



Recreation facilities in Liss – a strategy for the 2020s

Liss Parish Council (LPC) is committed in its 2022-23 Action Plan to work with partner organisations and local residents to develop and implement a village wide recreation strategy. Following discussions with key partners, including HCC, EHDC, SDNPA, Newman Collard Trust, Crossover Youth Centre, 1st Liss Scouts, Newman Collard Tennis Club, Liss Athletic Football Club and Liss Forest Residents Association, this is a summary of the strategy for the village.

A strategy is needed because:

- A prime objective of the Liss Neighbourhood Plan is to enhance community life through community and sports provision.
- With around 300 planned new households by 2028, we must provide for a growing and changing population.
- More housing in the village means a chance to invest from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which housing developers pay to the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA).
- Some of this CIL funding comes to the Parish Council and we need to prioritise how to invest this on behalf of the village - on both recreational and other improvements, including particularly improvements to the village centre.
- Most of the CIL funding stays with the SDNPA and the strategy will help LPC and partner organisations compete for some of this, and for grants from other funding bodies.

We think that the strategy should be based on the following principles:

- We will achieve more if key partners work together, rather than each working in isolation.
- We should aim for a fair balance between each area of the village and different groups in the local population, and for inclusivity and sociability.
- New facilities must be consistent with the design principles set out in the Village Design Statement and the Liss Neighbourhood Plan.

Things are already happening:

- A **new children's play area** has been installed at West Liss Recreation Ground (paid for from SDNPA and LPC CIL funding).
- A new **Pétanque terrain** has been created at Liss Forest Recreation Ground.
- **Moveable football goals** have been installed at West Liss Recreation Ground and Newman Collard Playing Fields.
- Liss Athletic Football Club have put together a funding package to **replace the floodlights** at Newman Collard Playing Fields.

- A **new sports wall** for basketball and football has been installed at Newman Collard.
- Installation of a **Trim Trail** as phase 1 of creating Mill Road Community Garden, with a play tunnel to follow.
- Existing recreation facilities and open spaces are being **publicised and promoted**.

Projects in the pipeline - all subject to consultation, funding and more detailed planning - include:

- **A Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)** for people of all ages being planned by the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust to include a multisport pitch for football, basketball and hockey, 'free-game' equipment for the younger age range (3+) with a 'surprise basketball goal' and fenced pitch area with goals for all-age football and hockey, 'Sunshine Cricket', outdoor activities for nursery children, walking football and other reablement activity for elderly and disabled people.
- **Outdoor fitness equipment areas** for adults and older teenagers at both West Liss Recreation Ground and Newman Collard Playing Fields to include 'workout' equipment such as a vertical climbing wall/net, hurdles, monkey bar, balance beam, over/under bars, double turbo challenge and suspension multi training system.
- **Informal recreational facilities for teenagers** at West Liss Recreation Ground to be co-designed with young people themselves with support from the Crossover youth centre, informed by people's reactions to the pump track which LPC hired for the Platinum Jubilee weekend and further consultation about installing our own pump track.
- **Enhancing the facilities at Liss Forest Recreation Ground** in consultation with Liss Forest Residents Association.
- **Drainage and other pitch improvements** at both Newman Collard and Liss Forest.

This pipeline of projects reflects what we've previously heard from the community:

- Outdoor exercise facilities for both adults and young people were identified as a gap in provision during consultation to inform the 2013 Liss Parish Plan.
- Consultation in 2016 to inform recreational provision in the village identified lack of provision for teenagers, and also opportunities for social interaction.
- Recent discussions with key stakeholders have confirmed the need to fill gaps in provision for both teenagers and adults. In particular, discussions with the Crossover, Bohunt School, family support services, the police and others have identified a need for more informal recreational facilities for young people.
- In a recent poll of local residents, an overwhelming 88% supported installation of provision of outdoor fitness equipment, with 75% of those saying they would use it.
- In feedback from hiring the Jubilee Weekend pump track, 91% of respondents supported installing a track of our own.

These plans will support SDNPA recreational and wider strategies, and EHDC's sports facilities and playing fields strategies (particularly as regards pitch improvements). LPC and partner organisations will continue to apply for external funding and LPC will decide what to invest from the village's own CIL funds to create the necessary funding packages. Projects which get the go-ahead will be the subject of more detailed consultation.

In the meantime, we would continue to welcome views on the strategy as it is evolving (please e-mail clerk-smith@lissparishcouncil.gov.uk).