



BELLE VUE PARK ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS

This document (published January 2022) outlines review outcomes and next steps following Babergh District Council's assessment of public engagement feedback received during October and November 2021.

We were very pleased with the level of interest shown in our October/November 2021 concepts for improving Belle Vue Park in Sudbury for the local community and visitors to the town. Thank you to all those contributing to the discussions over the two-day park exhibition and feeding back thoughts and views during the engagement period. This also included a static display of masterplan boards in a shopfront unit in Borehamgate arcade.

We have listened to all feedback and have now reviewed all comments, suggestions and views. We share below outputs from that assessment and with some proposed next steps phasing.

Please note that further consultation including with user groups and volunteers on individual pieces of equipment and activities will follow as part of the phased delivery programme. External funding options and opportunities may also influence sequencing of improvements

1. What we can progress from now – some elements to be included with planning application submission in early 2022



Outdoor table tennis – this was a very popular request and is something we can seek to deliver from summer 2022. We anticipate that the café, once established, will be able to hire/loan bats and balls

New fully accessible park entrance with ramps, steps and planting – better connecting the park to the town and improving access for community and visitors from the architect designed facilities

New Toilets (4 separate entry toilets) including one Changing Place standard (subject to external funding bid award) integrated with new café building. Removing the outdated and regularly vandalised toilet block will be a significant improvement and improve the security and ambience of the park.



Café with internal and external covered seating ‘Small Grab & Go’ format incorporating biodiversity planting and setting enhancements. Approximately 110m² scale. We see the operation of the café as being a key driver to enhancing the park community, civic pride and social scene.

Increased activities and events, involving local and external organisers and temporary installations, can bring multiple benefits. We will ask the architects to factor in lighting around the café, outdoor tables and sensory garden area. For other larger events in the park (like outdoor cinema) temporary lights can be brought in by the provider (as has been the case for previous events).



Night/evening activities (e.g. café) – we would factor in the need for night-time events and activities to be catered for within tender documents for potential café operators. Social and park community benefits may expand from securing a community group operator for the café.

Sand play – we will be keeping the sand pit around the tall mast play unit and would like to add another sandpit hopefully near the new café. In this scenario we would move the sand diggers and other toddler/junior pieces to this area as part of the entrance/café improvements.

Dementia Friendly Interactivity – the sensory gardens planned for entrance and café areas will certainly provide a nice location for reflection. We will investigate further options in relation to this request.

Raised planters for community groups volunteers enabling suitable access for mobility impaired volunteers and wheelchair users



Woodland Glade and rockery/woodland area: Continue working with the community group to enhance these areas and encourage wildflower and native species growth

New bespoke shed and storage (including composting area) for community group volunteers who already help to maintain the beds and borders - replacing previous converted animal enclosure shed and tool storage

Quality Planting including wildflowers – we will continue to work with Sudbury in Bloom and Grow Your Community Sudbury who look after the perennial borders and other areas of the park and hope that they will be able to extend the time spent in Sudbury. We will look at zones for different types of planting and agree that there should be some wildflower areas and of course the sensory garden areas too.



Treasure Hunt – this is something we would be happy to encourage in the park, set up by an external provider or community group or maybe encourage geocaching. Linking activities to the rich history and heritage of Sudbury may also encourage wider learning and pride in the town.

Operational improvements to service park activities including new café access, and externally organised or hosted events

Benches and stopping points enhancements via audit and relocation where beneficial

Accessible routeways and surface treatments

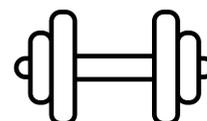
Sight lines improved across the park site including to improve visual connectivity and help design out opportunities for anti-social behaviour

2. What we can progress in 2-3 year time frame

Dens and Huts – We certainly see den building events to be something we would welcome and promote in the far end of the park amongst the trees and vegetation.

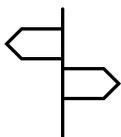
Large climbing frame – we may consider installing a steel parkour unit, subject to further consultation, within the fitness area of the park along with hurdles and other robust items. The wooden trim trail is reaching the end of its life therefore this element is already within our plans for the park.

Outdoor Gym - See above large climbing frame. The existing gym pieces are reaching the end of their life and we will be looking at alternative trim trail style equipment to cover the teenage to adult age range.



Trails including night walkways - we already have the Love Explore dinosaur and fairy trails around the park and are looking to extend these to include other interesting features of the park and could certainly include night trails with the right level of staffing to accommodate or via external providers.

Ground maze – this is another improvement we have already started to investigate and will look at options for this within the park. This might be with a raised surface or painted on to an existing flat surface.



Park signage improvements including information points and interpretation boards

3. What we can progress in 3 - 5 year time frame

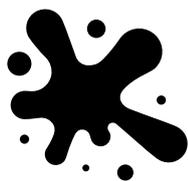
Pirate Ship - A wooden pirate ship is probably not the most suitable statement piece for Belle Vue Park when considering the number of instances of vandalism and arson however we are looking at options for a more robust material (e.g. steel) statement play piece

4. What may be better located in other areas of the town, subject to further assessment or funding

Outdoor Cinema – this is not something we would consider providing directly but would welcome this type of event into the park using external providers. Other areas of the town may also be suitable, perhaps Market Hill during summer evenings.

Community Orchard – we feel there would be better locations within the town to provide a community orchard; we would certainly be interested in exploring these with interested parties

5. What we are unable to deliver, or deliver permanently, in the park



Splash play/water features - this was a popular request from feedback to improving park facilities. Unfortunately following appraisal the park is not large enough nor its wider infrastructure able to facilitate the visitor numbers that a splash park would attract. The maintenance of any play items that require water are restrictively high and seasonality impacts would also be limiting.

3G/4G/Astroturf - there is already a MUGA (multi-use games area) within the park which is suitable for informal games. Unfortunately there is not enough room for a facility of this nature within the park – other sites within the town should be considered for a more formal artificial playing surface.

Better lighting including Solar lighting – we do not anticipate changing the opening hours of the park therefore permanent lighting is not required. It is likely that there will be evening functions running in the café.



Pond – there is not a suitable area within the park for a pond. Other water related facilities in the town include the river and water meadows. We do not see that this type of feature is a necessity in the park given the space constraints. There are also challenges with repair and maintenance - a factor in the town council's recent consideration of redeveloping the Boating Pond into alternative family attractions/landscaping features.

Bike Stunt Area – the concrete skate/wheeled sport area is suitable for BMX bikes. Due to space constraints we do not intend adding another bike/skate area within the park and feel if there is a need for another facility other areas within the town should be explored.

Animals and education – both types of activities would be welcomed in the park but probably provided by external companies; petting zoo days, bug hunting and den building are definitely activities we would encourage in the park. We do not intend permanently housing animals within the park due to welfare of animals being kept longer-term in small enclosures.



Band stand – rather than having a permanent structure we would welcome activities that require a band stand or stage but using a temporary structure for the duration of the event.