

Appendix: Timeline for Hailey Park Playgrounds 2007–2016

2007	Friends of Hailey Park identifies facilities for children and young people as an action plan objective (below are Committee meeting discussions available from Minutes 2007–2016)
November 2008	Cardiff Council propose to convert part of the tennis courts to a Scansis Mini-Pitch
November 2009	Friends of Hailey Park form a subcommittee to look at potential playground improvements.
December 2009	Cardiff Council press release regarding the £1.3m it has spent since 2007 on improving 34 playgrounds. Hailey Park is not among them.
February 2010	Paul Rock (Friends of Hailey Park) made contact with Adrian Jones (Cardiff Council) who promised a meeting with his colleague Paul Freeman
March 2010	Cardiff Council confirms that proposed Scansis Mini-Pitch proposal will not go ahead.
April 2010	Site meeting with Paul Freeman (Parks Development Officer)
July 2010	Paul Freeman makes a number of suggestions – in particular that we should work with SMP on possible designs.
August 2010	Bowls Pavilion toilet block destroyed by fire.
September 2010	Site meeting with Leon Wilson (SMP) and Paul Freeman. At this time £10k of S106 money was available which Cardiff Council would be able to match from their 2011 capital budget. Further suggestions made regarding fitness equipment on the hard standing and having a serving hatch from the bowls pavilion towards the playground.
January 2011	Paul Rock makes contact with Nigel Morgan (Community Funding Resources Ltd) regarding our ability to apply for landfill communities funding for the first phase playground.
March 2011	Cardiff Council confirm that Paul Freeman no longer works for them.
November 2011	Site meeting with Brian Russell (Principal Landscape Officer – Cardiff Council), Leon Wilson and Nigel Morgan
December 2011	Proposals received from Leon Wilson
January 2012	Project budget agreed as £41,700 of which the Friends of Hailey Park have to raise 10% with the rest being sought from the Landfill Communities Fund.
May 2012	Landfill Communities funding confirmed.
July 2012	First phase playground completed (See URL: Play Regeneration Project: Senior Area)
November 2012	Subcommittee discuss the use of the concrete hard standing – potentially for adult fitness, table tennis, parkour etc.
January 2013	Site meeting with Leon Wilson (SMP)
April 2013	FoHP playground subcommittee reconstituted (EF & PR reporting to Chair, PB)

September 2013	<p>[from November 2013 Minutes]</p> <p>EF and PR had met with council official Mark Hughes regarding the provision of playground equipment for intermediate children who do not appear to be catered for currently. The council obviously prefer very low maintenance material and a suitable option would be the construction of a natural play area using the bowling green as the site. The benches in place are in good condition and the shrubbery border, with a little work, can be made presentable. Further meetings with the council are to be arranged so these ideas can be progressed.</p>
March 2014	<p>[From May 2014 Minutes]</p> <p>Site meeting with Janet Pike and Mark Hughes (Playground Officers – Cardiff Council) – they made a number of suggestions for acceptable equipment types & regarding the replacement, upgrading and possible relocation of units to accommodate those in the age group not currently catered for. The Landscape Officer is to be included in the decision making process, this considered most essential. One suggestion offered was to relocate the basketball equipment from the playground to the hardstanding thereby releasing a significant area of the playground for further units. The conclusion was that to properly develop the whole site, including the bowling green, would be prohibitively expensive and cost well in excess of any anticipated Section 106 funds and insurance proceeds already held.</p>
April 2014	<p>Playground brief drafted based on Janet and Mark’s ideas.</p>
September 2014	<p>[From September 2014 Minutes]</p> <p>As previously recorded, a sub-committee was formed comprising EF & PR, with the object of planning a play area suitable for children aged between 3 and 6 years .The current smaller play area equipment is unsuitable and the larger play area could potentially be unsafe considering the type of installations. The committee accepted advice and opinions from parents, liaised with council officials and made the following recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The smaller play area be re-located to the northern end of the main playground with a protective fence between. This operation to be completed over an extended period with new equipment installed when current fixtures become obsolete. * The basketball hoop to be relocated to the hard standing so the smaller playground equipment can be accommodated. * The bowling green be developed into a naturalistic play area with picnic facilities, seating etc. * The smaller playground could become a community garden or seating area. <p>These submissions were totally approved by the committee and the following observations and suggestions were proposed.</p> <p>(a) A small map of the park area concerned should be included for clarity. GS will provide from current archives.</p> <p>(b) PB advocated that a diary schedule be kept by EF/PR detailing dates of meetings, attendees, discussion topics and conclusions.</p> <p>(c) That the council be informed as soon as possible of these proposals and that they should be considered when the management plan for the park is formulated.</p> <p>(d) Another reason to expedite the project is because there is a chance that the council will simply level the site, removing fencing and hedges in the process. These boundary protections are considered vital to the proposed scheme and, on past experience, FOHP will not be favoured with the courtesy of prior notification should such work commence.</p>
October 2014	<p>Playground brief circulated to Cardiff Council Officers and local councillors (See URL: Play in Hailey Park: the needs, opportunities and vision)</p>

January 2015	<p>Hailey Park stakeholders meeting held. Esme Farewell and Paul Rock presented the Playground brief, which was well received by all present.</p> <p>[From January 2015 Minutes]</p> <p>“FOHP committee members Paul Rock and Esme Farewell were then invited to give a presentation on this particular aspect whereby the bowling green becomes a natural play area for intermediate children, the toddler play area moved into the larger playground and the basketball hoop relocated to the hardstanding. A new pavilion as a multiuse facility would complete the renovation. Insurance monies in respect of the old pavilion and Section 106 funds are in place but are insufficient to fund the project, The balance would be provided by grant funding but, with a management plan in place, the scope for potential providers should be extended. Assistance in this respect could be sought from identified council officials.”</p>
February 2015	Cardiff Council confirm that Brian Russell no longer works for them.
February 2015	Cardiff Council estimate the cost of a scheme similar to that outlined in the playground brief would be £205,000
March 2015	Esme Farewell, Paul Rock and Sue White (local councillor) meet to discuss way forward.
May 2015	<p>Cardiff Council confirm to Cllr White that £121,146.65 is available for Hailey Park – partly from S106 monies and partly from the insurance on the, now demolished, bowls pavilion.</p> <p>[From May 2015 Minutes “Bowling Green Development”]</p> <p>“EF & PR presented a quotation received from Green Play Project of Bristol for equipment to be installed at the bowling green site to convert the plot into a natural play area. The cost is to include all ground works, mounds, bridges, balance beams, scramble net, flag poles, woody trail, stepping stones, bamboo jungle and pergola. The site should be able to accommodate the units from the current tot’s playground. Funding sources stipulate strict construction timetables which will be difficult to observe so professional assistance is to be sought to overcome these difficulties. The provision of a modified shipping container, to be used as a café, was discussed. Such a scheme has many attributes and could be the low cost answer to the accommodation dilemma.”</p>
May 2015	Site meeting with Leon Wilson and James McGrath (SMP) to discuss the possibilities of the bowling green site.
June 2015	Site meeting with Cllr White and Adrian Jones. At the meeting we agreed we need a specific design to work from and this could be obtained by either paying Cardiff Council for the service or from SMP.
June 2015	SMP offer to draw up a proposal for a budget of £100,000.

July 2015	<p>[From July 2015 Minutes “Bowling Green Development”] PR & EF updated the committee on the progress of the scheme and the relevant details were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total funds available to date amount to £122K (£62K Section 106 & £60K insurance). • Application can be made to more than one Landfill Operator, certain restrictions and benefits apply. • To obtain Landfill Community Funding the group need to demonstrate that we have engaged in consultation, the management plan work and further dialogue with families and children should suffice with local schools and Llandaff Festival additional options. • LCF can only be used to fund facilities open to the general public a minimum of 104 days per year. The playground would qualify a community café/toilet facility might not. • Section 106 funds from the BBC site development would not apply because of the distant nature of that project and the retailer Lidl are under no obligation to contribute as their scheme is commercial so not liable. • The Management Plan should be completed by September 2015 and will incorporate a stated aim to obtain Green Flag status for the whole park. • Four possible funders have been identified and proposed intention is that a bid writer be engaged by the group to assist the process. • The project should be designed so that the area requires minimum maintenance which will please the council parks department. Workday volunteers can be trained in routine maintenance and the re-location of the tots play area to the larger compound will further reduce council costs in this respect. The bit re training volunteers was something discussed at meeting with council but here it suggests it will go ahead in way it is written plus discussion was how doubtful an option this would be.
September 2015	<p>[From September 2015 Minutes “6.07.15 – Bowling Green Development. – Correction. Section 106 funds from the BBC site development would be available but after LCF finishes. The retailer Lidl scheme on Station Road would not be able to fund the playground scheme but could be approached for a donation.”</p>
September 2015	<p>Site meeting with James McGrath</p>
September 2015	<p>Public consultation at Llandaff North Autumn Fair</p>
November 2015	<p>[from November 2015 Minutes re “Bowling Green Development”]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PR & EF are due to meet the supply company representatives within the next ten days when further proposals will submitted for consideration. • Design ideas, submitted by the children, have been well received by the project team and could well be incorporated into the final draft. • About £120K council funds are in place, insurance funds from the pavilion fire can be used for match funding. • Section 106 funds from the BBC site development will be allocated at the discretion of the council and the provision of a toilet complex and tennis courts re-surfacing remain aspirations • The removal and re-location of the infants play area will reduce council maintenance costs and ES is to prepare a situation report on the scheme to date • PB advocated a fundraising exercise to further engage the community with the project and thereby create a closer affiliation and interest.
November 2015	<p>Designs received from SMP. The project budget would be £139,999 (See URLs: View 1 & View 2)</p>

December 2015	Meeting with Cllr White, Adrian Jones and Jon Green (Cardiff Council). They were positive about the plans but concerned about the cost of maintenance. They suggested Cardiff Council's draftsmen make some minor changes to the plans to take account of some equipment, surfacing etc. preferences.
January 2016	[From January 2016 Minutes re 'Playground Scheme'] "PR reported that the final proposals had been submitted by the equipment suppliers SMP Ltd. The design incorporated a wide variety of play units and surface coverings and, although this concept does not have the total 'natural' element initially conceived, the number of items displayed and their setting shown on the illustrated draft provide a satisfactory compromise. Funds held by the authority, which will part finance the scheme, were confirmed and the task will now begin of selecting funding sources for the balance. Previous experience using the Landfill Communities Fund Scheme would identify this method as the preferred option."
May 2016	[From May 2016 Minutes] "Local representatives are still enthusiastic about the development plans for the park and will continue to be closely involved. Certain reservations have been expressed by the council regarding possible maintenance issues on the new play equipment proposed. These costs must be kept to an absolute minimum, but, by working closely with the Playground Officers acceptable compromises can be achieved so that all parties will be satisfied with the final outcome."
July 2016	Cardiff Council produces plans for a significantly different scheme (which essentially relocates the younger children's play area on to the bowling green) at a cost of £190,000 – which includes a sum of £90,000 for maintenance.
August 2016	Meeting with Cllrs White and Ali where they expressed their view that only the new scheme would be supportable.
September 2016	The new scheme was presented to the Friends of Hailey Park meeting (<i>see below</i>), which felt that the proposal did not meet the requirements of the group or the community. The council officers were informed of this via Cllr White.

September 2016

[From September 2016 Minutes re "Playground Scheme"]
PR and EF reported on the status of the project. Together with consultants SMP Ltd they had produced a design for a natural play area for children at the derelict bowling green site. As the council and local representatives were closely involved from commencement, they were fully aware of the content and scale of the scheme. The plans were submitted to the council for final approval but were rejected and a more modest design proposed including different equipment and re-location of units. Maintenance charges, always a contentious issue with the council, were regarded as excessive in the original scheme.
The total cost of the revised project is £100,000 with a Future Phase Development Option costing a further £28,500.
Time factors are now approaching critical as it has been the intention of FOHP to part pay the original scheme using the Landfill Communities Fund but this source is to be phased out in the near future.
It was agreed that PR should e-mail the authority and local representatives detailing the following concerns.
(a) We are of the view that the amended scheme fails to bridge the age gap between the current play facilities and, as such, is likely to disappoint the local community. We therefore insist that the project must meet that aim from the outset.
(b) As you are aware it is commonplace for football to be seen to be played on the bowling green, broken glass and litter are a consequence. We are concerned that simply placing infant and nursery age equipment directly alongside this area would be problematic despite the proposed wildflower planting. If misused the area would simply become a sea of mud.
(c) We are very concerned about including maintenance costs in the project. Are you able to provide examples of other S-106 funded projects in Cardiff where the local community has been required to fund ongoing maintenance.
(d) We would like to see a full breakdown of maintenance costs.
(e) In 2015 we were informed that £122K was available of which £62K were S-106 funds and £60K insurance proceeds. We have now been told that there is £60K S-106 and £51680 insurance money. Are you able to explain this discrepancy?
(f) We believe that a number of items on the costs breakdown could be completed by the volunteer groups, in-house using the council's own equipment and workforce or a combination of the two. We would like to see the costs revised to take account of this proposal.
(g) The amended scheme clearly represents the first phase of the playground development. In order to make applications for capital funding (such as Landfill Community Grants) that are likely to succeed we need to have designs for the complete scheme. Although the proposed works are on a smaller scale, we understand that the relevant council officers were going to amend the proposed SMP/FOHP plans to produce an acceptable "final version" of the scheme which we could then use for funding application purposes. Could we therefore see plans for the development of the entire bowling green area?
(h) We would like to consult jointly with the local community on the plans for this area.

October 2016

Cllr White informed the Friends of Hailey Park that the Council. The officers are now investigating the cost of making good the play equipment in the toddler playground, resurfacing the tennis courts and restoring the bowling green to parkland.