

Social Value Report: Community Asset Transfer of Stanton Drew Play Area

1. Executive Summary

Stanton Drew Parish Council is seeking a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) or a long-term lease (15 years) of the Stanton Drew Play Area from Bath and North East Somerset Council. The aim is to secure tenure to unlock funding opportunities and deliver a revitalised “Recreation Area” that serves all age groups. This report outlines the social value generated by the proposed transfer and how it is calculated.

2. Context and Rationale

- The play area is located in the most densely populated part of the parish and is currently under a “tenancy at will” agreement, which limits access to grants and long-term planning.
- The Parish Council already maintains the site, covering all costs including inspections, insurance, and repairs.
- Much of the equipment is deteriorating and will soon require removal if not replaced.

3. Social Value Objectives

The proposed CAT will:

- Enable the Parish Council to apply for grants and match funding to replace and enhance equipment.
- Broaden the use of the site by introducing facilities for children, young people, and adults.
- Promote physical activity, mental wellbeing, and social inclusion, especially for families and young people in a rural setting.
- Encourage community participation through volunteer labour and local fundraising.

4. Beneficiaries

- **Local Residents:** Enhanced recreational facilities for all age groups.
- **Young Families:** Safe, accessible play and exercise options without the need for transport.

- **Older Adults:** Opportunities for gentle exercise and social interaction.
- **Community Groups:** A shared space for events and informal gatherings.

5. Community Support and Governance

- The Parish Council has a proven track record of managing community projects, including a £20,000 war memorial restoration.
- There is strong community support, with local trusts indicating willingness to fund improvements if tenure is secured.
- The Council has set aside approximately £10,000 in reserves for the play area and plans to raise an additional £20,000 through grants.

6. Financial and Operational Sustainability

- Annual maintenance costs are under £3,000 and will continue to be covered by the precept.
- New equipment is expected to reduce repair costs in the short term.
- Insurance and inspection costs are manageable within existing budgets.

7. Social Value Calculation

Social value is assessed using a combination of qualitative and quantitative indicators:

Indicator	Metric	Estimated Value
Increased physical activity	Number of users benefiting from new equipment	100+ residents
Volunteer engagement	Hours of volunteer labour	200+ hours
Grant leverage	Funds raised through match funding	£20,000+
Cost avoidance	Avoided costs of equipment removal and reduced usage	£5,000+
Community wellbeing	Surveyed satisfaction and usage rates	To be measured post-implementation

These metrics align with the Social Value Act 2012 principles, focusing on community wellbeing, economic efficiency, and environmental sustainability.

8. Environmental Impact

The proposed transfer and enhancement of the Stanton Drew Play Area to a multi-generational “Recreation Area” is expected to deliver several positive environmental outcomes:

8.1 Sustainable Land Use

- The site is already in community use and located within the most densely populated part of the parish, reducing the need for new land development or greenfield disruption.
- Enhancing an existing site rather than relocating or building a new facility minimises environmental disturbance and planning complexity.

8.2 Reduced Carbon Footprint

- By providing accessible recreational facilities within walking distance for most residents, the project reduces reliance on car travel to distant leisure sites, thereby lowering transport-related emissions.
- Encouraging local outdoor activity supports a shift toward low-carbon, nature-based recreation.

8.3 Resource Efficiency

- The Parish Council plans to involve volunteers in the preparation and installation of new equipment, reducing the need for heavy machinery and associated emissions.
- Phased development allows for careful planning and reuse of existing infrastructure where possible.

8.4 Biodiversity and Green Space Preservation

- The central open space with goalposts and surrounding green areas will be retained, preserving local biodiversity and maintaining a valuable green lung within the village.
- Tree and hedge maintenance, already managed by the Parish Council, will continue to support local wildlife habitats.

8.5 Waste Reduction

- The project aims to replace deteriorating equipment with durable, modern alternatives, reducing the frequency of repairs and replacements and thereby minimising waste over time.
- Where feasible, materials from decommissioned equipment may be recycled or repurposed.

9. Conclusion

- The proposed CAT of the Stanton Drew Play Area will deliver substantial social value by enhancing local infrastructure, promoting health and wellbeing, and fostering community cohesion. The Parish Council is well-positioned to manage the asset effectively and sustainably, with strong community backing and a clear funding strategy.