

Saltash Town Council

Parks Strategy – initial thoughts

1. The Situation

There are many parks in Saltash of differing scale and condition.

Governance arrangements vary:

- The parks are situated on land owned by Saltash Town Council or Cornwall Council.
- One site – Tincombe - is operated by the Friends of Tincombe through a licence agreement with Cornwall Council.
- Specific areas of Saltmill are managed by Groundworks on land owned by Cornwall Council.
- I understand Groundworks have had initial discussions with Junkyard Skatepark regarding improving the skatepark facilities, which Junkyard Skatepark could potentially manage.
- Friends of Summerfields Park was established in November 2021 and is in the process of negotiating a licence with Cornwall Council but this is already proving to be a protracted process.

Over successive years, the parks have fallen into steady decline particularly in terms of the quality of the play equipment. Cornwall Council have removed much of the equipment in the parks under their control, which has not been replaced. In addition, the grounds have not been regularly maintained despite this being a responsibility of Cornwall Council. Swingeing cuts in Cornwall Council's budget have made the situation worse.

The net effect of this fragmented approach and absence of a coordinated strategy is the parks are not meeting the needs of young people, families, residents and visitors to Saltash. People are therefore making the decision to go elsewhere to other parks outside of the town to spend their recreation time. This feels wrong and a missed opportunity bearing in mind the Saltash's growing population and large number of families. In addition, Saltash as a destination for visitors would also be improved by providing attractive and accessible parks in the town.

2. Towards a strategy

Devising and implementing a Saltash Town Council Parks Strategy will require significant resources in terms of staff and members' time and money.

A potential way forward is a 3-phase approach:

1. Audit of existing provision
2. Consultation exercise with Saltash residents
3. Devise and implement strategy

3. Budget

To be determined.

Likely to include consultancy fees for the 3-phases bearing in mind the scale of the work and limited capacity within the team.

In terms of play equipment and by way of illustrating the costs involved, Friends of Summerfields Park have sourced the following indicative figures from the play equipment provider KOMPAN:

	£
See saw	12,205
Slide	19,652
Swing	8,960
Climbing frame	8,350
Parallel bars	1,297
Total	50,464

Cllr Matt Griffiths
25/5/22