

Tenterden Recreation Ground

Focus Group Meeting
Wednesday 11th October

Ground Control
Landscape Architecture
GIS & Mapping

Meeting Notes



TENTERDEN
TOWN COUNCIL



Project: Tenterden Recreation Ground

Purpose: Focus Group Meeting

Date: Wednesday 11th October 2017

Time: 7:00 PM

Venue: Tenterden Town Hall, 24 High Street, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6AN

Present: **Ground Control**
Matt Nokes
Rahsan Arber
Chris Chippendale

Tenterden Town Council
Phil Burgess
Alan Sugden
Ken Mulholland

Focus Group Members

Ian Brooks	Jo Vos
Susie Hall	Sheila Jones
Lorna Jones	Jack Burrill
Sue Denton	Lisa (netball representative)
Archie Anderson	Suzanne Goodsell
Alan Bates	Ray Walker
Ann Walker	Jerry Newson
Sam Bolidai	Jon Slegg
Dr John Parker	Sheila Jones
Dr Tony Wynter	Nick Leggatt
Tyler (Youth café)	Andy Barwise
Laura Weston	Ruth Clarke
Harriet Pullen	Tiffany (Youth café)
James (Youth café)	

Apologies: Alexandra White
Mollie Miller
Nick Clapp
Neal Stanton
Richard Parsons
Tom Vincent
Jennie Goodall

Circulation: All present (where we hold emails addresses) and wider Focus Group members

Introduction:

Please can I take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the focus group who attended our workshop on the evening of the 11th October at the Town Hall. Your active participation throughout the workshop activities was tremendously encouraging as we move forward together in this process.

Thank you for being so open and honest with your views and respectful and considerate of the views of the wider focus group members. It was clear to see from each of you the enthusiasm and desire to improve the recreation ground for the people of Tenterden and surrounding areas.

We are very much looking forward to working with you over the coming months to realise a vision for the recreation ground.

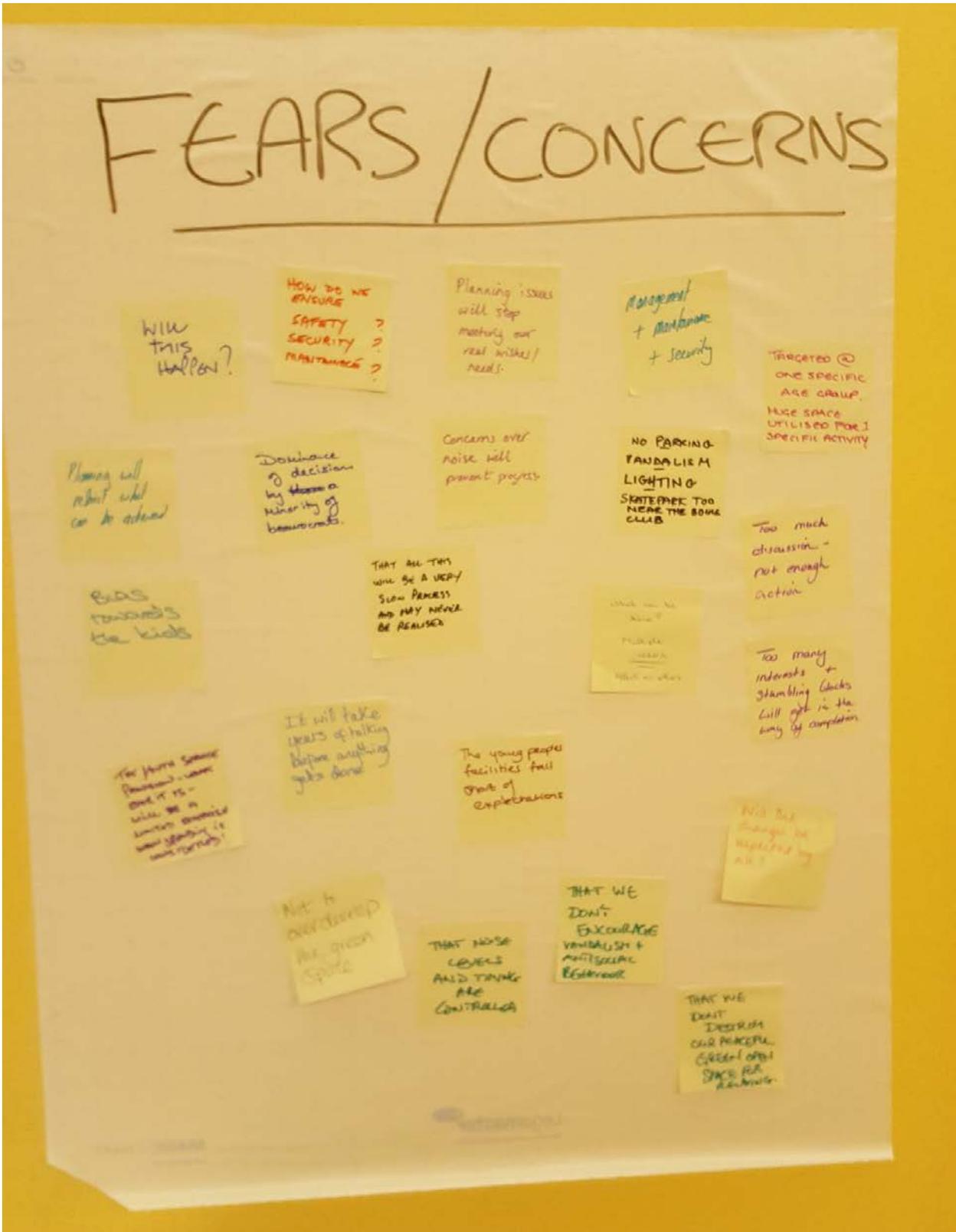
We have included a copy of the PowerPoint presentation which facilitated the meeting for your records within **Annex A**.

Alongside this presentation we are pleased to share the following notes as a record of the discussion points raised during each of the workshop activities including:

1. *With respect to the Focus Group and the Recreation Ground Enhancement projects what are your fears/ concerns and aspirations & hopes?*
2. *What do you like about the current Recreation Ground?*
3. *What are the current issues that should be addressed within the remit of the Recreation Ground improvement works?*
4. Spatial arrangement exercise and feedback

Activity 1:

With Respect to the Focus Group and the Recreation Ground Enhancement Projects what are your Fears/ Concerns and Aspirations & hopes?



Fears and Concern? (Transcribed list from post-it notes written by focus group members)

- Bias towards the kids
- Not to over-develop the green space
- That noise levels and timing are controlled
- That we don't encourage vandalism and anti-social behaviour
- That we don't destroy our peaceful green open space for relaxing
- Will the changes be respected by all?
- The young people's facilities fall short of expectations
- It will take years of talking before anything gets done
- The youth service provision-whatever it is- will be a limited exercise when spending is considered!
- What can be done? Multiple users. Effect on others
- That all this will be a very slow process and may never be realised
- Too many interests and stumbling blocks will get in the way of completion
- Too much discussion, not enough action
- Planning will restrict what can be achieved
- Dominance of decision by a minority of bureaucrats
- Concern over noise will prevent progress
- No parking, vandalism, lighting, Skate park too near the bowls club
- How do we ensure; Safety? Security? Maintenance?
- Planning issues will stop meeting our real wishes/ Needs.
- Management + maintenance + Security
- Targeted @ one specific age group. Huge space utilised for one specific activity.

ASPIRATIONS

Keep the youth on the "committees" Not just the older people.

Make a difference for the future of Tenderden... The Children.

Space more user friendly & not split in half by balls clubs & tennis courts

Lighting + CCTV for security.

TENDERDEN WILL BE PROUD OF WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

Fenced children's area

All stakeholders to respect + police ALL the facilities. Protect our facilities.

MULTI-USE CLUB HOUSE/CANINE ROOM TENNIS/NETBALL/BOWLS PART OF COMPLEX NEARBY TO LEISURE CENTRE

SOMETHING THAT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER.

access for all ages & abilities

To build a space for all to feel safe and enjoy.

Create a centre of sporting excellence tapping into the talent already here.

DIVERSE RANGE OF ACTIVITY FOR MANY / ALL AGE GROUPS.

SOMETHING FOR ALL AGES, ABILITIES INTERESTS

BOWLS CLUB UPDATING A PARK USEABLE FOR ALL AGE GROUPS

To have facilities that we can be proud of - and not have to crawl out of Tenderden to use!

Somewhere that caters for residents + attracts visitors

All year round facilities

An area that caters + appeals to a variety of ages + interests

AN OPEN AREA/SPACE WHICH FLOWS WELL

Cycle track for kids around the A29 end of park.

TO KEEP AN AREA OF GREEN OPEN SPACE.

The Postle Property is Planning AS A FUTURE PART OF OUR BOUNDARY

Everything to be accommodated but in a sensible layout in skatepark not right next door to tennis clubs

Area that is good for all

THAT WE CREATE WORTH WHILE ACTIVITY SPACE THAT ENCOURAGES GOOD RESPECTFUL USE OF THE SPACE

Safe circuit to ride bikes/ or walk around

Space usable for various events

Somewhere for young people - hub for youth club/ cafe & skatepark

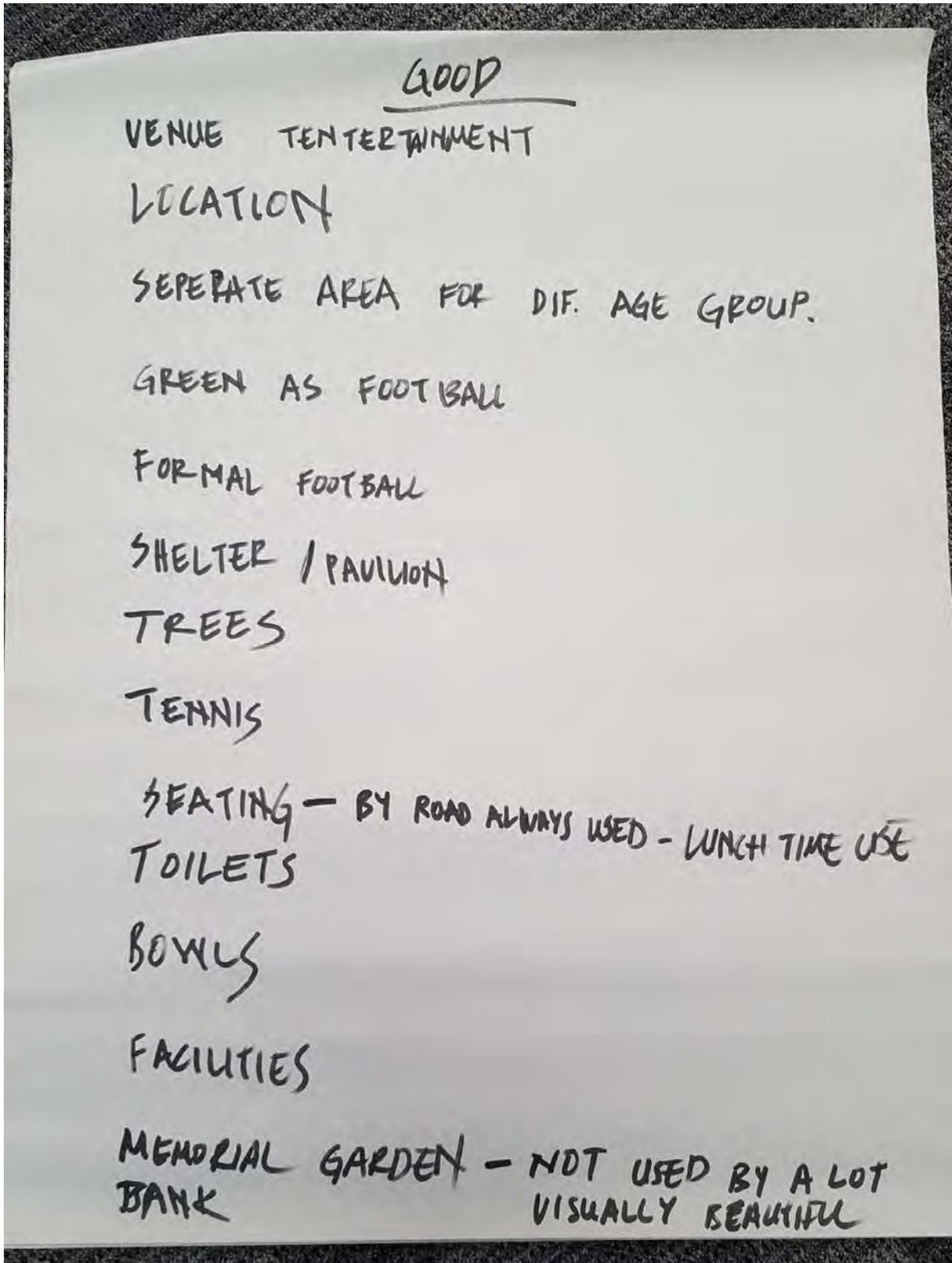
Commission / repainting of the Pavilion

Aspirations and Hopes? (Tran scripted list from post-it notes by focus group members)

- Space useable for various events
- Somewhere for young people –hub for youth club/café & Skate park
- That we create worthwhile activity space that encourages good respectful use of the space
- Recreation that is good for all
- Conversion/restoration of the pavilion
- The youth project is planned as a flagship provision in our borough
- An area that caters and appeals to variety of ages and interests
- An open area/space which flows well
- Cycle track for kids around A28 end of the park
- To keep an area of open space
- Everything to be accommodated but in a sensible layout. Ie. Skate park not right next door to bowls club
- Bowls club updating. A park usable for all age groups
- All year round facilities
- To have facilities that we can be proud of and not have to travel out of Tenterden to use!
- Somewhere that caters for residents and attracts visitors
- All stakeholders to respect and “police” all the facilities. Protect our facilities.
- Something that brings people together
- To build a space for all to feel safe and enjoy.
- Diverse range of activity for many/all age groups.
- Something for all ages, abilities and interests
- Create a centre of sporting excellence tapping into the talent already here.
- Make a difference for the future of TenterdenThe Children
- Access for all ages and abilities
- Keep the youth on the “committees”. Not just us older people.
- Space for more user friendly and not split in half by bowls club and tennis courts.
- Lighting and CCTV for security
- Safe circuit to ride bikes or walk around
- Multi-use club house/changing rooms. Tennis/Netball/Bowls part of complex nearer to leisure centre
- Fenced children area

Activity 2:

What do you like about the current recreation Ground?



Focus Group

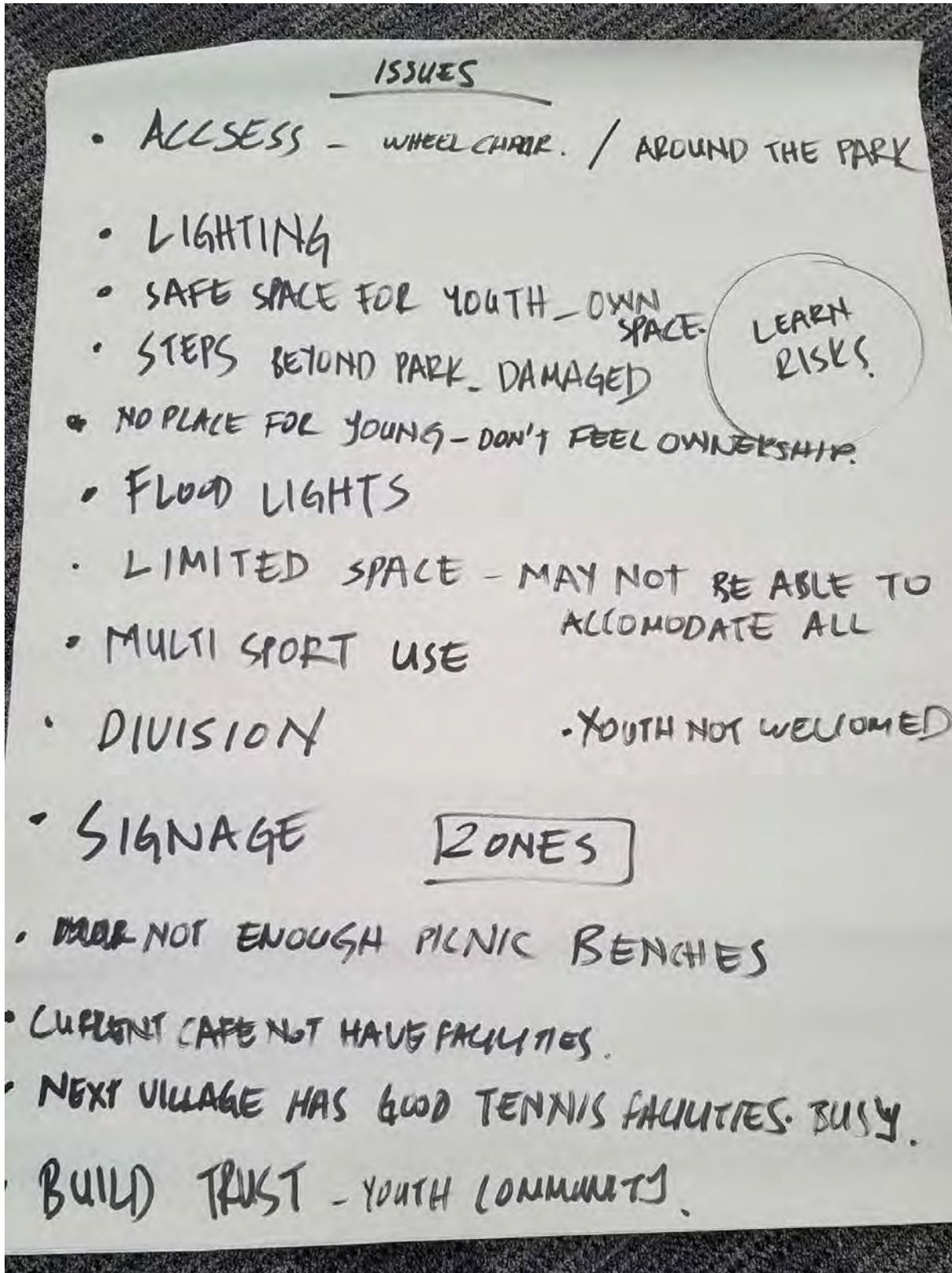
- Venues within the park such as Tentertainment , circus and fair
- Location/Proximity to town and leisure centre
- Children's playground. Separate play area for the different age group children
- Village green character
- Formal football
- Shelter/pavilion
- Trees
- Tennis Courts
- Seats/benches along the road
- Toilets
- Wide range of facilities
- Bowls
- Memorial garden – Not used much but visually attractive
- Mound/slide within the children's play area

Ground Control (additional observations)

- Views in and out from recreation ground
- Footpath character along the entrance of the recreation ground
- Distinct countryside/ramblers character along Sandy Lane

Activity 3:

What are the current issues that should be addressed within the remit of the Recreation Ground improvement works?



Focus Group

- Access. No wheelchair access all around the park, damaged access points such as steps beyond park
- Lighting/Flood lights
- Safe space for youth
- Limited space. May not be able to accommodate all facilities
- No multi-sport use
- Split park. Park divided into two by bowls club and tennis club
- Lack of signage
- Youth not being welcomed
- Not enough picnic benches
- Need to build trust with youth community
- People using the tennis facilities in next village
- Current Youth café not have facilities and require better /bigger facilities

Ground Control (additional observations)

- Footpath connection and way finding/signage
- Inconsistent street furniture

Activity 4:

Achieving the right spatial arrangement? – Split group exercise whereby the focus group were split into 4 groups (tables) and tasked with collectively working together to review, discuss and start to rationalise where the best location might be for some of the desired features and facilities might be best suited given the constraints of the site and enhancement aspirations. Each table fed back to the focus group on their thoughts.

We have included a record of the displayed boards and translation of the main themes, points to come from each of the tables.

Table 1

Proposed to;

- Locate 4xTennis Courts, MUGA (basketball & netball) and Bowls Club nearer the leisure centre with the shared facilities in the middle considering the relevance of the sports facilities to the leisure centre, access and parking.
- Turn the pavilion into youth hub
- Locate the skate park next to the car park away from residents but visible from the road and adjacent to the youth hub due to noise impact and also its relevance to the youth hub.
- Have play park, kiosk, toilets where the current Bowls Club is located and create bigger open green for the larger events
- Recommended a band stand/stage within the open green towards Sandy Lane to be used for all year round for concerts or events
- Connective paths across the park

Tenterden Recreation Ground



Table 2

Proposed to;

- Locate the sports facilities (netball, MUGA) with flood lights and bowls club at the far end of the park next to the leisure centre. A 'sports hub' area.
- Keep 2x tennis courts at the current location and add another 2x courts to the North of the existing courts beyond the trees
- Refurbish existing facilities/pavilion
- Improve the paths from Sandy Lane and better connections
- Fence off the existing children's play area or increase the size and fence off the enlarged play area
- Keep the grass mound with the slide
- Locate skate park between the car park and pavilion
- Zebra crossing connecting the memorial garden with the recreation ground



Table 3

Proposed to;

- Locate the bowls club to the south-east corner of the site near the leisure centre
- Locate the sports court and MUGA to the far end of the park next to the leisure centre but along the Recreation Ground Road nearer the school.
- Café and shared facilities between the bowls green and sports courts
- Convert pavilion to youth centre/café
- Locate the skate park where the current bowls green is situated nearer the pavilion/youth hub
- Extend children's play area
- Create woodland zone/ natural play area where the existing tennis courts are located
- Zebra crossing connecting the memorial garden with the recreation ground
- Remove the sub-station from the entrance of the park

Tenterden Recreation Ground

Control.
Professional Services



Table 4

Proposed to;

- Incorporate a jogging/cycle route around the park
- Locate bowls green, sports facilities /MUGA and Skate Park to the leisure centre end of the park. Skate park to be located nearer the road and bowls green to the south east corner with MUGA in the middle separating these two. However mentioned later on to locate the skate park by the pavilion.
- Expand pavilion and add a café with picnic area at the front
- Zip wire next to the children's play area
- Water feature somewhere in the recreation ground

Tenterden Recreation Ground



Summary & Next Steps

In reviewing the activity responses, particularly around the spatial arrangement activity we have extracted the following themes which all tables were largely in agreement with:

- Desire to locate/relocate the more active sporting facilities (i.e. tennis/ netball) nearer to the existing leisure centre and provide flood lighting for evening usage.
- Desire to relocate the bowls club nearer the leisure centre to open up the recreation grounds potential.
- Desire to locate the skate park nearer the existing car park, pavilion and Recreation Ground Road away from the residential properties.
- Retain the open grass frontage.
- Expand the Children's play area provisions.
- Refurbishment of the existing pavilion and potential of converting it to a youth club/ café / Kiosk?

From here we will continue to:

- Review and reflect on focus group feedback and any subsequent feedback from your respective groups since the meeting.
- Continue to liaise with individual focus group members and TTC in developing strategy proposals.
- Develop landscape strategy proposals whereby we will share and review with the focus group at the next meeting which will be held on:

Date: **15th November 2017**
Time: **7:00pm**
Location: **Assembly Room, Tenterden Town Hall**

Annex A:
Copy of focus group PowerPoint Presentation

Tenterden Recreation Ground

Focus Group Meeting

11th October 2017



**TENTERDEN
TOWN COUNCIL**



Welcome & Introductions

Ground Control
Our Focus Group Members
(Name & Interest within Recreation Ground)

Focus Group Agenda & Aims

- 1. Welcome & introductions***
- 2. Our focus group journey***
- 3. Appraising the current Recreation Ground***
- 4. What are the enhancement recommendations?***
- 5. What have we found out?***
- 6. How does this all go together?***
- 7. Next steps***

Our Focus Group Journey

“ Developed by the People for the People”

***This is our Team
Respective & considerate
Open & honest conversation***

***With Respect to the Focus Group and the Recreation
Ground Enhancement Projects what are your:***

***Fears/ Concerns ?
Aspirations & hopes?***

*What do you like about the current
Recreation Ground?*

**Character
Facilities
Location**



*OPEN GRASS FRONTAGE/
VILLAGE GREEN CHARACTER*



**CHILDREN'S PLAY
GROUND**



BOWLS GREEN



MEMORIAL GARDEN



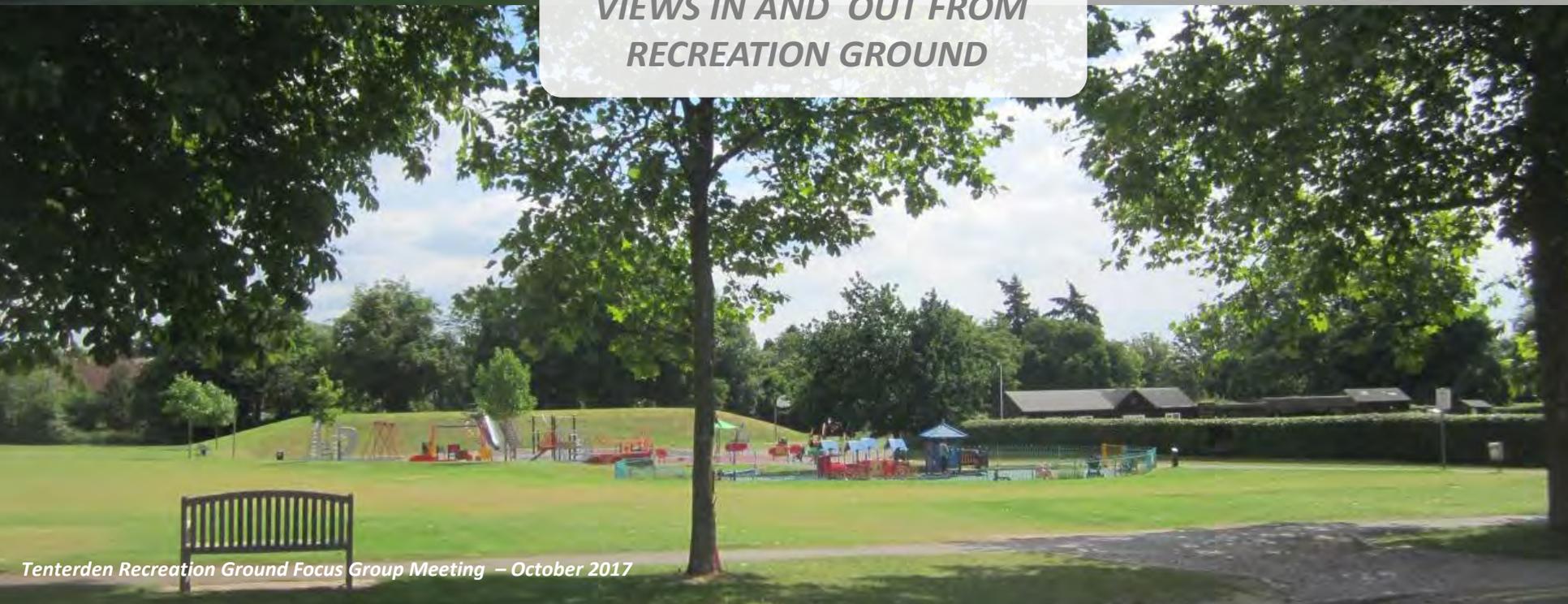
1948



THIS GARDEN
WAS DEVELOPED
AND THE AMENITIES
PROVIDED OUT OF
FUNDS RAISED BY
THE COMBINED
EFFORTS OF THE
WOMENS VOLUNTARY
SERVICE TENTERDEN
CHAMBER OF TRADE &
THE ROTARY CLUB OF
TENTERDEN



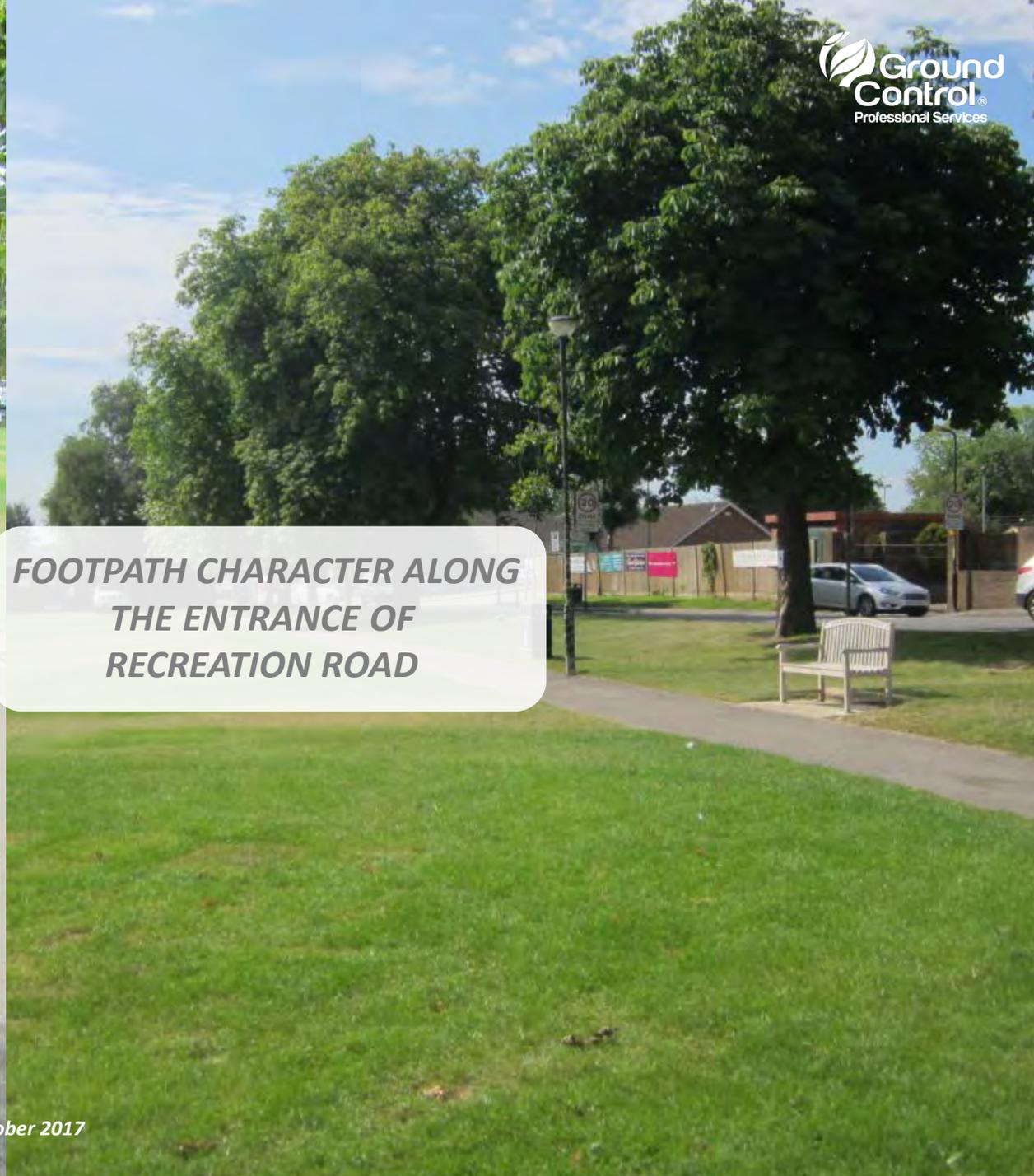
***VIEWS IN AND OUT FROM
RECREATION GROUND***





***VIEWS IN AND OUT FROM
RECREATION GROUND***





***FOOTPATH CHARACTER ALONG
THE ENTRANCE OF
RECREATION ROAD***



***DISTINCT COUNTRYSIDE/
RAMBLERS CHARACTER ALONG
SANDY LANE***



**PROXIMITY TO TOWN, LEISURE
CENTRE, SCHOOL AND
RESIDENTS**





WIDE RANGE OF FACILITIES





What are the current issues that should be addressed within the remit of the Recreation Ground improvement works?

Beyond the facilities



ACCESS





Ground Control
Professional Services



Tenterden Recreation Ground Focus Group Meeting – October 2017



**FOOTPATH CONNECTIONS AND
WAY FINDING/SIGNAGE**





**INCONSISTENT STREET
FURNITURE**





SPLIT PARK



The ‘Tenterden Regeneration Consultation’ Recommendations for the Recreation Ground

- ***More and better of what is currently there***
- ***To protect at least some of the green space***
- ***To see a general improvement to the public realm***
 - ***Better facilities for older children***
 - ***More natural play***
 - ***A new skatepark***
 - ***Facilities for netball***
 - ***The youth hub to be located in the pavilion***
 - ***Improved tennis facilities***
 - ***A better toilet block***
- ***To move the football pitch to a more suitable location***
 - ***A kiosk for drinks and snacks***

*What have we found out to date from speaking
and meeting with various stakeholders and
users of the recreation Ground?*

***Background knowledge
Forming relationships
Share with the Focus Group***

Bowls

- 1. Open to potential relocation within the Recreation Ground
- 2. Retain 6 ring green facilities
- 3. Improved 'club house' facilities
- 4. Improved accessibility to facility (year round)
- 5. Improved parking arrangements
- 6. Retain security (for bowling green) whilst open to improved visibility



Tennis

- 1. Looking to form a 'Formal' Tenterden Tennis Club*
- 2. Minimum provision of 4 courts including shared MUGA court*
- 3. Floodlit courts with supporting facilities (i.e. shelter, changing).*
- 4. Ideally like to be relocated nearer the leisure centre & school (improved visibility)*
- 5. Open to shared MUGA facilities with Netball*
- 6. Courts to be orientated in East-West direction (opposite to current)*



Netball

- 1. Training at Homewood School*
- 2. Ideally like 1 court with priority booking for Netball + further MUGA court booking opportunities.*
- 3. Floodlit courts*
- 4. Open to shared facilities with tennis*
- 5. High quality and non-slip surface*
- 6. Location between leisure centre, school and play ground (improved visibility).*
- 7. Storage facilities for netball goals*



Ground Control
Professional Services



Skatepark

1. *Support skateboard, scooter and BMX users*
2. *Preference for a concrete surface*
3. *Include for different skating styles (street/ transition).*
4. *Include lighting provisions*
5. *Open to visible location and public surveillance.*
6. *Unfenced area.*
7. *Ideally not situated directly adjacent to Children's play area.*
8. *Seating/shelter surrounding the skatepark.*



Youth Café & Youth Provisions

1. Youth Café / youth workers to utilise the existing pavilion
2. Potential for linked skatepark/youth centre like 'sk8side' in Ashford
3. Historic consultation identified youth provision improvements:
 1. Zip lines/climbing wall
 2. Open & accessible MUGA with basketball and football end goals.
4. Natural Play considerations
5. Existing children's play facilities



Achieving the right spatial arrangement

The Tables

The Task

Be creative

Legacy Opportunity

Mindful of the site constraints

Retain and enhance the positive aspects of the recreation ground

Rationalise your decisions

Consider the location and proximity of facilities next to each other.....access points, activity character zoning, pathway connections, the pavilion, views, planting and so on

The Feedback

(Table representative(s) to outline thought process behind the arrangements)

Next Steps

We will collate, review and reflect on focus group feedback

We will continue to develop landscape strategy proposals

***We will continue to liaise with individual focus group members and TTC
in developing strategy proposals.***

***We would like for you to discuss the ideas from this meeting with your respective
groups & community and provide any feedback.***

***Next focus Group Meeting:
w/c -13th November 2017***

We will collectively review the Recreation Ground Strategy Proposals

Thank you

