

**RUNHALL
RECREATION
GROUND
RENOVATION STORY**

Runhall Recreation Ground Renovation Project

Background

It is important that rural South Norfolk families have equal access to appropriate community spaces as the urban centres do, for the wellbeing of everyone in the community, whether young, middle aged or old.

Runhall Recreation Ground currently sits on land allocated to the Parish Council after the enclosure act. In 1977 the council decided to gift a proportion of this for a Play Area and a committee was set up made up of volunteers from the parish. These volunteers were tasked with using their skills to run and upkeep the area, including raising funds for routine expenditure and new items of play equipment.

This important community resource is still in place today and is cherished by all. It is still run by an enthusiastic and hardworking group of eight members of the community from all age groups and family structures.

Although Runhall is a small village with a small population, our community space has a far wider reach. There are no other community spaces in Runhall, Brandon Parva, Coston, Thuxton or Welbourne.

Runhall Recreation Ground means much more to the local community than merely a playground, it is seen as the hub of the community and is a vital link and central location for all local residents.

Our community remains vibrant and family centric with many young families. This is not just a retirement community, and we aim to keep attracting families here.



Current situation

The playground is in dire need of infrastructure spending to maintain and improve the space for today and future generations of families inclusive to all members of the community.

Our current playground improvements (Phase 1) have been predominantly funded by our own community fundraising events such as our biannual festival “Runfest” which raised c. £2,000 in 2023.

Many of the ongoing upkeep and renovation works have been carried out by the community through their time, skills and donations.

Runhall Recreation Ground Renovation Vision

Our main aim is to improve the places and spaces that matter to our community and to keep our rural community thriving into the future.



We want to promote active lifestyles and interactive social connections. Social wellbeing is more important than ever with isolation being one of the biggest problems facing rural communities. Bringing people of all age groups together is one of the core aims of this project. Good mental health is often associated with social interaction and community participation, this is as valid for younger and older members of the community.

Children's physical health improves through safe but playful, enjoyable activity, especially with other children. Our aim is that with improved, more attractive, updated equipment we will encourage more children from the wider community back into the recreation ground with their parents and grandparents.

A renovated play area should open the door to more community activities for older members of the community. We already have much community participation, but this could be enhanced with an updated space.

We plan to update the recreation ground through 4 phases. Phase 1 has 'refined' the area by adding extra seating for adults, a story telling and seating area for children and an improved football goal. We are still working on installing a defibrillator near to the play area too.

Phase 2 will 'replace' the substandard climbing frame with a new, updated, inclusive and more extensive play fort. **This is the purpose of our current application for funding from SNC / CAF.**

In phases 3-4 we aim to revitalise the recreation ground, to increase it's appeal across residents, including for adult gatherings with the installation of more seating and tables. For the very young to teenagers, we will install an inclusive sought after roundabout and renew the basketball surface to make it an all access and multipurpose area.

Project Scope: Phases 1-4

Our main aim is to improve the places and spaces that matter to our community. This project will rejuvenate our main parish facilities; by providing new, fun and exciting facilities which are safe; suitable for a range of ages and accessible for those who are less able. By rejuvenating the recreation ground we will also be creating a better space for our community to meet and hold events which will strengthen relationships in and across our parish.

PHASE 1 – REFINE – 2022/23



Includes:

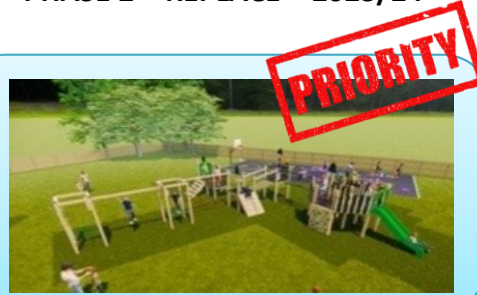
- Story Telling chairs & Mushrooms
- Jubilee Bench
- Football goal renovation & new net
- Defibrillator

Rational

During this 2022 we conducted a community wide survey. The community expressed their wishes to use the recreation ground for relaxation and meeting up with family and friends. Seating ranked as our highest priority amongst survey respondents. A rejuvenated football goal and defibrillator were also priorities.

We have renovated the football goal and installed additional seating; a bench (in commemoration of the platinum jubilee) and a story telling throne with eight mushroom seats for children.

PHASE 2 – REPLACE – 2023/24



Includes:

- A new play fort. The new equipment will be supplied and installed by a reputable company. It will cover an age range of 2-16 years old and include:
 - central climbing tower, with slide, climbing wall, rope net, etc.
 - smaller climbing tower, with toddler slide
 - 3 bridges, monkey bars and a fireman's pole.

Rational

The current equipment is minimal; and the central piece of equipment is more than 20 years old. Inspection reports are highlighting the wear and tear on this piece of equipment and that the wood is becoming rotten which is a potential danger to the children

PHASE 3 – REVITALISE – 2024/25



Includes:

- all-access roundabout
- More seating and tables for adults

Reason

The current picnic tables are minimal; and are suffering from wear and tear. This would fulfil the survey request for a roundabout and more seating.

PHASE 4 – RENEW – 2025/26



Includes:

Replacing and enlarging the basketball surface. Adding basketball court shooting lines and embellishing the remainder of the area with playground games e.g. hopscotch and the possibility of a chess board.

Reason

The basketball surface is not fit for purpose, previously a platonk area it has loose stones which are skid hazard and side boards which are a trip hazard. It needs to be replaced with a more suitable surface.

Runhall Renovation Project - Phased plan

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PHASE 1 – REFINE – 2022/23



Funding Completed & Equipment installed

- Story Telling chairs & Mushrooms
- Jubilee Bench
- Football goal renovation & new net

Installation date TBC

- Defib (Q2 2024)

PHASE 2 – REPLACE – 2023/24

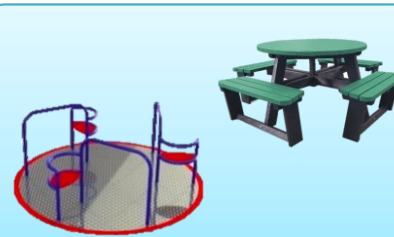


Funding completed:

National Lottery Awards for All:	£10,000
Geoffrey Wattleing Charity	£5,000
Donation CB:	£20
Runfest 2023:	£2,000
Alan Boswell:	£2,000
South Norfolk District CAF:	£15,000
Aviva Community Fund:	£700
South Norfolk Pride in Place Community Grant	£13300

Installation commences 22nd April

PHASE 3 – REVITALISE – 2024



Funding completed :

Mother day hamper raffle	£205
South Norfolk Pride in Place Community Grant	£11700
Loveday & Partners	£2000

Installation commences 22nd April

PHASE 4 – RENEW – 2025/26



Planned fundraising

- Halloween Hamper Raffle (24)
- Carol Singing Event (24)
- Christmas Hamper Raffle (24)
- Runfest 2025
- Alan Boswell Reaching community fund
- South Norfolk Pride in Place Community Grant
- National Lottery Awards for All:
- Christmas Hamper Raffle
- 30 additional grants found but need further research required to ascertain eligibility

Community spirit



Jubilee '22

The community came back together after a long period of isolation during Co-vid.

Coronation '23

The community spirit is stronger than ever as volunteers came together to use their skills to maintain the recreational ground, do a litter pick and paint the fence and finished off with a picnic.

Runfest '23

Fundraising in full flow, the community came together to set up marquees, offer their baking skills, man stalls an support our efforts to raise funds.

Community support

"Being an older single woman with no family nearby, for me, having a local, attractive, communal space has been vital to keeping me connected with, and useful to, my neighbours, both young and old."

Janet Parnell: Resident

"The playground at Runhall has been a wonderful community initiative which not only serves the children as a safe space to enjoy with their parents/carers but is also used by the whole community for social gatherings and events. Runhall, and surrounding villages being relatively remote communities with no village hall, have been able with considerable resourcefulness to make the very best use of what they have. After some years of operation, the space is now in need of development, and we would be very grateful for your support.."

Rev. Tim Weatherstone

"The Runhall Recreation Ground is a vital community space within our parish, which is used by residents from all four villages in the parish. It is run by a vibrant committee of local residents who organise regular events on it, such as the very successful Runfest, and specific events such as the Paint and Picnic in the Park for the Kings Coronation. The Parish Council believe it is an ideal candidate for a Community Action Fund award to replace the current play equipment."

Simon Guest: Chairman of the Parish Council.

The benefits of having such a place in our community is great for everyone. It has benefited my family as a safe space for my children to play, giving them exercise, and supporting their wellbeing. It's provided opportunities for my family to serve the community (fundraising, litter picking, painting, cleaning), and helped my children to learn great community and working together skills.

We also meet others from the village/community so there's an opportunity to be social and support others in the community."

Debbie Chester: Mother

As a family we have enjoyed the play area in Runhall since our children were toddlers with them having fun on the swings & the slide. Even though they are now teenagers they still spend time there playing football & using the facilities. Its also a great location to catch up with other villagers when we have events.

Dave Fairman: Father

Survey Summary

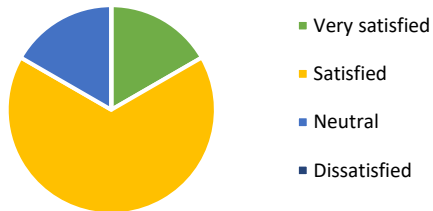
24 people answered the survey, 21 from Runhall and 3 from Brandon Parva with a broad spectrum of ages covered

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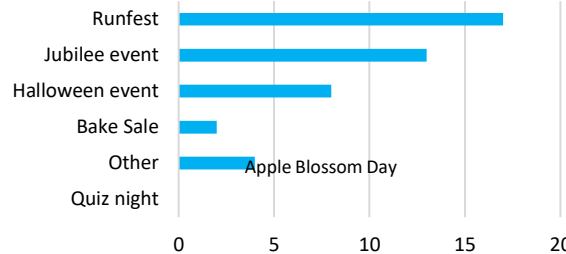
Age ranges for your households



Satisfaction with Current Facilities in Runhall



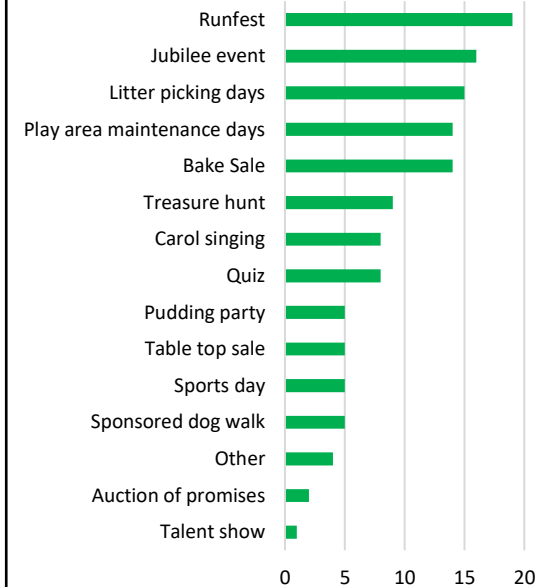
Fundraising Events Attended in Runhall?



Event Verbatim

Lots of fun and games to play at runfest and jubilee
 "I thought the recent event of the jubilee was a super event, with something for everyone.
 Runfest has also been great too"
 Runfest, High quality entertainment and great refreshments at bar and bbq
 Jubilee event was enjoyable
 Runfest was Very good 🍌
 All fantastic. Dedicated team. Great for kids.
 Runfest was very fun event
 Runfest and jubilee events were both excellent for brining the village together
 Well organised, social Runfest.
 I would go to the Halloween event many years ago when I was a kid and it was great. Lots of things to do. Good food. A big turn out from the village as well
 Runfest was Very good
 "Runfest - great community involvement, well run but possibly needs a wider audience to make money?
 Halloween- enjoyed them but it was very weather dependent as to how sociable it could be"
 Runfest - really enjoyed it. Perhaps a few more things for kids like a tuck shop. More food variety?
 All events were well organised and friendly - cake sale / Halloween / jubilee

Future Events



Runfest has been most attended and is most popular for the future.

SATISFACTION

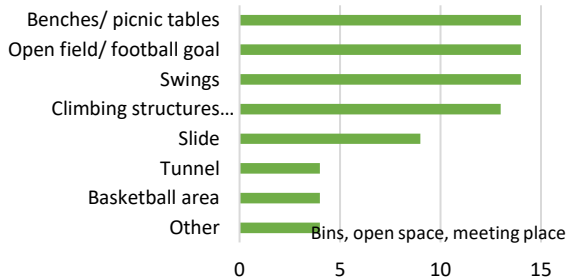


Survey Summary

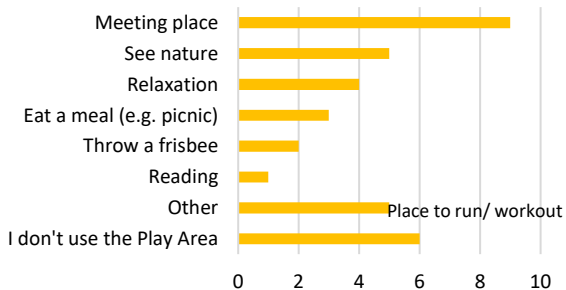
Suggestions for Future Investment

The community are utilizing the Recreation Ground as a meeting place so additional seating is high on the priority list for future investment

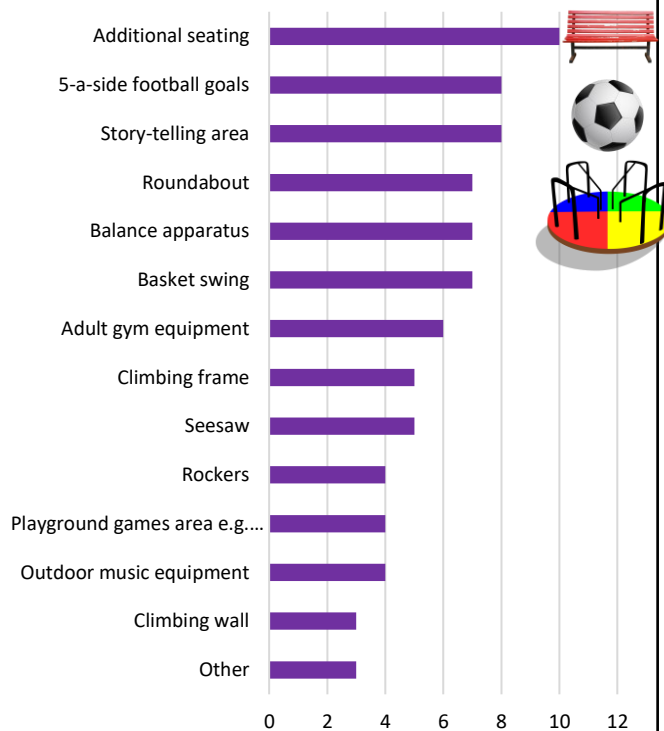
Most Important Facilities in Runhall Recreation Ground



How the Recreation Ground is used



Facilities Wanted in the Recreation Ground



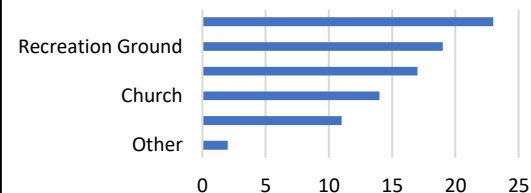
Suggested features from other play areas

- Zip line,
- Climbing nets,
- Wild flowers and flower beds
- Large climbing & adventure playground kit
- Dog poo bins
- A mini course

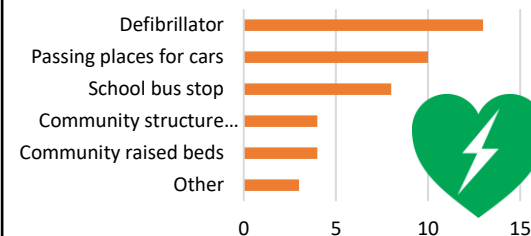


The community are enjoying local walks and would like future investment in a defibrillator and more passing spaces.

Community Facilities used in the last 3 years



Other Community Facilities Wanted



Other Suggestions

- Hall/Shelter/Pavillion/Meeting place at the play area
- Maintain countryside feel with no grey commercial structures or unnecessary signs etc.