COSSALL PARK: Site Analysis

MAIN ISSUES:
- There are many under used areas due to mounds and the ball court fencing and location.
- Scattered layout of facilities detracts from a ‘park like’ landscape quality.
- Over provision of football/ball games in centre of park?
- Lack of landscape planting types, or biodiversity.
- Lack of seating/ picnic space.
- Entrances are currently uninviting.
- Inaccessible area fenced off behind ball court, unused and suffers antisocial behaviour.
- Infrastructure is old and worn and looks run down.

Key
- Path created from desire line
- Well-used paths
- Usable open space
- Under used space
- Play area
- Ball court and football areas
- Growing space

Biodiversity
Biodiversity limited due to lack of habitat types overgrown areas, too much of the same thing (trees & grass)

Under-used space
Under-used space
Under-used space

Goal posts in grass
Goal posts in tarmac

Goal in grass
Goal in tarmac

Links and routes into the park, and Kirkwood Nature Reserve could be improved.

Many areas under used by lack of path access and mound locations

New flats
Wood’s Road
Hardes Road
Sunwell Close
Gordons Road
Weston Close

ACCESS

INACCESSIBLE

Housing land outside of project boundary

Kirkwood Nature Reserve
COSSALL PARK: Consultation Stage 1 Follow up

The first Cossall Park public consultation was held in March, and we discussed issues surrounding Cossall Park’s design and use with residents. Discussion at that meeting resulted in two main design strategies for the park’s future investment and improvement. The general views were:

1. The existing ball court which is very popular should remain where it is.
2. The provision for play should not be reduced, and the two current play areas should be combined into one larger area.

Based on these two views, we have developed a draft design for the park with focus on:

- **Space activation and security;**
  By reducing the size of the largest mounds and re-shaping smaller mounds we open up the visibility of the west edge of the site. Thinning out the tree canopy by removing trees noted as being of poor health, will benefit the remaining trees.
  A new path from Harder’s road that weaves in between the mounds and the open woodland improves access to the west side of the park and the new play area, connecting to the nature area, ball courts and on to Wood’s road.

- **Nature area and meadow;**
  The new nature area can be created by removing the old, derelict fencing and selective clearance of the northwest corner, together with planting. There will be a path through the space and a buffer of native hedging along the boundary with the Woods Road flats. There will be low growing wildlife friendly meadow planting with native shrubs.
  The mounds and spring meadow will capture a sunny spot with potential to include more trees, and a clearing that can be used as an outdoor classroom space.

- **Play, sport and playful spaces for all ages;**
  The ball court is a key feature of Cossall Park. The proposal is to resurface the court, design in two more entrances, and improve the fencing with something less visually dominant. Additionally, smaller ball games areas are included; one basketball and one ‘Panna’ football, with a seating area, which allows younger players to enjoy the space in a more informal way.
  The main play area is now one large fenced play space, with reshaped mounds, a woodland play trail and adventurous play equipment. The play area is designed for different ages, and includes an open lawn area for picnic benches and seating.
  Equipment includes a zip wire, a play mound with slide, climbing frames, and swings. Throughout the park the mounds are re-shaped slightly to remove hidden areas, and open lawn areas are retained for informal play. There are three areas of gym equipment proposed, creating a fitness trail along the woodland and meadow paths.

- **Entrances, planting and more seasonal colour;**
  A grove of new trees with flowering bulb planting help create a welcoming new wider entrance on Wood’s Road, where one or two poor condition trees will be removed. The aim is to make the entrance on Harders road more inviting, with seating, flowering shrubs and groundcover.
  A selection of new trees will be planted across the site, providing shade for new seating. The park has the advantage of shady and sunny areas, so plants that thrive in these different conditions will be chosen to introduce seasonal interest and colour as well as attracting wildlife.
  The proposal includes ten areas of seating and several picnic benches; all away from the path and positioned next to the play and activity spaces or in informal sunny south facing spots.
COSSALL PARK: Phase 1 - What could be done? - Nature Area and Footpath?

ACTIONS:
- Clear and enlarge nature area; remove fencing to open up inaccessible area and transform into usable space.
- Re-design & move western edge mounds, to enable the footpath and to open up hidden spaces.
- New footpath and access from Harders Road and Woods Road around the western side of the park through the nature area.
- Retain most existing play equipment, ball courts and footpaths until phase 2.
- If affordable, upgrade some play equipment in its final planned location, so no wasted budget.

Key

- Suggested phase 1 - Nature area
- Suggested phase 1 - New footpath
COSSALL PARK:
Play
COSSALL PARK:
Planting