

Rotherham Play Pathfinder

The Department for Children, Schools and Families' Play Pathfinder programme awarded approximately £2.6m to Rotherham. This is to be administered through the Council. A number of Parish Councils are beneficiaries of funding for renewed play areas. This is based purely on an assessment which looked at existing play facility condition, catchment area, green space audit information and major gaps in provision. The Council's 'play team' hopes to work very closely with Parish Councils in order to ensure that they are comfortable with proposals and will want to involve them as fully as possible in the consultation for the new play facilities.

The DCSF has set very challenging targets, which must be met if Rotherham is to achieve its objective of 28 area based play areas – 12 in year one plus a two centre play facility in Rotherham town centre. In order to achieve this a small team has been established to deliver consultation and landscape design. This is met in part through the in-house landscape design service while the balance is through Groundwork Dearne Valley. Installation companies will be appointed to carry out the landscaping and installation of the play equipment.

The proposal fits with the Department for Children, Families and Schools' guidance to involve local partners and communities, and Groundwork is one such partner and a member of Rotherham's Play Partnership. It supports Rotherham in the delivery of its Play targets through both the Big Lottery Fund and the pathfinder programme. It also contributes significantly to the delivery of the Rotherham Play Strategy.

As noted above the areas that will benefit from the additional funding have been selected because of their condition and / or because of gaps in local provision. Of the 28 play areas targeted, the following are under Parish Council ownership:

	Site Name	Address	Ownership	Green Space Audit	Designer Lead
Year 1 Projects					
1	Woodall Lane Rec	Harthill	Harthill with Woodall P C	n/a	G DV
2	Bierlow Park	Brampton Bierlow	Brampton Bierlow P C	LQ/HV	G DV
3	Hangsman Lane	Laughton Common	Thurcroft P C	HQ/HV	RMBC
4	Poynton Avenue	Ulley	Ulley P C	n/a	G DV
5	Washfield Lane	Treeton	Treeton P C	LQ/LV	RMBC
6	Falconer Lane	Fence	Aston-cum-Aughton P C	n/a	RMBC

Year 2 Projects					
7	Thirlmere Drive	North Anston	Anston P C	LQ/LV	
8	Rosemary Road	Wickersley	Wickersley P C	LQ/HV	
9	Coral Drive	Aughton	Aston-cum-Aughton P C	LQ/HV	
10	Sorby Way	Wickersley	Wickersley P C	HQ/H V	

Parish Councils may wish to contribute further funding to achieve more in their areas and this can be considered if it is made clear as early as possible in the design phase of the programme. The Play Pathfinder delivery team is currently in the process of consulting on year one projects and is involving affected Parish Councils as well as local schools, children and young people, parents and residents as appropriate.

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