

PlayZones

Subject to planning approval, Kingston Council will be working in partnership with the Football Foundation to deliver **four new PlayZones** across the borough. PlayZones are safe, inclusive, and accessible outdoor sports facilities designed to encourage residents of all ages and abilities to be physically active through activities such as football, basketball, and cricket.

The proposed PlayZone sites were identified through the council's Active Kingston Framework as priority locations for investment in community sports infrastructure.

You can read more about the national PlayZone programme by visiting:

footballfoundation.org.uk/PlayZones-programme

Following community engagement undertaken during 2024, the following locations have been identified for the proposed facilities:

- Beverley Park (New Malden): Football and cricket
- Churchfields Recreation Ground (Chessington South & Malden Rushett): Football and basketball
- Kingston Road Recreation Ground (Norbiton): Football, basketball and cricket
- Manor Park (Motspur Park & Old Malden East): Football and basketball

How to view the planning applications

Visit the Kingston Planning Portal at:

<https://publicaccess.kingston.gov.uk/online-applications/>

You can then search using the relevant application reference number below:

- Beverley Park (New Malden): The council is awaiting a reference number for this PlayZone. We will add it here as soon as we have it.
- Churchfields Recreation Ground (Chessington South & Malden Rushett): 26/01000/CREG3
- Kingston Road Recreation Ground (Norbiton): 26/00993/CREG3
- Manor Park (Motspur Park & Old Malden East): The council is awaiting a reference number for this PlayZone. We will add it here as soon as we have it.

Once viewing the application, you can use the "Make a Public Comment" function to submit your feedback.

About the PlayZones

How will the PlayZones be managed and maintained?

The PlayZones will be managed and maintained through the council's parks contractor, Glendale. This includes day-to-day operational oversight, routine inspections, cleaning and maintenance, ensuring the facilities remain safe, high-quality and sustainable over the long term.

How will bookings and access work?

The PlayZones will be accessed through an online booking system, similar to the existing park tennis booking system currently used across the borough.

The booking system will help ensure fair and equitable access for residents, community groups and sports clubs, while also enabling the council to manage demand and monitor usage of the facilities.

All PlayZones will incorporate Smart Access technology, including:

- An online booking platform
- Controlled access systems, such as keypad entry

This approach will help ensure the facilities remain secure, well managed and available for those wishing to use them.

The operational model is expected to include a combination of:

- Bookable sessions for residents, community groups and clubs
- Opportunities for informal and community use

Research from the Football Foundation shows that a booking system can help improve access for a wider range of users, particularly those who may be less confident attending without knowing that space is available.

How will usage be monitored?

Bookings will be managed through a digital platform (Clubspark, working with the Football Foundation), which will allow:

- Tracking of individual bookings and usage levels

- Reporting on group sessions (e.g. type of activity, age group, gender participation)

This ensures the PlayZones are being used as intended and are reaching priority groups.

Will there be a charge to use the PlayZones?

The operational arrangements for the PlayZones are currently being developed and no final decisions have been made regarding charges.

The council's priority is to ensure that the PlayZones are accessible, inclusive and well used by local residents and communities.

The proposed booking system will primarily be used to support fair access and effective management of the facilities. For example, there may be charges for organised or club use, particularly during peak periods, but any charging arrangements will be carefully considered to ensure they do not create barriers to participation.

Further details will be shared as the project progresses.

How will the PlayZones be safe

The safety and accessibility of PlayZones has been a key consideration throughout the design and planning process, in particular the safety of women and girls. The approach has been informed by recognised national guidance, including Sport England's *Active Design* principles.

Key measures include:

- **Design and visibility** – PlayZones are enclosed to create a defined activity space; however, they use open mesh fencing to ensure clear visibility into and out of the area. This aligns with best practice to avoid hidden or enclosed spaces.
- **Location and natural surveillance** – Sites have been selected in well-used, visible areas with good footfall and clear sightlines, supporting natural surveillance and helping users feel safer.
- **Lighting** – Where floodlighting is included, it will ensure the space is well-lit during operational hours, in line with guidance highlighting the importance of lighting in improving safety and the perception of safety.
- **Inclusive access and programming** – The PlayZone model, supported by the Football Foundation, is specifically designed to increase participation from underrepresented groups, including women and girls. This includes a mix of open access and bookable sessions.

- **Management and oversight** – Booking systems and management arrangements will help ensure appropriate use of the space and support a safe and welcoming environment.
- **Ongoing engagement** – We will continue to engage with local communities, including women and girls, to understand any concerns and refine how the spaces are used and managed.

Overall, the aim is to create active, visible and well-managed spaces that feel safe and welcoming, in line with national best practice for community sports facilities.

Will the PlayZones be open to everyone?

Yes. The PlayZones are designed to be **inclusive, accessible community spaces**. The combination of bookable sessions and open access periods ensures that:

- Individuals can drop in and use the space
- Groups can plan and book sessions in advance
- Priority groups are supported to access the facility

What is the planning status and timeline?

The PlayZone planning applications will follow a standard local authority planning process. The anticipated timeline is as follows:

- **May 2026**
Submission of planning applications
- **May - June 2026**
Validation of applications by the planning authority and publication for consultation
- **June - July 2026**
Public consultation period, including opportunity for residents and stakeholders to comment
- **July - August 2026**
Assessment by planning officers, including consideration of:
 - Planning policy
 - Design and location
 - Environmental and community impacts

- Review of valid objections
- **August - September 2026 (anticipated)**
Determination of applications
- **Post-determination**
 - Discharge of any planning conditions
 - Final mobilisation and delivery planning
- **Following approval**
Implementation of the PlayZones and continued engagement with Members and the community

How will local residents and stakeholders be kept informed about PlayZone proposals?

We are committed to keeping local residents, stakeholders and ward councillors informed as PlayZone projects progress.

For each site, we will:

- Install site notices to raise awareness of proposals and any planning applications
- Use the council's website, newsletters, networks and social media channels to share updates
- Directly contact key local stakeholders, including Friends groups, ward councillors and relevant community organisations
- Provide opportunities for further engagement, including meetings where appropriate

This approach is designed to ensure that residents have clear, accessible information and opportunities to engage at each stage of the project.