open space provision within the catchment area and to contribute to future maintenance in accordance with supplementary planning guidance.

Policy R2 of the Local Plan states: -

- i) Proposals that result in the supply of outdoor playgrounds in the Scunthorpe and Bottesford Urban area or any settlement to fall below the council's minimum standard of 0.2 ha (0.5 acres) per 1,000 population; and/or
- ii) Result in the supply of casual or informal play space within housing areas in the Scunthorpe and Bottesford Urban area or any settlement to fall below the council's minimum standard of 0.4ha (1 acre) per 1,000 population;

will not be allowed unless the developer enhances an existing open space or provides a suitable replacement of equivalent quantity, quality, safety and amenity in the immediate locality.

The council's Community Recreation Team are involved in the initial processes of any planning application on large developments and they assist the planning team in determining whether there is a deficiency of available play space in that area.

The panel was informed that since 2001 there had only been 10 section 106 agreements written into the conditions of planning decisions in North Lincolnshire. Not all of these had been fulfilled, as the development was determined by the completion of the site. This was disappointing. Members were advised that the provision of the play areas/open space would often not be required until the site had been completed in its entirety. It was also highlighted that developers were able to contest decisions, and flexibility was necessary from both the developer and the

planning office to reach an acceptable conclusion. If the councils play strategy identifies an area of need this will bolster the planning officer's position when negotiating the contracts, and potentially enable them to secure a greater amount of money.

3.6 CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE PANEL

WITH SCHOOLS

As part of the review process, all schools were invited to take part in a consultation in the form of a questionnaire published on North Lincolnshire Council's web site to access directly and complete on-line.

The response was relatively low and in total 461 responses were received with a total of 16 schools taking part (3 infant, 2 junior, 10 primary and 1 secondary school). The age range of children targeted to answer the questionnaire was aged from 3 years to 19 years. The highest age range to return their questionnaires were those aged between 9 – 11 years with 55.1%. Detailed below is a brief summary of some of the main questions. (A full copy of the results are attached at appendix two)

One of the questions asked was 'what do you like most about the playground you use'? Responses given to this question identified three areas of what children liked about the playground and these were broken down into (1) play equipment, (2) open space and (3) environment as follows: -

Play Equipment:

The most popular answer to this question was –

- Roundabout
- Seesaw
- Climbing Frame
- Slide
- BMX/skateboard jumps
- Hopscotch
- Sand pit
- Zip wire

Open Space:

The second very popular answer was the provision of a facility or a large open space in which to participate in the various activities including –

- Wide open space to just run and play
- Ride bicycles
- Basketball area with nets and markings
- Tennis court
- Rugby posts
- Cricket ground

Environment:

The children and young people indicated that they wanted the provision of a safe environment in which to hang out, meet up with friends and also meet new friends. With the inclusion of a seating area with benches.

When questioned why they never visit any playgrounds a total of 33 replies were received to this question, and the main reasons given were:

Fear –

- Terrified and too scared of the teenagers that hung around in the playgrounds
- Scared of yobs and hoodies
- Lots of gangs smoking and drinking, breaking equipment
- Teenagers break everything
- Chavs drinking and smoking

Condition of the playground and the equipment for example

- Equipment is either (a) broken or damaged, (b) rusty and paint chipped, and (c) very dirty
- Graffiti everywhere
- Lots of broken glass and rubbish

In addition to the reasons outlined above, why children never visit any playground, the following were frequently mentioned –

- Never have time to go to the playground
- Not allowed to go
- It is boring
- The playgrounds do not cater for my age group
- Nothing to do in most playgrounds.

When asked what would encourage them to use the playgrounds more their answers were: -

The majority of respondents indicated that they would like improved and more play equipment/facilities that catered for all age groups including the disabled.

Provision of specific play equipment identified -

- Swings
- Bigger slides
- Bigger climbing frames
- Swing ropes
- Zip wire
- Seesaw
- Skateboard park
- Trampolines
- Sand play area
- Taller more adventurous play equipment

Better-improved facilities the respondents identified –

- Better football pitches with nets erected all the time
- Cricket pitch and also an area to train for cricket I.e., built in nets to practice.
- Mountain bike track, bike ramps
- Skateboarding park with ramps
- Running track
- Basketball nets

Environment/surroundings –

- Create nicer environment and more welcoming. They want to see improved play areas by creating a natural environment

including landscaping with flowers, more trees and a duck pond. Decorate with cleaner brighter colours to improve appearance to look more modern.

The questionnaire asked individuals if they attended a youth centre/café in their spare time, and if not why not? -

222 pupils indicated that they would not like to attend. Many respondents indicated that they were already involved in other things and did not have anymore spare time available. Other respondents indicated that they did not want to attend a play scheme, youth club etc because they felt that they were boring and there was nothing to do there. 189 who responded said they would like the opportunity to attend even if it is just a place to meet up with friends for drinks, snacks, talking and listening to music etc, or even to participate in ball games, or dancing and working on computers.

3.7 CONSULTATION WITH TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS:

A letter was sent to all Town and Parish Councils in North Lincolnshire on behalf of the panel asking them to provide it with information including: - play areas and open spaces under their ownership, did they believe they were all fit for purpose, have they received any funding to assist with their play areas, were they struggling to maintain them, and what (if any) problems did they have?

Out of 52 that were consulted the panel received 20 replies. The full list of replies and comments can be found at (appendix three). However, the main observations made by members were that some Parish Councils appear to be struggling to maintain and acquire funding for all their parks and open spaces. Those parishes that are associated with a Playing Field Association appear to have better facilities and resources available to maintain and update their open spaces, some even have Park Wardens to deter vandals and anti-social behaviour. The majority who did respond would like to see more facilities for teenagers along with some appropriate security measures.

3.8 OTHER CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY OTHER GROUPS/ORGANISATIONS:

Active Choices/Active Futures North Lincolnshire:

This was the first strategy to focus specifically on sport and active recreation in North Lincolnshire. The strategy is the result of significant work that was undertaken with stakeholders and communities of North Lincolnshire, and a range of partner organisations were involved in shaping its scope and purpose. The development involved a significant amount of local research and consultation with local people, the voluntary and community sector and representatives of partner organisations.

The panel found the detailed findings and outcomes very interesting in relation to the review topic, and vital to making improvements in active recreation amongst children and young people. Members of the panel noted the following main observations in relation to their review: -

- **Demographic issue:** The mix of rural and urban communities cause difficulties for people accessing some services. This also seems to influence community perceptions on allocation of resources and the availability of resources.
- **Local health issues:** For all indicators of health status the situation for people in North Lincolnshire is considerably worse than in the country as a whole. Fewer residents report they are in good health compared to the national average. Of 26 North Lincolnshire national indicators of health poverty, North Lincolnshire rates worse than average in 18.
- **Incidence of obesity:** High blood pressure and high cholesterol are all far greater than the national average, with obesity in the worst 10 per cent in England. The estimated obesity prevalence – 27.1 per cent in North Lincolnshire – is significantly higher than the England average (22.2 per cent) and the highest level in the Yorkshire and Humber region.
- **Quality of life:** Satisfaction among people living in North Lincolnshire on their access to nature, parks and open spaces is low. Local consultation during the development and strategy also identified concerns over the quality of parks and open spaces. There were perceptions that these were not safe

particularly in the Scunthorpe area. This could create barriers to informal activity.

- **Relatively low performance** (compared to other local authorities) on residents' perceptions of activities for teenagers and community activities in general may point to the need for more sport and physical activity opportunities.
- **Participation in sport and physical activity:** Further research with 1,100 young people aged 14-19 was carried out in December 2006 by the Crosby Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder. 57 per cent of young people surveyed said they thought Scunthorpe was a good place to live, 32 per cent said the need for better sports, leisure and/or youth facilities, followed by it being a cleaner more attractive place to live at 32 per cent. Consultation by the Youth Service showed that young people locally want more opportunities for dance, access to floodlit games areas, skating and skateboarding facilities.
- **Facilities for sport and active recreation:** The Playing Pitch strategy 2004 showed the overall quality of pitches in North Lincolnshire was reasonable. However there is an over supply of adult provision and an under supply of mini soccer pitches which is a common problem for many councils.

Tellus3 National Report:

The Tellus3 survey was a survey of children and young people across England, asking their views about their local area, and including questions, which covered the Five Every Child Matters outcomes. The survey was carried out in Spring 2008. A sample of schools was selected within each local authority, representing different types of schools in each area. The main areas highlighted during this review were category 4 – enjoying and achieving, and category 6 – achieving economic well-being. Providing members with the following statistics:-

Category 4:

4e: Overall, what do you think of the activities and things to do in your area?	NAT All(%)
Very good	14
Fairly good	35
Neither good nor poor	22
Fairly poor	14
Very poor	12
Don't know	3
4f: In the last four weeks, have you participated in any group activity led by an adult outside school lesson (such as sport, arts, or a youth group)?	
Yes	62
No	34
Don't know	5
4g: Which of these things have you been to in the last four weeks (not including things that are part of school lessons) ?	
Local park and playground	74
Cinema or theatre	56
A music concert or gig	15
Swimming pool	46
Sports club or classes	58
Gym	27
A youth club or youth group organised activities run by adults	32
Faith or community group	13
A youth centre/café to meet friends	36
Art, craft, dance, drama, film/video-making group or class	27
Music group or lesson	19
Library/museum	34
Residential course	10
Something else	68

Category 6:

6d: Which of these things would do the most to make your area a better place for you to live?	NAT All (%)
Better shops	45
Cleaner and less litter	48
Better sports clubs and centres	44
Better public transport (such as buses, trains, underground)	25
Safer roads	37
Better activities for children and young people	46
Safer area or less crime	39
Better parks and play areas	47
Fewer young people hanging around	27
Something else	10
Don't know	3
None (the area is fine as it is)	4
6e: What do you think of the parks and play areas in your area?	
Very good	10
Fairly good	34
Neither good nor poor	23
Fairly poor	15
Very poor	15
Don't know	3
6f: Thinking about all of the things that have been covered in the survey, what if anything, would do most to make your life better?	
More help to do better at school	11
Better school lessons	11
Less bullying	9
More organised activities and things to do	8
More places where I can go to spend time with my friends	22
More say how things are run at school or in the local area	3
More ways I can volunteer or help people	2
More advice about being healthy	2
More help to plan my future	15
More help to feel safer at school and in the local area	4
Something else	4
Don't know	5
None of these	4

North Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust – Lifestyles of People in North Lincolnshire:

Some key points that were highlighted during this review as part of the panel's findings were from the 2007/08 North Lincolnshire Adolescent Lifestyle Survey. Overall, the results were very positive, with some measurable improvements on the 2004 survey. The survey highlighted some issues of potential unmet need which would require particular attention by the Children's Trust Partnership, schools, families and the local community.

Particular attention was paid to Para 7.10 of the report – sports and other structured activities. – The proportion of young people who engaged in at least two hours of sports a week is high, with positive feedback from students. Nevertheless, a significant minority of young people, and especially older teenage girls, are not engaged in any sport or physical activity at all outside school time. Partner agencies may need to consider alternative ways of engaging this group of young women more effectively, especially those living in some of the most deprived areas of North Lincolnshire. There may be opportunities for coordinating and tailoring services to local needs through making links with the Extended Schools Programme and community use of schools.

North Lincolnshire Council's Healthier Communities and Older People Scrutiny Panel:

The above scrutiny panel completed a review in April 2008 looking at obesity in North Lincolnshire. As part of that review they carried out a lot of background research and highlighted some important issues including the importance of children and young people being able to play. They made the following observations relevant to this review: -

There is some evidence that children's overall calorie intake has remained relatively stable in recent years, or has even reduced since the 1970s. However, children now live more sedentary lifestyles, with half as many children taking part in extra-curricular sport compared to 1980 and under-16s now watching 17 hours of television a week.

A range of other causal factors may also increase the likelihood of obesity amongst children. These include more use of cars for short journeys, increased time pressures in schools, and increased usage of the internet and on-line, PC or console gaming.

Importantly, there is a growing body of evidence that parents are increasingly anxious about allowing their children to play without adult supervision or too far away from the family home. The range that parents allow their children to roam away from home has shrunk to around a ninth of what it was in 1970 for nine-year olds and three quarters of parents believe that children are now more at risk than five years ago. When asked about these anxieties, parents state that they would like their children to be active, but they regularly cite abduction by strangers, or

road safety as risk factors. Thankfully, stranger abduction is remarkably rare in the UK and has stayed at a constant, low level for fifty years, and whilst road safety remains a concern, deaths or serious injuries have halved since 1994/98.

This has led to concern amongst parents, government, academia and elsewhere, that children are growing up without a well formed ability to judge risk, interact with other children outside of school or supervised activity, or to develop a sense of self motivation and creativity. Paradoxically, the parents' understandable desire to protect their child could result in the child becoming overweight or obese. It is therefore desirable to make parents aware of the benefits of play (particularly unsupervised, unstructured play) compared to the real, but over-estimated risk. Research has shown that children get more exercise from outdoor, informal or unstructured play, rather than through clubs or formal sports activities.

It is also the case that sometimes children are not being allowed or encouraged to take part in unstructured play and recreation as they were in previous generations. Children and young people playing in streets or near housing can sometimes be seen as being linked with noise or anti-social behaviour.

As part of their report the panel made the following recommendation: *'We recommend that a wide-ranging review of local play arrangements be conducted based on the Every Child Matters agenda, NICE guidance and the Charter for Children's Play. We believe that the review should involve all local partners, and steps should be taken to ensure "buy-in" and a co-ordinated focus at a strategic level into the quantity and quality of play provision. When completed, the review should sit alongside the Play Strategy to act as a mechanism to increase play amongst children and young people'.*

Having followed up the progress on this recommendation the panel was informed that an action plan had been submitted to the Council's Cabinet for approval on 22 April 2009, informing them that this is to be built into the new North Lincolnshire Play Alert Strategy for 2010.

3.9 EXTENDED SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

On the 17 November 2008 the panel invited the Council's advisor for Extended and Community Services. The panel sought further clarification on Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and the investment going into

North Lincolnshire's secondary schools. Members of the panel were informed that the Government had made £80m available to rebuild or modernise seven schools in Scunthorpe.

North Lincolnshire Council's consultation found the need for improved sport and physical activity facilities at a number of schools. A key issue was the extent that BSF could integrate across local strategic priorities such as 'more rewarding leisure' and 'healthier lifestyles'. Members were told that existing good practice from other BFS projects suggests that there is an opportunity to develop family learning opportunities linked to sport and active recreation. There is a huge range of opportunities available. These include: physical activity sessions at breakfast and after school clubs; summer schools; gifted and talented sports provision; dads and lads family learning sessions; and clubs for both young people and their families. These could be exciting opportunities to develop a new model of provision to address needs of local communities in North Lincolnshire.

It was also envisaged that the extended schools programme would provide an important role in linking voluntary and community sector to its work within schools. It will work jointly to begin to identify a range of strategies to help to develop and sustain activities. This will be through local capacity building, training and support, providing guidance on affordable pricing policies and helping to source potential partnership and external funding.

3.10 WAVE 2 PLAYBUILDER FUNDING

As stated earlier in the report the panel were informed of the Government's intention to boost play within local councils by rolling out funding by 2009. Towards the end of 2008 councils were invited by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) to bid to become a Wave 2 Playbuilder authority. In December 2008 the DCSF notified the council that it had been awarded Playbuilder status.

At this time the council was informed that the award of Playbuilder status would involve capital funding of around £1 million (weighted by child population, deprivation and taking into account regional variations in play building costs) and around £45,000 revenue funding to develop 22 play spaces in North Lincolnshire. The panel was very interested in the project as it underpinned a lot of the work the panel had already been doing during this review with regards to play areas and open spaces.

Members invited the Service Director and Assistant Director - Neighbourhood and Environment Services to attend one of the panel's meetings to provide them with more in depth details of the funding and how this would be allocated in North Lincolnshire.

They highlighted that the timescale for delivery of the Playbuilder programme was challenging and project planning had already begun to enable the council to be in a 'state of readiness' on 1 April 2009. A Playbuilder Project Board had met twice under the chairmanship of the Assistant Director – Neighbourhood and Environmental Services (the Lead Officer), officers from various service areas and a representative from Play England. Following on from that it was agreed that two members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel would also be involved as they had already been involved in some useful data gathering work during this review.

Using a template provided by the DCSF, the lead officer submitted a draft project plan to the government department. A more detailed plan was to be submitted by 31 March 2009. The DCSF requires the council to identify 11 play areas to be developed in the first year. The panel was told that the DCSF expects the council to use deprivation statistics as part of its evaluation process and not simply identify those existing play areas where the play equipment has deteriorated and needs replacing. In addition it expects some new sites to be developed if required following consultation with local communities. They also indicated that a final proportion of sites should be allocated to Town and/or Parish Councils, but realistically these would form part of the second year tranche.

The Playbuilder Project board started to duplicate work that the Scrutiny Panel was currently undertaking as part of this review into playgrounds and open spaces, and it was felt that the board was now in the best position to continue with the process taking into consideration the consultation work, and site visits already undertaken by the scrutiny panel.

4. **THE PANEL'S CONCLUSIONS**

Arising from the evidence presented during the panel's findings and considerations, its conclusions are as follows:-

The panel thoroughly investigated the progress made towards the aims of the councils 'Play Alert' Strategy for North Lincolnshire with particular focus on playgrounds and open spaces. Whilst carrying out their investigations it was highlighted that there was a need to maximise the impact of play provision across North Lincolnshire by all service departments within the council, and by working closer with our strategic partners. The council has the responsibility to determine the provision of recreational activities within the new play strategy and should determine it as a priority, whilst ensuring appropriate resources are made available to ensure quality provision.

It was apparent that there is a good level of recreation activity already provided in North Lincolnshire for children and young people, but it was disappointing to find that the latest audit of provision was carried out in 2004. Evidence showed that some of the playgrounds were of a poor standard lacking in variation and excitement particularly for the teenagers with need for improvements. There is need for a more innovative approach to the provision of recreation facilities, such as youth shelters and skate parks, together with the possible introduction of Park Wardens to alleviate some of the fears expressed by young people during the review.

The panel appreciate that parents and carers are understandably protective and that certain types of recreation provision include an element of risk. However, there is a balance to be struck to allow young people to develop and explore their boundaries. Ways of improving the marketing of facilities provided and activities to young people and their families are also required.

It was evident to the panel that the involvement of children and young people in the decision making process for the provision of recreation activities is essential, and where appropriate they should be involved in supporting the submission of applications to the Planning Committee, and take part in any discussions regarding Section 106 agreements on play. Paying particular attention to Section 106 agreements the panel felt that more should be done to negotiate and enforce these in any future developments.

As part of the Building Schools for the Future programme the panel see great potential for the future, taking advantage of play facilities/activities provided through BSF and the extended schools in North Lincolnshire. There is going to be a huge range of opportunities available and could lead to exciting prospects to develop a new model of provision to address needs of local communities.

It was disappointing that the National Performance Indicator 199 - children's satisfaction with parks was not more accurate and available to the Panel and the time of the review. They look forward to receiving a more comprehensive reflection of children's satisfaction with parks in North Lincolnshire next time the survey is carried out.

Members welcomed the Playbuilder funding that was recently made available to the council, however, they did feel that it was vital that Neighbourhood Services should be allocated an annual budget specifically for the provision and maintenance of playgrounds and open spaces in North Lincolnshire.

Play is high on the Government's agenda and their commitment to making improvements is evident within this report. The panel would like to see the same commitment from North Lincolnshire Council across the authority in particular within the new play strategy due to be implemented in April 2010.

5. THE PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon the evidence presented and evaluated during the review, as detailed in the panel's findings/considerations and the panel's conclusions, the recommendations of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel are as follows:-

- 5.1 That a process be implemented to ensure that children and young people are fully supported to participate in the future development and provision of recreation activities in North Lincolnshire;
- 5.2 That a more up to date and comprehensive audit of playgrounds and open spaces provision be carried out across North Lincolnshire;
- 5.3 That an action plan be produced to explore ways of addressing the barriers to children and young people to access recreation activities, including fears of bullying and gangs, lack of transport, cost, lack of localised provision and lack of supervised provision;
- 5.4 That as part of any new planned playgrounds or activities, consideration be given to the various age groups, and more challenging adventure play equipment. With the close involvement of young people, and other stake holders, throughout the process from location/selection of structure to planning application;
- 5.5 That more work be undertaken to increase the marketing of play and activities to target all young people, and their families across North Lincolnshire;
- 5.6 That the council increases the levels of maintenance in parks and open spaces investigating the increase of Park Wardens, concentrating on anti-social behaviour, graffiti, broken glass and damaged equipment.
- 5.7 That consideration be given to the allocation of a specific budget to Neighbourhood Services for the provision and maintenance of parks and open spaces in North Lincolnshire;
- 5.8 That within the council's new play strategy for 2010 it is vital that there are clear lines of communication between council services and external agencies involved with the provision of play;

- 5.9 That Section 106 Agreements be closely monitored and enforced where necessary;
- 5.10 That as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme the council takes full advantage of the play facilities and opportunities available for all children and young people in North Lincolnshire;
- 5.11 That the panel be kept fully up to date on the Playbuilder project at all times;
- 5.12 That everyone involved throughout this review be thanked for their participation and contributions.

APPENDICES

Appendix One :

Summary of all playgrounds visited

Appendix Two :

Consultation results of all school children in North Lincolnshire

Appendix Three :

Consultation results of all Town and Parish Councils in North Lincolnshire

Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel
Summary for all Playgrounds Visited during the review

BELTON PICNIC AREA –

The play area had very little equipment, was situated in a small-grassed area with no fencing round it, close to a pond, which posed a clear safety concern. The area could greatly benefit from seats, tables, and a couple of goal posts. The proximity to the main road gave cause for concern as there was currently no fencing to stop children running onto the road. .

BELTON PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION –

A very good play area for the under 6's, but with limited facilities for teenagers. Seating areas for minders. There were a couple of football pitches that were used regularly. There was evidence that the area was used as a meeting place by the teenagers and would benefit from a youth shelter or play equipment aimed at teenagers.

CROWLE – JOHNSON'S LANE PLAY AREA –

In need of refurbishment. A very disappointing play area and was not inviting to children or adults. Very old play equipment which was limited and in poor condition. No facilities for teenager's, however there was ample room for football, larger equipment and provision of goal posts. The area was covered in broken glass.

New equipment, seating area and goal posts would make this more appealing to children, teenagers and carers.

EALAND TOWN COUNCIL PLAY AREA –

Well maintained play area, securely fenced with well-maintained play equipment. There were 2 teenage shelters, which were used, and seating was provided for carers supervising their children. The swings were cordoned off and needed repair work.

BERKELEY PARK, MARSDEN DRIVE –

A good sized facility that included a hard standing football/basketball area, playground equipment for younger children and a large grassed area to the rear of the site. Well positioned near to three local schools, and well used. The childrens playground appeared to be well situated in a corner, sheltered from the football area. The site would benefit from a lick of paint and a Muga around the football/basketball area.

GROSVENOR STREET, OFF SHEFFIELD STREET –

Typical pocket park, very limited equipment and in need of tidying. No facilities for older children or for ball games. Evidence that the older children were using the grassland opposite the park for football. The equipment was in poor condition as was the surfacing.

TEALE STREET –

Limited facilities again mainly for the use of younger children. Most items were in poor condition. Good fence all around the perimeter. Surfacing not in the best state of repair as lifting in several places. This was ideally situated or was it inviting.

LILAC AVENUE –

The playground was adjacent to the Lilac Avenue Open Space, therefore possible expansion opportunities. The slide mounds were used by older children/youths to provide a more extreme cycling circuit. The playground equipment for younger children was again in poor condition. There was evidence that this was a meeting place for teenagers, however no equipment for them. The site could make a unique and innovative park.

NEW JUBILEE, LINCOLN GARDENS –

Flagship site, which provided separate play facilities for Young Children, Disabled Children and also Teenagers/Adolescents. Good state of repair, modern and appealing equipment and it was evident that the whole facility was well used.

EVEREST PLAYING FIELD –

This was a large site, with a small children's playground tucked away in the farthest corner from the road. A MUGA had recently been added to the area. Equipment and surfacing in the children's playground was in a poor state of repair.

VALLEY VIEW PARK –

The facility provided three distinct areas. The MUGA, used for football, basketball and tennis. The children's playground was reasonably well equipped for the younger children. The adjacent grassed area was a decent size area available for unstructured free play.

GREENACRE PARK –

The facility was prone to severe flooding. The equipment and surfacing was in a poor state of repair, the adjacent football pitch was waterlogged and had been for most of the year, this made it unfit for purpose. A good sizeable site, however serious issues with drainage and very poor equipment.

ASTERBY ROAD, OFF ANGERSTEIN ROAD –

The playground was in a poor condition, did not look safe and was littered with rubbish and broken glass. There was evidence that motorcycles used the playground for access from Burringham Road onto Asterby Road. The site was in need of modernisation and secure fencing.

TOFTS ROAD, BARTON –

Very difficult to find, tucked away in the corner of a large grassed area surrounded by residential properties. The play equipment was very dated and limited, giving little incentive for children to go play there. Distinct lack of seats or tables for carers to sit at.

DAM ROAD, BARTON –

This play area was situated next to a road with no fencing around the area. There was very little play equipment for children and no seats/tables or bins. There was a grassed area with goal posts, but limited facilities for teenagers.

A large new housing estate has just been built adjacent to the site so there could potentially be high demand for the playground. The area has a lot of potential, is ideally situated, but currently very uninviting to children/teenagers and carers.

MARSH LANE, BARTON –

Again this play area was hard to find with no signage. The area was very pleasant with a play area, trees and an area for free play on grass with one goal post (signs confirmed that another goal post would be provided at some point). The site was in decent condition, with dog fencing around the play equipment.

The area would benefit from seating and picnic tables. It had the potential for the development of a BMX track and space for adventure play equipment for the older age group.

BAYSGARTH, BARTON –

Play area being refurbished but needs more than appears to be planned. The area would benefit greatly from seats and picnic tables. It is situated near Baysgarth Museum and has a good car park next to it.

In the park are some redundant tennis courts and a beech hedged putting green that could easily and cheaply be revamped and included in the facilities offered by the Leisure Centre.

OVERTON COURT, BARTON –

There were two identical play areas for toddlers situated within this residential area. They were small scale, but had everything appropriate for the space available. Hardwearing surface on the site.

ALBION GROVE, BRIGG –

This playground/open space was well maintained. The site was very secure with walls and fencing in tact, it was locked in an evening, and opened every morning. It had various pieces of play equipment, limited mainly for children under the age of 12, however some pieces were a little worn. There was an open area for football, bikes and other forms of free play. The equipment was well positioned with seating areas available for carers.

WOODBINE PARK, BRIGG –

A very large open space serving 2 large areas within the community, and access from two points. The site was tidy and well kept with a lot of green areas. More could be provided within the available space. The play equipment was limited and outdated and was aimed towards the smaller children. There was a football pitch and an old shelter which provided seating

and cover. The provision was disappointing and would benefit from further equipment and refurbishment.

WESTERN AVENUE, BRIGG -

A very small play area fenced off at the end of a housing estate with no signs indicating it was there. It was clean and secure, however the equipment was limited and was not particularly appealing to the children. The site was locked in the evenings.

KINGS AVENUE, BRIGG –

This site provided a fenced playground for smaller children, and a recreation area of grass with goal posts. A couple of items of play equipment were missing on this site. The area was targeted at the younger generation, it was used regularly and had access from two different entrances. Good seating areas were available for parents and carers. Generally it was well maintained and clean.

RECREATION AND PLEASURE GROUND, WORLABY –

Very large open space. The equipment included one tennis court, 4 swings, a basketball stand and a football pitch. This area is very well used in the summer.

PLAYING FIELD AND NATURE AREA, BONBY –

This area appeared to have been recently refurbished. There were two playgrounds on the site. The younger children's area was fenced off with seating for parents. The new play area provided more adventurous and up to date play equipment. There were numerous benches and picnic tables available, a football pitch, teenage shelter, a car park and a ramp for disabled access. The area was well maintained and clean.

WEST STREET PARK AND SKATE PARK –

One of the best varied playgrounds visited. It has different age group categories, including a small 5 and unders fenced playground area with small equipment. Larger equipment for older children and a fenced area used for skateboards which is locked at night. There is a very impressive 3 way teenage shelter. The Town Council employs a park keeper to maintain and clean it. Residents confirmed that this was a popular park.

MARMION DRIVE –

Very poor and lacking in play equipment. It is not a play area that is suitable for young children as they could easily run onto the roads or the fields. It consisted of 2 goal posts, 3 swings and a grassed area. We were informed that it is to be developed by the Town Council as soon as the plans had been approved. It was clean and tidy again being maintained by the Park Keeper

NEWPORT DRIVE –

More of a recreation ground for Football matches. The site currently has 6 pitches. It is used extensively at weekends and for night matches. It has its own car park and changing facilities. There are also plans in the pipe-line for a cricket pitch and rugby pitch.



**“REVIEW OF CHILDREN’S
PLAY AREAS AND OPEN SPACES
IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE”**

**CONSULTATION RESULTS OF ALL SCHOOL CHILDREN IN
NORTH LINSOLNSHIRE**

The overall aim of this consultation was to establish what facilities are provided and what is required in order that all children are able to have lots of different ways to play.

REVIEW OF CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS AND OPEN SPACES IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

As part of the review process, all schools have been invited to take part in a consultation in the form of a questionnaire published on North Lincolnshire Council's web site for schools to access direct and complete on-line.

In total 461 responses were received with a total of 16 schools taking part (3 infant, 2 junior, 10 primary and 1 secondary school), as detailed in question 3 below.

Not all those who responded completed every question.

Key significant findings and observations from those who responded include:-

Questions 1 and 2

Are you a boy or girl? How old are you?

Findings:

The age range of children targeted to answer this questionnaire were aged from 3 years to 19 years and the results are broken down in the following table showing how many boys and girls responded to the question in the different age groups.

Absolute Analysis % Respondents	Total	Missing	How old are you?					
		No reply	3 - 5 years	6 - 8 years	9 - 11 years	12 - 14 years	15 - 17 years	18 - 19 years
Total	461	8 1.7%	3 0.7%	72 15.6%	254 55.1%	123 26.7%	-	1 0.2%
Missing								
No reply	8	3 37.5%	-	-	1 12.5%	3 37.5%	-	1 12.5%
Boy	236	4 1.7%	-	40 16.9%	139 58.9%	53 22.5%	-	-
Girl	217	1 0.5%	3 1.4%	32 14.7%	114 52.5%	67 30.9%	-	-

Question 3

Which school do you go to?

Findings:

The following schools were identified as the schools attended by children completing the questionnaire – showing the schools that responded and how many responses

Number of questionnaires completed per school	
Infant Schools	
Enderby Road	1
Riddings	9
Bushfield	2
Junior Schools	
Leys Farm	20
Bottesord	31
Primary	
Burton upon Stather	22
Crosby	3
Brigg	54
St Bernadettes Catholic	31
Scawby	26
John Harrison	completed by 6 boys and 7 girls in yr 2
Crowle	28
Westcliffe	22
Worlaby	1
Barton St Peters C of E	37
Secondary	
South Axholme Community	120

Questions about playgrounds

Question 4

Which playground is the nearest to your home?

Findings:

The following playgrounds were identified by the pupils as being nearest to their home:

441 responses identified the nearest playground out of a total response of 461 as follows:-

Barrow Park	2	Misterton Playing Field	3
Barrow Playing Field	2	New Tensing Road	1
Baysgarth Park	19	New Jubilee	1
Belton Park/Pavilion/Playing Field	19	Oakfield Park	3
Bigby Park	10	Owston Ferry Park/Playing	
Bottesford Playgound	1	Field/Recreation Ground	13
Brigg Playground	1	Parkwood	2
Broughton Park	1	Queens Drive	3
Bulls Field	1	Redbourne Park	1
Burringham Hill Playground	17	Riddings Playground	2
Burton Park	3	Rowland Road Park	3
Burton Playground	3	Sand Park	1
Burton Playing Fields	9	Scawby Park/Playing Field/	
Butts Road	4	Playground	12
Cavendish Park	1	Sheffield Park	3
Central Park	8	Shipton Road	1
Chancel Park	4	Southcroft Meadows Play Area	1
Crowle Park/Playground		Spider Park	3
Dam Road Park	4	St Alberts	1
Devonshire Park	1	St Boltophs	1
Donkey Park	26	Teletubby Park	2
Ealand Park	17	Thealby	2
Enderby Park	1	Thurlow	9
Epworth Park/Playing Field	17	Valley Park	14
Epworth Thurlow		Waters Edge	4
Green Acre	19	West Butterwick Park	2
Gringley on the Hill Playing Field	1	West Stockwith	1
Hawthorn Avenue Park	2	Westcliffe Playground	2
Haxey Park/Playing Field	17	Westwoodside Playing Field	
Healey Road	1	Westwoodside Park	16
Hibaldstow Park/Playing Field	6	Wilkinson Way Park	1
Humber Bridge Viewing Area	1	Willoughby Road Park	3
Johnson Lane	1	Windsor Park	5
Jubilee Park	15	Winteringham Park	1
Kings Head	1	Winterton	1
Kirton in Lindsey Playground	2	Woodbine Park	6
Lilac Avenue	1	Wrawby Park	1
Messingham Park	1	Wroot Playground/ Wroot Play area	
Millenium Green	1	Wroot Playing Field	4

Question 5

What do you like about the playground?

Findings:

Responses given to this question identified three areas of what children liked about the playground and these are broken down into (1) play equipment, (2) open space and (3) environment

Play Equipment

The most popular answer to this question was play equipment listed as follows:

- Roundabout
- seesaw
- climbing frame
- slide
- bmx/skateboard jumps
- hopscotch
- sand pit
- zip wire

Open Space

The second very popular answer was the provision of a facility of a large open space in which to participate in the various activities. Football was identified as the most popular activity and others included the following:

- Wide open space to just to run and play
- Ride bicycles
- Basket ball area with nets and markings
- Tennis Court
- Rugby posts
- Cricket ground

Environment

Pupils indicated that they wanted the provision of a safe environment in which to hang out, meet up with friends and also meet new friends. With the inclusion of a seating area with benches

Question 6

Which is your favourite playground?
Please say why this is your favourite playground?

Findings:

In response to this question the pupils identified their favourite playground and also gave reasons why it was their favourite as detailed below:

Which is your favourite playground?	Please say why this is your favourite playground?
Ashby Park (3)	Modern and fun equipment Location near to home
Barrow (6)	Has a forest and lots of land and play equipment for all ages, rugby posts, goal posts and cool playground and bike track/ramp area
Baysgarth Park (16)	Location near to home, nice parkland setting Lots of fun and exciting play equipment All my friends go there, full of friendly people Lots of space to run and play, trees to climb
Belton (8)	Location near to home Lots of space to play All my friends go there Fun full size goal
Bigby Park (16)	Lots of fun activities Lots of space to play Good equipment Football pitch Big hill to play on and roll down Friends live nearby
Bottesford Park (1)	Has an indoor area – enjoy card games
Broughton Park (1)	Lots of space to play
Bulls Field (1)	Lots of space to play football
Burton Playing Field (8)	Lots of space to run and play Has goal posts Obstacle course All my friends go there
Central Park (9)	Nice environment with trees and water fountain, lots of things to explore, its fun because there is space to play and ride bikes, and has two swimming pools

Crowle Park (6)	Lots of space to play Location near to home Good equipment
Dale Street Park (1)	New equipment and play area is really fun
Donkey Park (18)	Lots of things to do and its fun Location close to home All my friends go there
Ealand Park (25)	Space to run around and trees to climb Lots of things to play, swings for all age groups Location close to home In good condition and kept clean
Epworth (10)	Lots of fun equipment, has everything for all ages and only a few years old Friends go there
Flixborough Playground (1)	Has loads of fun activities
Green Acre (14)	Location close to home A very big playing field and has lots of space to play, run around in and ride bikes Lots of play equipment Has a football pitch
Hawthorne Avenue (1)	Just like it
Haxey Park (12)	Location close to home A very big playing field and has lots of space to play and run around in Play different sports with friends Lots of different equipment suitable for all ages Cricket pitch Bike/bmx track Met friends there One pupil designed part of it
Healey Road (1)	Fun size football pitch
Hibaldstow (1)	Its fun and has a big field to play on
Homestead Park (2)	Lots of equipment to play on and its got everything

Jubilee Park (28)	Really fun things to go on Lots of space to run around Two playgrounds that cater for all ages Roundabout for disabled people Looks modern includes bike jumps and drop offs, skate park and rock climbing wall. Very clean
Kirton Lindsey (6)	Fun equipment to play on
Manor Park (4)	Clean environment Variety of equipment
Messingham (1)	Lots of things to do
Millenium Green (1)	The hill is fun to play on
Nomanby Park (10)	Really big and lots of good variety of equipment including fun wooden playground has 2 playgrounds Has lots of animals
New Jubilee (1)	Lots of play equipment
Owston Ferry (4)	Just been refurbished. Lots of fun things including football facilities, basketball net
Poppyfield (2)	Really nice and full of nature, lots of space to run around in
Riddings (3)	Safe environment has cage round Lots of fun things
Rowland Road Park (1)	Lots of fun things
Scawby (7)	Good variety and fun equipment Lots of space to play cricket, football, netball etc
Sheffield Park (2)	Location close to home and has fun equipment including bike track
South Croft Meadows (3)	Plenty to do and its fun All friends live near
Thurlow (8)	Location close to home Good facilities and its fun Meet friends and know lots of people who go there Space to play football, basket ball Good for all ages

Valley Park (13)	Lots of things to do and loads of fun to play Great place to be Big space to run around Safe environment with a cage round
Waters Edge (2)	Cool play equipment and good activities adventure playground No teenagers, drugs, fags, beer bottles, totally spotless
Westwoodside (38)	Recently refurbished, great really fun and different play equipment and lots to do Meet up with friends Lots of fun things to do and its new, fun and exciting and interesting things, good variety of equipment Close to home, lots for all age groups
Windsor Park (10)	Lots of space to play, run around and play football Its fun
Winteringham Play Park (1)	Lots of space to play
Woodbine Park (5)	Lots of things to do Nice environment Good play equipment
Wrawby Park (1)	Lots of space to play football
Wroot (2)	Lots of space Got everything and can have lots of fun

Question 7

How often do you visit any playground?

Findings:

The following information shows how often children visit any playground i.e. (a) every day, (b) once a week, (c) once a month, (d) never and is broken down into the different age groups.

Absolute Analysis % Respondents	Total	Missing	How old are you?					
		No reply	3 - 5 years	6 - 8 years	9 - 11 years	12 - 14 years	15 - 17 years	18 - 19 years
Total	461	8 1.7%	3 0.7%	72 15.6%	254 55.1%	123 26.7%	-	1 0.2%
Missing								
No reply	18	2 11.1%	1 5.6%	3 16.7%	9 50.0%	3 16.7%	-	-
How often do you visit any playground?								
Every day	69	2 2.9%	-	6 8.7%	49 71.0%	12 17.4%	-	-
Once a week	202	1 0.5%	-	29 14.4%	111 55.0%	61 30.2%	-	-
Once a month	124	1 0.8%	2 1.6%	18 14.5%	70 56.5%	33 26.6%	-	-
Never	48	2 4.2%	-	16 33.3%	15 31.3%	14 29.2%	-	1 2.1%

Question 8

If you never visit any playground why not?

Findings:

A total of 33 replies were received to this question. The reasons given why children never visit any playground were:

Concerns of specific issues and personal experiences for example:

Fear of :

- Terrified and too scared of the teenagers that hang around in the playgrounds
- Scared of yobs and hoodies
- Lots of gangs smoking and drinking, breaking equipment
- Teenagers break everything
- Chavs drinking and smoking
- Always crowded with teenagers smoking and boosing – other children terrified of them

Condition of the playground and the equipment for example:

- Equipment is either (a) broken or damaged, (b) rusty and paint chipped, (c) very dirty
- Graffiti everywhere
- Lots of broken glass and rubbish

In addition to the reasons outlined above, why children never the visit any playground, the following were stated:

- Never have the time to go to the playground
- Not allowed to go
- It is boring
- The playgrounds do not cater for my age group
- Nothing to do in most playgrounds

Question 9

What would encourage you to go to the playground more?

Findings:

The following have been identified as key issues that would encourage better use of playgrounds:

The majority of pupils indicated that they would like improved and more play equipment/ facilities that catered for all age groups including the disabled.

Provision of specific play equipment identified included the following:

- Swings
- Bigger slide
- Bigger climbing frame
- Swing ropes
- Zip wire
- Seesaw
- Skateboard
- Trampoline
- Roundabout
- Sand play area
- Rocking horse
- Taller more adventurous play towers
- Climbing wall

Better improved facilities the pupils identified included the following:

- Better football pitches with football nets erected all the time
- Cricket pitch and also an area to train for cricket i.e. built in nets to practice bowling and batting
- Mountain bike track, bike ramps
- Skateboarding park with ramps
- Running track
- Basketball nets
- Tennis court including equipment i.e. balls and tennis rackets
- Paintball field More adrenalin activities

Better use of playgrounds could be achieved by providing supervised activities run by local youth workers to “keep kids off the streets” and preventing teenagers from hanging about. Make available more of these facilities for clubs to use.

Environment/Surroundings

- create nicer environment and more welcoming. Improve the play areas by creating a natural environment including landscaping with flowers, more trees and a duck pond. Decorate with cleaner brighter colours to improve appearance to look more modern.

- Provide shelters to sit and chat and meet up with friends.
- Provide toilet facilities, litter bins, regular maintenance checks/plans and updates
- Provide facilities to park bikes
- Make safe environment for all – don't allow teenagers to hang around trouble making, smoking, drinking etc, congregating, prevent vandalism, remove graffiti, rubbish and litter, clean up glass, broken bottles

Other personal reasons that were specified included:

- Not being allowed to go to the playground by parents
- If the playground was nearer to home
- Having someone to go with
- Good weather
- Publicity – increase awareness of the opening times

Question 10

What are the best things to play on in a playground?

Findings:

The following equipment/facilities have been identified by pupils as the best things to play on in a playground (in order of most popular) as follows:

Swings	256
Climbing frame	155
Slide	142
Roundabout	93
Football	66
Zip wire	43
Monkey bars	30
Open space	24 + 4 hills
Basket ball	22
Bike park/track	18
Obstacle course	11
Tennis courts	6
Adventure area	4
Cricket pitch/nets	3
Rugby pitch/hockey/sandpit/	
Skateboarding/gocarting	2

Question 11

Apart from playgrounds what open spaces do you use for play?

Findings:

Areas identified, by pupils completing this question, as open spaces used for play other than playgrounds include the following:

- Play on the road/street near home
- Youth centres
- Woodland adjacent to home
- Own garden or friend's garden
- Field adjacent to home
- Recreational ground
- Sports centre/leisure centre
- River bank/the beck
- Country parks, picnic areas, walk ways
- Countryside for cycling and places to run free
- Football pitch/tennis court
- Grass area adjacent to Tesco superstore
- Doncaster astro turf
- Grass area adjacent to Belton church
- School fields/grounds
- Pub garden
- Alleyways/back lanes
- Court yard
- Chartdale estate field

Questions about play

Question 12

Do you attend any youth centres?

Findings:

The following information shows how many pupils either 'did' or 'did not' attend any youth centre and is broken down into the different age groups.

Absolute Analysis % Respondents	Total	Missing	How old are you?					
		No reply	3 - 5 years	6 - 8 years	9 - 11 years	12 - 14 years	15 - 17 years	18 - 19 years
Total	461	8 1.7%	3 0.7%	72 15.6%	254 55.1%	123 26.7%	-	1 0.2%
Missing								
No reply	52	3 5.8%	1 1.9%	23 44.2%	20 38.5%	5 9.6%	-	-
Do you attend any youth centres?								
Yes	126	1 0.8%	-	14 11.1%	80 63.5%	31 24.6%	-	-
No	283	4 1.4%	2 0.7%	35 12.4%	154 54.4%	87 30.7%	-	1 0.4%

Question 13

What other activities do you attend i.e. summer school schemes, clubs, or any other play activities you do?

Findings:

Clubs/summer school schemes attended by pupils include:

- The Buzz Youth Arts Festival at the Plowright Theatre
- Brownies, Beavers, Cubs, Girl Guides, Scouts
- After School Clubs
- Brigg Town Football Club (under 11s Colts)
- Burton Blades Football Club
- Burton Stather Karate Club
- Normanby Park Cricket Club
- The Union Soccer School of Skills
- Crowle Football Club
- Doncaster Hockey Club
- Doncaster Athletics
- Epworth Colts Football Team
- Animation and Pantomime Group
- Pony Club
- Archery Club
- Art and Craft Club
- Westwood Rangers Football
- Youth Clubs
- Epworth Town After School Club
- West Common Lane Sports Club
- Misterton Golf Club
- Brigg Colts Hockey Club
- Scunthorpe United FC Centre of Excellence
- Appleby Frodingham Football Club
- Bushfield Infants After School Football Club
- Markham Main Colliery Band
- Sailing Club
- The Base Youth Club
- Science and Eco Club
- Gardening Club
- Maths Club

Other play activities pupils participated in include:

art, athletics, acrobatics, netball, running, ballet, tap, drama and modern dancing, break dancing/street dancing, cheerleading, boxing, camping, chess, fencing, karate, singing, piano choir, swimming, tennis and table tennis.

Question 14

Would you like to attend a play scheme, evening youth club/café etc?

Findings:

The following information shows how many pupils replied either 'yes' or 'no' to whether they would like to attend a play scheme, evening youth club/café etc. More detailed information to the answers have been analysed in question 15 and 16 below.

Absolute Analysis % Respondents	Total	Missing	How old are you?					
		No reply	3 - 5 years	6 - 8 years	9 - 11 years	12 - 14 years	15 - 17 years	18 - 19 years
Total	461	8 1.7%	3 0.7%	72 15.6%	254 55.1%	123 26.7%	-	1 0.2%
Missing								
No reply	50	3 6.0%	1 2.0%	23 46.0%	19 38.0%	4 8.0%	-	-
Would you like to attend a play scheme, evening youth clu...								
Yes	189	2 1.1%	-	29 15.3%	100 52.9%	58 30.7%	-	-
No	222	3 1.4%	2 0.9%	20 9.0%	135 60.8%	61 27.5%	-	1 0.5%

Question15

If you answered 'yes' to Q12 above what would you like to do there?

Findings:

A total of 189 pupils indicated they would like to attend a play scheme, evening youth club/café etc and then went on to say what they would like to do there. The activities they liked to do are listed below:

The most popular activities included (a) and (b) detailed as follows:-

(a) A place to meet up with friends for drinks, snacks, talking, listening to music.

(b) Participate in ball games i.e.

- Football training/girl football
- Tennis coaching
- Badminton
- Table tennis
- Rounders
- Rugby
- Hand ball
- Golf
- Basket ball
- Snooker/pool

Some other activities the pupils would like to do include:

- TV games e.g. Wii, Nintendo
- Computers – (make available for children who do not have one at home)
- Art club, crafts, sewing, cookery
- Dance, karaoke, singing, disco, fancy dress nights
- Gymnastics, fitness routine, trampoline
- Quad biking, bmx track, go-carting
- Ice skating, skateboarding lessons, karate, boxing
- Swimming, rock climbing
- First aid, army cadets
- Outings to places of interest and camping

Question16

If you answered 'no' to Q12 above why would you not like to go?

Findings:

A total of 222 pupils indicated that they would not like to attend a play scheme, evening youth club/café etc. The reasons given are as follows:

Many pupils indicated they were already involved in other things e.g. sport/youth clubs etc and did not have any more spare time available.

Other pupils indicated they did not want to attend a play scheme, evening youth club/café etc because they felt that they were boring and there was nothing to do there or that they did the same thing every week or were not interested or could not be bothered.

Other reasons stated include:

- Not allowed to go by parents
- Local club closing down
- No friends to go with
- Fear of bullying by teenage gangs who were intimidating
- Busy doing homework

Have your say about play

Question 17

Is there anything else you would like to say about play?

Findings:

- Improve the condition of the play equipment, repair broken equipment, consider ongoing maintenance programme. Also provide more equipment and also specific facilities such as bmx tracks, skate parks and a motor bike area.
- Make playgrounds a safe environment for play. Involve whole community and prevent teenagers from hanging about and being intimidating towards younger children.
- Provide toilet facilities
- Remove graffiti, broken glass, rubbish etc to make playground more inviting
- Provide more open spaces at playgrounds to play
- Make available more things to do in the holidays
- Provide equipment for all age groups
- Play keeps you healthy whilst having fun
- Lack of awareness of what is provided

Appendix Three

PARISH COUNCIL	PLAY AREAS & OPEN SPACES UNDER THEIR OWNERSHIP	MAINTAINED & FIT FOR PURPOSE?	ANY FUNDING RECEIVED TO ASSIST WITH PLAY AREAS?	ARE YOU STRUGGLING TO PROVIDE SUITABLE MAINTAINED PLAY AREAS?	ANY PLAY AREA/OPEN SPACE PROBLEMS WITHIN YOUR PARISH
Alkborough and Walcot	1 play area, shared use of school field	Yes	Yes	Rely on volunteers to carry out weekly checks. Not always reliable.	Need more facilities for older children. E.G. fitness trail, larger play equipment.
Amcotts	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Barrow upon Humber	None Trustees of Barrow have a playing field and a small park	Yes	Yes	No	Looking to provide a multi-games area for teenagers and adults.
Barton Town Council	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Belton, Beltoft & Sandtoft	None One in Belton run by the Playing Fields Association	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bonby	One playing field. One area with a walk through woods and field with bench.	YES	YES	NO	Bonby Youth Group would like their own building in the village.

Brigg Town Council	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	All equipment is tired and in need of refurbishment. Equipment has been removed from 3 childrens' play areas. Open spaces are available at 3 other sites but no equipment or facilities have been provided.
Crowle and Ealand	Two Play Areas	Yes but in need of updating	No	Struggling to provide suitable play areas.	Johnsons Lane is a problem area, in need of refurbishment and security measures.
East Butterwick	Owned by the village hall/playing field committee	Yes but is badly in need of painting.	Yes	Raising funds locally for on-going work.	Rural areas have to supply and maintain their play areas out of parish precept, whilst also having to subsidise the provision and maintenance of the facilities in Scunthorpe.
Garthorpe and Fockerby	None	N/A	N/A	Been trying to provide a playing field within the village for the last 5 years. Land that is available is owned by farmers but are not prepared to enter into a Lease.	The children have nowhere to play except on two streets, which is a potential danger.

Goxhill	One childrens playground with adjoining football pitch.	Yes	Yes	No help from the local authority, or local developers. Unwilling to incorporate it into their development plans. Continually struggling to find suitable land and resources.	Large village with only one area of open space. Better advice, support and financial resources should be available to parish councils.
Haxey	Haxey playing field association provides large field with sports facilities. Toddler and Junior play areas, BMX track, ball wall and junior football goals.	Yes	Yes	Just managing.	Vandalism is the biggest worry. Need activities more for teenagers.
Kirmington and Croxton	Playing field leased from Yarborough Estates.	Yes	No	Need assistance to upgrade current facilities.	More facilities needed for the village children.
Luddington	Run by Luddington playing field association	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Messingham	One playground Two recreation fields	Yes	Yes	Struggling to provide or maintain them.	More facilities for older children.
North Killingholme	1 playing field with play equipment	Yes	Yes	N/A	Facilities are sufficient.
Owston Ferry, Gunthorpe and Kelfield	2 play areas	Yes	No	Cost of new equipment. Very high maintenance very large part of the annual budget.	Need new equipment especially for the 0 - 5 age group.

Winterton	3 play areas	Yes Park Keeper who works 2 hours every morning	Yes	No	No
Worlaby	Recreation ground and pleasure ground	Yes	Yes	No	No
Wroot	Playing field including children's play area.	Yes	Yes	No	No