



# Housing and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee

<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> March 2024
<b>Report on behalf of:</b>	Councillor Sheron Wilkie, Portfolio Holder for Place
<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)

<p><b>Report Author / Responsible Officer</b></p> <p>Diane Southam – Assistant Director Place Community and Enterprise</p> <p>✉ 📞</p>
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<b>Corporate Priorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A clean, safe and enjoyable environment</li> <li>Building strong and vibrant communities</li> <li>Ensuring economic growth and prosperity</li> <li>Ensuring efficient, effective and modern service delivery</li> <li>Climate and ecological emergency</li> </ul>
<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>	N/A

## 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
- 1.2. The Adventure Playground have been in winter closure since November 2023 to February 2024, and are in the process of preparing for the Easter holidays.

## 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	Skate ramp Computers Xbox and PlayStations Table football Table tennis Pool table

Tuck shop Free craft sessions during holidays	Tuck shop Free craft sessions during holidays
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### 3. Attendance and Bookings Year to Date

3.1 The attendance and bookings for the four APGs for 2023/24 until the end of quarter 3 are shown in the table below

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Total Children - Adeyfield	2,822	3,592	802	TBC	6,417
Total other users including bookings - Adeyfield	2,971	2,621	1,945	TBC	7,537
Total Children – Bennetts End	1,510	1,783	367	TBC	3,293
Total other users including bookings – Bennetts End	1,710	1,144	534	TBC	3,388
Total Children - Grovehill	5,679	7,324	1,684	TBC	13,003
Total other users including bookings - Grovehill	4,968	5,096	4,527	TBC	14,591
Total Children - Chaulden	1,641	2,167	622	TBC	4,430
Total other users including bookings - Chaulden	477	769	779	TBC	2,025

### 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>Grovehill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have partnered up with Inclusive Unite, an organisation running sporting sessions for young adults with learning difficulties and Down Syndrome. Running one session on a Monday and another due to start March 24</li> </ul>	Active
<p>Chaulden APG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APG Assistant has attended training sessions to set-up and organise the Hygiene bank.</li> <li>• A hygiene bank is to assist people in the community access toiletries and other person hygiene essentials who cannot otherwise afford to do so. The referral process is done through any professionals working with individuals, or families</li> <li>• Hygiene bank is now up and running with bins placed in Boots in the Marlowes and other smaller Boots stores. Boots are a partner and match the donation by weight and first set of collections has been made.</li> <li>• First donation has been made to a local refuge for domestic violence December 2023</li> </ul>	Active
<p>Chaulden APG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collette School have continued with their fortnightly booking at Chaulden adventure playground to support the children and young people. This session started in September and ran until the end of term but has now been extended and is running until Easter 24</li> </ul>	Active
<p>Grovehill APG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pitch bookings at Grovehill are still very high with only a few spaces available.</li> </ul>	Active
<p>Chaulden APG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New multi-use sports surface has been installed which enable user to play football, basketball, netball and tennis all year round and has been well received by the users.</li> </ul>	Active

## 6. Opportunities for the Future

- 6.1 The Head of Communities and Leisure is now in post, and 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.