



BALFRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Playground Proposal for Donaldson Park



What's this all about?

- At present there are two small play areas with equipment for younger children in Balfron: one in Donaldson Park and another in Donaldson Way. For those between the ages of 7 and 14, however, there is very little that could be considered adequate.
- **We aim to provide a coherent range of play equipment in Donaldson Park that will give children of all ages an opportunity to be active in a safe and social environment.**
- By installing a range of equipment which is designed to promote activity, with a social aspect to the whole project, the general health and well-being of the young people of the village will be enhanced.
- Parents of younger children using Donaldson Park will also benefit when the new equipment is installed next to the existing equipment (which is aimed at children up to 7), extending their play options.
- The equipment is such, that older children and adults will be able to use much of it, so we anticipate that the majority of the village could enjoy the new playpark.



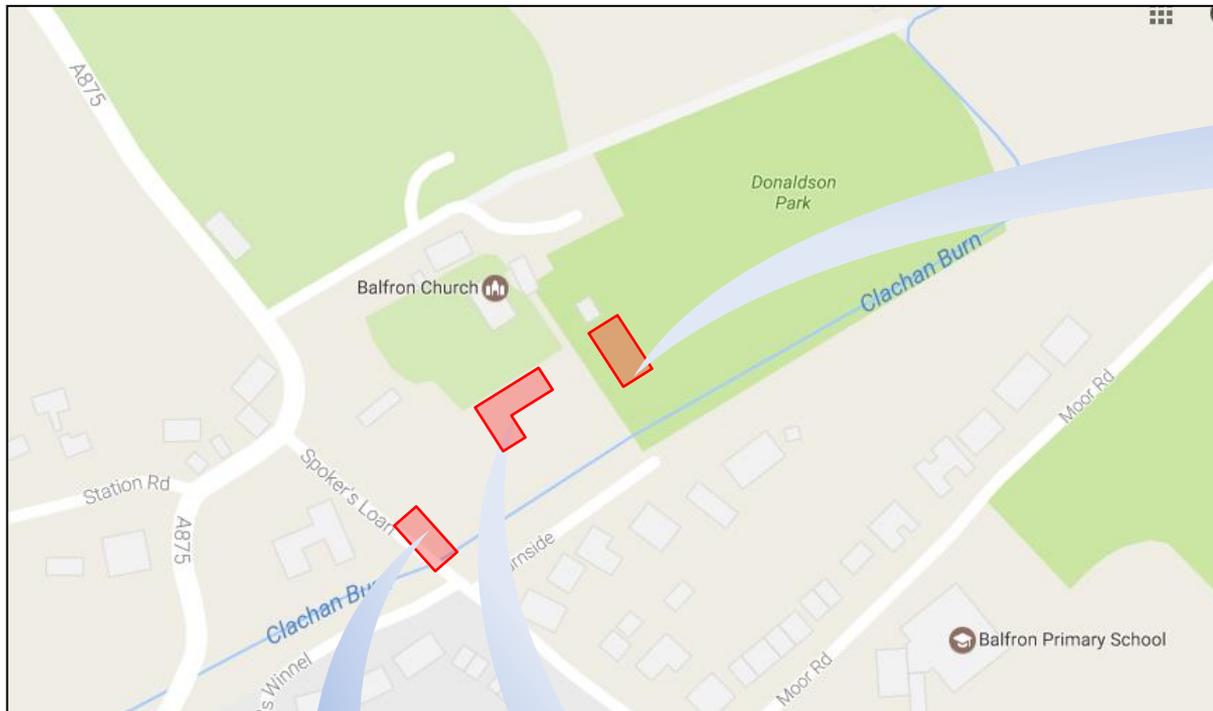
What is the proposal?

The changes we are proposing will be made in two phases over 2017, and possibly 2018, depending on funding available.

- **Phase 1 will replace all the play equipment beside the church wall in Donaldson Park**, including the existing picnic bench, swings and gym equipment, with a range of new equipment that can be used by all ages. Specifically a cableway will be installed. New benches and tables will also be provided for the village to enjoy the sunshine.
- **Phase 1 will also look to deliver safer access at the Spoker's Loan pedestrian entrance** to the park by installing additional warning signs for cars and improved gate entrance area.
- **Phase 2 will focus on the old flying fox area**. This will be re-landscaped, and outdoor trim-trail equipment will be installed.
- **The existing fenced playground will remain as-is** - the play equipment is well used and in good shape.

This proposal has considered the existing park views and the location of neighbouring houses. The aim has been to minimise the impact on the park environment while maximising the opportunity to provide a play area for the village.

Where are the changes being made?



Phase 2

- The old flying fox area landscaped with grass and matting
- An outdoor trim trail equipment installed along re-landscaped area.

Phase 1

- New play equipment and benches in an L-shape area along the church wall and boundary forested area.
- Improved Spoker's Loan access and vehicle warning signs

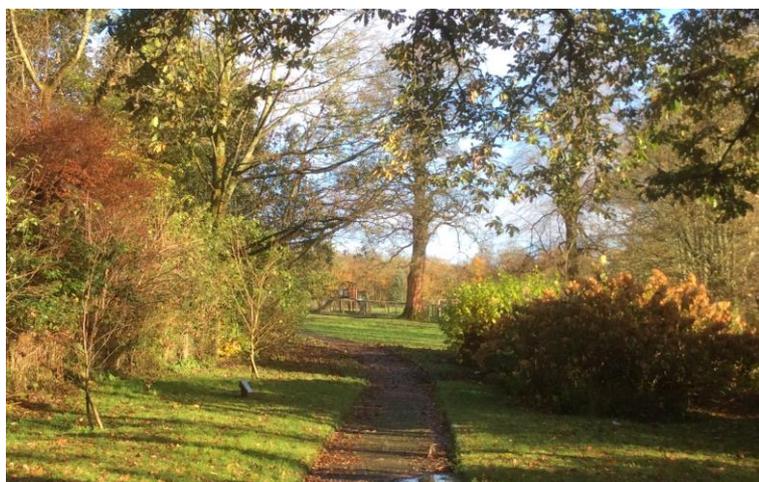
How will the changes impact the park?



View from Burnside



View from Park Entrance



- On entering the park from Spoker's Loan there will be minimal visible impact. The Phase 1 new equipment will not be visible, and the Phase 2 equipment will be hidden behind the existing fenced playground.
- From Burnside there will be a larger visible impact, but during the summer months this will be minimised with the existing Burnside tree foliage.
- It is likely that that the park will attract more visitors, so noise levels will be higher. When selecting products, equipment noise level will be considered.

Phase 1 – New Play Equipment



Cableway

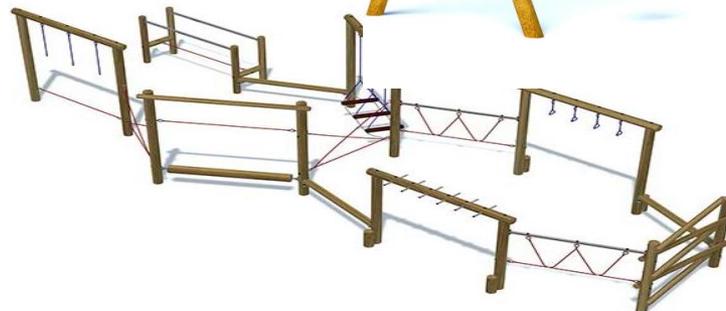


Picnic benches

Swing sets



Active Trail



- The existing swings, monkey bars, stepping stones and picnic benches will be removed and replaced with a cableway, swing set, active trail and new picnic benches.
- All new equipment will be wood based where possible and robust enough to withstand heavy use and the Scottish weather.
- The cableway will be positioned parallel with the church wall to meet current health and safety standards
- Each item will have an underlying grass mats to protect the ground and allow for simple maintenance.

Phase 1 – Spoker’s Loan Park Entrance



- Due to the expected additional use of Donaldson Park, and the current concerns raised by the community around the Spoker’s Loan entrance, additional safety features will be added.
- Clear “children at play” signage will be installed on Spoker’s Loan.
- A self-closing gate will be installed to reduce the risk of children running onto the road.
- The entrance must be suitable for those with mobility issues and for prams and pushchairs.



Phase 2 – Outdoor trim-trail



- The trim-trail equipment will be specifically installed for adults, young and old.
- Use could be incorporated as part of a training regime, or just for fun.
- It can also be used by younger children as additional play items.
- If the two items of existing gym equipment are still robust, we may move them to this area.



What happens next?



- **We want to know what you think of this proposal.** Ideas and questions are welcomed. And if you want to get involved, give us a shout! You can contact us
 - By email: playground@balfroncc.org.uk.
 - By telephone: contact Bill on 01360 440210.
 - And we are on Facebook – just search for “Balfron Community Council”.
- **We will refine our outline design based on your feedback.** We will discuss in detail with various local groups to gain their input.
- **Once we have a suitable design,** working with Stirling Council, we will select suppliers to install the equipment, including landscaping of the various areas.
- **We will continue progressing bids to secure funding for all the works required.** A base level of funding is available through developer contributions from the new housing in Dunmore Street and Roman Road.
- We will continue to work closely with The Donaldson Trust, Balfron Development Trust and Stirling Council, all of whom are providing us with support.



“Space for Living” Outcomes

“Space for Living” Desired Outcome	This proposal
Provide a positive road safety impact , specifically assessing the impact on the speed or volume of vehicles in the village and the impact on pedestrians	✓ Improved signage at Spoker’s Loan entrance highlighting children at play
Improve the environment and infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists , including improved access to the countryside around the village	✓ Safer access to the park. With more young people using the park, more will be encouraged to explore farther afield.
Improve the village's parking options , either directly or indirectly. At a minimum it should not make the situation worse	✓ Neutral impact - additional use of park will not require additional car parking. Church car park is sufficient to meet new demand
Provide improved access for those with impaired mobility	✓ Gates to the park will provide access to those with impaired mobility and prams. Play equipment installed will ensure people with impaired mobility can be active side by side with those who are able bodied.
Improve public transport options. At a minimum it should not make the existing provision worse.	✓ Neutral impact on public transport options
Improve the village's public amenities , delivering well maintained and attractive public spaces	✓ Improved village amenities in the park for all ages
Improve the overall quality of the built environment	✓ All structures will be made of wood and blend in with the surroundings replacing old equipment. Potentially additional use of the park will increase noise levels for neighbouring areas.
Anticipate future technological advances, e.g. electric vehicles, driverless vehicles or smart street lighting	✓ Neutral impact on future technology advances
Be assessed holistically - any negative impact elsewhere in the village or its surrounding area should be minimised	✓ Will encourage increased use of park, with more children and young adults walking through the village.