

Debenham Parish Council

Play strategy

1 Background

- 1.1 At its meeting in November 2020, the Council resolved to create a strategy for play provision within the village.
- 1.2 The Council established a number of principles for the proposed strategy to help guide its development. The principles included:
 - a) future facility provision of additional facilities should be done in partnership with other organisations;
 - b) thorough engagement and consultation with the community is essential;
 - c) the notion that the village provision currently lags behind other local villages and hamlets, should be tested;
 - d) any new provision must be safe, easily accessible for the various ages and abilities, and where possible, with low cost future maintenance;
 - e) the strategy will not address indoor provision, nor play schemes, but will include existing, or possible future provision, provided by a third party if known; and
 - f) any new play facilities that can be provided in conjunction with other infrastructure projects should be encouraged and developed as a priority.

2 Context

2.1 Why a Play Strategy?

2.2 A Play Strategy is the best way of ensuring that children and young people in the village have access to good play opportunities. A Strategy provides a framework and direction for decisions on play provision. It enables the Council and its partners to establish sound policies which create exciting, high quality and accessible play for children and young people. A Play Strategy identifies priorities for play. It also helps to comply with legislation, improve and create links with partners and the community, and access external funding.

2.3 What Are Play Strategies?

2.4 A Play Strategy seeks to improve the play experiences of all children and young people, including those with disabilities or from disadvantaged backgrounds. It aims to ensure all children and young people can access play opportunities in a range of settings which offer variety, adventure and challenge.

2.5 What Do We Understand by Play?

2.6 For the purposes of this Play Strategy the definition of play used is

'A physical or mental leisure activity that is undertaken purely for enjoyment or amusement but, may also assist with learning and self-development'.

2.7 Researchers suggest that play is a central ingredient in learning, allowing children to imitate adult behaviours, practice motor skills, process emotional events, and learn much about their world. One thing play is not, is frivolous.

2.8 What Are the 4 Types of Play?

Play can be broken down into four main types of Play. They are functional play, constructive play, games with rules, and dramatic and sociodramatic play.

2.9 What Are the 5 Stages of Play?

(This list explains how children's play changes by age as they grow and develop social skills):

unoccupied play (Birth-3 Months); solitary play (Birth-2 Years):

spectator/onlooker behaviour (2 Years): parallel play (2+ Years):

associate play (3-4 Years): and cooperative play (4+ years)

3.0 Legislation and Play Organisations

3.1 Very little legislation has been forthcoming since the early part of the 21st century when 'Every Child Matters' was published and the subsequent concentration on Safeguarding issues. One organisation that has raised its profile is Play England, which is now seen as the official guidance on play matters. Play England aims for all children and young people in England to have regular access and opportunity for free, inclusive, local play provision and play space. ... Play England is part of the National Children's Bureau, and is supported by the Big Lottery Fund. Their mantra is based on the following:

3.2 The Policy Context

3.3 The case for play is well documented. Play is fundamental to childhood experience and promotes health and well-being as well as intellectual, social and physical development. However, there is growing evidence that children's play is being restricted and eroded. Opportunities are being lost.

3.4 There is both an international and national policy context for play. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 31.1 commits the Government to recognising the child's right to play. Good quality play also fulfils the five outcomes of the government's Every Child Matters programme,

namely: be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, and achieve economic well-being.

3.5 Barriers to Play

3.6 Despite the increased recognition of the importance of play, there is growing evidence that children's opportunities to play are being restricted and eroded. Children are increasingly confined indoors. They are battery-reared rather than free-range. Their world has shrunk.

3.7 Today, 25% of 8-10 year olds have never played out alone and children are losing connection with the natural environment. Barriers to play include:

- increased and faster traffic and the dangers this poses;
- car parking in residential streets, leaving no room for play;
- perception that children and young people who play out by themselves are threatening and that their behaviour is anti-social;
- fear of litigation by play providers resulting on a focus on minimising risk of injury at the expense of other more fundamental objectives;
- sterile play spaces;
- fear of child abduction and paedophilia;
- the growth in popularity of electronic media- the average child in Britain watches more television than children in any other European country, between three and five hours a day, increasing to 7.5 hours in adolescence;
- more structured activities after school;
- loss of public open space and natural outdoor open spaces;
- new housing built at high density as flats or as houses with very small gardens; and
- poor access so that children with additional needs cannot participate.

3.8 These barriers have serious implications for both children's mental and physical well-being. The loss of opportunity for spontaneous outdoor play is now one of the main causes of childhood obesity, with a 50% increase in obesity in children during the last 10 years. There is also evidence that not allowing children to take risks leads to anti-social behaviour in adolescence.

3.9 Risk

3.10 In recent years, fear of litigation regarding accidents at play facilities has often resulted in an approach which focuses on minimising risk at the expense of providing stimulating and challenging play environments. However, contrary to popular belief, there has in fact been no epidemic of compensation claims. The organisation 'PLAYLINK' commissioned a legal opinion on negligence, play and risk which stated:

“The proper approach to British or European standards is not to regard them as laying down a compulsory standard to be followed slavishly in all cases but as a guideline demonstrating the general consensus as to what would constitute sensible precautions in any given case. If a rational process of risk assessment, together with a balance of cost, risk and benefit can justify departure, then there would be no failure to exercise reasonable care.”

3.11 It is recognised that children and young people need an element of reasonable risk in play. Promoting risky play supports a successful childhood. The real risk lies in not allowing children to take risk. The following points summarise the key issues regarding risky play:

- children need and want to take risk;
- safe does not mean accident-free;
- assessment of risk in play should include consideration of benefits as well as risks and costs;
- children have an appetite for risk and adventure but may have to be re-introduced to it;
- children playing away from adult gaze is sometimes considered enjoyable.

3.12 A Play Strategy for Debenham should allow for reasonable risk and support the Statement of the Play Safety Forum: Managing risk in Play Provision (2002). This states:

“Children need and want to take risks when they play. Play provision aims to respond to these needs and wishes by offering children stimulating, challenging environments for exploring and developing their abilities. In doing this, play provision aims to manage the level of risk so that children are not exposed to unacceptable risks of death or serious injury”.

3.13 Children have an innate urge to play from birth right through to teenage years. Freely chosen play (play which is directed by children) is critically important for all children as part of their everyday lives, and access to quality, unstructured play is known to help improve children’s overall health, well-being and development.

3.15 Changing World of Play

3.16 Children growing up today are experiencing decreasing opportunities to play independently outdoors and yet there’s something about open outdoor spaces, where there are fewer rules and restrictions that is hugely exciting for them. The sense of freedom gained from playing outside and running about without limits, generally brings a happiness that is hard to rival. Outdoor play is one of the most natural ways that children of any age can engage in physical activity. Children who spend time playing outdoors enjoy running around, as well as climbing, balancing, dancing, digging and jumping – being physically active through play is good for children’s health and well-being.

3.17 Many of us will have fond memories of playing outdoors as we were growing up. It was generally then accepted that once children were old enough and confident enough to play outdoors that they then could roam freely within neighbourhoods and communities either alone or with friends.

3.18 Children's opportunities to play freely outdoors are reducing and sadly we see fewer children playing outdoors in our streets or in our parks. There are a variety of reasons for this including concerns about traffic, perceived dangers around children taking risks, less green space, worries about bullying and strangers, pressure on children's time and negative attitudes towards children and young people. Children with particular needs or a disability can face further barriers such as physical or attitudinal issues. As a result, children are missing out on valuable opportunities to play freely outdoors and from the many benefits for their health and well-being derived from doing so.

3.19 Making Time For play

3.20 Play England suggests the following, which may be considered appropriate for Debenham's Play Strategy. The following narrative is aimed more at parents, encouraging them to provide the best environment for play.

3.21 During childhood children undergo rapid and wide ranging physical and psychological developments and it is these that lay the foundations for their future health and well-being. In terms of physical activity Public Health guidelines specify that physical activity should be encouraged from birth; children of pre-school age who are capable of walking unaided should be physically active for at least 3 hours in a day and that children aged 5 to 18 should be engaged in moderate to vigorous activity for at least 60 minutes and up to several hours every day. There is no better or more natural a way to meet these guidelines than to play outdoors. There are a number of factors that can influence the amount of quality time children benefit from play. (The following is not an exhaustive list).

3.22 Leading by example - from an early age encouraging children to be outdoors. (Fresh air and physical exercise is good for adults too). Prioritise time for outdoor play - allow children the space and freedom to play outdoors. Encourage some of the old traditional games such as skipping, hopscotch, kerbsie and tag. Getting to know your neighbourhood by walking and cycling in the local area. Allowing children the opportunity to get to know their area for playing. Agreeing boundaries and no-go areas. Encouraging others within the community to allow children outdoors to play. The more children there are outdoors playing the safer and friendlier the neighbourhood will be. Teaching children how to stay safe outdoors from an early age. Showing them road safety skills and how to deal with particular situations. Taking time-out and staying nearby if there is concern about children's safety. Sitting discreetly allowing for the independence and fun that previous generations enjoyed. Trying to keep worries in perspective and remembering children learn by doing. The more children play outdoors the more confident they will become, gaining skills for staying safe. Time outside in the natural environment costs nothing. Encourage children to play outdoors, use their imagination and have

fun. Turn off screens to encourage children to explore outdoors. Time spent at sedentary activity (including screens) should be minimised.

3.23 Playing Outdoors

3.24 The benefits of outdoor play far outweigh the risks – scrapes, bruises, bumps and falls are all part of growing up. Equipping children to keeping safe outdoors is essential but affording children the time, space and opportunity to access outdoor play is essential.

3.25 The latest guidance from Play England, published their document 'Design for Play' concluded that the best practice should strive for accessible through-age provisions, meaning children of all ages could enjoy the same quality of play. The Disability Discrimination Act of 1995 and the Equality Act for 2010 also require inclusivity in the design and provision of play equipment meaning that where possible, play areas should cater for all ages and all abilities.

3.26 Benefits of Outdoor Play

3.27 At a time when there is increasing concern around the mental and physical health of children and young people, the benefits of outdoor play and how it positively impacts on children's fitness and well-being needs to be highlighted. When outdoors, children's play and leisure activity can offer many opportunities including:

- running and chasing which can develop good physical fitness, agility and stamina;
- jumping and running which can help develop bone density, develop large muscle groups and stability;
- climbing which can help develop coordination, balance and strength.

3.28 Freedom and space can encourage more expansive physical movement leading to good physical exercise and help prevent obesity; playing outdoors allows children to develop self-confidence, independence, self-esteem and gives them the opportunity to develop an awareness of limits, boundaries and challenge in their play; playing outdoors also gives children the freedom to shout, make noise and let off steam, and being in the open air often offers time away from busy routines or schedules; being outdoors is good for eye health; more time spent outdoors is related to reduced rates of short-sightedness (myopia) in children and young people; and whilst playing outdoors children are less inhibited and are more willing to try out new activities, engage with others, solve problems, explore the natural environment and foster social connections and resilience.

3.29 During winter months children can suffer from lack of direct natural sunlight. The sunlight is known to be the best natural source for our bodies to produce vitamin D, which releases serotonin (which helps regulate emotion and mood and is linked to happiness) in the brain. Enabling children to access

outdoor natural light daily helps maintain healthy levels of vitamin D and serotonin which is good for their overall mental health and well-being.

3.30 Inactive children are at risk of storing excess fat and actively playing outdoors is one of the easiest and most natural ways that children (of any age) can engage in physical activity. Being active will burn energy and can help prevent illnesses such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, and heart disease or cancer in later life.

3.31 Of course, playing outdoors also offers children all kinds of valuable learning opportunities and appreciation of the natural world (regardless of the weather!).

3.32 In a nutshell playing outdoors isn't just fun for children - it is essential for their overall health, well-being and development.

4.0 Inactivity in children

4.1 Current national guidance (UKActive) recommends that children over 5 years old should engage in at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity every day. Children under 5 that are able to walk unaided should be physically active for at least 3 hours spread throughout the day.

4.2 The UKActive's study found that across England, only 24% of girls and 32% of boys aged between 2 years old and 15 years old were meeting these recommendations and this is having a huge impact on children's health.

5.0 Debenham's Existing Provision

5.1 Debenham has a range of play facilities located across the village. This includes provision managed by the Parish Council, the District Council, the Leisure Centre and the Primary School. The range and quality of provision is commented on below. As a consequence of this Strategy, replacement, repair and renewal will be considered. So too will the future provision of new facilities associated with the developments outlined in the Debenham Neighbourhood Plan.

5.2 Consideration needs also be given to those existing facilities, on the school site that are currently unavailable to the wider community during weekends and holiday periods.

5.3 The budgetary provision for the Parish Council's Play includes: Recreation Ground (including grass cutting and general maintenance) for 2021/2022 is £3630 and £1167. Gardeners Road Play Area (including grass cutting and general maintenance) for 2021/2022 is £2543.

5.4 All the Play facilities provide a maximum 10 minutes walking/cycling/'scootering' distance from all the properties in the village

5.5 The Inspection Regime

5.6 All the Play areas (excluding the Leisure Centre and school facilities) are inspected weekly by the Council's warden, and formerly each year by a ROSPA approved contractor or MSDC.

5.7 Current Standards of Provision

5.8 The standard of the existing provision varies from play area to play area. Whilst some equipment has been installed in the last few years, much of it has seen many years of active use. Safety standards have always been maintained, so that if a piece of equipment is damaged it is immediately taken out of action. Sadly, on at least one occasion this led to the permanent removal of the facility.

5.9 Certain equipment should be retained but would benefit from a coat of paint and new safety surfacing underneath, or even replacement of part of the facility.

5.10 There are examples of inspiring, and challenging pieces of equipment, but in the main, generally they look tired, uninviting and a little out-dated.

5.11 The current stock needs attention, but there is a pressing need to introduce something a little more exciting, similar to some of the play provision elsewhere in the county.

6.0 Debenham's Demographics

6.1 According to the 2011 census there are 430 children under the age of 16 in the village. Although the birth rate increased from 2011 until 2015, since that time it has been declining. However, the potential growth of over three hundred new homes in the village between now and 2035, potentially means a significant increase in the number of children requiring Play facilities. It is important that the local community engages with developers at the earliest stage possible, in order to facilitate the best possible play structures and if practicable, locally designed according to the community's wishes, prior to the submission of planning applications.



Lower Gardeners Road



Upper Gardeners Road



Upper Gardeners Road



The Meadows Play Facilities (MSDC)



Leisure Centre Play Facilities



Recreation Ground Play Facilities





Recreation Ground Facilities



Recreation Ground Play Facilities



Raedwald Way Play Area (MSDC)



Raedwald Way Play Area(MSDC)



Primary School Play Facilities





Primary School Play Facilities





Primary School Play Facilities



7.0 Existing Provision in Neighbouring Villages

7.1 It became apparent that during the initial survey work undertaken by local residents that there was disquiet regarding the current village provision compared to that which other nearby villages were able to provide. The photographs below would seem to support this. Many of the play areas below are recent additions to the villages' portfolio of facilities. It should be possible for a 'core' village the size of Debenham to be able to provide its children with at least comparable facilities.

7.2 The following 14 photographs were taken of neighbouring unnamed village play provision. Thereafter, 4 photographs of examples of play suppliers' small scale, yet challenging outdoor play facilities.

















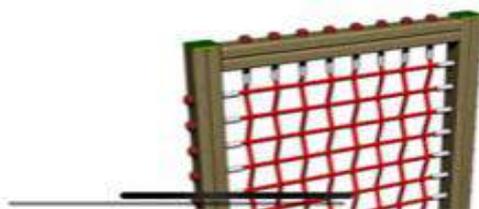
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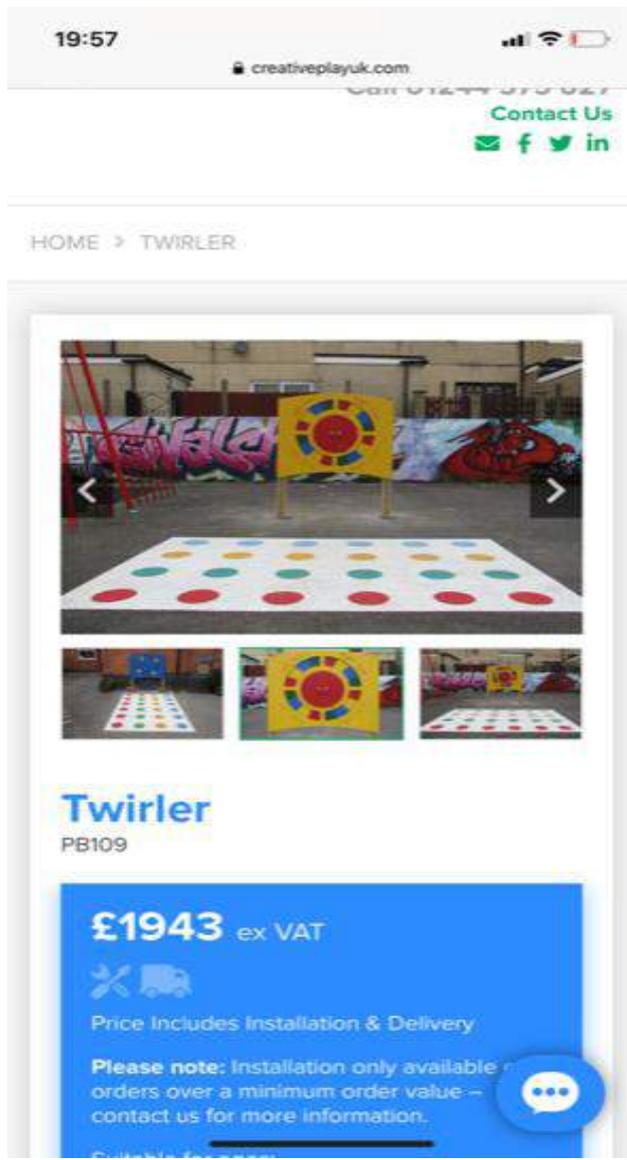
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8.0 Increasing Diversity of Play

8.1 The distance in which children can explore unsupervised has decreased by 90% in the last 40 years, in stark contrast to the way many parents today grew up, and this has undoubtedly had a huge impact on how children play. A recent YourGov poll commissioned by the Wildlife Trust reported that a quarter of children have never built a sand-castle, and a third has never climbed a tree. When considering that 11 – 15 year olds now spend an average of 7.5 hours a day in front of a screen, you can see how the current trend in play is changing. Only 10% of parents believed that their child spends more time outdoors than they did.

8.2 Allowing children to explore outside the reach of parents is also an important part of their development as it allows them the opportunity to develop a greater sense of responsibility and independence at a younger age. This in turn attributes to their well-being, letting them test their abilities and challenge themselves, while further developing a greater sense of self. With rising parental anxieties and the distance in which children are allowed to 'roam' decreasing, the opportunities for independent play have fallen. Research suggests that this has gone hand in hand with further increasing fears of 'stranger danger' and rising road traffic accidents. We believe one of the first steps in breaking this cycle and helping parents regain confidence in children's ability to navigate their natural world and explore their local surroundings is to provide a more diverse experience of play closer to home.

8.3 Diversifying play opportunities and providing more opportunities for wild play within a community can also benefit the community as a whole. Research suggests that by allowing children to play outdoors enables them to establish relationships with other children in their community and this can have a positive effect on community cohesion. Research also suggests that the more social networks children have in a neighbourhood, the greater the confidence parents have in the safety of that area. Parents too can establish their own networks through their children, meaning that play also supports community cohesion amongst adults.

8.4 95% of children have visited a park with a parent, carer or grandparent according to the same YourGov poll, this highlights the importance of our existing park and play areas and the potential of these spaces to diversify and improve the quality of play across the village. The goal must be to broaden the view of how children play by offering a multitude of diverse play environments and to maximise children's exposure to nature by re-introducing 'wild' or 'natural' play in to our existing playable spaces.

9.0 Making the Most of Our Landscape

9.1 As a sizeable village, Debenham covers a number of differing landscapes and we believe we should be celebrating our unique setting by making it easier for everyone to enjoy. By designing play spaces that utilise the existing landscape or in some cases, re-instating original topological and ecological features it is possible to create play spaces that reflect and enhance the natural diversity of Debenham while promoting explorative 'wild' play.

9.2 Whereas previously an area may have been levelled in order to build a play area, moving forward it could be wise to utilise the natural landscape and its landform and encourage it to become an integrated part of play. Emphasising and enhancing natural landscapes can provide endless playing opportunities; changes in ground levels, playful arrangement of mounds, ditches and hollows all provide numerous opportunities for exploring, climbing, hiding and chasing. When using manufactured play equipment this will be seamlessly integrated within its natural setting, with no sense of where the play space begins and ends, making it feel far more inviting to explore than the current model of a fenced layout.

9.3 Play spaces benefit from a process of on-going change and refurbishment. This is especially important because children grow up and change fast, whilst the fixed equipment in their local equipped play space tends to stay the same. Moving away from the idea of designated play areas and opening up the opportunities for play into the wider context, could also encourage through age play. Combining manufactured equipment that targets a specific age range and combining this with more natural and imaginative forms of play to create opportunities for everyone. Play areas that have every corner defined, so that there is nowhere for children to invent their own play activities, can become dull very quickly, especially as children get older. The use of non-prescriptive features encourages users to find their own uses; it puts play in the control of the players and encourages creativity and imagination. The goal should be to create play spaces that have different uses for different ages but a use for everyone.

9.4 Embracing the natural landscape creates endless diversity in play as every play space will be different and different landscapes can offer different opportunities. Not only will each play space be different, by inviting in and incorporating the natural surroundings, each play space will change throughout the year, offering new and exciting play opportunities with the changing seasons.

9.5 Through creating a greater diversity of playing opportunities, there is also the hope that this will encourage people to explore other areas of the village environs as each landscape will offer something new.

9.6 In addition there is the hope that by retaining the existing landscapes and incorporating natural elements into play spaces, existing and returning wildlife will be encouraged. This will not only benefit the immediate and surrounding areas in terms of biodiversity it can also provide added learning opportunities.

10.0 Providing Neutral Spaces

10.1 It is understood how important play is for parents and carers as well as children as an opportunity to meet and socialise. Play spaces have particular social value for parents and carers of young children, as places for both the adults and children to meet informally, taking away some of the pressure of individual childcare responsibilities. As social creatures, we crave social engagement and spending time in parks and other green spaces increases the likelihood of social interaction, whether it be through chance encounters or organised activity, it also offers the opportunity to explore and develop hobbies and interests all of which play a part in maintaining our mental well being.

10.2 As previously discussed, outdoor play can have a positive effect on community cohesion as it allows children to establish relationships with other children in their community. Outdoor play spaces allow adults to establish their own networks through their children. In Finland, over 70% of parents regarded their local play area to be somewhere where they can get support and help with issues concerning their children.

10.3 A key outcome of the play strategy is to provide through-age play, while historically, play has been targeted at 0-16 year olds; the Council needs to create spaces that are welcoming to all ages, not just the young but the young at heart. By providing spaces that are designed to appeal to all ages we hope to encourage social interaction not just within a generation but also across generations. Social interaction is important to maintaining mental health and there are many examples of how cross-generational engagement has benefits to all involved.

10.4 Playgrounds for senior citizens have already become a hit across Europe and Asia, inviting older generations to get outside and into the fresh air and there is a growing trend of cross-generational play spaces that target multiple generations. In contrast to many existing playgrounds that provide only benches or walking paths for adults, multi-generational playgrounds include equipment for people of all ages, in addition to traditional manufactured play equipment that targets children, these parks are packed with low impact exercise equipment such as stationary equipment for stretching and balance and brainteasers designed to keep mental abilities keen, offering senior citizens an opportunity to exercise at their own pace, while offering the added benefit of socialization.

10.5 Aside from encouraging exercise in older generations, these multi-generational playgrounds bring varying ages together for socializing, exercise, and fun. Through the enjoyment of play and exercise, the children and seniors mix together, forming social bonds that have been proven to reduce stress, anxiety and loneliness.

10.6 The Council should endeavour to create neutral play spaces that provide a platform for social cohesion while appealing to all ages and abilities; providing optimal opportunities to play, grow and learn.

11.0 Consultation and Engagement

11.1 A group of residents approached the Parish Council in 2019, expressing their displeasure with the existing Play provision in the village. They conducted a survey to gauge public opinion, and concluded the following:

11.2 'The most popular request for a new type of play equipment was for a 'zip wire'. Thereafter, and in descending order of the preference for new equipment was....

Better climbing structure for older children, picnic benches, spider web circle swing, small toddler climbing structure with slide, wheelchair accessible roundabout, gym equipment, seesaw/multi person seesaw (2 or 4 seats), more swings, toddler slide, stepping stones, spinning egg, traditional game in ground (see last 4 photos in section 7.0, and skateboard ramps.'

11.3 Whilst it is recognised that some of this desired equipment already exist within the village, it may not be easily accessible close to homes. It is proposed therefore that as and when existing equipment comes to the end of

its natural life, consideration be given to the list above and where possible replacement facilities reflect this survey outcome.

11.24 It is proposed that a wider survey on the proposed Play Strategy for Debenham is undertaken, embracing the results of the survey in the type and location of the new potential facilities.

12.0 A New Approach

12.1 The village needs to retain all its existing play facilities, and where necessary repair, upgrade, or even replace where the provision is not in use or being used locally. The current locations provide easy and readily access to a local facility. A breakdown of this necessary activity is proposed in section 13. The existing facilities together with any new provision should be linked by a footpath/cycle trail (largely already in place), that encourages choice of facility, adventure and exploration.

12.2 The village needs a new premier Play facility that excites, challenges, and inspires activity and learning. The costs of new facilities on the scale that maybe required could prove prohibitive, and therefore a new approach is proposed. This facility, or range of play elements should cater for all ages and abilities, with excellent access for all.

The development of new facilities, with this new approach includes the following:

- a) contact with both schools, youth groups, the nursery and playgroup to design new play areas and/or individual facilities;
- b) the use of supervised youth groups, in the preparation of sites for new facilities, in return for donations towards the youth groups' upkeep;
- b) working in partnership with local individuals and organisations to create the facilities, once designed by the children (eg the 'Shed');
- c) seeking locally sourced materials from land owners, and businesses, to supply appropriate provision to construct the new facilities, (a former play structure made of wood in the Recreation Ground proved exceptionally popular);
- d) the creation of new designs for developers who can include proposals in their planning applications for the new homes, in accordance with the Debenham Neighbourhood Plan;
- e) the former Lower Gardeners Road play facility is replaced, with a small, new scheme, testing the new approach of locally sourced materials, child designed and locally constructed;
- f) the concept of 'adult' outdoor training equipment be considered whenever a new or refurbished play facility comes on stream (including trim trails);

g) negotiations are entered into with the Primary School Governing Body, in an attempt to open up the play facilities at appropriate times, and to form part of the new Play Trail; and

h) the new concept of the 'Play Trail' be progressed, and advertised widely.

13.0 Proposed Future Provision

13.1 The following is an assessment of the works necessary to individual Play areas across the village, in order to comply with the strategy.

1) Neighbourhood Plan Development Site DEB 3 Ipswich Road

New play area to be created as the development occurs.

2) Neighbourhood Plan Development Site DEB 4 Low Road

New play area to be created as the new development occurs.

3) Lower Gardeners Road

New replacement facility required. First test of 'New Approach'.

4) The Meadows Play Area

Responsibility of MSDC, no recommendations as it is a relatively new facility.

5) Raedwald Way

As 4 above.

6) Upper Gardeners Road

Replacement swings, and 'springy' animals. New safety surfacing required. Minimal painting of play frames.

7) Leisure Centre

Responsibility of the Leisure Centre. A new facility requiring no attention.

8) Recreation Ground

Consolidation of existing equipment, with the creation of new facility, to incorporate new car parking initiative. The addition of new safety surfacing.

9) Primary School

If negotiations are successful with the school to open up the play facilities at appropriate and convenient times, then a maintenance programme, with resultant costs, will need to be shared with the school.

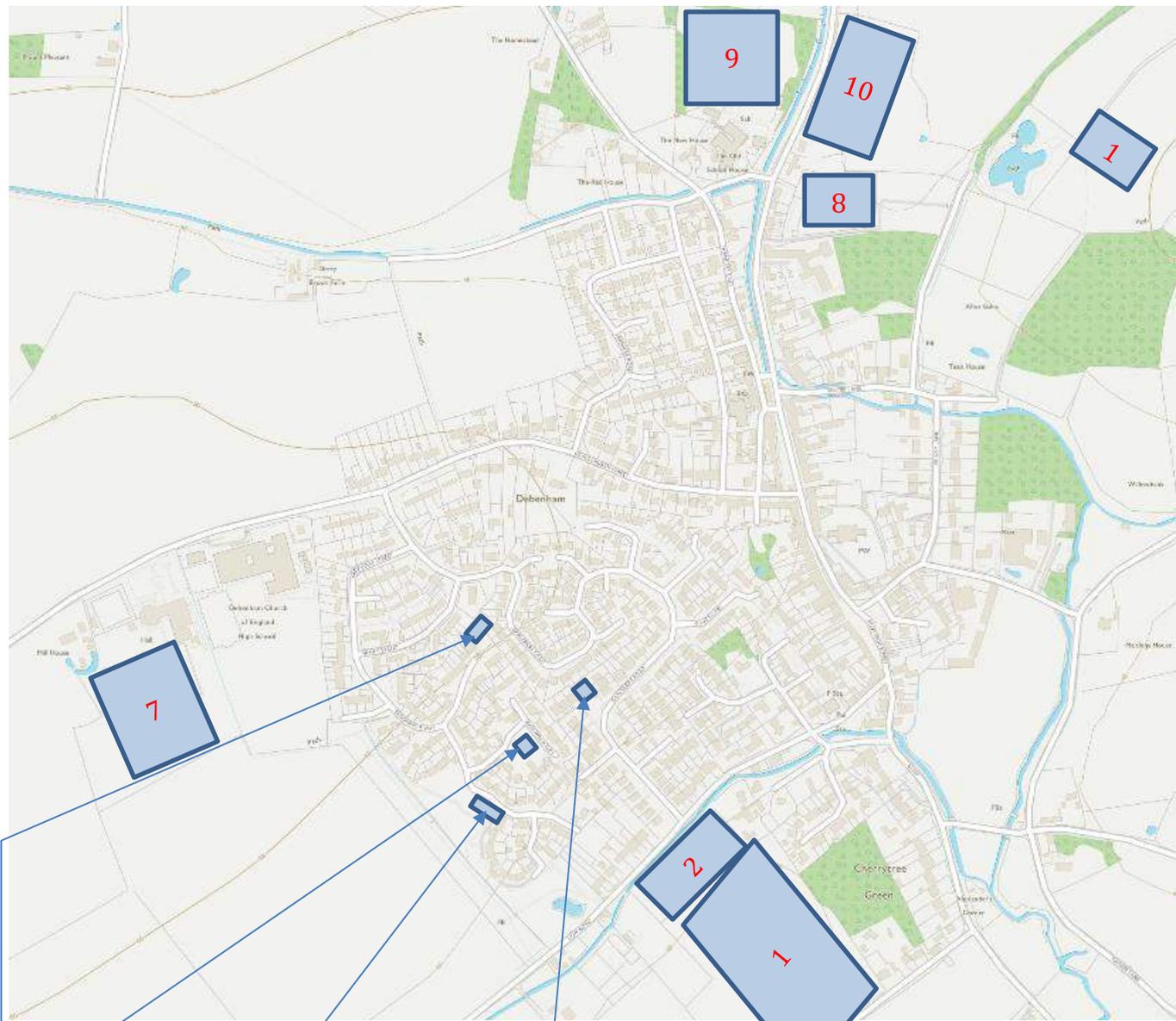
10) Neighbourhood Plan Development Site DEB 5 Aspall Road

New facility to be created, with revised car parking and traffic movement measures to accommodate 'pinch point' issues adjacent to the school.

11) New Premier Play Facility Site. (Yet to be identified, possibly the Woodland area vicinity)

The concept of a new Premier Play Facility in the Woodland area, has the benefit of being able to be created in the way that this strategy has promoted. That is, an exciting, challenging, but safe, 'rustic' type facility, designed by our children, with materials sourced locally, and constructed by our local volunteers and organisations. The new facility can make use of the natural environment, educate the young, and provide another significant stimulus for community cohesion.

Furthermore, it is strategically located close to DEB 5 in 10) above. That being the case, it may be possible for developer contributions, in the longer term, towards maintenance and replacement costs.



- 5. Raedwald Way Play Area
- 4. The Meadows Play area Road
- 3. Lower Gardeners
- 6. Upper Gardeners Road

- 1) Ipswich Road Site (DEB 3)
- 2) Low Road Site (DEB 4)
- 3) Lower Gardeners Road
- 4) The Meadows Play Area
- 5) Raedwald Way Play Area
- 6) Upper Gardeners Road Play Area
- 7) Leisure Centre Play Facilities
- 8) Recreation Ground Play Facilities
- 9) Primary School Play Facilities
- 10) Aspell Road Site (DEB 5)
- 11) Woodland Area Site

14.0 Financial Implications

14.1 It is impossible to estimate accurately, the future costs of, as yet undefined play facilities, however, it will be necessary to allocate both capital and revenue funding towards the cost of refurbished, or replaced facilities.

14.2 If the community decides to provide bespoke new play facilities for the new, or replace existing facilities then the costs from Play equipment providers would range from between £20,000 and £50,000. Obviously smaller items such as the 'springy' animals are much less costly and range from £1,500 to £5,000. However this type of provision is not in keeping with the strategy's vision of creating, exciting, inspiring and challenging facilities.

14.3 This strategy is based upon a new concept of providing more natural, educative, and locally created facilities. In essence it will mean using appropriate wood, strengthened with metal. This is different from most of the current equipment from the play equipment suppliers, which is usually constructed from metal and high grade plastics. There are of course, suppliers that do provide wooden structures.

14.4 The creation of a new 'premier play' facility for the village is likely to cost anywhere between £60,000 and £250,000, if schemes from traditional play equipment suppliers are sought.

14.5 The concept of testing the new approach by providing a locally produced play facility on Lower Gardeners Road, could provide the community with a better understanding of firstly, whether the new approach is feasible, and secondly, a more accurate assessment of likely costs for facilities elsewhere in the village.

14.6 A budget of £15,000 is therefore considered to be appropriate for this initial purpose.

14.7 A further budget of £10,000 is proposed over the next two years, to undertake remedial tasks, such as new replacement safety surfacing, painting and small replacement items. Perhaps, such smaller items could be the forerunner to the new scheme proposed at Lower Gardeners Road. This would enable the constructors to test their capabilities.

14.8 Grants from external bodies including the County, and District Councils, and lottery funded organisations, as well as some charities, are available.