



Agenda item 9

For information: **Poulton Park play area**

Written by: Chris Stringer, Deputy Town Clerk

Poulton Park play area

Over two phases – in summer 2024 and autumn 2025 – we’ve improved the children’s play area in Poulton Park, investing over £130,000 in new play equipment.

Thanks to the community donations that made the second phase possible, the play area now features:

- Two climbing frames with slides – aimed at different ages and offering different challenges
- Two trampolines
- A variety of swings – again for different age groups - including a basket swing
- Monkey bars – which were one of the most popular requests for the play area
- A play kitchen – designed and built by [Bradford on Avon Men’s Shed](#)
- New benches
- Swinging bars – which were suggested by lots of the girls that we spoke with when we were designing the play area

The play area now offers far greater play opportunities and a greater variety of challenges – and is more inclusive than it was before.

We’d still like to plant some new trees in and around the play area – both to add to the landscape and to create some more shade at different times of day. And in time, we might look to replace the wooden fence around the play area with a hedge.

However, these things apart, the play area now feels finished for the foreseeable future.

The investment in Poulton Park play area was the first step in a wider project to improve play opportunities across the town, though.

And with Poulton Park finished, we’re going to turn our attention to the other play areas and play spaces that we look after.





Play in Bradford on Avon

Since April 2022, Bradford on Avon Town Council has managed and looked after most of the play areas in Bradford on Avon.

Town council play areas and play spaces		
Barton Farm	Bearfield	Greenland View
Kingston Wood	Poulton Park	Sladesbrook
Spencer's Orchard	St Aldhelm's	Victory Field

Before April 2022, some of these play areas were managed and looked after by Wiltshire Council.

Over time, these spaces have all seen lots of play – and this means some of them are showing their age now.

In October 2022, councillors agreed to spend over £370,000 to improve play areas across the town.

The plan was that this would happen in phases since we didn't have all this money immediately available in 2022.

The schedule suggested at the time identified Poulton Park as one of the play areas most in need of investment and improvement.

We also identified a schedule and some suggested budgets for the other play areas.

However – for various reasons – now seems a sensible time to review the original schedule (and the suggested budgets)

Next steps

Although we had some early conversations with the community about the play area and the wider green space at Spencers Orchard, the discussions and ideas that came from these conversations haven't progressed any further because of the focus on Poulton Park.

And since October 2022, the council's financial position has changed too – in part because of the unexpected costs incurred in the Becky Addy Wood court case.

As such, we're going to review the schedule that was drawn up in 2022 – and bring a full update on this project to a council meeting after considering all eight of the other play areas that we look after.