



## Active Parks



# Importance of Parks and Green Spaces

Calderdale's corporate priorities – **REDUCING INEQUALITIES, TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE** and creating **STRONG AND THRIVING TOWNS**.

- Parks important place-based assets
- Opportunity – Local Delivery Pilot with Sport England







## Principles of Working

### TARGETED

Probing those who need it most

### CO-DESIGNED

Working with the communities involved

### COLLABORATION

Using existing assets and making connections between them

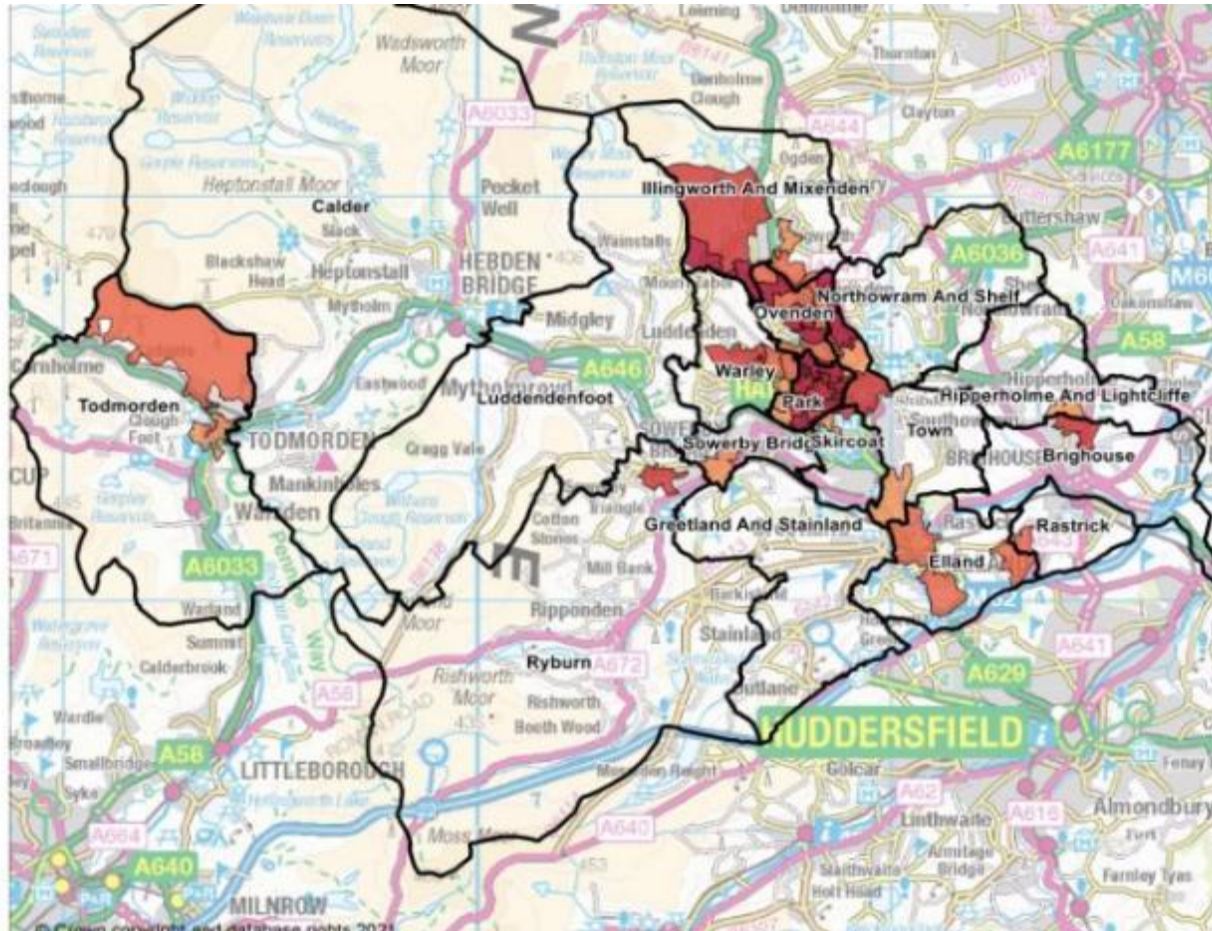
### SUSTAINABLE

Designing services and systems so physical activity is embedded within them

# Where it began....

## Priority Groups;

- Lower-socio economic
- Women & Girls
- Ethnically diverse communities
- People with a disability and/or a long-term health condition
- Older People



# Active Parks – what we are doing

## 1 - Community Led Approach

## 2 - New way of working



# Achieving partnership and truly connected work

**Park partnership groups per park / green space in priority areas**

**Terms of references** in place – detailing roles and responsibilities

**Improvement plans** – include Insight from the community, when funding is then available, the improvement plan is then up to date and can be consulted.





# CALDERDALE PARKS PARTNERSHIPS

Parks and Green Spaces thrive when organisations, services and local people work together. Calderdale's Parks Partnership groups create a collaborative, community led way of creating and delivering Active Parks and Green Spaces that our communities can benefit from to be physically and socially active.

## Staff

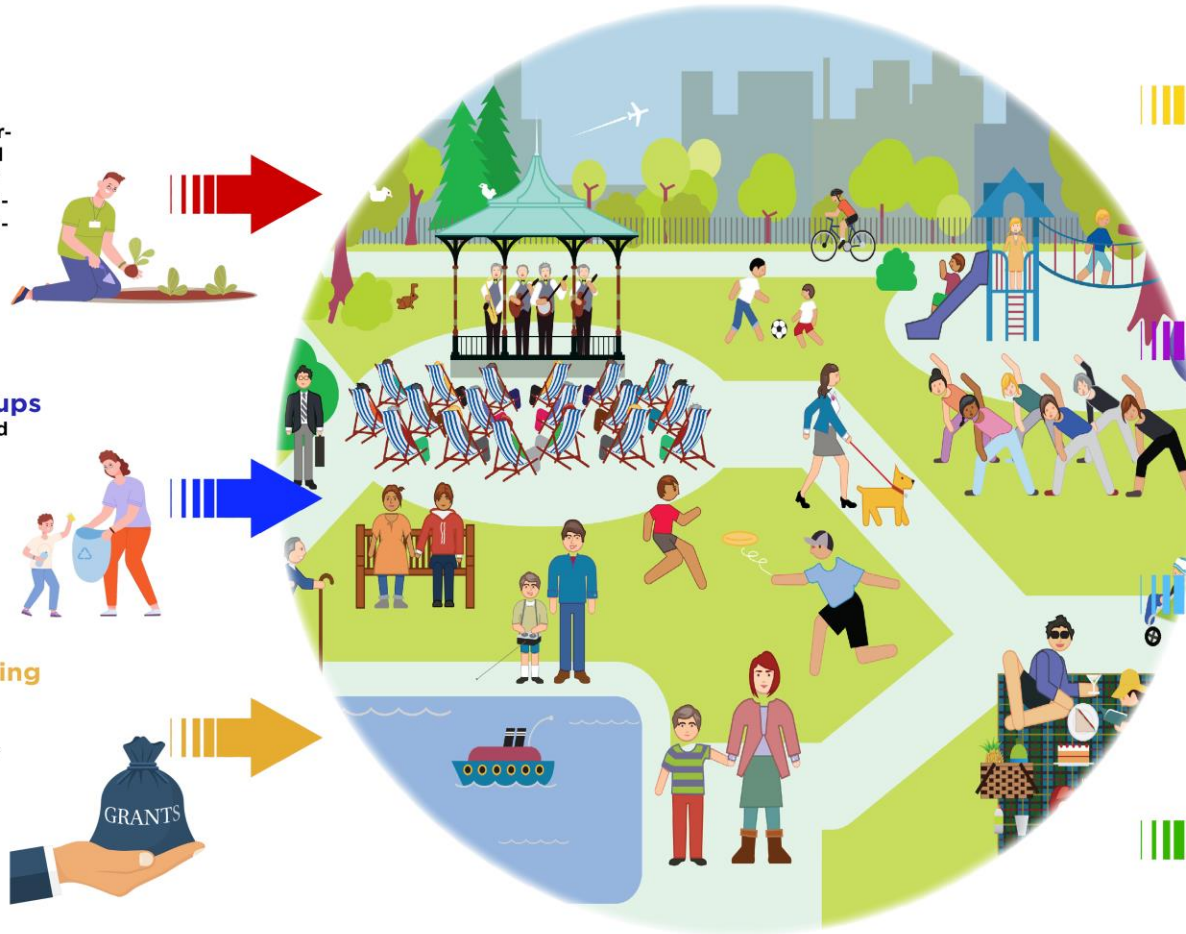
Active Calderdale, PGSS team and other Council departments come together for coordinated and connected working in community decisions, raising community issues and joining up funding.

## Volunteers and 'Friends of' Groups

Increased numbers and links with volunteers for each park / green space, creating opportunities to become involved and support from PGSS to thrive.

## Grants and funding

Link and provide support to join up funding available, working with partner organisations, Council services and 'Friends of' Groups.



## Healthy Communities

Creating a more welcoming space to encourage longer visits to improve mental and health wellbeing of park users. Increased activities / use

## Linked Communities

Events encouraged and supported via non council organisations to increase community links and community spirit within our Parks and Green Spaces. Work with volunteers and local organisations to achieve goals resulting in a better connected to their parks and each other.

## Safer and Accessible

Park Partnership groups ensure issues of ASB are raised and support provided. Reductions due to more activity and presence in parks, open areas, improvements to infrastructure within the park

## Connecting with Nature

Creating more opportunity for residents to access nature and wildlife on their doorstep whilst accessing their park.

## Residents

More physically active



More socially active



# Challenges

- All parts of the system do not engage
- Capacity
- Clash in different priorities







Examples of the work





# Shroggs Park (pilot park)

Shroggs Park, (North Halifax) - top 20% most deprived areas in Calderdale according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

***"Shroggs Park could be a nice park! It needs some work on uneven paths, its neglected compared to other parks"***

***"I wouldn't visit Shroggs Park in the evening by myself as I wouldn't feel safe"***

***"I'm a powerchair user and the pavements are not accessible"***

# SHROGGS PARK OVERVIEW



**Active  
Calderdale  
£50,000**



**Partnership  
group  
20 meetings  
held**



**Partners committed to  
collaborating**  
*"I believe we have influenced a  
positive change with local  
authority officers who now  
listen to what community  
services in a park should be  
delivered"* (Chair, Friends of  
Shroggs Park Group)



**Additional  
funding  
secured**

Levelling Up, Safer  
Streets, Nature for  
Climate - Coronation  
Living Heritage Fund,  
Section 106 and  
biodiversity net gain

**£153,000**

**Safer Parks for  
Women and  
Girls** research  
and guidance  
adopted



**Community  
events in green  
spaces – 14**



**Park improvement plan**

**Park improvements delivered**

- Benches
- Bins replaced and larger stock installed
- Volunteer litter picking equipment bin installed
- Orienteering routes through woodland
- Monument refurbishment
  - Active Spots
- Crown Lift / reduction of shrubbery
- Noticeboards with maps
- Park resource map leaflet
  - Community orchard



**Friends of Group  
supported**

Terms of reference



**Accessibility  
audit  
completed**



# Shroggs Park







***"We have had so many positive comments regarding the community engagement events, litter picking, orienteering and a Halloween event with 90 plus attending"***  
 (Jayne Spencer FOSP Chair)

**Shroggs Park**







## Shroggs Park – After

***"I love to bring my family to the park; glad to see the improvements"***

***"The changes in the park to the new surface is great and safer. I will be returning with family"***

***"As a local resident for 24 years who uses the park daily with my dog, the changes over this year have been extremely positive"***

***"The removal of bushes by the pavilion gives more openness. We look forward to the summer enjoying the park"***



# Parks map leaflets resources



## How can you use your park to be active?

**When we move, we're stronger**  
The parks green open spaces provide the ideal environment to be and stay physically active. For other opportunities to be active, visit [www.active.calderdale.gov.uk](http://www.active.calderdale.gov.uk)

**Help your friends and family**  
Moving makes us stronger. Sometimes a bit of encouragement is all we need. Share photos or stories of you being active at the Park, or better still invite your friends and family to join you! The more we move, the healthier, happier and more connected we'll all be.

**Enjoy parkrun events in parks across Calderdale**  
Whether you're new to running or aiming for a personal best, there's a parkrun for you. Find your nearest event at [parkrun.org.uk/events](http://parkrun.org.uk/events)

To get the latest on other activities, events and everything else happening in Shroggs Park and across Calderdale, check out [www.visitcalderdale.com](http://www.visitcalderdale.com)

If you would like to provide feedback on your visit, please do so via the Customer First Team at [Customer.first@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:Customer.first@calderdale.gov.uk) or scan the QR code below for more options.



**5 Reasons to Get Active in Shroggs Park:**

- Boost Your Health** – Moving outdoors improves both your physical fitness and mental wellbeing, even with just a short stroll.
- Enjoy Nature** – Fresh air, trees, and open spaces can reduce stress, lift your mood and improve your sleep.
- It's Free and Flexible** – Move in a way that suits you – walk, jog, wheel, play, or simply stretch.
- Connect with Others** – Parks are great for spending time with family, friends, or meeting new people.
- Feel Energised** – Just a little movement can give you more energy and leave you feeling more uplifted throughout your day.

Your park, your pace, your way – when we

**Shroggs Park**  
Helping you to move more

**ACTIVE CALDERDALE**  
When we move, we're stronger.



**Key**

- Accessible Entrance
- Entrance
- Benches
- Picnic Benches
- Mile Marker
- Start / Finish
- Play Markings
- Path
- Woodland Path (By Foot Only)
- Rough Terrain Path

**Places of Interest**

- 1 Play Area
- 2 Infant Play Area
- 3 Football Pitch
- 4 Skate Ramps
- 5 Football & Basketball Courts
- 6 Football Pitch
- 7 Monument (Listed)
- 8 Original Pond Footprint (Listed)
- 9 Maze

**Limited On Street Parking Available**  
(near Wheatley Road & Lee Mount Road. Please be considerate of local residents.)

Visit [www.wymetro.com](http://www.wymetro.com) for bus routes.





Second Example





# Mixenden Before

The Mixenden area of North Halifax, is within the top 10% most deprived areas in Calderdale according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).

An unused green space not maintained by the Council

***"I live in Mixenden which have no real green spaces or parts, other than waste ground. To get to any other park I need to travel."***

***"Doing the parks up for the children and tidying areas to make them safer to play there is an old basketball court... that space kids would benefit from having a nice place to go play if it was done up"***



# MIXENDEN OVERVIEW



Active  
Calderdale  
**£168,132,86**



Partnership  
group  
**16 meetings held**

## Additional funding secured



UKSPF, Active Travel England  
(community street scheme) ,  
Highways, Playgrounds,  
Community Foundation for  
Calderdale, Culturedale, Section  
106 and biodiversity net gain  
**£673,251.00**



Safer Parks for **Women and  
Girls** research and guidance  
adopted

Make Space For Girls research  
and toolkit utilised



**Park improvement plan** established

## **Park improvements delivered:**

- Mixenden Park clearance work
  - Nature Nurture trail
- Accessible MUGA Resurfacing games area
  - Accessible Picnic bench
  - Accessible path
- Making space for girls equipment installed
  - Bike track and play
  - Football goals
  - Picnic bench
  - New signage



Ongoing  
community  
engagement

Terms of reference

**Accessibility audit  
completed**



Park **community  
events in green spaces**  
- 12

**30 volunteer days**

Partners committed to collaborating

*"This group has brought about various  
conversations that are centred around local  
priorities and ensuring relevant services and  
investment opportunities are tailored to meet the  
needs of local people and support with building  
local pride in place....and  
has enabled strengthened relationships between  
different organisations and sectors and will  
continue to bring wider opportunities to working  
collaboratively".*

(Community Partnerships  
Manager, North Halifax Partnership)



# Mixenden





# Community sessions

**Join us**

Let's co-design the Hebble Brook Trails

Come along to one of our fun, friendly events, where we will design walking trails along the Hebble Brook, inspired by local history and nature. Free refreshments.

**When?** Friday 2nd Feb - 3.30pm - 5.30pm  
& Saturday 3rd Feb 1.30pm - 4pm

**Where?** Holy Nativity Church  
Mixenden HX2 8RX

Any questions? Email: [hello@nature-nurture.co.uk](mailto:hello@nature-nurture.co.uk)

Celebrate the history and nature of our community

**nature nurture**

ACTIVE CALDERDALE  
Funded by UK Government  
LEVELLING UP  
West Yorkshire Combined Authority  
Tracy Braine Mayor of West Yorkshire  
Calderdale Council  
North Hill Partnership



**'Look after the Brook'**

**2024 VOLUNTEER DATES:**

FRIDAY 23RD FEBRUARY  
FRIDAY 15TH MARCH  
FRIDAY 19TH APRIL  
FRIDAY 17TH MAY  
FRIDAY 21ST JUNE

**DUTIES:** MAIN ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE TREE WORK AND CLEARANCE

**TIME:** 10:00 - 12:30

**LOCATION:** ENTRANCE TO SEED HILL WOODS  
(OPPOSITE THE BOTTOM OF HEYS LANE)

For more information contact Sofia, [Sofia.Armstrong@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:Sofia.Armstrong@calderdale.gov.uk) or 07745206297

Calderdale Council  
ACTIVE CALDERDALE

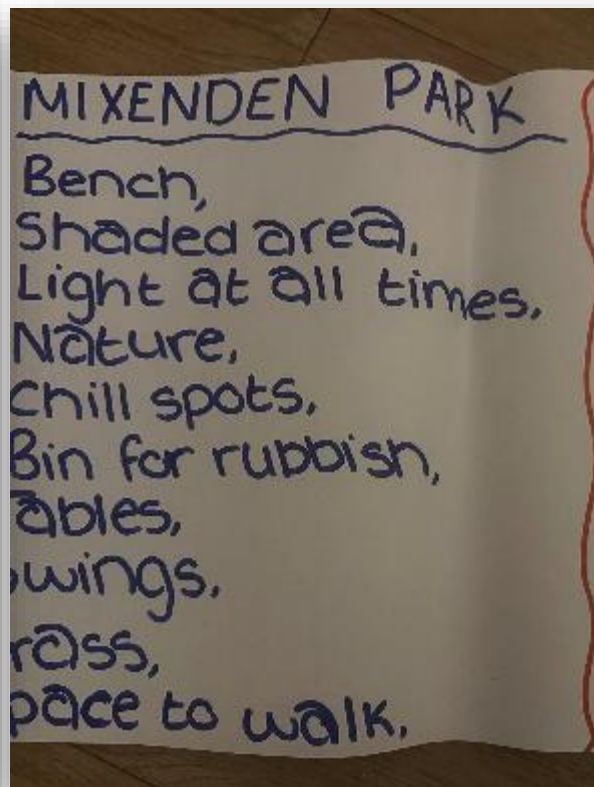




Mixenden - After







Make Space For Girls – Mixenden Urban Park



# Signage



New sign design





# Some Learning...

- Hold funds within the Council
- Include the community
- Social Activation
- Open, honest and respectful conversations

Bringing services and organisations from different parts of the system together gaining commitment; takes time!



# Where we are now...

- 6 Park Partnership groups
- Match funding
- More partnership groups in more areas
- Neighbourhood teams leading park partnership groups.
- Equipment / improvements funded by Sport England now added to maintenance schedules.
- Social activation
- Change in ways of working to be community led





# Links of interest

- Suzy Lamplugh Trust Bystander training - [Anti Harassment, Bystander training](#)
- Making space for girls- [Making space for girls](#)
- Safer parks guidance - [West Yorkshire Combined Authority](#)
  
- Active Calderdale Blog articles;
- [Creating an Active Brackenbed Park](#)
- [The Story of Mixenden Urban Park](#)
- [Activating People's Park](#)
- [Myrtle Park: A Community-Led Transformation](#)
- [Beechwood Park Revitalised Through Youth-Led Social Action Programme](#)
- [Exploring the past and present along Mixenden's interactive trails | Active Calderdale](#)
- [Active Parks Update](#)
- [Mixenden Party in the Parks | Active Calderdale](#)
- [Active Parks Pilot - Shroggs Park](#)
- [Bystander Training](#)
- [Active Parks - The People's Park](#)
- [Active Parks - Changing the System](#)
- [Mixenden Nature & History Trails | Active Calderdale](#)
- [Love Shroggs Park](#)

A man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark jacket, is smiling and carrying a young child on his shoulders. The child is wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt and has their hands near their face. They are outdoors at a community event, with a white tent and other people visible in the background. The sky is blue with some clouds.

**Cllr. Dan Sutherland**  
**Ward Councillor**  
**Mixenden**