

Community Recreation Facilities in Crowle Update for Parishioners

In this document you can find...

- a summary of the feedback we received following the detailed leaflet and community drop-in events
- details of resulting improvements made to the project Masterplan
- planned next steps and timing, and
- a request for volunteering help with the project.

Crowle Parish Council
May 2026

Feedback received from the community

Thank you to everyone who attended one of the three community drop-in events and/or gave feedback. The events were attended by **68 people** in total: 23 on 21 April, 15 on 25 April, and 30 on 3 May.

We received written feedback from 22 parishioners, and also from multiple local community groups including Preschool, the Primary School, the Scout Group, the Searchers FC, the Table Tennis Club, and Young Farmers, who focus largely on providing activities and opportunities for young people.

Overall, the feedback was very positive, with many people complimenting the quality and level of detail in both the leaflet and the display boards at the drop-ins (on the Parish Council's website at crowlepc.co.uk), and welcoming the range of facilities as bringing 'something for everyone', especially the investment for children.

Four parishioners submitted objections. Their main points were: new community building not needed; facilities not wanted/too extensive and/or would be better outside the village/near a town; concern about use by 'outsiders' and more traffic.

Funding and costs were also raised. All project phases will be dependent on funding availability. Funding sources include Section 106, the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and the related precept, all generated from new housing developments in the parish, together with grants from various sources.

The Parish Council will communicate well in advance any anticipated increase in the precept charge to fund this project. This would include formal consultation regarding any proposed new loan from the Public Works Loan Board.

Guests at the Drop-ins: We were pleased to welcome Nigel Huddleston, our local MP, and also see strong representation from Councillors and Officers from Wychavon District Council, all of whom expressed enthusiastic support for the project (including in some cases potentially being able to help with access to funding).

More details of the feedback received are on pages 7 and 8.

Improvements to the Masterplan

The following improvements were requested to the proposals set out in the leaflet:

1. Move the new **Cycle Mud Track** nearer the halls to address concerns about its remote location near the new allotments and its close proximity to quiet wildlife and relaxation areas
2. Relocate the **Scouts' 'Knives and Fires'** area closer to their storage containers for convenience and safety reasons
3. Increase the gap between the **Scouts' storage containers** to create a larger covered area for drying tents etc
4. Allow space for a possible **'Men in Sheds'** facility
5. Retain the **horse chestnut tree** in the north-west corner of Jubilee Field, planted by Preschool around 2000.

All these requests have been endorsed by our Project Working Group. The revised Masterplan incorporating these improvements can be found on the centre pages of this leaflet. The changes are not expected to have a material impact on overall costs (the cost for any future 'Men in Sheds' building is excluded at this stage).

Additional information was provided to residents who asked about a range of topics, including the cashflow projections spreadsheet and the upgrade of the existing Children's Play Area.

Phasing and Design Notes

Phase 1 - target 2026

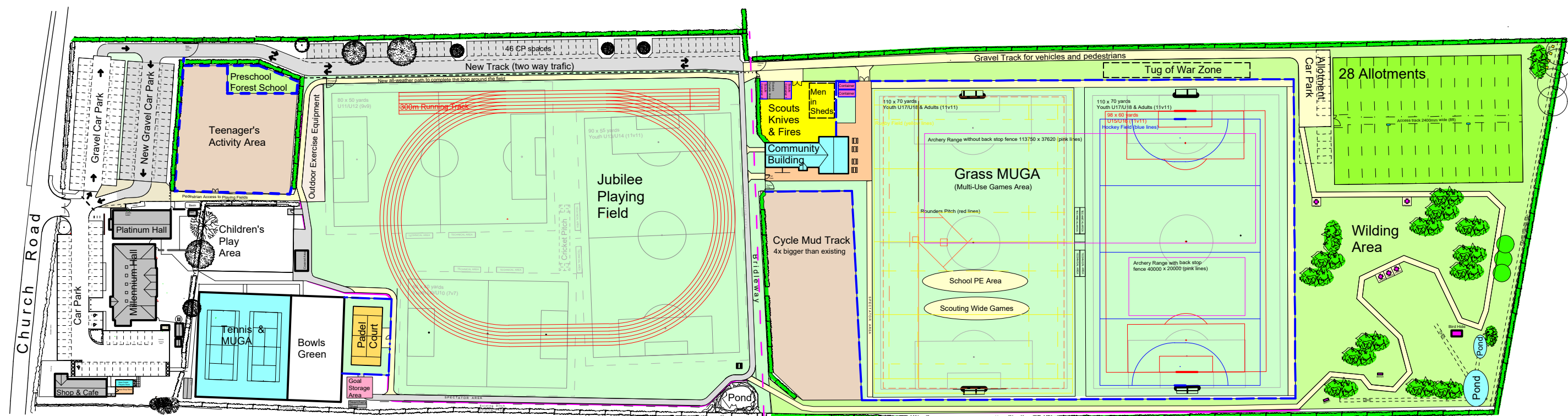
- **Shop & Players Storage** - Containers next to Shop / near Millennium Hall
- **Binding gravel to Existing Exercise Track** around Jubilee Field
- **Wilding Area Planting** - Well away from busy Church Road
- **Ponds** - At lowest point of site and controlling water run off - Overflow into existing ditch
- **Tug of War** - Located where creating an uneven surface is acceptable

Phase 2 - target 2027

- **Allotments** - Relocated together to foster community allotment spirit - Fenced to prevent unwanted entry of people, dogs and rabbits - Quality growing soil and 2no water troughs - Car parking nearby with gravel track from Jubilee Field
- **Teenagers' Activity Area** - Being 'new', grants will be possible - Over double the size of existing Children's Play Area
- **Preschool Forest School** - Relocated nearer to Millennium to reduce transfer time for children - Close to public toilet
- **New Gravel Car Park** - Near Church Road to avoid parking on Jubilee Field
- **Padel Court** - Fast growing with few facilities in the area - Good hire rates so more than self-funding - With roof to allow all-weather usage
- **Scouts Storage, Covered Area and Knives & Fires** - Two containers for camping and activity equipment - Covered Area for drying tents etc. - Knives & Fires fenced for good child protection - Near Community Building for access to toilets
- **Cycle Mud Track** - Extended area about 4 times larger than existing track
- **Exercise Track and Running Track** - Binding gravel exercise track around Back Field - Running Track on Jubilee Field, 300m length with 6 lanes
- **Benches and Picnic Tables to Wilding Area**

Phase 3 - earliest envisaged 2029

- **Community Building** - Located inside fence of Grass MUGA, provides good combination of spaces to hire and easy access to toilets etc. - Public Toilet about 250m from Wilding Area
- **Grass MUGA** - Fenced area to control access for child safety and provide space to hire - Space for Football, Hockey, Rugby, Rounders and Archery to recommended standards - Located on flattest part of site to minimise ground works - Overhead power lines removed
- **Crowle Searchers Storage** - Two containers for football equipment and possibly mowing equipment
- **Outdoor Exercise Equipment** - Near Children's Play Area and Teenagers' Activity Area
- **Two-Way Track and Parking to North Boundary** - Additional parking for Grass MUGA users - Two-way wide track for traffic flow - One-way system to Gravel Car Parks to aid traffic flow - Removes vehicles from track by Platinum Hall - Vehicles kept separate from Jubilee Field by fence
- **Exercise Track to Jubilee Field** - Loop completed to avoid using vehicle route - Loop lengths Jubilee Field & Back Field = 1.1km Figure of '8' using Bridleway = 1.3km
- **Men in Sheds** - Space allocation only - Near track and service connection from Community Building



Revised Masterplan

Decisions and next steps

Following the endorsement by the Project Working Group, the Parish Council approved the revised Masterplan at its meeting on 14 May.

The next steps will be to:

- submit a supporting planning application, probably in June
- resurface the track round the Jubilee Field, during the summer
- dig ponds and start planting in the Wilding Area, this autumn
- create the new allotments area, in late 2026/early 2027.

Regular updates on progress will be provided in the Cryer.

Your help please!

Many thanks to the dozen parishioners, the Scout Group and the Young Farmers who have offered volunteering help. We're planning to ask them to help with the Wilding Area planting.

We're still looking for help with steering the design of the **new Teenagers' Activity Area – ideally from 10-16 year-olds please!**

If you could spare some time and/or would like to find out more about what's involved, please contact Robert Moore at robert.o.moore10@gmail.com or on 07799 643395.

Donna Kennedy and Robert Moore

Core Group – Community Recreation Facilities Project

May 2026

Summary of feedback from local community groups

Crowle Preschool

A positive move to have our Forest School nearer to the Millennium Hall - this will make it more accessible for all, and allow more frequent use.

Victoria Cooper – Early Years Manager

Crowle Primary School

Strong support for the plans - the School will make extensive use of the facilities which will allow a broader sports curriculum and create opportunities for clubs and partnerships.

Secure outdoor space: This will greatly improve safeguarding.

Community building: Accessible toilets are a major benefit closer to our activities; the changing area is useful for inter-school competitions; and on sports day refreshments can be offered.

Martina Abbott – Headteacher

Crowle Scout Group

Scouts storage and drying area: Much needed - we have little storage for camping and activity equipment, and no tent-drying space. We'd like a bigger gap between the containers for storage and tent drying.

Scouts 'knives and fires' area: Long needed! Close to our stores but away from public access so we can do more of these activities safely. We'd grow green hazel sticks for cooking sausages and toasting marshmallows.

Secure grass area: A great asset to have this for games and activities near to our stores, and also lots of scope to camp there.

Community building: The plans look excellent! We very much hope that this could become our 'Scout Hut' for weekly meetings! The Millennium Hall is heavily booked, but the new multi-purpose room will accommodate many activities. And it'll be very handy to have outside toilets.

Wilding, ponds and bird hide: Of great interest to us, as helping to plant up and maintain this area could be part of our 'Naturalist Badge' work.

Angela Barclay – Lead Volunteer

Crowle Searchers FC

Congratulations to the Working Group for producing a Masterplan that satisfies the vast majority of requests and will enable our growing community to benefit from excellent facilities for all. As with the Platinum Hall, we are convinced that new clubs and activities will be born as a direct result of these facilities. We are delighted that the safe and secure outdoor space will be used by many community groups, including us, to encourage our younger members to enjoy an active healthy lifestyle. We are excited to be involved in bringing these ambitious plans to life.

Management Committee

Crowle Table Tennis Club

The new building will be great, giving us space for two match courts. We will buy new table tennis tables as required. We also hope to start 'Age Concern' afternoons for older players, when the halls are often booked.

Brett Williams – Secretary

Crowle Young Farmers

Very happy with the proposals and the opportunities they will create for us via the tug-of-war space, the new meeting place and the grass MUGA.

Lily Terry – Co-ordinator

Feedback from our local MP and Wychavon attendees

- The engagement around the project looks very thorough and has enabled the team to create an exciting vision for the community.
- A 'village-appropriate' scheme to support an expanding community.
- Brilliant plans! A broadly-based offering for individuals and for multiple local community groups - all 'in-scale' for a forward-looking parish.
- Extremely impressive display, especially the financials chart projecting costs over future years including contingency plans (eg for varying numbers of new houses); this inspires confidence.
- Local facilities for local people – less travel and more independence for children; especially pleased to see the 'rest and relaxation' provisions!