



Introduction

Bradford on Avon Town Council owns ten playgrounds in the town. Barton Farm and Victory Field play areas were the first to be taken on from Wiltshire Council and managed by the Town Council. In 2020 the Town Council adopted two play areas at Kingston Wood, adjacent, but targeted at different age groups. In 2022, a further five play areas were transferred to the Town Council as part of the Asset Transfer from Wiltshire Council.

Bradford on Avon Town Council is the sole trustee of The Colonel William Llewellyn Palmer Educational Charity and has managed Sladesbrook play area on that basis since 2017.

This is an update on the refurbishment of play areas.

The approach

The town council has considered management of play areas in previous reports:

October 2022 – Maintenance/replacement schedule, planned up to 2036

September 2023 – progress update and schedule

Poulton Park

The refurbishment of the play area was completed in two phases, in summer 2024 and autumn 2025. £127,000 was spent on this work, with design and installation undertaken by the appointed play equipment manufacturer. The work involved significant new play equipment and surfacing as well as the repair or refurbishment of existing play equipment.

St Aldhelm Play Area

Consultation with users of the play area has guided the design of this play area.

To increase value, the Town Council is sourcing play equipment itself from manufacturers. Some installation is being undertaken by a local contractor appointed directly by the Town Council, and other installation will be carried out by the Council's own Town Wardens.

The design is now finalised, with orders being placed for equipment and installation. The design includes improving the play area with tree, shrub and bulb planting, picnic benches and habitat features. Completion in 2026.



Sladesbrook Play Area

The town council is carrying out this refurbishment in its role as trustee of the Colonel William Llewellyn Palmer Educational Charity (CWLPEC). This is programmed for completion on site in spring 2027, with consultation starting shortly.

Schedule for refurbishment of play areas

Phase	Year	Site	Budget	
	2025	Poulton	£127,000	Complete
		Tennis Courts	£72,000	Complete
	2026	St Aldhelm	£20,000	In progress
	2026/7	Sladesbrook	£70,000*	In planning phase

* CWLPEC funds

	2027/8	Bearfield	£60,000	
	2027/8	Spencers Orchard	£20,000	
	2028/9	Barton Farm	£80,000	
	2029/30	Victory Field	£60,000	
	2029/30	Greenland View	£20,000	
	2035	Kingston Wood 1	£30,000	
	2036	Kingston Wood 2	£30,000	
	TBC	Outdoor Gym Equip	£20,000	
		Total Investment	£609,000	

	Budget	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2035	2036
Ear Marked Reserves	£74k	-	£20k	£20k	£20k	£14k	-	-
CWLPEC	£70K	£70k	-	-	-	-	-	-
Site Revenue PA	£15k		£20k	£20k	£25k	£25k	-	-
Kingston Wood S106	£62k	-	-	-	-	-	£30k	£30k
Capital			£40k	£40k	£35k	£41k	-	-
Phase Total		£70k	£80k	£80k	£80k	£80k	£25k	£25k