

# Play Strategy

## Play theme principle

Improving the existing play areas and introduce a play landscape for all ages and abilities throughout the park.

## Westfield Play Area

Currently:

All of the existing play equipment is beyond or approaching the end of its useful lifespan, some dating from the 1960's, and will be removed

What:

- Install a new, modern, destination play space, completely replacing all equipment.
- Design as an exemplar space for inclusive play, link to other work on sensory gardens and access audit.
- The vision identifies links with the heritage of Poole Park and the local town centre and quay.



## A Vision For play:

There is potential for play opportunities across all of Poole Park, with a destination play area at West field that will be completely redesigned to be the best in the local area.

Cygnets play area will continue to focus on play for younger children and will be redesigned and refurbished.

The new play areas will be based on innovation, providing a thematic link to its history and the local area. It will be fully accessible for all ages and abilities, encouraging informal social use between generations.

Opportunities for playable landscapes outside of the formal play areas will be encouraged, building on the heritage of climbing on leaning trees.

## Cygnets Play Area

Currently:

Designed and built in 2005, the play area is sited under significant trees and adjacent to the two freshwater ponds, receiving very high footfall. Surfacing is looking tired, especially the soft landscaping near to the trees.

What:

- The equipment will be refreshed or replaced where required, surfacing improved and new features added to reflect changes in play area design post 2005, such as use of natural play and innovative new equipment
- Provide a wider range of sensory interest within the play space for example musical, tactile, surfacing and planting.
- The play space can be extended to use the space between the play area



## Consultation in July & August

We have invited six of the UK's leading play suppliers to provide concept designs for Poole Park, based on the requirements detailed below, the available budget and the HLF outcomes we hope to meet.

**Please view the six concept designs and then answer the section in the questionnaire to pick your top three and then leave any extra comments.**

There is an opportunity to talk to some of the play suppliers at the **Poole Park Funday, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August, 10am to 3pm**

We will use this feedback, if we are successful in our bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, when a full design competition is tendered in late 2017, meaning we can build the play areas in 2018!

## Play landscapes

Currently:

Poole Park is well known for its leaning trees that generations have crawled and climbed on and jumped from. This is to be celebrated and enhanced with other natural play opportunities that add to the park's appeal.

What:

- A playable landscape will allow all ages and abilities to climb, roll, jump and explore the natural features and areas of the park away from the two formal play spaces.

## Outdoor Fitness Equipment

Currently:

There have been several waves of fitness equipment installations in Poole Park, starting in 2009. This first equipment was very much '1<sup>st</sup> Generation' and whilst proving very popular has been difficult to maintain and uses a lot of consumable parts.

What:

- Provide new equipment and improve surfacing and information for users.