

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE
10 May 2023**

Officer: Councillor Rob Wilson (Cophorne)

SHORNCLIFFE RECREATION GROUND

Purpose of Report

To set an ambition for Shorncliffe Recreation Ground as a destination open space for the wider community

Introduction

The Shorncliffe Recreation Ground was a former MOD facility which includes past remnants of the facility including the old parade ground.

The land is accessible off Shelton Road (along which the Nation Cycle Route 81 runs) and a footpath which links Mytton Park with Larkhill Road.

The site currently features: a community woodland football pitch, a pump track, a MUGA, 2 old skate ramps, and a large area of hardstanding that was previously a parade square. Whilst having a number of valuable features on site they are not well connected and do not work as a comprehensive multi-use facility. The topography of the site is such that the public don't necessarily walk through it but choose to access which ever individual facility they use without knowing the extent of the recreation ground.

The land is in mixed ownership with the football pitch and pump track owned by Shrewsbury Town Council, and the remainder owned by Shropshire Council. There is also a parcel of open space still owned by the Ministry of Defence.

The land was previously designated as a future school site, but this has now been discounted as building work has commenced on the Bowbrook Meadows site off Mytton Oak Road.

This parcel of land forms part of the land transfers with Shropshire Council. Terms of the long-term lease have now been agreed and documents are awaited for signing and sealing.

Future Aspirations for the Site

Currently £10,000 has been allocated in the Capital Programme for preliminary feasibility work and Redkite has been appointed to begin scoping the works. There will need to be a number of surveys to be carried out to determine potential use and any restrictions to development

Initial meetings have been held on site and online between the Town Clerk, Head of Operations, Local Member and Red Kite landscape architects to determine a process for planning and development.

Previous Council discussions have considered the lack of a destination recreation ground in this part of the town, especially with the level of development in Radbrook, Bowbrook and towards Bicton and even in countywide play and recreation strategies there is mention of a Monkmoor Recreation style facility in the west of the town.

Headline ambitions discussed include:

- a. Ensuring all genders are equitably provided for any development, especially teenage girls.
- b. Use the site to improve walking, wheeling and cycling in the area.
- c. Providing facilities that are not available elsewhere in Shrewsbury.
- d. Develop a 21st Century park for the future, considering the work of Tim Gill ([URBAN PLAYGROUND | Rethinking Childhood](#)) and Make Space for Girls ([Home \(makespaceforgirls.co.uk\)](#)).

Public consultation will be key to developing a plan that provides for the community of south-west Shrewsbury and beyond.

Recommendations

This committee resolves:

1. To note the report.
2. To support an ambitious development of Shorncliffe Park into a destination open space similar to Monkmoor Recreation Ground
3. To support the allocation of capital funding to achieve this.
4. To seek external funding to aid the development.