

King George's Playing Fields – frequently asked questions

Planning

What was agreed at the Planning Committee?

The Council submitted plans for King George's Playing Fields to the 30 January 2020 Planning Committee. The plans were for the construction of a new pavilion building, a new splash pad facility on the existing footprint of the old paddling pools and a new outdoor adventure play facility.

Are there any conditions relating to the planning decision?

Yes, the conditions are set in the separate document.

Why was the decision referred to the Secretary of State?

The Council generally refers any large planning decisions to the Secretary of State if it is developing on its own land. The Council has received notification from the Secretary of State that they have no objections to the Council's approved planning decision.

What does the Deed of Covenant on King George's Playing Fields mean?

The Deed of Covenant sets out that the parcels of land are used as a public playing field to be preserved in perpetuity as a Memorial to his late Majesty King George V under the style of King George's Field. This Deed of Dedication is now with Fields in Trust.

What are the sizes of new facilities?

The planned new pavilion building is larger than the current pavilion building. The increase in footprint is 408sqm. Although the building is longer than the current pavilion building it is generally lower as a cross section to the existing building as part of the building has been sunk into the ground.

The proposed splash pad will sit on the footprint of the old paddling pools. The new facility is designed to be more inclusive for those with disabilities. There will be a changing places facility together with new toilets and a kiosk to support the facility.

The proposed outdoor adventure play will provide a new activity for children which includes high climbing nets and large tubular slides together with more accessible activities at lower levels.

Why the works needed to be done?

The current pavilion building was built in the 1970s and works were needed to upgrade the changing rooms and to make the building fully accessible with a lift. After a number of public consultation events throughout 2018 and 2019 it was decided that the pavilion should also provide a 365day park hub that would also include some additional indoor facilities. The consultation also identified a need to provide more specialist accessible facilities such as a sensory room and a changing places facility (for adults). The Council needed to ensure that its facilities are not just fit for now but will be suitable for future requirements to support the Borough's predicted housing growth.

New proposed facilities

What are the new facilities planned for King George's Playing Fields?

The new facilities include a fully accessible pavilion building which will include new changing rooms, toilet and showers, golf club lounge, sensory room, Changing Places facility, new café, indoor soft play and TAG Active which is an indoor assault course that can be done as an individual or against friends and family.

Outside a new splash pad facility will be developed on the footprint of the old paddling pools. The fully accessible facility will be supported by new toilets, a kiosk selling hot and cold drinks and a new changing places facility. In addition to the splash pad a new outdoor adventure play facility will be developed.

What elements will be chargeable?

The indoor soft play and TAG Active will be chargeable as will the splash pad and the adventure play facility. The play area remains FREE of charge.

Where will the picnic area be located?

During the construction of the new pavilion building a temporary picnic area will be established to the left of the old pavilion building (as you are looking at it from the car park). Once the construction of the new pavilion has been completed and the old pavilion building has been demolished then this area will be landscaped to provide a new picnic area for park users.

Is anything happening to the allotments?

There are no plans to change the allotments and the Council is looking at measures to protect the allotment site on King George's Playing Fields.

What is happening to the FREE Play area?

Currently works are underway on the toddler play area. In order to minimize disruption, the toddler area has moved slightly, and will provide an improved inclusive offer to children with additional needs. The refurbishments are part of a three-year improvement programme for the whole play area in King George's. The next two phases see the refurbishment of the junior and senior section of the play area. This works should be completed by Spring of 2022. These works are part of the Council 5year Play Area Strategy to deliver borough wide improvements to the Council 's play areas.

General improvements and access

Will there be pedestrian access during the construction phase?

Yes, there will be continued pedestrian access across the park. There may be some limited disruption from time to time as part of building process, but the Council is keen to keep this to a minimum.

What provision will be in place for disabled visitors?

Part of current tarmacked car park will be used during the construction period for delivery of materials, so new disabled parking bays will be created as a temporary measure. The existing disabled toilets in the pavilion will be in place while the building works are going on. Once the works are completed then the new pavilion building will provide fully accessible toilets, lift, changing places facility and a new sensory room. The splash pad facility will also provide additional toilets and an additional changing places facility. The Council is looking at re-establishing the park mobility scheme into the park.

How will the public be able to get to the existing facilities?

Temporary wayfinding and signage will be in place providing directional information to existing facilities, but the existing facilities and services should be running as normal during the construction period. Once works have been completed then new wayfinding signs will be in place for the public.

Planned landscaping improvement to the park?

Although two trees and some shrubs will be removed during the construction phase, the majority will be kept in a temporary nursery during this period. These will to be replanted as part of the overall enhancements to the park. The hedge alongside the bowls club will need to be removed during the construction process but this will be reinstated once the works have been completed.

More information

Where do I find out more information about the works in King George's Playing Fields.

The Council website will have a dedicated page on King George's Playing Fields and the proposed works. The page will provide visuals of the planned improvements. As part of the mobilization before construction commences, the hoardings around the site will provide visuals of the new facilities and a monthly programme of what works are happening on site will also be on the hoardings.