

30/6/25

To: Town Clerk Richard Williams
Mayor Phil Owen
& Welshpool Town Councillors.

Request for full Council consideration and funding for a new play park for Oldford Estate.

Dear Sir/madam

I am writing to you on behalf of Oldford Community Association committee and tenants & residents of the Oldford Estate, regarding the lack of recreation facilities on the Oldford Estate. We raised over £46,000 many years ago to provide a safe play area for the children on the Oldford Estate. Now there is only the two small play area's in use which are only suitable for under 5 year olds, the larger play area is in a state of disrepair and was handed back to Clwyd Alyn Association to cover the cost of the insurance and for the upkeep of the equipment as we were unable to raise the £700 every year for the insurance.

The estate is the responsibility of both Clwyd Alyn Housing Association and Powys County Council and when we were consulted of the new houses being built in the late 1980's we were told that recreation facilities would be provided as the large area that was on the estate at the time would have houses built on that ground. This never happened hence us raising the money to provide recreation facilities for our children, which we should not have had to do. As this is the largest estate in Welshpool therefore more children than any other estate in the Welshpool area living here.

We therefore would like to formally request the Town Councils support and funding for a new play park within our community. As the largest estate in Welshpool with a mix of social housing and private residences, Oldford estate has a growing need for safe and well maintained recreational spaces for children.

Research consistently highlights the critical role of play parks in fostering child development, community cohesion and overall well being. According to the office of National Statistics, access to local parks and play areas is directly linked to improved mental and physical health in children. (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/datasets/numberofparksandplayareasinlocalareasenglandandwales>"1")

Additional studies show that children who engage in regular outdoor play demonstrate better social skills, reduced anxiety and improved academic performance (<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/blog/children-value-outside-spaces-to-play-in-their-local-communities/>"2")

Despite these benefits council budget cuts have led to a decline in the maintenance and availability of play areas across the UK, with over £350 million in funding reductions affecting local recreational spaces (<https://www.encorestates.co.uk/news/putting-outdoor-play-at-the-heart-of-our-communities.html>"3")

This resulted in many play parks falling into disrepair, disproportionately impacting on families on council estates where alternative recreational are limited.

As i stated earlier that years ago our community raised funds to establish a play area, however, due to years of inadequate upkeep the facility has now deteriorated and is now unusable. The absence of a safe and accessible play space has had a significant impact on local families, leaving children without a crucial area for outdoor recreation, social interaction and physical activity.

In light of financial pressures on families and the lasting impact of COVID-19 lockdown on children's mental health, the need for accessible, local outdoor spaces is more urgent than ever. A well designed, multi- purpose play park would provide a much needed resource for families, reaffirming the Councils commitment to community well being and inclusivity.

I request that this matter be placed on the agenda for consideration at the next full council meeting, with the aim of securing funding for this vital initiative. Additionally, i would appreciate a formal response from the Council following its deliberation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your written response.

Yours sincerely

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— treasurer of Oldford Community Association.