

Birsay Play Park

Area – Birsay, Evie, Harray and Sandwick

Summary

The aim is to install a new play park in grounds of the New Birsay community hall. As well as play park equipment, the area will be landscaped to provide a sheltered gardened area with seated picnic area and BBQ.

There are currently no play parks in Birsay, Harray or Sandwick with the exception of the small play area at the Dounby school, which is not available to use at times, during the school day.

The Burray Community Association (BCA) was keen to establish a play park at the new hall and was grateful to the Birsay Toddler group who highlighted the need for a safe outdoor play area at the hall and then went on to fundraise for it. A Play Park Committee was set up, as a sub-group of the BCA, to design and arrange for a play park.

Since the new hall was built further groups have been established, such as the Birsay activity club for pre-school and primary school aged children, who feel the play park would help to ensure the viability of their group and help support outdoor play.

It is hoped that the project will also help to bring the community together by designing and final volunteer landscaping/gardening opportunities. Several local tradesmen and families have come forward to offer support of work in kind, which will allow BCA to install the play park equipment and complete landscaping and gardening at a much reduced cost.

A summary of project aims are:

To provide a safe play space for children to play, where no current facilities are available. To encourage play and exercise will improve the health and wellbeing of children and adults who visit.

To provide a new community facility which will encourage visitors to the area and help promote Birsay as an area to visit. This should impact positively on local businesses such as the Palace Store, Birsay Bay Tearoom and the Barony Mill.

To provide a picnic and gardened area, which will provide a green space for whole community to enjoy. This will improve bio-diversity and attract bees and other wildlife to what is currently a barren area of land.

To create a sensory garden which will provide a facility targeted towards people with visual, hearing, learning or physical disabilities, but hopefully pleasing to all.

To create a new community facility –outdoor BBQ, (only one other recently opened play park has this facility in Orkney). This facility will be an added attraction as there are no public BBQ facilities in Birsay.

To create volunteering opportunities; the installation and maintenance of garden area will provide ongoing opportunities for the community to help and create a space they are proud of.

Financial Information	£	%
Total Project Costs	35,782.70	
Total Eligible Costs	29,322.70	
LEADER	14,661.35	50
Orkney Islands Council	13,195.00	45
Own Funds	1466.35	5