

South End Play Area

Summary

The Southend Play Park in Stromness has been a focal point for the town's young people for generations and has provided an important amenity for those residing locally and also, given its proximity the Camping and Caravan Site and Golf Club, to young people from out with Stromness visiting the town. Over the last few years much of the existing play equipment has deteriorated to a point where the majority of it has been removed. The redevelopment of the Play Park will provide a safe and sustainable park for future generations. Overall, sustainability, accessibility and heritage were the core themes behind the plans for the Play Park and these are captured in some of the of the key aspects of the redevelopment.

The Orkney Play Area Strategy identifies the Southend Play Park as priority 1 local community play area aligned to target 1.3 in the local community plan and therefore supported by Orkney Islands Council. Stromness Community Development Trust (SCDT) have worked closely with the Local Authority during the planning phase and a 6-year lease of the site has been provisionally approved by Orkney Islands Council who will maintain responsibility for the repair, maintenance and insurance of the play park. Feedback on SCDT's plans has been received by various schools and community groups including Stromness Primary School, Stromness Toddlers and Stromness Community Council. SCDT have also provided the opportunity for the wider community to feedback on these proposals by displaying the plans at the local library and posting them on the StromnessOrkney Facebook page.

Aims

Stromness is the second most populated town in Orkney with an estimated population of 1758 (2011 census). The provision of free outdoor play and sport opportunities is seen as a vital ingredient in ensuring the all-round, healthy development of children and young people in an era of declining levels of physical activity and social interaction. Stimulating and challenging play and sport activity will enable young people to develop their physical, mental and social skills, find out more about themselves and their local environment.

The Southend Play Park is identified within the Orkney Area Play Strategy as a Local Community Play Area (LCPA), these play areas are used by the immediate local community and should feature a limited range of dynamic play equipment such as slides, swings and climbing frames.

Within Stromness there are currently 8 play areas. The strategy aims to reduce this to 5 over time but ensures the quality of the remaining play areas is enhanced. Importantly, it identifies the Southend Play Park at a priority for development. In order to make sure play areas are fit for purpose, these areas across Orkney are inspected on a weekly basis by Council staff, and annually by Zurich and the Play Inspection Company which assess the quality (play value) of each play area and give recommendations as to whether a play area should be retained or be reviewed. The play value of a site is not solely based on the equipment in it but includes other factors such as site access and location in relation to housing.

This has helped inform the design of the Southend Play Park project.

The project includes the following elements:

| Financial Information | £ | % |
|------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Total project costs | £72,000.00 | |
| Total eligible costs | £72,000.00 | 100% |
| LEADER funding | £36,000.00 | 50% |
| Own Funding | £36,000.00 | 50% |