

Oswestry Rural Parish Council: Morda Play Area Review: Wednesday 14th May 2025

On Wednesday 14th May, 2025, Oswestry Rural Parish Councillors Bennett, Fowler, Singh and Weston visited the three play areas in Morda. The visits were intended to confirm who owned the play areas and is responsible for their maintenance and insurance; determine for which age ranges the play areas are intended; identify any maintenance and repair issues; determine what, if any, improvements or enhancements could be carried out.



Milar's Field Play Area

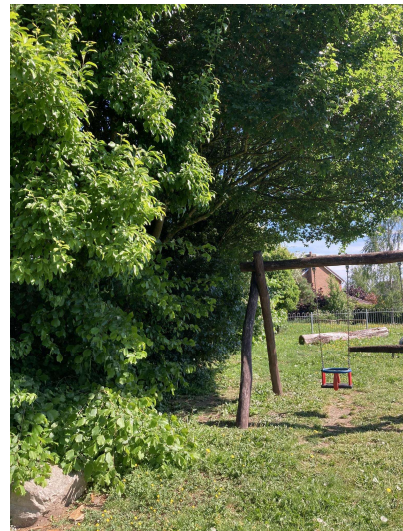
Responsibility: It is understood that the Play Area belongs to Shropshire County Council which is, therefore, currently responsible for ongoing maintenance, repair and insurance.



Age range and facilities: Mostly set out as an Adventure Play Area, with wooden equipment and logs. Probably best suited for primary school age children, with a few pieces of equipment suitable for younger children.

Maintenance and Repair:

- Grass inside the Play Area and in the larger grassed area outside is quite long. Whether this is a result of delayed mowing, or part of Shropshire Council's "No Mow May" policy is unknown.
- Some of the trees are overgrown and encroaching on the play equipment
- The seat of the "saucer swing" is covered in bird poo. Residents have suggested putting bird deterrent spikes on the bar from which the swing hangs, but this would likely present a Health and Safety hazard. Alternatively the swing would need to be cleaned on a regular basis.
- The play area was likely created at the same time the Milar's Field development was completed, around 2008. Some of the wood is decaying and crumbling and a more detailed risk assessment of the equipment should be recommended.



Improvements or Enhancements: Apart from the maintenance and repair issues this seems like an interesting and well equipped play area. We are not aware of any requests for additional equipment.

Morda Playing Field

Responsibility: It is understood that the Play Area belongs to Shropshire County Council which is, therefore, currently responsible for ongoing maintenance, repair and insurance.



Age range and facilities: Clearly intended for teenagers with a BMW track and skateboard ramps. There are also some pieces of adult exercise equipment. There is nothing for younger age groups, which has resulted in requests from local residents.

Maintenance and Repair:

- The standing plate on one of the pieces of exercise equipment is broken
- There is a large hole beside part of the BMW track. This is clearly dangerous and needs to be filled in.
- Although we didn't check it, a local resident told us that the zip wire didn't run freely, not returning to its original location.
- There was no net on the basketball hoop
- There was quite a bit of litter, but this will be collected during the next community litter pick.



Improvements or Enhancements: Several residents from Greenfield Close, Weston Square, Old Mill Avenue and Kingfisher Way have complained that there is nothing for younger children in this play area. There is space for additional equipment, but the park is well used in the evening, at weekends and during holidays by older children. The BMX track is well known locally and young people from Oswestry regularly come to make use of it.

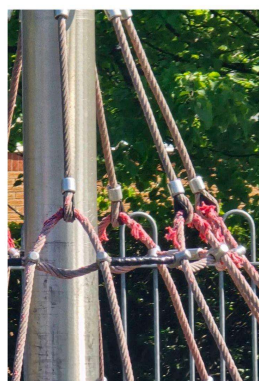
Parker Leighton Way Children's Play Area

Responsibility: It is understood that the Play Area belongs to Shropshire County Council which is, therefore, currently responsible for ongoing maintenance, repair and insurance.



Age range and facilities: This play area is equipped for Toddlers and Pre-school children. There have been requests to add equipment suitable for the 4 to 11 age range.

Maintenance and Repair: Generally in good condition, but several of the ropes on the spider climbing frame need repairing or replacing. Some of the metalwork could benefit from cleaning and repainting.



Improvements or Enhancements: As with the Morda Playing Field, requests have been made for more equipment suitable for a wider age range of children. One issue is that for parents and

children to get from Greenfield Close, Weston Square, Old Mill Avenue or Kingfisher Way they would have to cross Weston Road which can be quite dangerous at busy times.

19th May, 2025