

# Ditchling Recreation Ground

## Public Consultation

January 12th and 19th 2019



***‘The quality of the landscape with the backdrop of the South Downs is outstanding and the Parish Council is committed to maintaining its natural beauty and informal use for the benefit of local residents and visitors’***

(Ditchling, Westmeston and Streat Neighbourhood Plan 2018)

### What improvements to Ditchling Recreation Ground would you like to see?

During the extensive consultation on the Ditchling, Westmeston and Streat Neighbourhood Plan and subsequently, a number of specific enhancements or improvements to Ditchling Recreation Ground have been suggested.

Potential enhancements and improvements are summarised below and shown on the Masterplan (Fig 03) displayed on this panel.

Please give us your comments on these by completing the questionnaire and scoring each one in terms of its importance and priority.

Most of the proposals are physical improvements but others involve changes to the way the grounds are run and may be just as important to you.

Have we missed anything? If so, then please feel free to add your own ideas. The Parish Council will analyse all responses and report back on the results:

1. *Extending and resurfacing the car park, new planting, signage and barriers;*
2. *New secure cycle parking (see possible design) to ease pressure on car parking;*
3. *Upgrading and extending the Pavilion for new users with the possibility of adding another storey. A borehole sunk next to the Pavilion allowing constant access to ground water and sprinklers for the sports pitches in future dry summers;*
4. *Enhancing the existing public right of way from Lewes Road to the children’s play area with a new permeable, hard surface (see illustration);*
5. *Extending and upgrading the children’s play area to provide a wider range of equipment catering for 3 to 16 year olds rather than 3 to 11 year olds at present (see separate panel on children’s play area);*
6. *Enhanced access to children’s play area from the Farm Lane entrance with a new permeable, hard surface to avoid the regular waterlogging in winter;*
7. *Creation of new wildflower/grassland meadow areas to the edges of the archery field - encouraging bees, butterflies and other invertebrates to flourish (see illustration);*
8. *A new all-weather sports pitch on the existing five-a-side football field, possibly with floodlights, allowing for netball, basketball, 5-a-side football, walking football and other sports;*
9. *A short footpath from the burial ground access road to an all-weather sports pitch (see 08 above) with a vehicular drop off facility;*
10. *Outdoor gym equipment (close to, but separate from the play area) for adults to keep fit - see potential equipment options on the panel. (Experience elsewhere indicates such equipment is popular for only a short time);*
11. *Increasing the use of the tennis court. Ditchling Tennis Club has asked the Parish Council to take over the court but the Parish Council can only justify this if there is sufficient future demand;*
12. *Demolition of the former groundsman’s shed to make way for activities such as outdoor table tennis;*
13. *Removal of the current basketball stand to make way for an expanded children’s play area;*
14. *A new drainage scheme for the northern area (the archery field) to create a new football or rugby pitch (The football pitch next to the Pavilion has a newly installed drainage system);*
15. *More coaching and opportunities for women and girls to play football, cricket and other sports;*
16. *More use of the grounds for athletics and other summer events such as school sports days - The Cricket Club Week and 3 Villages Sports Day are already regular events and the Ditchling Village Ball will be held at the grounds in 2019 for the first time;*
17. *Clamping down on unlawful or anti-social activities e.g. stricter measures to monitor and prevent dog fouling, unlawful parking and other anti-social activities including: greater awareness campaigns, more bins, CCTV and fines (some of these are likely to require changes to the existing Parish Council Byelaws as shown on another panel).*

### The Children’s Play Area

The Parish Council is planning to extend and upgrade the children’s play area in 2019. Much of the play area’s equipment was installed in 1989 with some later additions in 1997 and 2001. The equipment was designed to last for 25 years and therefore most of it needs to be replaced in the near future.

The play area is currently for children aged between 3 and 11 years old and the plan is to provide equipment for older children (up to age 16) as well. The area will continue to be fenced with a dog restriction as now.

Responses to the 2014 Neighbourhood Plan Household Survey indicated that around 40% of under 18’s believed that the lack of facilities detracted from their enjoyment of living in the area. A number of parents got together in 2016 to conduct their own detailed survey and the main recommendations of their report are on display here today in addition to the full report.

The Parish Council believes a selection of the play equipment illustrated here today could meet both children’s and parents’ aspirations.

Please give us your comments on the Parish Council’s plans by completing the questionnaire provided, scoring the type of equipment shown on the next panel. (Some of this equipment could be located outside the play area e.g. table tennis).

### Sports Clubs

The following organisations regularly use the recreation ground:

- *The Ditchling Cricket Club;*
- *The Ditchling Archery Club;*
- *The Ditchling Football Club;*
- *The Ditchling Pavilion Club\**
- *The Ditchling Stoolball Club;*
- *Plumpton Junior Football.*

\*As well as providing facilities for the sports clubs and the general public, such as a bar and a future café on the new decked patio, the Pavilion Club also hires out internal space to table tennis, pilates and other local groups.

### The Next Stage

The Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston Neighbourhood Development Plan was overwhelmingly approved in the April 2018 Referendum. The Plan contains a number of specific policies for improving community infrastructure including the Ditchling recreation ground (see pages 76 - 78 and 101 - 103 for further details).

The proposals presented here are the first stage in delivering the Neighbourhood Plan’s community policies.

Your responses to these proposals will be reported back to the 3 Parishes in February/March 2019. The Parishes will then approve the masterplan and the design, layout and content of the improved/enlarged children’s play area. Work on the play area can then start later this year once we have all the funding in place.

***‘The Parish Councils will provide, attract or help facilitate funding which enables community uses and community infrastructure to become viable e.g. through increased funding from public bodies such as the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), Sport England, the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), local and national charities and local fund raising’***

(Ditchling, Westmeston and Streat Neighbourhood Plan 2018)