

West Liss Recreation Ground

Our vision

Our aim is to maintain West Liss Rec as a green and pleasant open space, reflecting its formal status as a village green, while enhancing the range of activities which it offers and encouraging re-naturing and biodiversity.

We shall maintain and promote the football pitch and this will ensure that the open nature of the site is preserved. Complementing this, the pavilion will continue to host 1st Liss Scouts and Petersfield Fundraising Football Club and we will encourage other groups to base themselves there.

In line with our strategy for recreation across the village, we will aim to increase and diversify activity on the site, catering for different age groups and interests. As a starting point we have created a new, exciting and environmentally attractive play area, co-designed with local children.

While retaining the football pitch and its fixed goals as a facility for formal recreation, and developing it through better drainage and other pitch improvements, we aim to develop the site more as a place for informal activity. As a first step, we have installed moveable goals which can be used in a variety of ways and locations on the site.

In reviewing the village's recreation provision, we identified a gap in terms of informal recreational provision for older children and teenagers. We see it as a priority to help fill that gap at West Liss and, following consultation with the community, we installed in July 2023 a pump track for a range of wheeled sports activities: bikes, scooters, skateboards and roller skates.

In addition, we are aiming to provide outdoor exercise equipment, mainly for adults and older teenagers. Like the children's play area and pump track, this will be designed to fit well within the natural environment. We will consider other possibilities for both formal and informal activities – ranging, for example, from hockey or rugby to an outdoor table tennis table – and any other suggestions made by local residents. We are also in the process of developing the rough area next to the pavilion as a wild-flower nature site.

In all this we will work closely with Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust and Liss Forest Residents Association to ensure complementary provision across the village, appropriate to the different settings. We are also considering ways of physically linking the sites through walking, running and cycling routes and wildlife corridors.

We are committed to continuing to consult local residents as future developments begin to take shape. We shall also work closely with other stakeholders and aim to co-design future facilities with relevant groups within the local community – for example, working with the Crossover youth centre and its members on designing informal recreational provision for older children and teenagers.

This vision will provide a basis for further consultation and investment in West Liss Recreation Ground.