



# Slimbridge Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan

## Regulation 15 Submission

### Play and Recreation Areas Evidence Base Report



July 2023

## **Introduction to this report**

This report sets out the existing play area facilities in Slimbridge and gives information on its current use, quality, and issues for the future.

## **Planning Policy Context**

Section 8 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 (NPPF) sets out how planning policy should promote healthy and safe communities. This includes providing the social and recreational facilities that communities need, for example safe and accessible green infrastructure and community facilities for sports, physical activity, and recreational use.

Stroud District's Local Plan notes that 'People's quality of life is improved by the existence of open spaces through opportunities for formal or informal recreation.' (Para 6.65<sup>1</sup>). Local Plan policy ES13 'Protection of Existing Open Space' identifies and protects existing open spaces in the Neighbourhood Area. The spaces identified by this policy are:

- Slimbridge Playing Field
- Slimbridge Football Club Playing Field.

This report includes local information on each of the above spaces, as well as information on other locally important areas for recreation.

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1455/stroud-district-local-plan\\_november-2015\\_low-res\\_for-web.pdf#page=178](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1455/stroud-district-local-plan_november-2015_low-res_for-web.pdf#page=178)

# SLIMBRIDGE PLAYING FIELD

## Introduction

Slimbridge Play Area is located off of St Johns Road Slimbridge GL2 7DD, on the playing field at the rear of Slimbridge Social Club (formally the Royal British Legion).



Access to the Play Area is via the car park alongside the Slimbridge Social Club.



Details of the facilities are displayed at the entrance of the Car Park (Swan Park)

Entrance of the Play Area is via a swing pedestrian gate from the car park incorporated in steel fencing.

## **Ownership of the Playing Field**

Slimbridge Parish Council owns the Playing Field incorporating all the play equipment. Finance for the upkeep of the Playing Field and Play Equipment is by Slimbridge Parish Council Precept.

The Parish Council contracts a maintenance person for the upkeep of the Playing Field and Play Equipment, this activity is carried out on a weekly basis. This person's duties include ensuring the play equipment is maintained to a high standard. Any items requiring attention / maintenance are brought to the attention of the Parish Clerk, and relevant action is taken.

The Playing Field currently has one football pitch along with a cricket square, the grass is cut on a regular basis, by a contractor appointed by the Parish Council, with the respective football and cricket clubs maintaining their specific requirements.

## **Play Equipment**

- There is currently a Basketball Net and stand secured to a Tarmac surface.
- 2 small baby swings
- 2 senior swings
- 1 swing basket
- 1 Zipwire
- 1 Monkey Net
- 1 Roundabout
- 1 Seesaw
- 2 Baby Riders (Springers)
- 1 adventure feature incorporating, slide, pull rope etc
- 1 small playhouse for young children

The majority of the Play Equipment has been purchased within the last 5 years, therefore is still in good condition, with regular maintenance etc.

See photos below of the play equipment onsite.







## Other Facilities Onsite

There are 2 pairs of seating benches, along with 6 wooden picnic benches and 1 composite picnic bench; these are dispersed within the playing field to accommodate visitors whilst accompanying children.



The Playing Field has the additional facility of a well-equipped pavilion, for hire by visitors to the Playing Field, and is used by the Football/Cricket Club.



## **Amphitheatre**

The Amphitheatre is a recent addition to the facilities on the Playing Field. It was completed in Autumn 2021 and this facility is available to any groups within the village and surrounding area. In addition, the facility is available to be used by Slimbridge School.

## Footpath

A new access tarmac footpath has been installed along one side of the Playing Field enabling access to the back entrance to Slimbridge School, within the past few months the footpath is used twice daily by children using the back entrance to the school and have taken to exercising on the Play Equipment pre and post school, to this end the Parish Council is very pleased to see this facility used, reducing traffic congestion to a degree in St Johns Road outside the school.



## Security

The Parish Council has installed a CCTV system, in addition the Slimbridge Social Club have a CCTV system, this enables the Car Park, Play Equipment, Pavilion and a limited area of the Playing Field to be constantly monitored. Incidents of damage and vandalism are recorded as very low.

## Future Schemes

The Parish Council has now installed an all-weather table tennis table.

The Parish Council is always looking for additional funding to increase the facilities, and is always open to suggestions from users of the playing field and local groups etc.

Educational and Health Fitness Trail for children and adults is currently being considered which would be installed at the rear of the field away from the current play equipment, this is however subject to further discussion on requirements with children and adults, in addition sourcing of funding.

## Past Events on the Playing Field

The playing field has been used for Village functions such as a Village Fair incorporating a Sports Day event, see photos below.





## Thornhill Park, Wisloe Football Ground

(AKA Slimbridge Football Club Playing Field)

This area is home to Slimbridge Football Club. The ground includes changing facilities, floodlights, and social club building. It is a private area only used by the football club (there are no publicly accessible facilities), though the clubhouse is available for hire for all types of evening, weekend, and daytime functions / meetings.



## Other areas of green space for recreation

### Cambridge Green

Cambridge Green is a small Village Green located in Cambridge at the junction of Ryalls Lane and the A38, this area is small and has no facility for any form of leisure activity. It is included on the Neighbourhood Plan's draft list of Local Green Spaces.



## Rosie's Wood

Rosie's Wood is located in Ryalls Lane and is managed by Rosie's Wood Trust. This is a private wood; however the Trust permits the wood to be enjoyed by parishioners and visitors to the Parish. The wood runs parallel to the river Cam and has public footpaths throughout. Children use and enjoy the area; dens are often built in the woodland. Rosie's Wood is included on the Neighbourhood Plan's draft list of Local Green Spaces.





## RECENTLY IDENTIFIED VILLAGE GREEN IN TYNDALE ROAD GOSSINGTON

This area was designated a Village Green in 1979. This is a small green area for walking and has no facilities on site.

