

## 6.0 Current Provision Assessment

6.1 Assessment of current provision has been undertaken by overlaying a map of the Borough with the location of play facilities with a 500m radius around Local play areas and 1,000m around Main play areas and a population heat map. .

6.2 This spatial analysis is then combined with the condition analysis by the independent inspection and Officer / Member knowledge of gaps in provision by age / type etc to inform the assessment of current provision.

### 6.4 Middleton Township Assessment:

6.4.1: Compared to the rest of the Borough, Middleton has higher number of play areas compared to its population density, but multiple sites require investment to bring them up to the expected levels of provision quantity and quality.

West Middleton is served well by Main play areas at Bowlee and Truffet Park with additional local play areas (Bowlee Link corridor).

East Middleton is served by King George Main play area, Kirkway Stocks and Mount Road which has only 1 piece of equipment left. RBH Local play sites (The Heath and The Downs) are now closed, causing under-provision in Alkington. It is recommended that Mount Road be decommissioned due to its proximity to Kirkway stocks and a new play area to replace the closed sites be created for ages 2 – 7.

Hopwood Hall Middleton is well served by Hollins Local play area.

North Middleton is served by Brassey Street local play area and one RBH site (Tennyson) which leaves it vulnerable in if RBH close their play.

South Middleton is well served by a Main play area (Limefield Park), and local play area Barleyfield Walk (RBH). Limetrees Local Play area has been closed for a number of years due to vandalism and it is recommended to decommission the site as it is regarded as surplus to requirement.

Map 2: Middleton Township Play provision map



6.4.2 West Middleton Play areas are in need of investment, with the exception of Truffet Park Main Play Area (below left) which is in good condition and has a good range of equipment. Bowlee link corridor site and Bowlee Park sites are in need of investment to improve play quality, to increase the number of children that can play at any one time and to ensure all age ranges are catered for. It is anticipated that housing developments proposed for the area will increase the level of demand and mean additional play items are required during the period of this strategy.



6.4.3 East Middleton King George V facility has been upgraded late 2019 (see picture above right). Kirkway Stocks is a good quality play areas but Mount Road has 1 remnant piece of equipment and is close to a good play area at Kirkways stocks and therefore should be decommissioned. A new play area is required in the South of Alkington to replace the closed RBH play areas.

6.4.4 Hopwood Hall Middleton is served by Hollins Local play area. The current provision is average and s106 funding available for the ward should be used at this site to ensure that the standard is improved, replacing equipment removed in recent years with better and more modern equipment.

6.4.5 North Middleton Council run site, Brassey Street, is in need of a general update to existing equipment to improve play value and number of children who can use the equipment at the same time.

Tennyson (RBH) Play area is considered poor for toddler / junior play and additional equipment is recommended. RBH would need to commit to the future of this play area for any potential future s106 to be allocated to the play area. Other than that it would be RBH responsibility to improve the site.

6.4.6 South Middleton Limefield Park is reasonably good quality play area but will require investment over the next 5 – 7 years. Limetrees has been closed for a number of years after vandalism and given that it is overlapping provision with the Main Play area site at Limefield it is recommended for decommissioning.

Barleyfield Walk is a modern site but some additional equipment is recommended by the end of this 10 year strategy.

Members from South Ward have requested an additional play area in Alkington in their Ward next to the school but there is no s106 funding to enable this at present. If s106 funding became available it would be a Member decision if they wanted to prioritise this or Limefield Park, MUGA, outdoor gym or play area investment.

6.4.7 Disability access and inclusion is poor. Investment is required to multiple sites for access paths. Investment is also required to new play equipment that is accessible. For example the roundabout in the play areas at Truffet Park pictured below left is not flush mounted and Kirkway stocks pictured below right has a non-disability access standard path with playground equipment to the side of it with no connecting path,



6.4.8 The Skate facilities for Middleton Township are located in Limefield Park and are a good quality steel construction. No further investment is required now but in circa 10 years consideration will need to be made about potential replacement.

6.4.9 One MUGA is located at Willows Park (next to Burnside community centre). This is insufficient provision. It is recommended that a MUGA is installed in the derelict space at Limefield Park to the side of the skate park.

6.4.12 Outdoor gyms are located at Limefield Park and Kirkway Stocks. Ideally there would be additional fitness provision at Truffet Park to cater for Langley, an area of health deprivation. The equipment at Limefield Park is at the end of its lifespan and multiple pieces need urgent replacement in 2020

6.4.13 Summary of Middleton Current Provision Recommendations:

- Mid-level investment is required at multiple sites as detailed above at Bowlee Link Corridor, Bowlee Park, Brassey Street, Tennyson
- Closure of RBH sites means that a new Council maintained sites in Alkington is required to replace those lost play areas.
- Disability access is poor and is in urgent need of investment.
- MUGA provision is insufficient and a new facility is recommended for Limefield Park
- Outdoor gym investment is required to make Limefield equipment safe and to ensure provision for Langley

## 7 Township Proposals

### 7.3 Middleton Proposals:

Ward	Action	Funding	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025-30
West Middleton	Bowlee link corridor minor refurbishments	Play capital						
	Bowlee Park major increase provision to cater extra housing	S106						
East Middleton	Mount Road – decommission	Play capital						
	Create new play area Alkrington replace lost RBH play areas	S106 / RBH / Township						
Hopwood Hall	Minor s106 investment	N/a						
North Middleton	Brassey Street general upgrade	Play Capital						
	Tennyson – confirm if RBH committed if so general upgrade	Play Capital / s106						
South Middleton	Decommission Limetrees site	Play Capital						
	Equipment upgrade Barleyfield Walk	Play Capital						
	Limefield Skate Park upgrade	S106						
	MUGA to be created Limefield Park	S106						
	Limefield Outdoor gym modernisation	Play Capital						