

Proposal: A Sustainable Nature & Play Vision for Trilley Fields

To: MPC | From: Andrew Coulter | Date: 26 Feb 2026

Rather than a traditional "steel and plastic" park, this proposal advocates for a Bio-diverse Ecology Area. This approach addresses site limitations, reduces long-term maintenance costs, and aligns with modern "Green Space" planning.

1. Challenges of the Site

Topography: Significant sloping makes extending a flat play-base financially prohibitive (requiring extensive earthworks).

Privacy & Nuisance: Large equipment would overlook adjacent properties and impact on privacy and there would be strong justified objections from at least two adjacent houses.

Redundancy: The nearby Woodland Gardens play park remains under-utilised. The demographics (private gardens and affluent area) suggest low demand for a standard toddlers play area. (many residents have better equipment in their own gardens)

2. The Vision: A "Natural Play" & Ecology Hub

low-impact, aesthetically pleasing space for all ages, rather than just toddlers ages 2–6.

Biodiversity: Meadow-style planting and mown paths (similar to the successful Gerard Road ecology scheme) to support pollinators and local wildlife.

Natural Play: Low-profile timber equipment (log-balancing, wood carvings) that blends with the woods. Hop Scotch and Boule Pitches .

Community Utility: Timber seating and picnic tables to encourage multi-generational use (e.g., picnics, boules, or nature observation).

Education: Bird boxes and information boards to create an "outdoor classroom" feel.

Fencing (two options)

- 1) Fence down just one side (the left side) allowing an informal access to the woods or
- 2) Create a smaller paddock for some play equipment (if that's what is inevitable) Low secure fencing so children are secure and dogs are kept out

3. Strategic Benefits

Cost-Effective: Significantly lower installation and maintenance costs than rubber-surfaced plastic parks.

Wider target usage audience

Aesthetic: Maintains the rural character of the area.

Ecological: Directly contributes to local "Net Zero" and biodiversity targets.