

## **Bingfield Park Consultation – Q & A's**

### **Q – Why are you making these improvements to the park?**

A – The improvements outlined below have been developed in response to the feedback from an earlier consultation carried out in 2019 and in consultation with key stakeholders and Council Officers this year. We also wanted to make the park safer for users and to reduce anti-social behaviour has also led to these improvements.

- Improving entrances and first impressions of the park by making the park more welcoming. We want users to feel invited in to the park and the better landscaping around the entrances will help achieve that.
- Improving play equipment for younger children and formal and informal sports especially for teen sport and exercise.
- Increasing biodiversity and the parks nature features by adding new planting and maintenance regimes.
- Integrating the east to west walking and cycle route into the overall masterplan for the park.
- Finding a design solution for the Crumbles Castle building by exploring how the Crumbles Castle can fit into the overall design of the park and provide a legacy for part of the structure.

The vision for Bingfield Park is to create a vibrant and welcoming environment at the heart of the local community. The park will offer family friendly facilities for the growing local population. We want to provide additional and improved facilities so the park is well used and there are more reasons to visit and stay in Bingfield Park.

The reasons for positioning most new features including sports facilities and play areas in one central location are to retain areas of the park as open areas of grass and trees, to avoid removing any mature trees and to keep facilities away from residential properties. We are proposing to make improvements to other areas of the park too, including the entrances, but also a native wildlife hedge along the Rufford Street boundary and areas of wildflower meadow to the south and north of the park. There will also be new planting at entrances.

### **Q – What are the reasons that Crumbles Castle building is shown in two of the design options as partially removed?**

A – The Crumbles Castle building is currently not in use. While the building is stable and Crumbles Castle remains a relatively robust structure the internal rooms are not habitable. The building has not been occupied since 2019 and there is not currently a proposed use for the inside of the building. There is not currently money available for the ongoing maintenance of the building.

A Structural Appraisal Report was completed in October 2020 and the findings show that the tower and some walls could be partially retained in a design incorporating an area for recreation activities. If part of the area where the Crumbles building currently stands can be opened up there is the possibility for a new facility for young people while maintaining part of the structure and legacy of the castle.

Masterplan design option 1 has the Crumbles Castle building left as it currently is now without any alterations. This is because we want residents to be able to choose this as an option if they do not want change to this area. Masterplan design option 2 and 3 show the area developed as a skate/BMX area and a play area. These designs will need development with residents input. We would like to know what you think of these suggested uses for Crumbles Castle, if it is partially retained and what other facilities could go in this area.

### **Q - Why is there a new 3G football pitch?**

A – There is a new 3G football pitch in the designs because a key part of the plans is to improve sports facilities for young people and the local community. The new pitch will offer a 3G artificial grass surface that can be used all year round in all weather conditions for local user groups. The intention is that the pitch is used for football and exercise sessions by as many local user groups as possible and that local young people have access to a great new facility.

The pitch will be fenced to prevent balls escaping and will be floodlit to allow for use in the evenings. The exact design of the pitch needs to be specified and will be developed in further stages of design.

All Masterplan design options include a 3 v 3 basketball court and smaller hard surfaced court. This is intended to provide for basketball and for informal sport on the small court. Younger children will have a court they can use for football and the space can be used for exercise.

### **Q – How are the east to west walking and cycle route integrated into the overall masterplan for the park?**

A – The intention is to retain the existing path running diagonally across the park from the entrance at Randall's Road in the south west corner to the entrance at Freeling Street in the north west corner of the park. The entrances will be improved to be more welcoming and the walking route from York Way through the park and on to Caledonian Road will be maintained in all design options.

The east to west cycle route will be integrated into the north of the park in between the ends of Rufford Street and Gifford Street. The technical design of this cycle route is not yet confirmed.

Both the walking and cycling routes will be designed within the park Masterplan to complement wider improvements to routes in the local area.