

Multi-Games Play Wall

Feasibility Survey

Introduction

Multi-games play walls are a valuable addition to existing park sporting facilities. Generally, they form a boundary of an existing facility because their use requires a level playing area of durable material in front of them. Such an area requires to be enclosed to contain any balls used as part of the activity for which they are being used.

Wall Construction

The wall needs to be of sufficient height and width to facilitate the practice. For example, with football it will need to be a minimum of 1,5ms higher and wider than the goal painted onto its surface: for tennis it would need to be at least 4ms tall and the width of a tennis court. In addition, there would need to be protection behind the wall in the form of netting to mitigate against balls being lost and or danger to people moving behind the wall, This is important if the wall forms part of the perimeter of the site. Walls of this size need to be of substantial construction e.g. block or brick. Wood can be used but it tends to be noisier. More solid structures absorb sound better. Care needs to be taken that the siting of the wall does not obscure light from other parks of the park and or adjacent premises.

Introducing it into Alice Park

A group of existing users who have expressed an interest in such a wall are the existing tennis players. It could be incorporated in the proposals relating to the upgrading of the existing tennis courts. Situating the wall as part of the southern boundary of the park adjacent to London Road is highly practicable. However, under the existing proposals for upgrading the tennis courts it would not be available to other park users unless using the two courts were turned into a multi-games facility.

Placing it in any other part of the park would be difficult. It is difficult to find a level piece of ground that could be leveled and enclosed without substantial ground works. The area required probably some 3/400 square metres would be difficult to find without compromising facilities and/or the abundance of trees which give the park its character. The creation of such a facility from scratch would be costly.

These findings are put before the committee for their consideration.

Graham Page
Independent Member