



# Housing and Community



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<b>Report for:</b>	Housing and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<b>Title of report:</b>	Adventure Playgrounds – Activity Update
<b>Date:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
<b>Report on behalf of:</b>	Councillor Sheron Wilkie, Portfolio Holder for Community and Regulatory Services
<b>Part:</b>	I
<b>If Part II, reason:</b>	N/A
<b>Appendices:</b>	N/A
<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:</b>	APG(s): Adventure Playground(s)

## Report Author / Responsible Officer

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<b>Corporate Priorities</b>	A clean, safe and enjoyable environment Building strong and vibrant communities Ensuring economic growth and prosperity Ensuring efficient, effective and modern service delivery Climate and ecological emergency
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards
<b>Purpose of the report:</b>	<b>1.</b> To provide an update on activity at the Adventure Playgrounds
<b>Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s):</b>	<b>1.</b> That Members note the report and identify any areas where they require additional information
<b>Period for post policy/project review:</b>	<b>N/A</b>

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This paper provides an update on the Adventure Playground (APG) activities for the year to date. It also provides details on the activities and services offered at the APGs

## 2. The Adventure Playgrounds

- 2.1 There are four Adventure playgrounds in Dacorum, Adeyfield, Grovehill and Woodhall Farm, Chaulden and Bennetts End. They offer a secure and enriching environment for children over 8 years old. Children under 8 are welcome to come along with a parent or guardian and must be supervised.
- 2.2 They are specifically designed to meet children’s play needs, allowing them to challenge themselves, manage acceptable levels of risk and develop socially, creatively and emotionally.
- 2.3 The APGs operate as an open access facility, which means the children are not restricted and can come and go as they please. However, children do need to be registered by a parent or guardian on their first visit.
- 2.4 The APGs are managed and supervised by a team of qualified staff who provide a secure and stimulating environment for all children, including those with special needs and disabilities.
- 2.5 After school activities are provided as well as youth clubs, private hire for birthday parties and other community uses. Each APG has a variety of activities and facilities identified in the table at 2.7 below.
- 2.6 The APGs are open term time Monday to Friday 3.30pm – 6.30pm and school holidays Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5.30pm. There is a winter closure from 31<sup>st</sup> October to 12<sup>th</sup> February, although the youth clubs do operate during this period.
- 2.7 Table of activities and facilities:

<b>Adeyfield</b>	<b>Grovehill and Woodhall Farm</b>
Floodlit 3G football pitches Tubular slides Multi-play units Inclusive roundabout Quads Archery tag Zorbs Seating and picnic areas Computers Xbox and PlayStations Table football Table tennis Pool table Tuck shop Free craft sessions during holidays	Floodlit 3G football pitches Multi-play units Seating and picnic areas Computers Xbox and PlayStations Table football Table tennis Pool table Tuck shop Free craft sessions during holiday. Laser Tag Inflatables Water Play (Sprinklers) Climbing Wall Basketball area
<b>Chaulden</b>	<b>Bennetts End</b>
Zip wire Computers Xbox and PlayStations Table football Table tennis Pool table Tuck shop Free craft sessions during holidays	Skate ramp Computers Xbox and PlayStations Table football Table tennis Pool table Tuck shop Free craft sessions during holidays

### 3. Attendance and Bookings Year to Date

3.1 The attendance and bookings for the four APGs for 2023/24 to date are shown in the table below

	April 2023	May 2023	June 2023	July 2023	Total
Total Children - Adeyfield	960	940	848	1,149	3,897
Total other users including bookings - Adeyfield	786	660	1,425	1,102	3,973
Total Children – Bennetts End	475	423	560	572	2,030
Total other users including bookings – Bennetts End	395	577	706	434	2,112
Total Children - Grovehill	1,815	1,890	1,974	2,428	8,107
Total other users including bookings - Grovehill	1,760	3,062	1,496	1,882	8,200
Total Children - Chaulden	513	575	553	661	2,302
Total other users including bookings - Chaulden	151	703	198	129	1,181

### 4. Projects and Initiatives

4.1 There are a number of projects and initiatives that have either been delivered or are currently active across the APGs to improve the service offer and to maximise opportunities to generate income. Current projects and initiatives are identified in the table below.

PROJECT/INITIATIVE	STATUS
<p>Bennetts End</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Together Fund – 12 week Sports Programme commenced – The playground is now working in partnership with the Health Inequalities Lead Officer to support local residents from ethnic minority groups to help tackle obesity and physical health. Flyers have been translated and distributed to schools and via contacts within certain minority communities. The project is now in its 10<sup>th</sup> week, is well attended and the children are developing new skills through a range of activities and more importantly keeping fit, which contributes to their emotional wellbeing.</li> </ul>	Active
<p>Bennetts End</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Shelter Project (Bennetts End) This has now been installed and post installation checks completed. The shelter is now open for use and has been very much welcomed by playground users who are using it for its intended purpose which is to use the shelter as safe space to meet friends and socialise away from the streets, which also allows for a variety of play types and skill development, such as communication. We still have some of the funds left for which we are looking into installing a Bluetooth system, so that the children can play music.</li> </ul>	Complete
<p>All APGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Adventure Playground Micro-Site. We have been working on this project since January to help give us more visibility with regards to the services we offer, everything is now in one place such as policies, booking links and activity</li> </ul>	Active

information. We hope that we can attract more families to the playgrounds through the use of our new site.	
<p>Adeyfield &amp; Bennetts End</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We continue to work on an inclusion project to help break down cultural barriers for three of the major ethnic groups in Bennetts End and Adeyfield in order to support obesity and physical health. All of our activities have been translated into Urdu, Gujarati and Tamil and we have started to see some new faces from these communities use the playground facilities.</li> </ul>	Active
<p>Grovehill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grovehill Adventure Playground has a new football session running, one on a Tuesday this is working with Healthy U and providing girls football. These session now have around 30 young girls from age ranges of 8-12. Five space have been taken up from the APG.</li> </ul>	Active
<p>Grovehill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership links with the APG have been made with the possibility of working together of different project moving forward, meeting planned for September to start work with two new groups to support parents and children. These groups will be involved in an 8 week program to support children with SEN/ASC and a drop in café offer support and signposting to other organizations. These will looked to be started in September with the 8 week programs and the drop in café running once a fortnight. Following communications with the group organiser these are starting during the second week of September with a review of how the groups were attended by users during December 2023. We are also in communications with a support group looking to run some sports sessions for children with Downs Syndrome.</li> </ul>	Active
<p>Chaulden APG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APG Assistant will attend the first of two on line training sessions this week to understand the set-up and organisation needed for the Hygiene bank.</li> <li>This APG Assistant is now in place are the lead for the area and has done the final training session. We will be looking to place bins for items to be donated at the end of August, site for donation bins are being looked at</li> </ul>	Active
<p>Grovehill/Chaulden APG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good number at both youth clubs as children and young people start to return to the setting.</li> <li>Options for running a youth club for years 5 and 6 to help to move up to the older session, this will also help younger children meeting children that may be at the secondary schools and this allows them to make friends before the move and helps with the process.</li> <li>Planning for these session is being looked and to see if this is a possible choice for the playgrounds.</li> </ul>	Active
<p>Chaulden APG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collette School will be looking to make a fortnightly booking at Chaulden adventure playground to support the children and young people. This session will start in September and run until the end of term</li> </ul>	Active
<p>Grovehill APG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pitch booking at Grovehill is good with only a few spaces on week days. Booking</li> </ul>	Active

<p>for the new football session are coming in and the pitch will be fully booked over the winter months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekend bookings for pitch hire are starting to pick back up</li> </ul>	
<p>Chaulden APG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was excitement all round when 1 impossible thing donated pre loved football boots and trainers for free to children who attend the playground.</li> <li>Around 22 children and young people have been offer football boots and other foot wear across two adventure playground</li> </ul>	Active
<p>Grovehill APG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group booking are still steady with a church groups booking hall hire 4 times a week, and parent and toddlers session running one day a week. Home education groups once a fortnight</li> <li>School booking are now booked in for the last two weeks of term</li> <li>Scouts and clubs groups have booked laser tag session at the playground for mid-July</li> </ul>	Active
<p>Chaulden APG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chaulden APG with levelling and reseeding of the ground where the large wooden structure used to be. The seed has taken well after plenty of watering and we look forward to using the area for games and picnics this summer.</li> <li>This area is now taken hold, this area will be cut be clean safe and green over the next few weeks</li> <li>Pitch area has been given the funding to be replace, work on the fence and the pitch will start work on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 2023 this is expected to take around 2 weeks. Once this completed the option to then hire out this space will become available, and help increase income at chaulden adventure playground.</li> <li>This will also give the playground a great new play space for the children and young people</li> </ul>	Active

## 5 Other updates

### 5.1 Some other news and updates are:

<p>Home Education Group - Adeyfield</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adeyfield – We are into our 2<sup>nd</sup> term providing activities for the home education group. They appear very satisfied with the service received, hopefully we can continue to work alongside such groups moving forward</li> </ul>
<p>Promotion of new activities – Adeyfield &amp; Bennetts End</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adeyfield - We continue to promote and advertise new activities to include in our party packages, such as Dodgeball and Nerf Wars, which has seen extra revenue being brought into the playground</li> </ul>
<p>Summer Programme – Adeyfield &amp; Bennetts End</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The summer programme is well underway which has seen a slower start than normal due adverse weather conditions, which are wetter than normal for this time of year. However that hasn't stopped us providing our first two weeks of activities which have included quads and zorb sessions, a football tournament, arts and crafts and cooking activities</li> </ul>
<p>Possible filming - Adeyfield Adventure Playground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visited by a film production representative to look at the Adeyfield site as a possible destination for filming a new children's programme on Sky 1. If the venue is suitable filming will start in Sept.</li> </ul>

Partnering with Herts Sports Partnerships (HSP) - Adeyfield & Bennetts End

- We have been working together to promote the 12 week sports program but HSP are also supporting the playgrounds by promoting our summer program, which is due to go out in their summer activities letter.

Pitch bookings & Birthday Parties – Adeyfield

- Pitch bookings are increasing as we are starting to see grass roots clubs making their winter bookings
- With regards to party bookings, were fully booked throughout July which was another busy month for bookings.

**6. Opportunities for the Future**

- 6.1 Once the Head of Communities and Leisure is in post, they will work with the Leisure Services Manager and the APG teams and stakeholders to develop a business plan to further enhance services and maximise opportunities to generate income, continuing the good work to date.
- 6.2 Additionally, there is a capital budget for investment in the APG facilities and a proposal for the use of this budget will also be developed to support the business plan.