

<i>COMMITTEE</i>	ENVIRONMENT AND FRONT LINE SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
<i>DATE</i>	27 MAY 2004
<i>TITLE OF REPORT</i>	MEMBER ITEM – PLAY AREAS
<i>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</i>	Rosemarie Gunstone, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Under Medway Constitution Overview and Scrutiny rules (Chapter 4, Part 5, Paragraph 9.1) Councillor Godwin has requested that an item on this matter is included on the agenda for this meeting.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. Members are asked to consider this matter.

3. THE ISSUE

Councillor Godwin has requested that an item be placed on the agenda relating to the play areas containing play equipment in Medway including whether each site is currently operational and, if not, why not.

4. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

There are 84 play areas in Medway, currently 10 of them are closed.

Play Area	Reason not currently open
Otway Street	Arson/ persistent neighbour nuisance/ requires refurbishing if to be reopened
Teynham Green	Persistent neighbour nuisance requires refurbishing if to be reopened
Sanctuary Road	Persistent neighbour nuisance/ requires refurbishing if to be reopened
Winchester Way	Vandalism/ persistent neighbour nuisance/ requires refurbishing if to be reopened
Edwards Close	Vandalism/ persistent neighbour nuisance/ requires refurbishing if to be reopened
Craigie Walk	Vandalism/ persistent neighbour nuisance/ requires refurbishing if to be reopened
Lyall Way	Vandalism/ persistent neighbour nuisance/ requires refurbishing if to be reopened
Copperfields	Vandalism/ requires refurbishing if to be reopened
Rushdean Road	Vandalism/ neighbour nuisance
Hook Meadow	Arson/ requires some remediation/ planned to reopen as soon as possible

For the 2003-04 financial year Greenspace Services had a capital budget of £300,000 for play area refurbishment. Details of the larger refurbishment works undertaken are:

Play Area	Works	Cost
Various sites	Replacement of single items of equipment and associated safety surfacing	49,000
Various sites	Replacement items of equipment and safety surfacing due to criminal damage	45,000
Various sites	Replacement of worn out safety surfacing	43,500
Cozenton Park	Full refurbishment	62,000
Woodchurch Crescent	Part refurbishment	13,200
Hook Meadow	Full refurbishment	47,500
Knights Place	Partial refurbishment	22,600
Academy Drive	New fencing	5,000

In addition the service had a revenue budget of £96,000 for 2003-4 for undertaking minor repairs. Detailed below are some of the major categories of expenditure against this budget.

Item	Approximate Spend
Cleaning off graffiti and steam cleaning off substances hazardous to health	4500
Repairs to fences and gates	5000
New swing seats and chains	7200
Supply and fitting of parts	17,500
Repairing and refitting items of equipment	25,000

A detailed survey of all play areas was undertaken in 2003-04 by a play area consultant to provide an objective view on the fitness for purpose of the play areas. A follow on public consultation exercise is being planned to ask Medway residents what they like and don't like about their local outdoor play area. The consultation will be available in all local libraries from June until August and residents will be able to fill in a questionnaire and/or attend a meeting if there is sufficient interest for a particular play area. The results will inform the development of the Greenspaces for Play module of the Medway Greenspaces Strategy

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Budget monitoring records

Dave Bowdery

Financial Services

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