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What can OPFA do for you

Opportunities for consultancy and advice

Many of our communities across Oxfordshire are facing increased housing development. Communities and town and parish councils are having to get to grips with the implications for them. Increased population puts pressure on existing facilities and infrastructure, including outdoor recreation spaces. However, new housing developments can also bring with them the opportunities to improve existing recreation facilities using S106 funding; it is important to factor this in at an early stage.

For a modest charge, OPFA can help with all aspects of recreation provision - in planning for new provision, assessing needs and current facilities, facilitating the consultation within the community for what needs to be done, helping to analyse results and then put a plan in place, or acting as the project manager on new projects.

We recognise that each community is different and are sensitive to the issues often associated with new housing development; in balancing the feelings and opinions of current residents whilst helping communities to make the most of the new situation. We can get involved from an early stage to help inform requirements from S106 money or once the S106 money has been awarded to aid the community to achieve the best recreation facilities possible.

Our service is bespoke and flexible. If you feel that your community could benefit from some additional support and expertise, please contact Nicole O'Donnell, OPFA Community Development Officer, on oxfordshirepfa@gmail.com or 01295 817662.



How can we help you?

The OPFA advice service is wide ranging and varied. No question is too silly or too small! Just some of the practical ways that we can help you include:

- Site visits to give on the spot advice about playing fields or playgrounds, including facilities for toddlers and teenagers
- A regularly updated series of information sheets covering a wide range of topics (see page 10 for full list)
- Support and advice on new projects such as a new children's play area, pavilion or sports ground
- Advice on skate park and wheeled sports facilities
- Advice on teen facilities
- Guidance on standards and legislation affecting play and sporting facilities
- Local examples of other successful projects, with local people to contact
- Advice and information on a wide range of suppliers and manufacturers
- Regular networking and training events
- Identifying funding opportunities
- Advice on consultations
- Project management advice
- What to do if your local playing field is threatened with redevelopment
- Advice on managing a charitable playing field
- Maintenance and inspection information

Contact us for help and support on 01295 817662 or oxfordshirepfa@gmail.com

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Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015

If you are putting in a new play area, MUGA or pavilion, you must ensure that you adhere to your legal responsibilities under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (CDM) that came into force in April 2015.

Essentially anyone involved in a construction project has responsibilities under CDM 2015.

The CDM differentiates between the different stakeholders involved in construction work and the responsibilities that they have.



If you are having construction work carried out for you, such as commissioning a new play area, you are considered to be the client. The Health and Safety Executive guidance states that: 'Your duty is to ensure that your project is suitably managed, ensuring the health and safety of all who might be affected by the work, including members of the public.'

The designer of the playground, pavilion or MUGA has a main duty which is 'to eliminate, reduce or control foreseeable risks that may arise during construction work, or in the use and maintenance of the building once built.'

The contractor installing and building the site has 'to plan, manage and monitor the work under their control in a way that ensures the health and safety of anyone it might affect (including members of the public).'

There is also specific guidance for principal contractors in the case where a project may have multiple elements and for workers on the site.



The Health and Safety Executive has a useful guide on their website called 'Summary of duties under Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM 2015)'. This clearly sets out requirements for new projects, and is essential reading for anyone embarking on a construction project on their playing field site. It can be found via :

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/cdm/2015/summary.htm>

10 questions to ask yourself before applying for grants

The Funding Central website has produced a handy checklist of 10 questions to ask yourself before applying for grants. They are:

1. Are we eligible to apply?
2. Do we meet the criteria and/or priorities?
3. What is this funder really looking for?
4. Have we got enough time to apply for this grant and do the funded work properly?
5. Would this project be the best use of this funding opportunity?
6. What terms and conditions might be attached to any offer?
7. Have we included the full costs of this project in our application?
8. Aside from this grant, are there any other ways we could fund this activity?
9. If we get this grant, what will happen when the grant ends?
10. If we are successful, could we meet the terms and conditions of the grant?

www.fundingcentral.org.uk

Funding update

WREN: Dix Pit closure deadlines. Dix Pit in West Oxfordshire has now closed. This means that as of June this year WREN will no longer continue to accept project applications within 10 miles of the Dix Pit site. This is with the exception of the part of the county which is also within 10 miles of the landfill site at Sutton Courtenay site. The Sutton Courtenay site remains open and applicants in this area are not affected. The final deadline for applications to WREN from the Dix Pit area will be 8th June. There will be no option to defer, and no option to re-submit, therefore applicants are advised ensure they give themselves enough time to complete and submit the online form by the date set. www.wren.org.uk

Topps Tiles Transformations Topps Tiles are running a competition for community groups to win £2000 worth of Topps Tiles vouchers to help transform their community spaces. Facilities such as community halls are eligible; to enter visit the Topps Tiles Transformations website, upload a photo of your community space and submit details of why you think your community space deserves a transformation. Winners will be notified by 31 March 2016. www.toppstiles.co.uk/transformations

The Football Foundation has opened their **Grow the Game Funding Scheme** until 10 March 2016. Grants of up to £1,500 are available for the creation of new football teams and coaching qualifications. 'Not for profit' organisations are eligible to apply if they are planning to set up one or more new football teams over the next two years. The following types of team are eligible for a grant in 2016:

- Male teams from the Under-14 age bracket and above
- Female teams
- Disability teams

Organisations can receive a grant of £1,500 per new team created over two or three years with financial support being reduced in the second or third year of the project. Applicants will be required to contribute some elements of cost towards to the new teams, however evidence of partnership funding will not be requested.

www.footballfoundation.org.uk

The **Veolia Environmental Trust** has published dates for its funding rounds in 2016. The Veolia Environmental Trust provides funds for community projects, such as play areas or improvements to green spaces. Projects must fall within the correct proximity to a Veolia site; in Oxfordshire there is one at Oxford Airport

Grants of up to £75,000 are available. The total project cost must not exceed £500,000 and applicants must have already secured 20% of the funding for the project. Your project must be open to the wider general public for at least 104 days a year without any limit or unreasonable restrictions of use.

Closing dates for 2016 are as follows:

26 February 2016

27 May 2016

26 August 2016

www.veoliatrust.org

The Playing Field Legacy Fund is keen to hear from applicants who are seeking funding for playing field projects. Grants of up to £10,000 are available for

- pitch improvements
- the construction of new pitches on existing sites and new sites
- renovation of changing rooms or community rooms
- feasibility studies for any of the above
- to unlock funding from trusts and statutory grant-giving bodies, such as Sport England

www.playingfieldslegacyfund.org.uk



Clean for the Queen — March 4th, 5th and 6th 2016

Clean for The Queen is a campaign to clear up Britain in time for Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday, which will be officially celebrated in June 2016.

The campaign is calling on individuals, volunteer groups, local councils, businesses and schools to join in over March 4th, 5th and 6th,. This provides a good opportunity to come together as a community to clean up your outdoor recreation spaces, For further information and to register to take part, visit the Clean for the Queen website.

www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk



CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

Playground Inspection Training

OPFA will be running its popular playground inspection training in late April 2016. More details to be confirmed as soon as we have them. In the meantime if you would be interested in attending and have not already registered your interest, please contact Nicole O'Donnell on oxfordshirepfa@gmail.com to ensure that you are put on the list. Places are limited and will operate on a first come first served basis.

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TOE2: Managing energy use in your community building

Communities across Oxfordshire are benefiting from community buildings that are more energy efficient, more welcoming and more cost effective, thanks to the support of the ENRICH programme. ENRICH is run by environmental funder the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE2) in partnership with the Environmental Information Exchange (EiE) and funded by the Patsy Wood Trust.

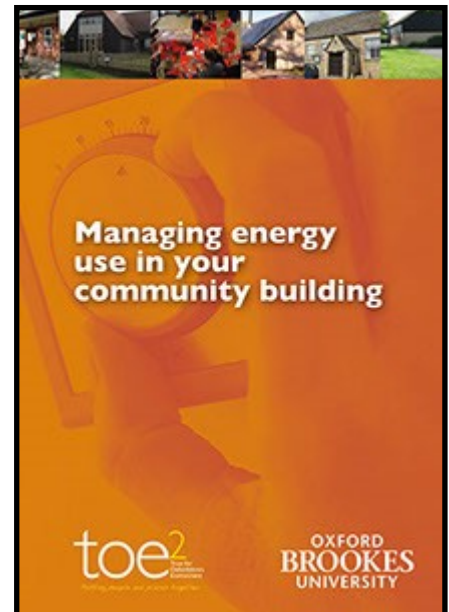
Many community members are keen to take action in the area of sustainable energy use, both individually, and through local networks. TOE2 is looking for Parish Councils and other local groups that are interested in harnessing this potential to help transform the places they live in for the better. The Enriching Communities programme is all about tackling energy use across community facilities, local businesses and households.

The Enriching Communities programme can support your community to become a low carbon community in the following ways:

- Subsidized energy surveys for community buildings across the parish to identify how to reduce energy demand and increase efficiency. Suitable buildings might include the village hall, the youth centre, the school, the church, the scout hut and the sports pavilion; any community building that might benefit from energy management advice
- Free follow on support to develop the audit recommendations
- A grant from TOE2 towards the installation of recommended energy saving measures in community buildings
- Fully funded workshops on energy efficiency for local businesses
- EiE advisers can attend existing community events to showcase to local people how they might save energy and reduce fuel bills at home

TOE2 has a free short guide "Managing Energy Use in Your Community Building" packed with tips for making buildings more energy efficient. The guide is available as a downloadable pdf from the TOE2 website or in hard copy from the TOE2 office

Financial support for Enriching Communities is limited to 6 local groups this year. If you would like more information about the ENRICH programme or to set up a meeting to take advantage of the Enriching Communities offer, contact TOE2 on 01865 407003 or admin@trustforoxfordshire.org.uk



the **PLAYING** field

Don't forget that The Playing Field website is now online for you to use. It has been designed to act as online resource for news, views, advice and guidance for the playing field community. Please visit the site to have a look; keep up-to-date with the latest news and sign up for the newsletter.

Please do also pass the site address on to any of your contacts.

<http://theplayingfield.org.uk/>

The use of paint on playground equipment

OPFA members may have seen that there have recently reports in the media regarding a new study that found high levels of toxic metals in paint used on equipment in playgrounds across the south of England.

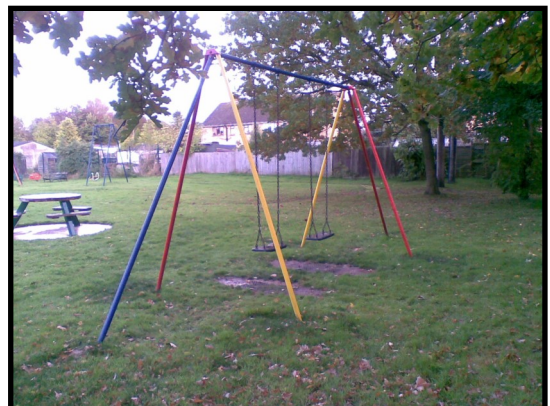
Environmental scientists from Plymouth University analysed paints used in 50 playgrounds, some of them less than a decade old, and found lead content up to 40 times greater than recommended concentrations, most commonly in red and yellow paints. They also detected higher than expected levels of chromium, antimony and cadmium.

Current guidelines recommend new paint is lead-free or contains less than 2,500 parts per million.

The Local Gov website quoted Dr Andrew Turner, Reader in Environmental Science at Plymouth University, who said: 'While undisturbed and intact, coatings and their chemical components are relatively safe. But once the film begins to deteriorate through abrasion or via exposure to UV light and moisture, the paint begins to crack, flake and chalk and metal-bearing particulates are mobilised into the environment.'

Whilst it is clear that children will be exposed to other sources and not just to playground paint, playground managers have a duty to ensure that the paint in their playground is well maintained and that it does not reach the stage where it becomes disturbed and starts to flake. RoSPA Playsafety notes in their advice that: 'Equipment which is coated with paint containing lead does not present a hazard if it is maintained in good condition. It should be noted that most modern metal playground equipment is coated with non-lead paint and its deterioration does not present a health problem (although for durability reasons surface finishes should always be maintained).'

RoSPA Playsafety has an information sheet 'Lead in Paint on Children's playgrounds' on their website, which gives good advice on the maintenance of playground paint.



NatWest CricketForce 2016

This nationwide initiative is aimed at cricket clubs. NatWest CricketForce 2016 will take place on 1-3 April.

The programme is designed to bring clubs and their local community closer together, and ensure they're ready for the new season.

In previous years, club projects have ranged from simple paint jobs, sight screen scrubbing, and renewed boundary fencing, to brand new changing rooms, function rooms, and even a new pavilion.

In 2016, the ECB will focus on supporting clubs to engage those members who don't usually get involved, and help clubs reach out to their local communities. The ECB is encouraging clubs to approach new people and businesses in their local area for support. Whether in the form of equipment, materials, expertise or simply volunteer hours, every bit of support will help.

Visit the ECB website for more details and to register your club.

www.ecb.co.uk/development/facilities-funding/self-build-and-self-help/natwest-cricketforce

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Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association is a registered charity (no. 304398). We work across Oxfordshire.

Our aim is to ensure that people of all ages, including people with disabilities, have access to good quality local outdoor sport and recreational facilities, including children's play.

The OPFA is the only non-commercial organisation in the county able to provide a comprehensive and impartial playing space advice service for local Oxfordshire groups. If you are working on an outdoor recreation project in your community, we would love to hear from you.

Phone: 01295 817662 Web: www.opfa.org.uk E-mail: oxfordshirepfa@gmail.com

Information sheets available

OPFA has many information sheets on different topics covering all aspects of outdoor recreation provision. We have recently produced a new one on Pitch Maintenance. The full list of information sheets is opposite.

Please contact OPFA if you would find any of them useful. We continue to produce information as the need arises, and also have access to a lot of information from our partner organisations.

- Terms of reference for a Parish Council Committee responsible for the management of land.
- Maintenance contractors
- Pitch Maintenance
- Accessible Play Areas
- Accidents
- Balls Walls
- BMX Info
- Playground Fencing and Gates
- Funding Opportunities
- Playground Inspections
- Managing Charitable Playing Fields
- Playground Notices
- Planning and Providing for a Wheeled Sport Facility
- Problems with Dogs
- Project Plan – Play Area Development
- Project Plan – Skate Park Development
- Risk Benefit Analysis
- Risk Management and Risk Assessments
- Playground Legislation, Standards and Guidelines