

‘ACCESS TO ALL’ AT RECREATIONS GROUNDS

1. Background

The 2 recreation grounds in the Parish are community resources that are well received by the community and provide many forms of opportunity for exercise and the general improvement of the wellbeing of our residents particularly as we continue to move forward with our journey out of the Pandemic.

Iver Recreation Ground



Facilities include:

- Pavilion
- Car Park
- Disabled Car Parking
- Fenced play area suitable for 3-7 year olds
- Marked Football Pitches
- Basketball Court
- Outdoor Gym Equipment
- Perimeter path
- Access to allotment site
- Scout Hut

Uses include: Exercising, children’s play, dog walking, football, adult gym usage

Security: 2 Metre Height Barrier, Secured fence to open green space, width restrictors to pedestrian ‘entrances, lockable gate.

Access via road / car park from High Street and side access from Dutton Way.

Iver Heath Recreation Ground



Facilities include:

- Pavilion (Bowls Club & Tennis Club)
- Car Park
- Disabled Car Parking
- Fenced play area suitable for 3-7 year olds
- Marked Football Pitches
- Basketball Court
- Outdoor Gym Equipment

Uses include: Exercising, children's play, dog walking, football, adult gym usage

Security: 2 Metre Height Barrier, Wooden sleeper bollards along edge of green space

Access via road / car park from Church Road. Paths from Bangors Road South and Anslow Gardens

2. Current Issues

Over the past year, and historically, our recreation grounds have been subject to abuse from traveller encampments (last time at Iver Recreation Ground in May 2021), damage caused by motorbike / trial bike usage and damage caused by excessive use of fireworks. This list is not exhaustive.

3. Our Objective

Our objective remains to give access to all users of our open spaces whilst keeping out those who abuse or ruin the facilities that are carefully maintained by our Grounds team to a high standard which is commented on by local residents and users. We have a legal objective as well as a moral principle to give access to our facilities to all users regardless of their physical or mental ability.

Access to the Recreation Ground at Iver Heath is good in terms of accessibility to all.

Our challenge exists at Iver Recreation Ground and this is where most abuse of our facilities takes place.

As well as the Equality Act legislation 2010 and the Disability Act 1995 (*CHAPTER 50. An Act to make it unlawful to discriminate against disabled persons in connection with employment, the provision of goods, facilities and services or the disposal or management of premises; to make provision about the employment of disabled persons; and to establish a National Disability Council*), due consideration should be given to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998:

17 Duty to consider crime and disorder implications.

(1) Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent,

(a) crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and

(b) the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and

(c) re-offending in its area

2) This section applies to each of the following—

a local authority;

a joint authority;

4a combined authority established under section 103 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009;

the London Fire Commissioner;

a fire and rescue authority constituted by a scheme under section 2 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 or a scheme to which section 4 of that Act applies;

6a fire and rescue authority created by an order under section 4A of that Act;

a metropolitan county fire authority;

7a local policing body;

a National Park authority;

the Broads Authority;

8the Greater London Authority;

9. Transport for London.

(3) In this section—

“local authority” means a local authority within the meaning given by section 270(1) of the M1Local Government Act 1972 or the Common Council of the City of London;

“joint authority” has the same meaning as in the M2Local Government Act 1985;

“National Park authority” means an authority established under section 63 of the Environment Act 1995.

*4)The appropriate national authority may by order amend this section by—
(a)adding an entry for any person or body to the list of authorities in subsection (2),
(b)altering or repealing any entry for the time being included in the list, or
(c)adding, altering or repealing provisions for the interpretation of entries in the list.
(5)In subsection (4) “the appropriate national authority” has the same meaning as in
section 5.]*

4. Current issues

Current issues include:

Iver Recreation Ground

Our width restrictors limit access to users of mobility scooters and some larger buggies
An open gate gives opportunity for motor / trial bikes to access the green space and
pitches particularly have been churned up giving potential issues to football club users
and making additional work for our Grounds Team.

5. The Opportunity

There is considerable opportunity to improve the access we offer to all users of our
open spaces and in particular Iver Recreation Grounds.

Possibilities could include

- Accessible locked gates with access via the national ‘Radar’ or similar scheme.
- Specific gates / restrictors that allow access to scooters / wheelchair users / buggies and prams whilst limiting the access to undesirable users like motor / trial bike users.

6. How to Progress

The Deputy Clerk seeks some direction to be able to progress to a plan to achieve the
objective of allow access to all those users we wish to use of facilities for the right
purposes whilst preventing access to those who abuse our facilities.

Potential sources of information for progress could include:

- Liaising with local / other Parish Councils with similar issues / problems to see what methods of security are used
- Consider the use of professional guidance on the matter – source could include:
 - Remap – charitable organisation that has helped other organisation including Essex Council to make adjustments.
 - Other charitable organisations could include Mencap, Scope, Disability Rights UK, Princes Trust.
- Liaising with local larger park authorities – Langley Park, Black Park, Denham Country Park