

Tenterden Recreation Ground Project



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TOWN COUNCIL

Project Background

Tenterden Town Council has been **working in partnership** with various stakeholders and consultants to redevelop the existing Tenterden Recreation Ground. This builds upon the previous comprehensive Tenterden Regeneration Public Consultation that highlighted the recreation ground and its facilities as a **priority project** within the town.

This consultation emphasised the community support for a Youth Hub, provision for older children's play, MUGA, skate park, improved tennis facilities, netball provision and a kiosk as part of the redevelopment.

The remodelling of the Recreation Ground, exhibited here is a result of this and has been driven by a selected **focus group**, guided by the appointed Landscape Architect, Ground Control.

“ *Creating a Recreation Ground,
Designed by the People for
the People* ”

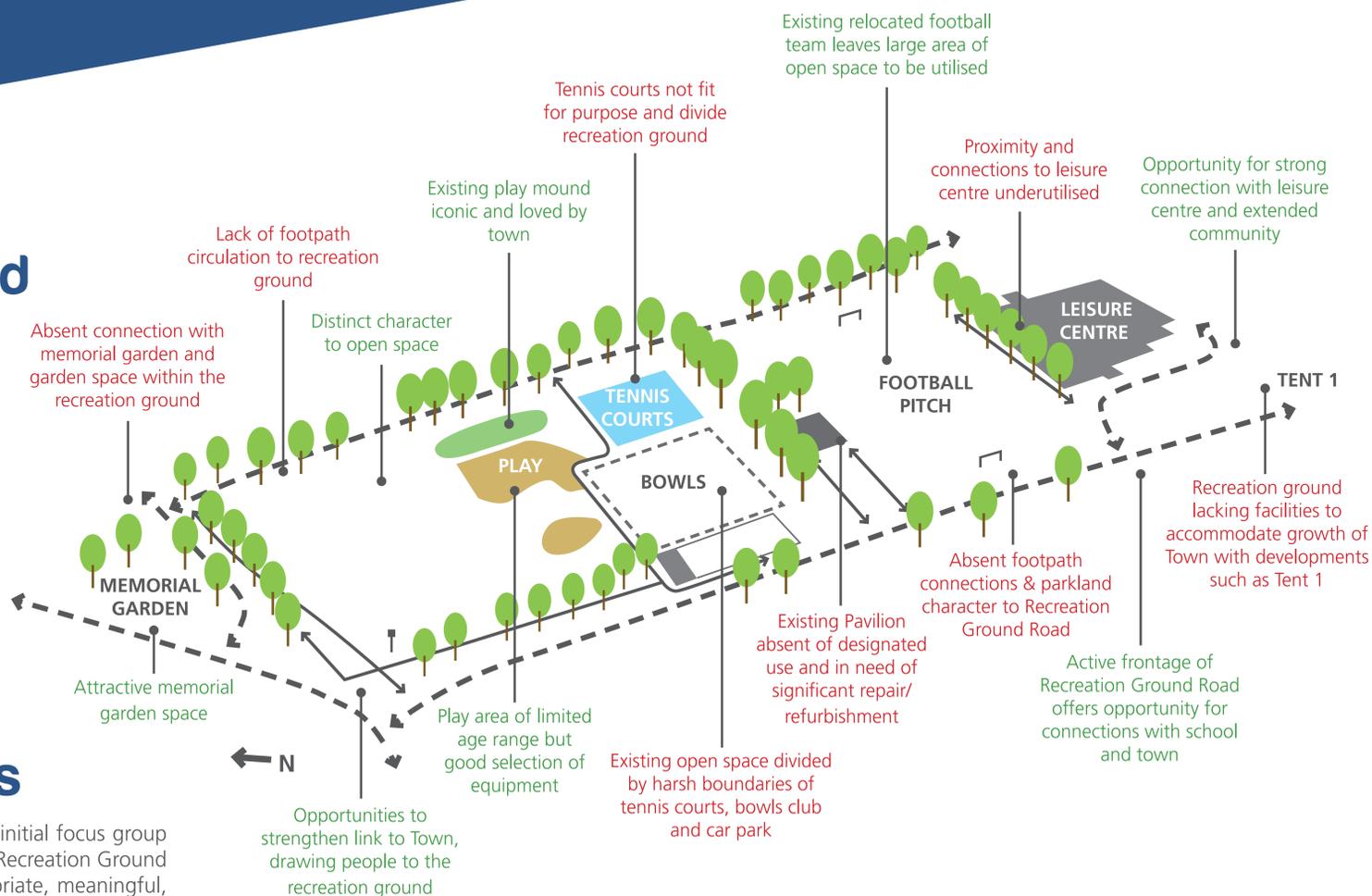
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The Design Journey

The Existing Recreation Ground

The recreation ground, positioned at the heart of the town, is a valued existing asset that serves a wide community. From analysing and speaking to those that use the space, within the focus group workshops, the recreation ground has numerous strengths but also many areas of opportunity as the diagram highlights.

The recreation ground's remodelling aims to identify, build upon, and address these to create a recreation ground designed by the people for the people.



Design Objectives

Driven as a result of the site analysis and initial focus group workshops, the remodelling of Tenterden Recreation Ground seeks to develop a scheme that is appropriate, meaningful, and a precedent for the town's green spaces, one that the community can be proud of. The journey to deliver this has been guided by the following objectives.

Create a recreation ground that responds to **all ages, abilities and interests**

Improve the access into and around the recreation ground with the introduction of a **new footpath network**

Enhance and **strengthen the character** of the existing open space

Retain, and make a feature of, the **existing mature trees**

Enhance, introduce and connect **integrated sporting and activity hubs**

Provide an exemplar **youth facility** for the town within the recreation ground

Ensure **stakeholder satisfaction, ownership and future proofing** of the recreation ground

The Focus Group

Fundamental to the design development and evolution of the recreation ground scheme has been the Tenterden Recreation Ground focus group.

The focus group is made up of a range of ages and stakeholders representative of the Tenterden community and users of the recreation ground. This includes local residents, youth groups, skaters, and sports coaches as well as representatives from amenities fronting the recreation ground including the school and leisure centre.

The development of the scheme has been led through a series of active workshops. These focused on identifying the strengths, opportunities, constraints and weaknesses of the current recreation ground, defining the projects objectives and strategy, before going on to develop the finer details of the scheme such as the play area character and skate park design.

Design workshops, discussions, and analysis have been completed across six focus group sessions with additional secondary focus groups for specific elements such as the Youth Hub building and skate park. The output and design decisions of these workshops has been shown under the various character areas within this exhibition.

Ground Control and the Town Council would like to thank the recreation ground focus group for their time and input into the project, and the development of what promises to be an valuable project for the town.



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The Recreation Ground

Vision

The proposal for the recreation ground will build upon and strengthen the sites existing character, and will be identifiable into three zones.

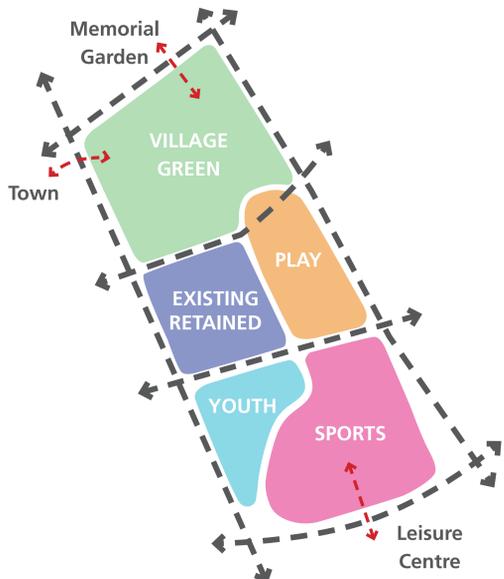
Fronting the High Street the existing village green character of the site has been largely maintained with an enlarged open grass area suitable for informal kickabouts, play, and events. The addition of new footpaths create a perimeter walk to the green with new benches offering seating amongst colourful ornamental planting and bulbs, tying in with the character of the nearby memorial garden. The street scene character has also been enhanced and extended with new ornamental planting along Oaks Road and the continuation of the verge and tree line to create a consistent parkland character along Recreation Ground Road.

The village green is bordered by a new destination play space with areas for all ages including feature play mound and a range of natural play equipment, plus a 30m zip wire! This area forms the centre of the recreation ground with a seating area and kiosk set against the backdrop of the existing mature trees and colourful planted borders bounding the bowls club.

As you pass beneath the row of mature trees you enter into the active sporting zone. A new open Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) provides a space for a mix of sports with separate more formalised tennis and netball courts incorporated along the boundary with the leisure centre. A new user designed skate park is positioned at the frontage to Recreation Ground Road with newly landscaped mounds and tree planting nestling it into the landscape. The skate park links closely to the new youth hub, complete with a dedicated youth worker, to create a destination for youth activities within the town.

Key

- 1 Garden by the Green
- 2 The Village Green
- 3 Existing Toilets
- 4 Car Park
- 5 Bowls Club
- 6 Toddler & Younger Play Area
- 7 Kiosk & Seating Area
- 8 Mixed Play Area
- 9 Natural Play
- 10 Zip Wire
- 11 Youth Hub
- 12 Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)
- 13 Tennis & Netball Courts
- 14 Skate Park
- 15 Zebra Crossing



80 NEW TREES BEING PLANTED

DESTINATION SKATE PARK & YOUTH HUB

1.45 KM OF NEW FOOTPATH ROUTES

ADDITIONAL SEATING & NEW KIOSK

1800 M² OF NEW PLANTING

CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA WITH OVER 34 FEATURES

7,900 M² FLEXIBLE OPEN VILLAGE GREEN SPACE

FACILITIES FOR 5 SPORTING ACTIVITIES



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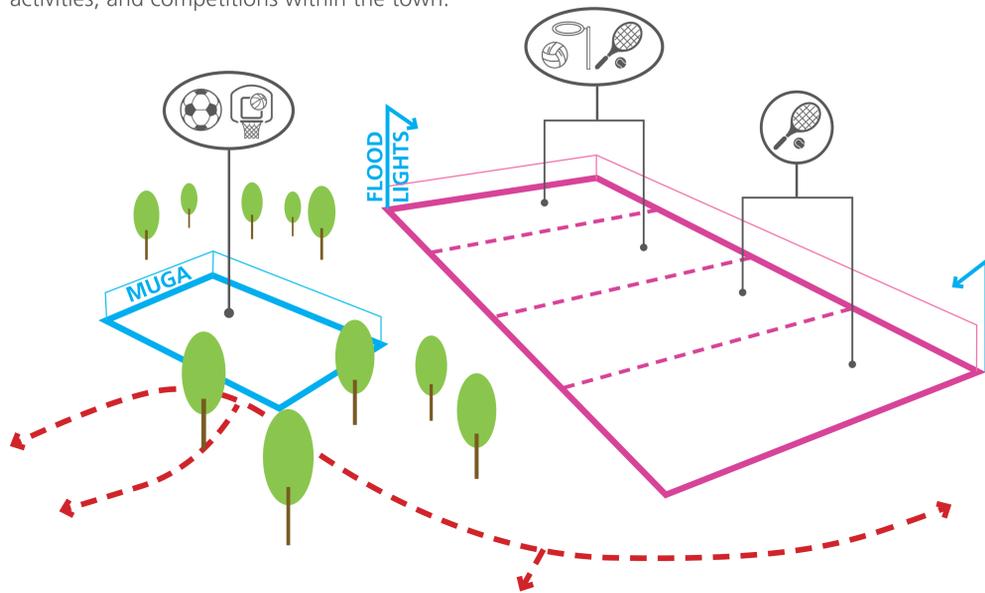
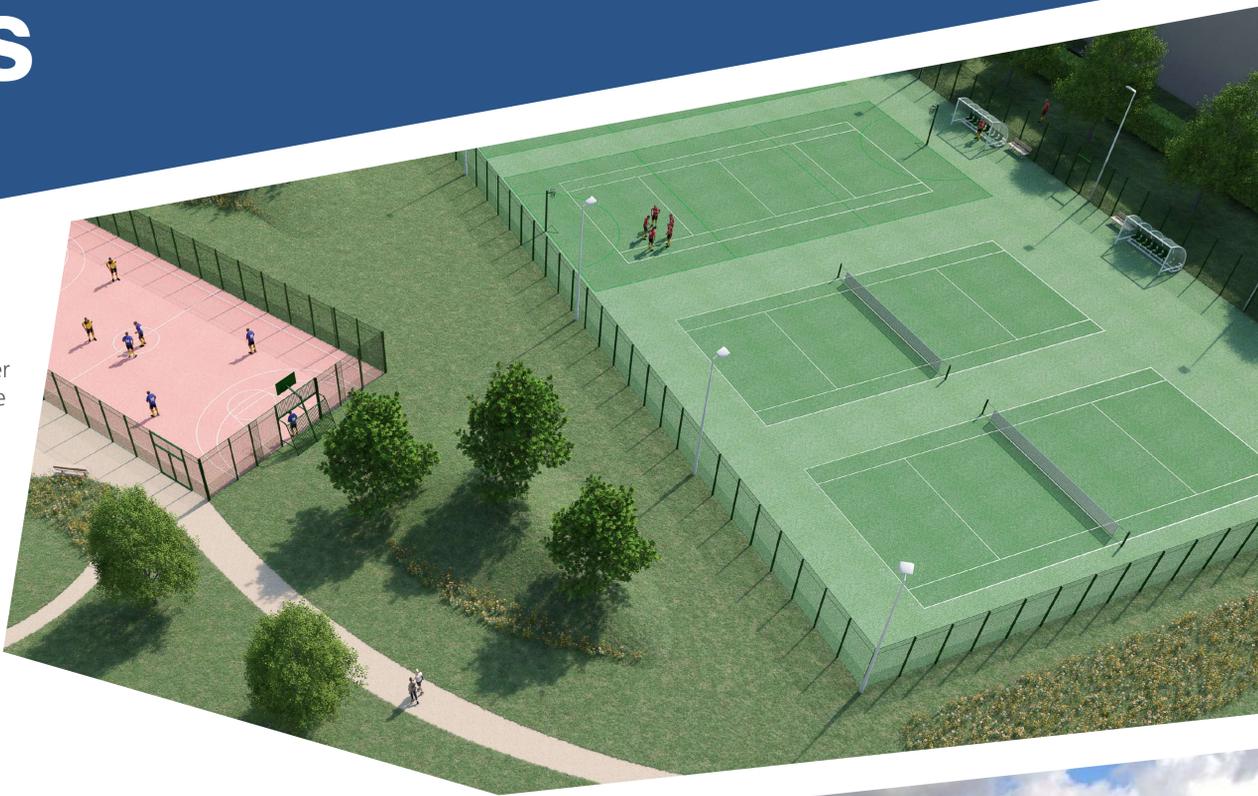


Sports Facilities

The remodelling of the recreation ground will see the addition of a number of key sporting destinations, enhancing the link with the Leisure Centre to form an active sporting hub within the town.

To enhance connections between the new tennis and netball courts and Leisure Centre, as well as addressing current concerns of safety, the existing mound will be cleared, opening up the space but softened with new planting to the boundary of the recreation ground.

The courts will be fully lit, only when in use, and will be bookable via an online system. The court layout and features have been led by the town's netball and tennis coaches alongside the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). With player viewing shelters and agreement in principle with the leisure centre for use of its changing facilities this sets the basis for the development of new clubs, coaching activities, and competitions within the town.



For those fancying a more flexible sporting activity a fully open and accessible Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) is proposed. With built-in goals and hoops the court allows for football and basketball, expanding the recreation ground's sporting offering. Beyond these facilities of course the wider park can't be forgotten with new footpaths offering jogging and walking routes to get your 10,000 steps a day in, as well as large open grass areas for games and a casual kick-about with friends.



The Village Green



The village green is at the heart of the recreation ground's character. The proposals will see the space maintained and enhanced providing a larger open space for the community, whether it be for informal socialising and sports, or larger entertainment events such as concerts, fayres, and outdoor cinemas. The accessibility of the green will also be improved through new circular footpath routes connecting to the wider recreation ground as well as new drainage, ensuring a useable space year round.

The north-eastern corner of the village green will see the creation of a new garden and seating area. This space will strengthen links to the existing memorial garden, extending this character across and along the

Oaks Road boundary of the recreation ground. The garden will draw on the region's rich garden heritage, with the likes of Sissinghurst and Great Dixter for inspiration, featuring seasonal and sensory planting; offering the perfect place to sit back and watch the daily coming and goings of the recreation ground or take in the evening sunset across the green.

This will strengthen the unique local character of the space and provide a pleasant transition from the hustle and bustle of the town to the more active play and sporting areas of the recreation ground.



Children's Play Area

Nestled against the backdrop of existing mature trees, and fronting the village green, the children's play area will be an active centre; catering for a wider age range than the existing destination and providing a visual reference on arrival into the recreation ground.

The toddler and younger children's play area will be colourfully surfaced with more traditional play equipment including jumping balls, Toddler Play Tower, and the Tenterden Train linking to the town's heritage.

Recognising the local love and appreciation of the existing mound the new play area is orientated around a central play mound with new slides, boulders, and scramble routes to reach the summit. Surrounding this is a mix of structured and natural play that transitions from a more formal to informal setting as you move towards the existing tree line.

The main play area fulfils all aspects of adventure with swings, trampolines, log tangle, and climbing tower, as well as catering for those quieter moments amongst the existing trees and play mounds. For those seeking a more muddy and challenging adventure the new natural play features beneath the trees offer a chance to test your balance on log traverses, climbing and hiding opportunities and not forgetting the new zip wire to satisfy your need for speed!



Natural Play Area & Play Mound



Younger Play and Kiosk



Mixed Play Area



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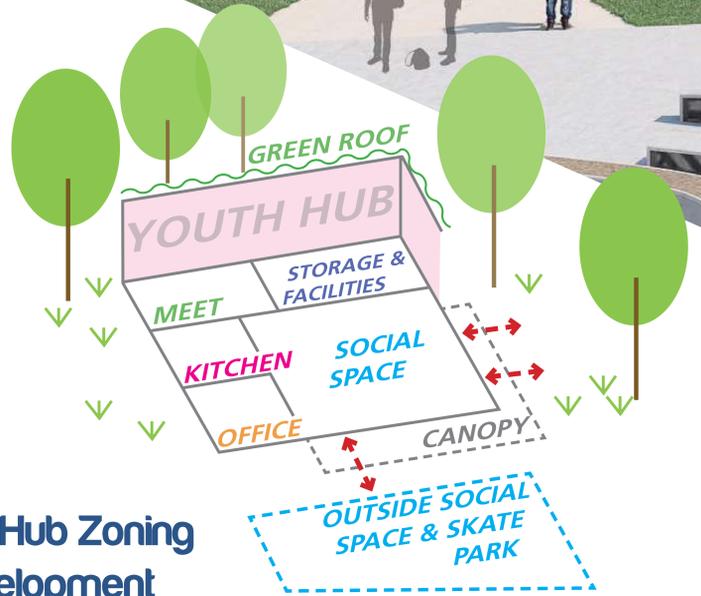
Tenterden Youth Hub

The new Youth Hub will become the town's dedicated youth centre. The Youth Hub is a new build, strategically positioned adjacent to the proposed skate park, fronting Recreation Ground Road in the same setting as the previous sports pavilion. This ensures the building has good visual interaction with the public realm whilst maintaining a level of separation to promote the feeling of ownership by its users.

Following feasibility studies of both the refurbishment of the existing pavilion and a complete rebuild, it was concluded that a new build facility of a refined footprint offered the best financial and design benefits. The building has been designed by the Tenterden youth group and workers, in conjunction with architects, Kent Design Studio, through a series of workshops to understand the group's requirements for the space.

The Youth Hub provides a central, flexible social space, complete with table top football and tennis tables that can be easily stored away to use the main hall for events. The main hall adjoins a new kitchen for cooking lessons and having a catchup with friends, a dedicated office space for the youth workers, toilets, and quiet room for consultation and those calmer moments.

The activity continues outside with a large plaza area with outdoor games and seating providing an external social space in close proximity to other features including the skate park and Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).



Youth Hub Zoning & Development

The design of the Youth Hub building set out to provide a space that is safe, secure and most importantly a building that the youth community can be proud of. The interior and exterior design and layout of the space has been achieved through a subsidiary youth focus group working with the architects, Ashford youth workers and Sk8side as well as addressing comments received from Kent County Council's Crime Officer.

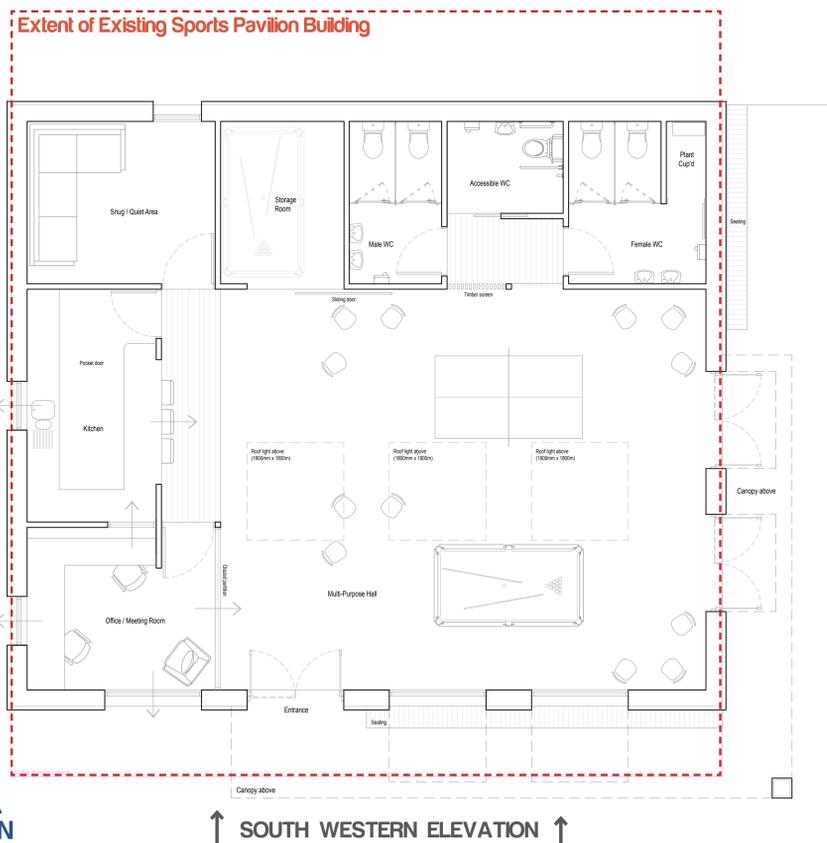
The building will have a strong aesthetic, with linear, clean, crisp black timber cladding giving a feeling of maturity and refinement to the structure against the existing tree backdrop, as well as tying into the town and county's vernacular. The clean black facade is complemented with bold 'pops' of colour to the glazed areas and a green roof, creating an identity and character to the Youth Hub with a large entrance and canopy giving visibility over the skate park and further enhancing the arrival experience. Similar themes continue inside with a modern interior, bright and functional spaces, providing a centre for the Tenterden's youth community to flourish and take ownership of.



1. South Western Elevation - Main Entrance



2. South Eastern Elevation - Frontage to Tennis/ Netball Courts



Youth Hub Proposed Floor Plan

0 1 2m



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Skate, BMX & Scooter Park



SKATE



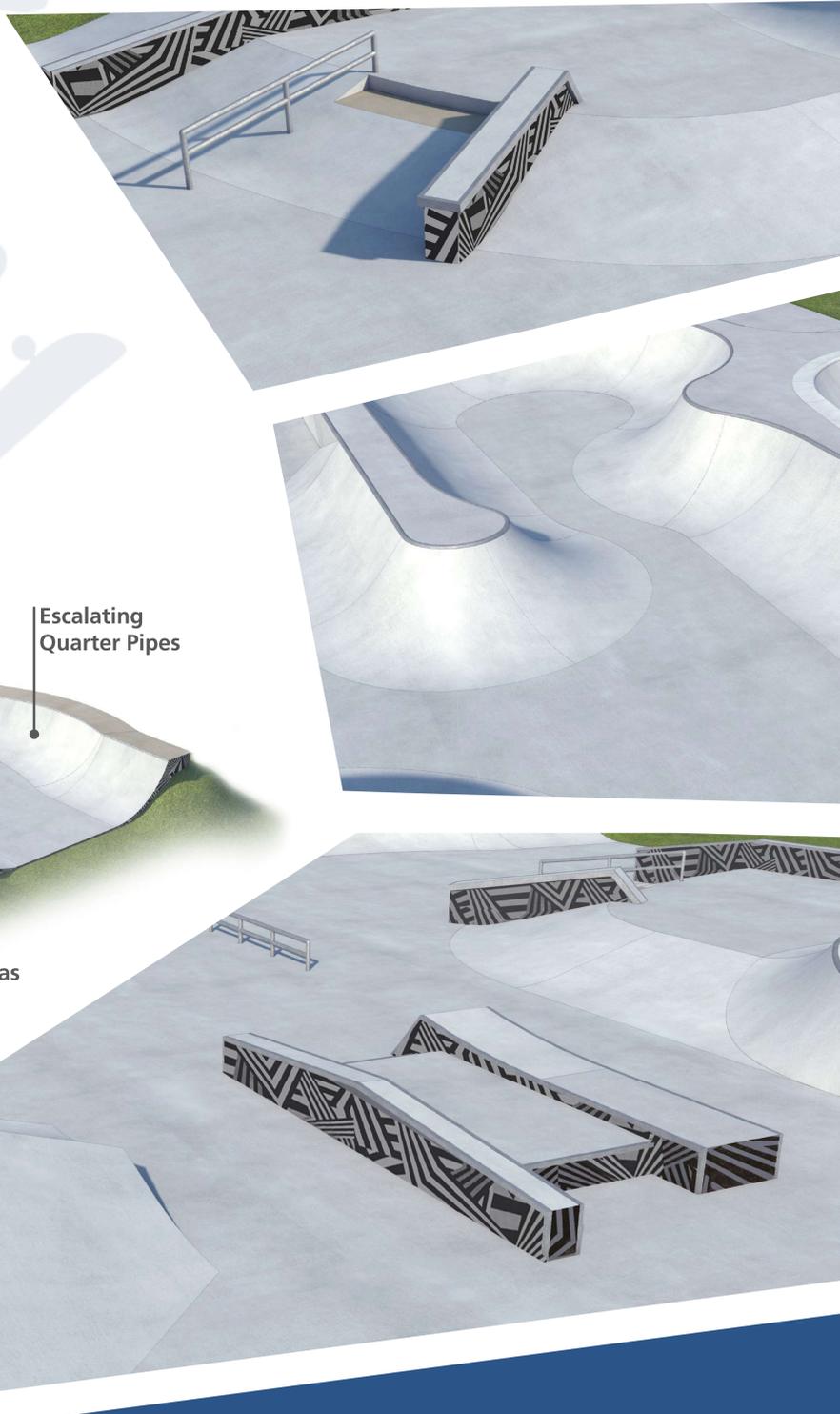
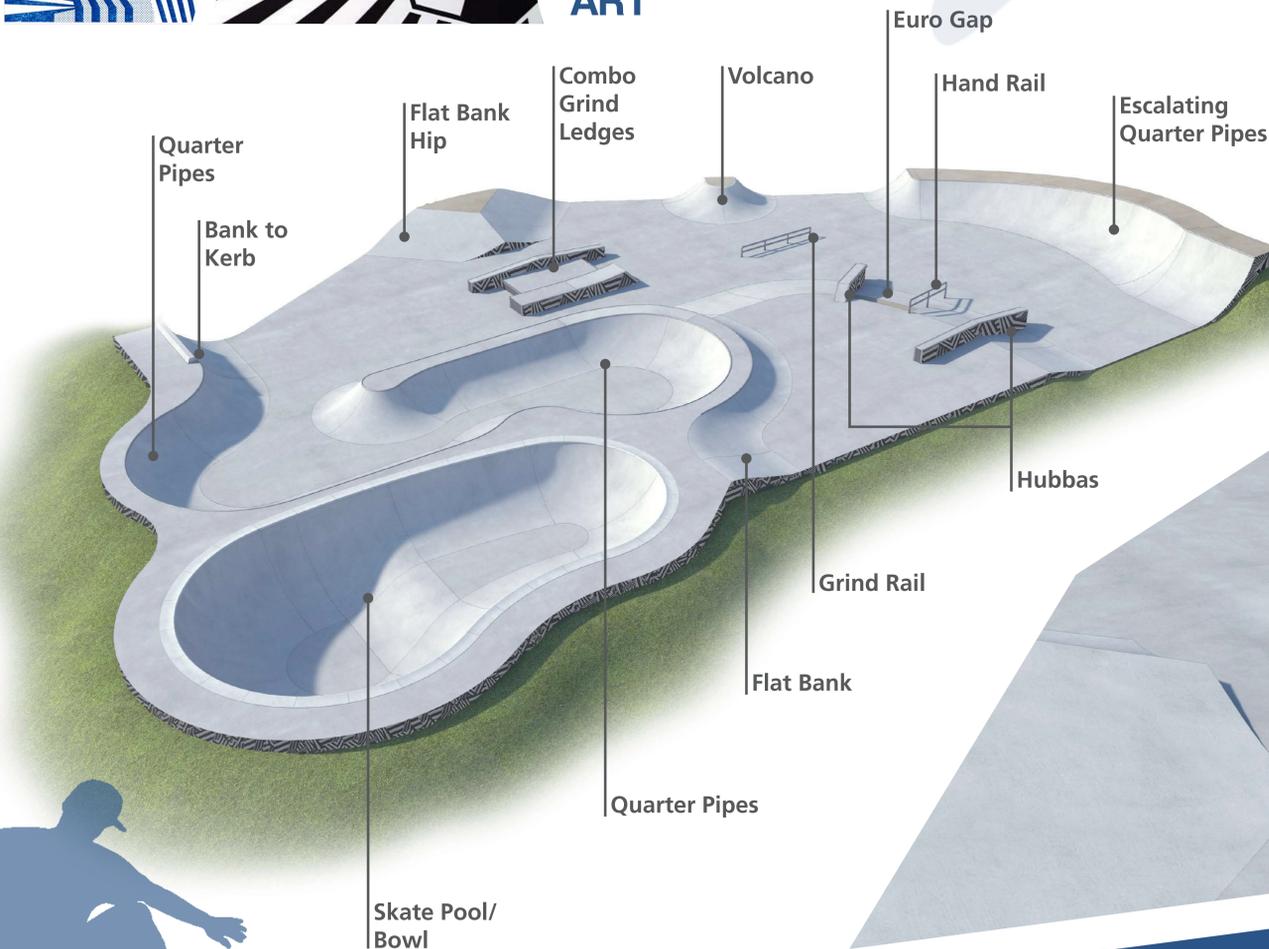
SCOOTER



BMX

Pivotal to the recreation ground's remodelling is the addition of a new skate park. Nested within the focus group a secondary skate group have worked closely with specialist skate park designers to refine and develop the design.

Strategically situated making the most of links to the adjacent Youth Hub, an extended active zone outside of the building through to the skate park has been created. These connections are also subtly echoed through the artwork of the skate parks jumps and walls drawing on the crisp lines of the building and design of the boarding brand Volcom. The park is sympathetically bedded into the landscape of the park through rolling mounds, bulb planting, and seating areas, creating a central youth focus to the town that is tailored to, and designed by, the youth and boarders of Tenterden.



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Delivering The Vision

How will the recreation ground project be taken forward from here ?

If the recreation ground project is selected through the public vote, the next stage will be to submit the scheme for planning approval. With pre-application advice already sought from Ashford Borough Council and incorporated into the schemes design, there would be a further element of design development ahead of submission.

The recreation ground will be delivered in several phases in order to ensure part of the recreation ground and its facilities remain open during the works. These will be split as indicated on the adjacent diagram.

Once submitted into planning, determination can take up to 13 weeks during which the scheme will be developed and detailed in readiness for tender and construction. This will facilitate the selection and appointment of the most appropriate landscape contractor to deliver the recreation ground project, with specialist installers also brought on board for specific items. With the contractor, detailed design, and programme for the project all agreed we are ready to hit the ground!

The first phase of construction works will focus on the south of the recreation ground with the installation of the new tennis and netball courts, Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), footpaths, drainage, and tree planting. This phase will also see the demolition of the existing pavilion and construction of the new Youth Hub and specialist installation of the skate park.

The second phase of the recreation ground will focus on enhancing the village green space and new play area. The existing tennis courts and play area will be removed and the new play area, kiosk, and footpaths will be installed. This phase will also see the regrading and drainage enhancement of the open village green area, as well as the construction of the 'Garden by the Green' space.

The phasing of the works will be designed to be as seamless as possible with the end of the second phase marking the completion of the recreation ground remodelling. At this stage all that is left is the Grand Opening to celebrate the space and officially open the recreation ground to the community to enjoy.



VOTING



PLANNING

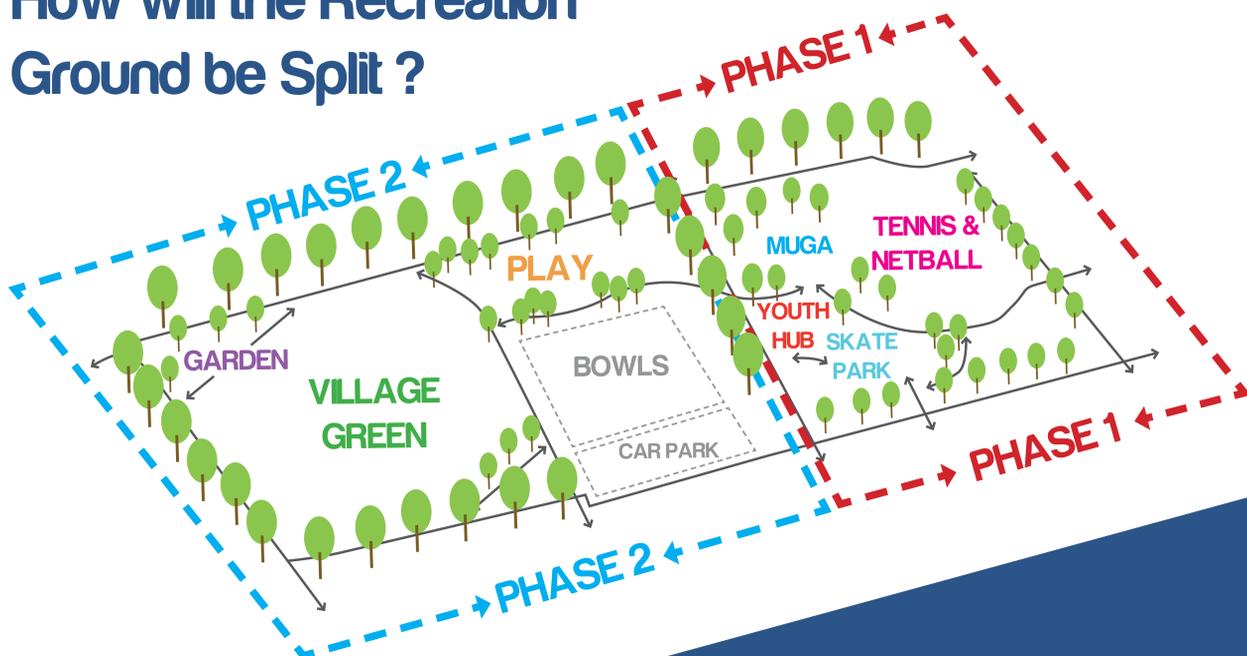


TENDER



CONSTRUCTION
(PHASED)

How will the Recreation Ground be Split ?



Your New Recreation Ground



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