

BUCKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL



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New Play Equipment Project

Updates prepared by Ruth Johnson,
Clerk to Bucklesham Parish Council

13th March 2025 – What next?

- The Parish Council unanimously voted at the Parish Council meeting on 12th March 2025 to go ahead with the New Play Equipment Project. The work starts here!
- A consultation event has been organised for 29th March 2025 in the Village Hall to ascertain exactly what residents want in terms of equipment. Refreshments are planned to entice people through the door 😊
- The Clerk has made initial enquiries with Tarmac LCF, Awards For All, and CIL Play Space Fund for possible grants.

29th March 2025 Consultation Event in Village Hall

- The Consultation Morning was a huge success. Over 60 residents attended and completed a questionnaire:
 - 85% said that they felt having the Playing Field and equipment enabled them to exercise.
 - 85% said that they felt having the Playing Field and equipment enabled them to play on equipment that they would not normally have access to at home.
 - 77% said that they met up with friends at the Playing Field.
 - 77% said that they met new people at the Playing Field.
 - 77% said that they felt more part of the community as a result of having and using the village Playing Field.
- John Reader from NGF (our preferred supplier) attended the morning with a display of available equipment. All those in attendance were asked their opinions.

Attendees were asked to put a 'Post-it' note on their favourite pieces of equipment and to tell us what they wanted on the Field.

The results are as follows:

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|-----------------------------|----|---------------------|----|------------------------------|----|--------------------------|---|
| Giant Rope Swing | 39 | Trim Trail | 29 | Pirate Ship | 20 | Trampoline | 7 |
| Cone Climber | 38 | Monkey Bars | 21 | Swings | 13 | Zip Wire | 5 |
| Large Climbing Frame | 37 | Tunnel Slide | 21 | Play Boat | 13 | Sensory Equipment | 3 |
| Small Climbing Frame | 37 | Open Slide | 21 | Musical Logs | 11 | Splash Area | 1 |
| Shelter | 30 | See-Saw | 20 | Inclusive Play Panels | 7 | Café | 1 |

*Number of people at Consultation event who requested this to be included on the Field.

The Parish Council were thrilled with the attendance and the positive comments from residents. These results will help the Council decide which pieces of equipment are chosen for the final designs. The request for a café may be a stretch though!

7th April 2025

- Following the consultation event, a plan has been drawn up with John Reader from NGF to split the whole scheme into Three Phases which will be standalone projects. This will allow grant applications to be made more efficiently.
- An application has been submitted to Awards For All for £20,000 for Phase One – The Swings and Sensory Pieces. A decision is expected in June 2025. The swings are likely to be the next piece that will need to be removed and there is no sensory equipment at all at the moment so this is a priority. The quote was around £20,000 so it fitted well to ask Awards For All for this Phase.

20th April 2025

- Another piece of the Trim Trial has fallen and been removed. Terry Seagroatt has re-used the wooden poles and has made bird boxes. Some will be placed at the top of the Field on the trees and some will be sold to raise funds for this project. The chains have been saved and will be re-used by NGF in the new designs.

1st May 2025

- An application has been submitted to Tarmac Landfill Communities Fund for £30,000 for Phase Two – The Trim Tail, Cone Spinner and Inclusive Play Ship.
- This was an extensive application and took considerable time to complete. The Clerk worked in collaboration with three Councillors to ensure that we have the best possible chances of success with this application. The three pieces in Phase Two were in the top five most requested.
- If we are successful with the Awards For All grant and the Tarmac LCF grant it will help us in our application to the CIL Play Space Fund.
- We know that we will be competing against many other projects for funding, but we are keeping everything crossed!

- There are only 10 days left before the Mega Sponsored Bounce-athon on the Playing Field. We have over 30 children signed up – they are practicing on beds and sofas as I type 😊

10th May 2025

- It's Bounce-athon Day! The Community Council have set up a Go Fund Me page to help collect sponsorship <https://www.gofundme.com/f/bucklesham-new-play-equipment-project>

The children were fantastic bouncing all day long. The event was kicked off with five year old Griff at 8am and more than 30 children followed bouncing in half hour time slots. After 10 hours the last to bounce was 5 year old Stanley.

It looks like we have exceeded our £800 target as we are hopeful to have topped £1,000 and we are still waiting for some money to come in!

Well done to all involved it was a huge team effort 😊

20th May 2025

- All the money from the Bounce-athon is now in and we raised an amazing £1,500! 😊 this is a fantastic achievement for such a small village.

16th June 2025

- We have just been contacted by East Suffolk Council's CIL team to inform us that we have been successful in our application to the Local CIL Play Fund and have been awarded £45,000 for the project. This is a fantastic achievement and we are thrilled. This positive result will hopefully help us with our application to Tarmac LCF for the last piece of the puzzle - £30,000 will allow us to provide everything that the children requested at the Consultation event. Keep your fingers crossed. Our application will be discussed in September and we should hear by mid-October.
- Our Mini-fete and Coffee Morning is being planned for Saturday 30th August in the Village Hall from 10am to 12.30pm. We will have refreshments, raffle, tombola, stall and games – fun for all. Please come along and support us and help us raise some more funds to get us closer to our target.

30th August 2025

- Our Mini-fete and Coffee Morning was a huge success and the Village Hall was bursting at the seams with so many visitors. We had a massive raffle thanks to so many donations from villagers and contributions from generous local companies. We also had a plentiful cake stall thanks to village bakers, and a lucrative produce stall thanks to kind and generous village gardeners and allotment holders.
The grand total raised on the day was £1,800 which is an amazing outcome for such a small village like Bucklesham.

Mid-September 2025

- We should hear from Tarmac LCF anytime soon with the outcome of our application for £30,000. If we are successful with this application we will have very nearly achieved our goal.

October 2025

- We have just heard from Tarmac LCF that our application has been successful and we have been awarded the full £30,000 requested. This is a fantastic achievement and we are all thrilled.
- We have just applied to Suffolk Community Foundation for the last £5,000 that will complete the project – keep your fingers crossed for this one!

5th December 2025

- Our final (hopefully) fundraising event is planned for 5th December and will be A 'West End Christmas in Bucklesham'. Bucklesham resident and former West End star, Mark Connell, will be performing in the Village Hall for an evening of Christmas songs and favourite hits from West End Shows.



April 2026

All the money has been raised and we are waiting for installation in April 2026



WE DID IT!