

# King George V Playing Fields

January 2021





# Summary

## ***How people rate the park***

Generally the park scores low, with 8 out of 15 categories rated well below average. Only 4 features were scored above average: Adaptability, Accessibility, Entrance / boundaries and Safety. Below average scores were given for: Community involvement, Sustainability, Network with wider area, Regulating benefits, Variety, Information / signage and Biodiversity, with Economic benefits scoring the lowest. These scores indicate the themes that work well and those that could be significantly improved.

## ***What people like about the park as it is***

The most popular elements of the existing park are the open space, and that it can be used by different people doing different things.

## ***What people don't like / issues raised***

The main, overriding concerns about the park are regarding the playpark, followed by a lack of biodiversity in the park in general.

## ***Recommendations for action – based on all information collected***

By analysing all the information collated, from all stakeholder, recommended actions for improving the park are:

- 1) Refurbish play facilities
- 2) Provision of seating
- 3) Addition of plants
- 4) Review fencing
- 5) Review of park maintenance (inc bins, trees, etc)
- 6) Review of entrances and paths, including signage
- 7) Review additional sports facilities (e.g. outdoor gym, MUGA)
- 8) Community activities / events

## ***Potential Partners***

Suggestions for local partners, who may be able to help with the recommended improvements, include: Uphall Community Council, Broxburn and Uphall Growers, various local organisations, youth groups and businesses.



## Introduction

King George V Playing Field is designated as a Neighbourhood Park in the West Lothian Open Space Plan and is protected as open space in the West Lothian Local Plan (2018). All King George V Playing Fields are also protected through the organisation Fields in Trust. This is a legal agreement between the landowner (WLC) and Fields in Trust agreeing that the council will retain the fields for use as a green space in perpetuity.

The park is a medium-sized rectangular park, approximately 2ha, and forms a 'community hub' along with the Community Centre, Nursery and car park in the south. The park slopes down from north to south (i.e. south-facing). It is bounded by houses in the west, tarmac path and houses in the north, St Andrew's Drive in the east and the community centre and private housing along the southern boundary.

The park consists of playpark, kickpitch, one 11-a-side football pitch, mature trees, a few benches and bins, a rock formation and many flood mitigation features, such as bunding and drainage. A tarmac path with lighting runs north/south through the middle of the park with another lit tarmac path along the north edge.

Known park users include footballers, fitness groups and Muddy Church, alongside individuals using the playpark, kickpitch and walking dogs.

West Lothian Council has some money to make improvements to the park in 2021/22. Feedback from local stakeholders will inform the improvements and help to shape a longer-term vision for the park.





## Information gathering

Feedback from local stakeholders was gathered via an online survey. The survey period ran from 9<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Emails were sent to all known stakeholders, including council officers, Uphall Community Council, Uphall Primary School, Uphall South Church and local Councillors. 50 fliers advertising the survey were put through neighbours' doors around the park, with another 10 left at the Community Centre and 6 posters were displayed in and around the park. The survey was also advertised through the council's Media team. A total of 30 local people gave their feedback altogether.



## Feedback

### From WLC officers:

There have been some issues with young people climbing on the football containers and then onto garages in the west of the park.

The playpark is due for investment in 2022. This could include inclusive play equipment.

Extensive drainage work has been carried out in the park to alleviate flooding issues to the south of the park. These measures must not be compromised.

### Uphall primary school:

P3/4 pupils have suggested the provision of an outdoor gym and a children's gym in the park, as accessible facility for those who cannot afford a gym membership.

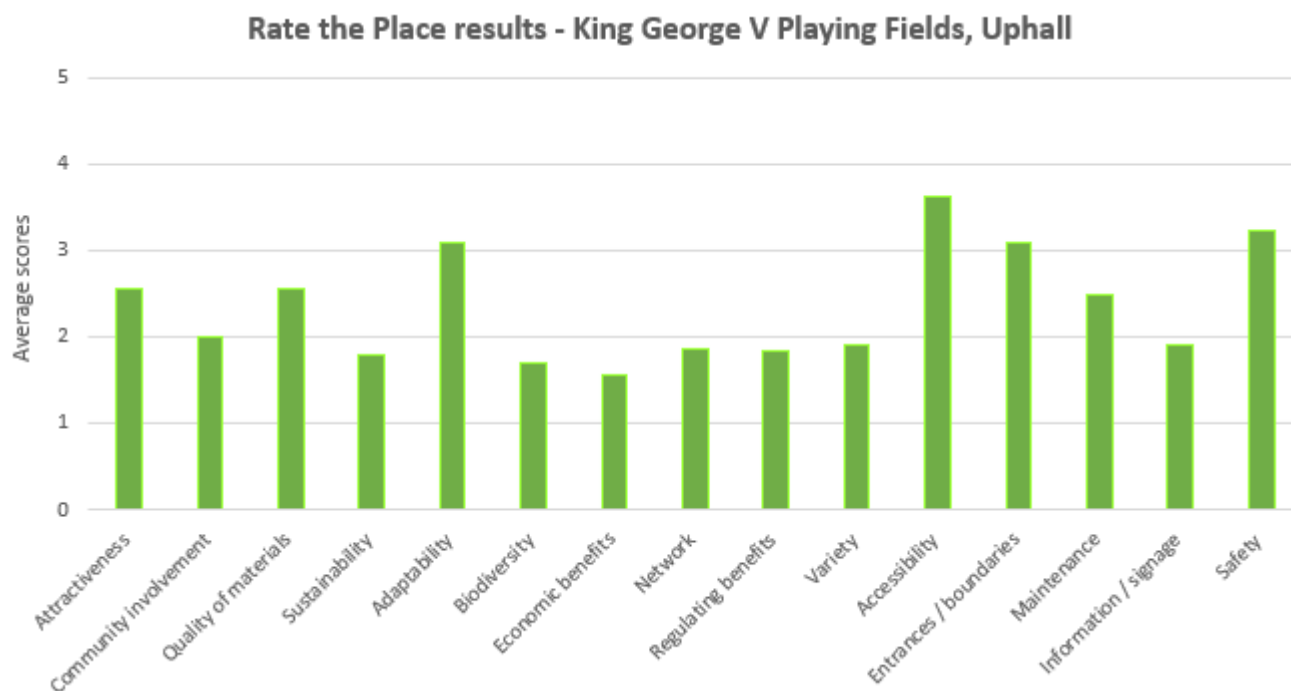
## From survey:

### Name of the park

The majority of survey participants call the park King George V Playing Fields. Others call it King George V or King George(s), some call it King George V Park and some KGV / KGV playing fields.

### Rate the Place

Participants were asked to rate the park as it currently is, using the council's Park Audit questionnaire. The results are shown in the chart below. 30 people participated in the scoring.



With a possible top score of 5 points for each category, it can be seen that only 4 park categories score above average: Adaptability, Accessibility, Entrance / boundaries and Safety.

Roughly average scores are given for Attractiveness, Quality of materials and Maintenance.

All the other categories score below average: Community involvement, Sustainability, Network with wider area, Regulating benefits, Variety, Information / signage and Biodiversity, with Economic benefits scoring the lowest.

These scores give us a clear indication of which themes within the park work well and which themes could be significantly improved.

The park's total community-rated score is 35, which rates below 'fit for purpose' (40 being the cut-off point). This is 6 points below the score as rated through the council's park audit process (41). This could be due to the time of year that the park was assessed, as well as park expectations.

*Please see Appendix 1 for a more detailed description of the characteristics that were scored.*

## What do people like best about the park?

When the feedback for this question is pasted into a 'word cloud generator', the resulting size of each word shows how often it is mentioned. The 'word cloud' for King George V Playing Fields is shown here, allowing us to see at a glance which elements of the park are currently most valued:



The most popular park attributes are the open space and that the park can be used by different people doing different things. Football is popular, followed by the playpark and the location of the park (central / close to home). Some people like the trees and that it's a good place to walk dogs.





## What people don't like / issues people raised

The playpark is the feature that raises most concerns – either through the variety of equipment, its condition or dog/cat fouling in the sandpit. The next commonly identified shortcoming is the lack of biodiversity in the park. The main entrance by the car park is another concern (especially broken glass), along with the appearance of the changing rooms and litter. Although many people think there should be more trees in the park, some people would like the existing trees to be trimmed or thinned. Other issues raised include the lack of seating, the fencing, litter, grass maintenance and lighting.



## Suggestions for improvements

The most popular suggestion for low-cost things that would improve the park in the short-term is to improve the playpark, although this isn't particularly low cost. The next most popular suggestion is to add more plants to the park, followed by seating, better maintenance, reducing dog fouling, increasing bins and litter-picking. Other suggestions included an area specifically for dogs and path repairs.

The most popular suggestions for longer-term improvements are: more play equipment / features (mainly for older children) and planting. These are followed by seating, additional sports facilities, improving access, better maintenance, upgrading the changing area, fencing (adding/removing) and signage.

*All suggestions can be viewed in Appendix 2 at the end of this report.*





## Recommendations

Generally, the park is rated quite low by local users. Key issues can be addressed through the Open Space Capital spending in 2021. Anything which can't be done this year will form the basis for a longer-term plan. By analysing the park scores and bringing together feedback from all stakeholders, recommended actions for improving the park are:

- 1) Refurbish play facilities
- 2) Provision of seating
- 3) Addition of plants
- 4) Review fencing
- 5) Review of park maintenance (inc bins, trees, etc)
- 6) Review of entrances and paths, including signage
- 7) Review additional sports facilities (e.g. outdoor gym, MUGA)
- 8) Community activities / events

The play area is due for investment in 2022. The suggestions in this report will be considered when refurbishing it.

Some seating with planters along the main path through the park will be provided by the Broxburn and Uphall Growers.

The park has a lot of open space and could take more planting without it feeling enclosed. Additional planting would also help to boost the park scores for Biodiversity, Regulating benefits and Attractiveness. Incorporating some edible plants in park planting would also help to boost the park's Economic benefits and increase the Variety of things to do there.

The fencing around the park does nothing to enhance the aesthetic of the park. It is also a visual and literal barrier to access. This should be reviewed and removed / replaced as necessary.

A review of park maintenance should take place including provision of recycling and litter bins, bin collection, dog fouling, tree management and grass management. Maintenance levels most likely cannot be increased at this time, however it may be possible to better organise maintenance activities.

A path around the park would help to provide structure to the park as well as a walking route for people of all abilities in most weather. It would also help to connect key park entrances. Further seating could also be provided at key points along the path and signage at entrances. However, this must be carefully planned as additional infrastructure must not compromise the existing drainage measures within the park.

Additional sports facilities such as outdoor gym equipment, MUGA, etc can be considered for longer term investment as space, funding and maintenance requirements allow.

To improve community involvement in the park, local residents could organise small events (e.g. Easter Egg hunts, etc) or practical projects such as planting days, litter picks, etc. Or a group could fundraise for some public art, for example. This can either be done through existing groups or a dedicated Friends of the Park group, which the council is happy to help support.

Lighting was suggested by some local residents, however there is already lighting through and around the park. Additional lighting will not be considered at this time.

An area for dogs was also suggested. This has been trialled before in West Lothian and is not a policy that the council will be pursuing.

Suggestions for improving the changing area can be discussed with the footballers and will also be passed to our colleagues who manage sports facilities.

## Next Steps

This report will be posted on the parks webpage [www.westlothian.gov.uk/parkinfo](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/parkinfo)

Based on the feedback and recommendations in this report, park plans will be drawn up and people will be given the opportunity to vote on the final plan.

The 20 people who opted to join the park email list will be kept informed of park improvements. Anyone else who would like to join the list can request to do so by emailing [becky.plunkett@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:becky.plunkett@westlothian.gov.uk)

## Potential partners

Suggestions for local partners, who may be able to help with the recommended improvements, include: Uphall Community Council, Broxburn and Uphall Growers, various local organisations, youth groups and businesses.

*A full list of all suggested partners can be found in Appendix 2 at the end of this report.*





## Appendix 1 – Rate the Place characteristics explained

No.	Measure	Some things to consider 'yes' answers = higher score, unless stated
1	Attractiveness	Is the park generally attractive? Does it have a consistent or unique character?
2	Community	Does the community help to make decisions about the park? Are there frequent community events? Is there evidence of community involvement?
3	Quality	Are features and facilities robust and long-lasting?
4	Sustainability	Is weedkiller used in maintenance? (lower score) Is every bit of grass cut short? (lower) Recycling bins on site? Are there signs that materials / resources are reused on site? (e.g. grass clippings on shrub-beds)
5	Adaptability	Could spaces within the park be changed easily to suit different uses over time?
6	Biodiversity	Are there different shapes, sizes and types of plants within the park? Do you regularly see different insects / birds / other animals in the park?
7	Economic benefits	Does anyone charge for activities or events here? Does anyone sell things here? Do people collect wood or berries? Do people fish? Do people grow food here?
8	Network	Is the park connected to other green areas nearby, or rivers/burns? Is it connected to walking/cycle paths?
9	Regulating benefits	Are there trees / shrubs / plants at different heights? (to filter air/water, soak up rainfall and store carbon) Are there areas that visibly hold water when it rains? Are there flowers to support bees and other pollinators?
10	Variety	Is there a good variety of things to do in the park? e.g. sport/ walk/ sit/ learn/ play/ watch wildlife / picnic/ cycle/ eat/ run / climb / socialise / walk dog / good views
11	Accessibility	Is the park easy to walk to and get around? Is most of the park accessible to buggies / wheelchairs?
12	Entrances / boundaries	Do you know you're in a park? Are entrances and boundaries well defined? Are they attractive?
13	Maintenance	Is the park well-maintained? Is there much litter, vandalism or areas of neglect? (lower)
14	Signage	Is it clear who looks after the park and how to contact them? Is there any information on wildlife/ history, etc?
15	Safety	Do children and older people regularly use the park? Can you see across the park? Are there areas that feel unsafe? (lower)

## Appendix 2 – All survey answers

### 1) *What do you like best about this park?*

#### Open space

- wide space
- large green space in a residential area
- It is a good sized park
- It's a large green space
- It is a nice big green area
- The space, openness,
- Good size park... plenty of open space.
- large space
- lots of space
- Open space

#### Variety of use/users

- When kids were younger was a great facility with football pitch and swings
- The park is an excellent space for locals with regular football games taking place, outdoor gym sessions and children using the play park every day.
- The recreational space for people to walk, exercise play sport, and the play park for kids in the community
- It's a nice open park used by all ages - for children and youths playing football and other ball games and using the playpark..
- There is plenty of grass for everyone to play on.
- Also the small area for ball games close by play equipment.
- I like that children use all areas of this park.
- It is a space that can be used for walking, sports and family fun.

#### Football

- Used well by local football team.
- I like that there is still a full size football pitch that is used by local children and adults for games.
- It is a fantastic space for child/ youths/ adult football. A reasonably well draining, flat football surface.
- Maintained Football pitch.
- football ground
- Open space for activities like football, sports etc

#### Play area

- The child play area has some good varied activities.
- it is quite good for older kids/ younger teens to hangout in and enjoy them self. the tire swing is a good thing to chill out in and have fun.
- Our little girl loves having the tyre swing at the park.
- The tier swing
- play park with variety of equipment to use.

#### Location

- Convenient
- Central location
- within walking distance
- It's close to home

#### Trees

- There is a boundary made up of trees which is great for my dog
- good selection of trees

#### Dog walking

- I regularly walk my dog here as I'm local to the park and grew up playing in the park also so it is a area close to my heart
- It is also widely used by local residents of all ages walking their dogs and is quite a social area where dog walkers speak with others

#### Nothing

- Nothing
- Nothing.

#### Other

- It is a beautiful park but over the last couple of years when the grass has been cut, as this is not done regularly there are huge piles of grass left by the tractor. The mess which is left over is unsightly and with the tractor trailing this over the paths when moving over to each side, you can't avoid walking on it down the central path and trailing it home on your shoes! This lasts for the whole summer with the piles and trails of cut grass being left to die, go brown and then the cycle starts again each time it's cut making the park look untidy and unappealing. As a result of the Covid-19 lockdown and assumed limited resources, only the main playing fields of the park were cut and it looked amazing! Whilst it's acknowledged there is a need for the sports and play park areas to be cut, why does everywhere else in the park need the same level of maintenance. There are beautiful trees surrounding the park and the grass around them doesn't need to be cut, if it was left to grow naturally and wild around the areas where people use them least, this would be of huge benefit to the environment and encourage biodiversity and rewilding in the area. The primary purposes of rewilding are to restore in parts the enchantment of wild nature; to allow magnificent lost creatures to live here once more; and to provide people with some of the rich and raw experiences of which we have been deprived. We need to surrender the driving seat, and just sit back and watch what happens. Unlike conventional conservation which is all about targets and control, this is about shelving pre-conceptions, allowing natural processes to re-establish themselves. It's about trusting nature to find its own way. West Lothian Council's Open Space strategy states; "the council is improving the quality, condition and accessibility of West Lothian parks and play areas, including increasing biodiversity through wildflower meadows and reduced mowing, raising awareness of these facilities and encouraging community engagement.....more varied and better urban habitats and community involvement will all encourage people to get closer to nature, and to make better use of their 'local' and 'neighbourhood' parks, for learning and health." With this in mind, I ask that consideration is given to use this relatively small park as an example of how this can be achieved. Whilst I recognise this won't be supported by everyone in the community, why not try? Why do we need all of the grass cut, why do we need the paths sprayed with weed killer when left to grow, this at the moment merges beautifully with the surrounding grasses. Wild grasses were already growing along with dandelions and plants which will nourish the biodiversity of our area. As well as this, over the couple of weeks the park was wild I witnessed butterflies amongst the grass, flocks of starlings and other small birds swooping out of the long grasses, something which I have not seen in the park before. The growing dandelions will have huge benefit to the local bee population and the research around this is extensive, why not let some of the park grow and support the local wildlife, contributing to the Council's many strategies and policies in the collective goal towards reducing the countries contribution towards climate change. Most importantly, there are a pair of locally nesting Oyster Catchers which over the last couple of years have made the park their feeding ground. The birds visit the park from first thing in the morning and many times throughout the day. I hear their distinctive call every morning around the same time and watch them wade about the grass feeding. Last year, they raised a chick which spent its fledging period feeding in the park with its parents watching from the rooftops close by. Oyster Catchers are classed as an Amber bird species with significant population decline over the last 25 years. Whilst the birds can clearly thrive with the grass cut, making the park their annual breeding ground is an important factor which I feel needs to be taken into consideration in maintaining the park.
- it is outdated and not fit for purpose. I live directly in front of the park and it really annoys me the state it is left in some times. The sand pit is the worst especially when you see dogs do there business in it and see kids playing in it after. I have seen people urinate at the goal posts. Disgusting. I desperately needs a fence around the play areas to keep dogs OUT . People just let there dogs of their leads and the roam freely. Its also well overdue an upgrade the equipment is dated and not a great variety for all the different children age groups in the area. It would really benefit from a Outdoor Gym similar to the one in Broxburn. It has room for such additions such as a zip wire. Better swings for both young and older kids. Slides also.



## Other

- Well maintained generally clean and tidy
- Safe
- opportunity to develop.
- paths

## 2) *Is there anything you don't like?*

### Playpark

- Swings etc in a dreadful state. Not a pleasant area to take children to play.
- play equipment needs updated like glebe park'
- I think that the play equipment is mostly for smaller children.
- Childrens play area is poor
- The play park is substandard,,,
- It is quite dated in terms of play equipment.
- Baby swings baby chute spinning thing seesaw climbing chain
- There is not a large range of play equipment for all areas.
- The play park is open. The park is used by dog walkers and as such there is often dog dirt next to the equipment the children play on.
- It used to be my older grandsons favourite park. I took my youngest grandson and was horrified at the state of it. Swings are rusty, play equipment looked uncared for. Not good for a variety of ages
- Play park very dated
- There are boulders in the kids sand pit.
- Lack of facilities for older children, I mean age 8 up to late teenager age!! My 13 year old loves going to the park but there is not much for her to do - she is clearly too big for most of the play equipment.
- Lack of equipment etc for slightly older children. All geared towards younger children (Not even a swing for beyond toddlers). Likewise the slide is for very young children. There are a lot of primary age children around the area but the park doesn't really have anything suitable for them apart from space to kick a ball.
- Play park is only aimed at younger children
- There's not stuff for disabled people
- Sandpit
- The dirt and the fact that dogs can go into it. Needs picnic area better seating. i hate the way it gets so muddy needs rubber mats so kids can use in the rain.
- There is an open bin in the kids play area, I have asked for this to be removed and replaced in an email to the CC several times

### Dog fouling

- Open sand area open to animal fouling.
- and sandpit used by dogs
- Also the public allowing their dogs to use the sand pit as a toilet.
- Dog fouling is a constant issue
- Dog mess
- There is an issue with dog fouling.

### Trees

- To many trees blocking day light into houses could be getting thinned
- Trees are getting older and new trees and planting would be beneficial
- The over abundance of numbers of overgrown trees on the north side of park
- trees need trimmed.
- The trees do not get maintained, one even blew down, the second tree to do so.

### Fencing

- Metal boundary fence unnecessary unsightly
- Unnecessary fence between kids play park and memorial garden disjointed.
- The fence
- Fencing patchy.

### Litter

- No bin next to football pitch and after a game the park is strewn with rubbish. No one picks it up

Trampoline in the ground. A wooden tree house with a slide. I feel nature need to be incorporated more. Bird boxes. Bug hotels. Wild flowers  
content://com.android.chrome.FileProvider/images/screenshot/160 60 37754 4 91985786289.jpg

### Lack of biodiversity

- Areas of the park should be left to grow to allow wildlife to flourish.
- Little diversity in planting
- Not many colourful flowers only trees.
- There is no real wildlife planting in the park.
- Lack of biodiversity
- Cutting the all the areas I feel is unnecessary
- Several planters with flowers
- Over lockdown the grass was left to grow long and there has never been as much biodiversity in the park as there was with the long grass (including wildflowers and more bees). Of course the grass was eventually cut as was expected, however a variation in the vegetation growing here and maybe some shrubbery or plantings would go a long way to making the park a multi use area for not only the play park and football but also for a pleasant area to go wildlife watching. An increase in biodiversity would also benefit the playgroups and clubs ran within the community centre as there could be a focus on wildlife watching to encourage getting outside more for younger children.

### Changing rooms / recycling area

- Glass recycling at chaging room park entrance, results in broken glass always at this area.
- Chaging room unsightly and largley unused
- The sports community hut is unsightly and could do with refurbishment.
- The changing facilities are very poor, both inside and aesthetically from the outside.
- There is always broken glass around the bottle banks in the car park and bins generally overflowing.
- The glass bottle bank is constantly surrounded by cardboard from people bringing their class in boxes but nowhere to then dispose of them - how about a cardboard/plastic until as well? The ground surrounding the bottle banks are always covered in broken glass as well most likely excess from tipping into the lorry. This could cause harm to dogs, other animals walking through the car park. The bins are always over flowing and with the wind the rubbish flows onto the car park, in the bushes and into the children's play park.
- 2 more bins near bottle bank.
- Next to the changing room block and leading to the car park , there is litter regularly left on the ground and the litter bins are generally full and over spilling . Perhaps more of them, notice encouraging park users to put rubbish in them (more bins should be provided) to benefit of all park users.

### Seating

- Lacks seating areas
- It would be a real asset to have a few nice seating arrangements (benches or other seating) in the grass areas to encourage folks to sit and chat with others and it is quite an uphill struggle for elderly residents who enjoy the local walks so having seats to break the climb up through the park would be of great benefit.
- That there are no seating areas except from in the play park where people who have no children may not want to sit!
- more seats around park again as glebe park .picnic tables.

### Grass maintenance

- Recently the grass cutting programme has been reduced, so when the grass is cut, it is not collected and makes playing any sports difficult. I have witnessed regularly, sports groups or parents having to clear areas of grass cuttings before using the pitch.
- the grass is almost always muddy even if it has not rained recently.

- Also, there are football clubs that run on the pitch (I believe once a week) and they are not cleaning up after themselves. Every evening they leave bottles and other empty wrappers. A neighbour actually took it into their own hand to go out and dispose of the rubbish due to it being left. The club leader/coach should be told off for this and should be encouraging the kids to pick up after themselves.
- The litter is terrible. There are a group of young boys who use the storage unit at the end of the park so must be part of an organised group/football team who constantly leave plastic bottles/waste.
- Litter

#### **Lighting**

- Lighting at night is also very poor in comparison to other park areas in Uphall and Broxburn.
- Additional street lighting in the park would be beneficial.

- The Council do not take the grass when it is cut and the leaves in the park have never been cleared in at least the past 2 years and are piled up against perimeter fences.

#### **Other**

- Military Fitness classes very early in the morning, disturbs houses looking into the park.
- The paths are run down with edges cracking & split.
- It is dull and uninteresting.
- Penned area where I can let dog or lead to run around
- skate park.
- There is a wasted space both at the north side of the childrens play park and also at the south side of the football pitch.



### **3)List three low-cost things that you would do to improve this park, that could be done straight away**

#### **Playpark / activities for children**

- Improve play area
- Replace the swings with better ones,
- update play equipment
- Swings
- Big slide
- Trim track/ jumping blicks, Easy to maintain equipment for a variety of ages
- Add a swing for bigger children
- Flying fox
- Activity area
- Add a few more play actives equipment outside the community centre
- Reduce number of trees on south side of park and install toddlers cycle track in and out of few left remaining
- small/ medium sized bike jumps- bottom left of picture at the top of survey
- Large boulders for children to be able to move & look for bugs?
- Den areas from natural resources for kids to use
- Natural resources for climbing, ie large tree parts

#### **Maintenance**

- Fix fencing
- Fix/ maintain equipment already there
- Tidy up main path through the middle of park grass/ weeds growing near the verges.
- Lift the grass cuttings after it has been cut
- clear huge mound of leaves from fence corners
- Emptying bins that are consistently overflowing
- Cut grass
- Leaves cleared
- More frequent grass mowing
- Improve grass cutting
- Relocate recycling and repair wall at entrance.

#### **Bins**

- Replace bin
- More bins
- Provide better bins
- maybe a few more bins spaced out arround the park.
- Bins with lids so birds cant take rubbish out
- More litter bins with more frequent emptying.
- Add additional bins near the goals

#### **Litter-picking**

- General litter sweeps. Piles of litter in certain spots
- Cleaning up bottle bank area. Glass on the ground is dangerous for dogs
- Litter picking
- Encourage sports teams to take their litter away
- Do not allow organisations/teams to use the park if they constantly leave litter.
- Litter
- Sign to remind user to place litter in well appointed bins.

#### **Planting**

- More planting
- Reduce resource spent cutting all of the grass
- New trees
- Plant tree hedging round boundary at metal fence
- Scatter wildflowers do make the park more appealing
- Flowers
- Plant some flowers
- Plant wildflowers
- Planters with plants/veg
- flowers
- more trees
- Plant some trees

#### **Seating**

- Additional seating
- some benches/picnic tables
- Seating
- Additional seating
- Flowered seating area
- Picnic bench
- More benches
- Install a few picnic seating and tables after reducing every second or all these trees so public can watch park activities
- picnic tables
- Benches
- Add seating benches bbq area
- Instal area away from the children's play park for community to use and relax in the park

#### **Dog fouling**

- make sand area hygienic and safe
- fence off play area to dogs
- Fencing around play equipment
- More dog waste bins
- Resolve dog fouling issue

#### **Dog area**

- Penned in area to let your dog of lead
- Dog area

#### **Paths**

- Paths not well maintained
- Basic repair of paths

#### **Other**

- Fill in the ditches
- A station with dog poo bags.
- Improve lighting
- Repaint lines in car park
- put up new goals
- Remove boulders

#### **4) What three changes would you make in the long term that would have the biggest impact?**

##### **Play facilities**

- better play park
- Facilities for teenagers, ie outdoor gym ?
- More equipment for older children
- Equipment for older children
- More play equipment
- a shelter for teens to hang out in if it is raining because there is nothing there at the moment like that.
- play park for older children, adventure playpark
- Larger chutes, swings etc - teenagers still like to PLAY!!!!
- Upgrade the playpark,, include a "spiders web" in one with Glebe park
- Improved play equipment
- Spiders web
- Additional child's play equipment
- Better age appropriate equipment
- Flying Fox
- Climbing wall
- Water feature. A park in Northumberland had a good system of a pump that flowed water in a channel.....you could open and shut channels to divert into channels as it flowed into rocks
- Proper swings for all ages
- Remove the sand pit and replace it with a climbing frame or otherwise as it's messy and cats regularly are seen using it as a litter box.
- Basket swings

##### **Seating**

- More seating
- seating dotted about for people to use considering disabled access and lighting for those with sight disabilities
- Benches at south end of park
- Add a couple of benches so that the community can enjoy the flowers.
- More seating for adults including picnic benches
- Seating
- More seating
- Couple of picnic benches

##### **Maintenance**

- Staying on top of the grass
- Sort out the litter problem.
- Maintaining the park better as equipment and paths are not well maintained
- Make sure the grass and trees are well maintained
- Remove trees on raised section on north side of football park
- trim trees

##### **Fencing**

- Fence around park.
- Remove metal fence between children's play park and memorial garden to create a more welcoming entrance
- Additional fencing

##### **Signage**

- More signage
- A community notice board with local activities, history articles, competitions prizes donated by local businesses etc. I am aware there is sign on the exit from the car park but it is the wrong place have not seen many people viewing it.

##### **Planting**

- Orchard area
- Increasing vegetation
- New trees
- I am aware this maybe problematic to have raised flower beds ( note there are two in Uphall main street) and for growing vegetables.
- Plant shrubs
- flower planters
- Flowers , plants, insect/ butterflies
- Leaving some areas wild to allow wild flowers
- Leave the park to grow and see what happens, maintain for sport but just let nature take its course
- Wildlife corner
- more plants & trees
- Add wild garden plants, flowers to attract more nature
- Plant hedging at east side of park
- More wildlife
- More wild life planting
- Incorporate nature more
- and plants

##### **Additional facilities**

- A multi sports enclosed pitch
- Install an area on south side of park that gives static equipment that can be used for training activities sessions
- All weather surface for ball games, football, basketball or
- Install an obstacle course near play park at community centre
- a small obstacle course
- Tennis court
- skate park

##### **Paths / access**

- Create paths over the grass to each entrance for people to cut through
- path right around the park to walk
- Improve the paths.
- The path down towards the community centre is quite steep for those with mobility problems it is unsafe when wet and icy weather. A hand rail could be erected on the edge of the path.
- a path of some sort around the football field

##### **Changing area**

- The football building should be painted as it is unsightly. Perhaps by a local artist or graffitist
- Renovate changing rooms
- Clean up/renovate the changing area.
- Demolish changing rooms and create a better entrance

##### **Other**

- Dog area
- Entrance arches
- Lighting improved
- Consideration for the community who would like to use the park between children and sports in particular the opportunity to create an environment which is safe and comfortable for people with mental health issues to use, nature is proven medication.

**5) Which local groups could help to put your ideas above into action?  
(Please name them e.g. 'Hillside Primary Parent Council')**

**Named local groups/orgs**

- Broxburn and Uphall Growers Association
- BUG please liaise with them
- Broxburn & Uphall Development Trust
- Brock Garden Centre, Strathbrock Health Clinic - Raised Flower bed
- Broxburn Athletic football club and Sports Centre use so they should contribute ideas as users
- Benches could be source from West Lothian College Carpentry department
- Growing vegetables, work in partnership with Nursery which is based in the community centre, adjacent to the park, so that youngsters can see where our food comes from.

**Community council**

- Community council
- I have mentioned the dog fouling and bins to the Uphall Community Council.

**Youth groups**

- the youth club (every Friday after school)
- Any youth groups within the community centre could get involved with planting shrubbery or flowers and make a project out of it
- Broxburn scouts.

**Businesses**

- Co-op
- Scotrail
- Hopetoun garden centre.
- Dobies garden centre
- Williamsons garden centre
- Local businesses may sponsor areas/ activities
- Local shopkeepers businesses provide park support and prizes for competitions
- Ooni pizza

**Volunteers**

- I also run the Uphall Community Facebook Page where people add their gripes about the local area and parks
- I don't know any but would be more than happy to be involved myself in helping to change our local park, I just don't know where to start myself.

**National funders**

- National lottery
- Children in need
- Schools