

Briefing Paper to the East Area Committee

29 July 2025

**Wards: Ings, Longhill &
Bilton Grange, Sutton,
Drypool, Holderness,
Marfleet, Southcoates****Barbara Robson Playing Fields – Update****Briefing Paper of the of Assistant Director Neighbourhoods & Housing**1. Purpose of the Paper and Summary

- 1.1 To update the East Area Committee, on activity, work undertaken and any issues relating to the Barbara Robson Playing Field over the last 12 months

2. Background

- 2.1 The Barbara Robson Playing Fields are held in Trust by the Council having originally conveyed to Trustees on 12 April 1928 to hold in trust for the purposes of the Recreation Grounds Act 1859. That Act provided that any lands may be lawfully conveyed to trustees, to be held by them as open public grounds for the resort and recreation of adults, and as playgrounds for children and youth, subject to any reservation, restrictions, and conditions which the donor or grantor may think fit: the restrictions placed upon the use of the Playing Fields are set out in Schedule 3 of the transfer.
- 2.2 In February 1968, the Trustees transferred the Playing Fields to the Council to act as Trustees of the Playing Fields
- 2.3 On the 27 February 2017 at a meeting of the Corporate Trustee Committee, the Committee agreed to delegate future management decisions in respect of Barbara Robson Playing Fields to the East Area Committee.

3. Issues for Consideration

- 3.1 Recent months has seen the utilisation of 2 funding streams to further enhance the equipment on offer to park users.
- 3.2 A mixture of Ward budget and available S.106 funds for Sutton were used to pay for the installation of a trim trail in the park following consultation with park users in 2024 where the request for such equipment was made. The

consultation was undertaken by Detached Youth Workers from Achieve Potentials who undertook visits and activity to the park during the previous year.

- 3.3 The trim trail was installed in May 2025 and is already proving popular being regularly used by families and young people in the park.
- 3.4 Further enhancements will shortly be undertaken when a pair of multi-use goals for football and rugby will also be installed, paid for through the Ward budget. The equipment will be in place before the start of the school summer holidays.
- 3.5 Following previously reported concerns related to flooding and pooling of rainwater in and around the children's play area which restricted use of the equipment. The Council's Parks and Open Spaces Team was requested to undertake inspections of the drainage in the vicinity and where necessary, clearing and/or jetting of the drains to be undertaken.
- 3.6 This work has reportedly been undertaken though its success or otherwise will be evident once we experience a period of heavy rainfall.
- 3.7 Although reported concerns over anti-social behaviour in the park have reduced markedly in the last 2 years, the Neighbourhood Policing Team have continued to include the park as a default patrol route for local officers. In addition, Parks staff will advise the Team of any issues that they identify requiring our input or that of our partners.

4 Next steps

- 4.1 The Neighbourhood Team will continue to promote this park and its fields for activities by the local community and other approved providers and will liaise closely with the Sutton Ward Councillors to look at further improvements to this well used local park.
- 4.2 Consideration will be given in the coming months to a family type Gala to be held on Barbara Robson Playing Fields in 2026.

Mark Nearney
Assistant Director - Neighbourhoods & Housing

Contact Officer: Mike Tindall, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator (Sutton)
Telephone No.: 01482 616845

Officer Interests: None

Background Documents: -