

St Pancras Green Equipment Paper for KPC

Introduction

Funding has been allocated for the following equipment on St Pancras Green:

- Outdoor gym equipment
- Basketball hoop
- Boules court
- Table tennis table

This paper sets out initial research by John Bewick and Shelaine Siepel on potential options for consideration by Kingston Parish Council. Other outdoor areas in the local area and beyond have been visited and ideas gathered for what could work in Kingston. Peacehaven Big Park and South Heighton Playground are good examples of what other areas have done that are sensitive to their rural settings.

Next Steps

- Get feedback from Kingston Parish Council
- Speak to further key stakeholders
- Get quotes
- Assist with managing installation

Questions for Parish Council

1. Are the proposed equipment options and possible locations acceptable?
2. During research, we identified a need for somewhere to store boules and table tennis equipment, can we add provision of a storage box to the quotes?
3. Can we add improving seating to the project, including adding an outdoor chess table which would also be a picnic table?

Items to consider

- Dog owners, parents of children having tennis lessons and others gather at the single picnic bench by the tennis court and the long bench, so a place for people to gather should be retained, ideally with a few more places to sit.
- Other outdoor exercise areas have been visited and there are good options that could work in Kingston that are made of wood with some metal. Fully metal outdoor gym equipment with moving parts was often found to be broken or having been removed as it seems that equipment that mirrors what is found in in-door gyms tends to need ongoing maintenance and repair.
- Fixed structures that can be used in a variety of ways would last longer and need less maintenance, as well as being more likely to be used by younger residents.
- There is a memorial tree beside the tennis courts. It has been partially blown down, if it is still alive and would need to be worked around or carefully moved with agreement of Janice Barber.
- The long memorial bench by the tennis courts is sinking into the ground and needs repair or replacement.
- Where no floor protection for outdoor gym equipment, they tend to end up as muddy puddles in the winter, discouraging use, so floor protection / grass protecting matting should be included.

Outdoor Gym Equipment

Location

Two possible locations are beside the tennis court <https://w3w.co/bland.scope.cheat> (click link and switch to satellite view) or beside the pavilion, along with the table tennis table <https://w3w.co/horns.books.fake>. Some of the equipment will require surfacing underneath.

User groups

- Mainly adults and teenagers
- Although there is a separate playground for younger children on the other village green but it is likely that children will play on the equipment, even if they are not the primary user group being aimed at, something that needs to be considered from a safety perspective.

Style

Rustic, mainly wood to fit with rural setting. It is suggested that the council should not choose the metal style of outdoor gym equipment such as cross trainers and bike machines as they have lots of parts that can go wrong and are expensive to repair / maintain. Vandalism is not a big issue in the village but it should be considered. If the equipment is well used, more can be added later.

Ideas of equipment to incorporate

- Pull up bars
- Monkey bars
- Sit up bench
- Parallel bars
- Zig-zag balance beam (also for step ups and a place to sit)



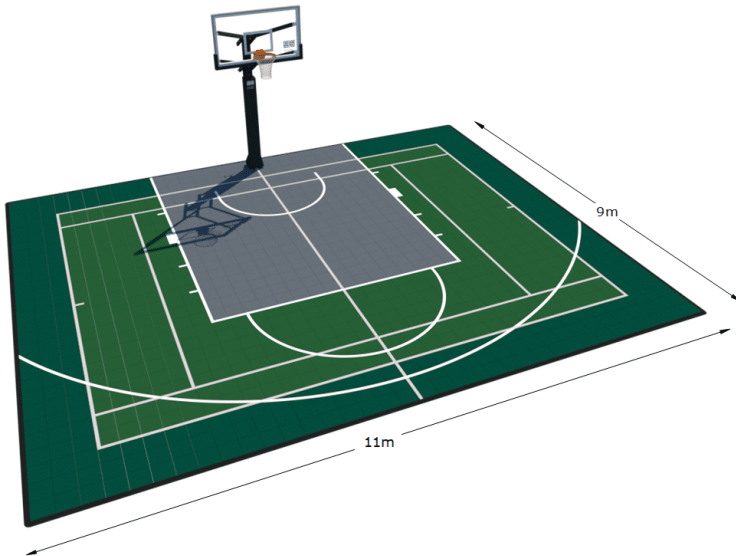
Basketball Hoop

Location

Suggest against the wooded strip <https://w3w.co/handy.surely.wizard>

Considerations

- The hoop should have a solid backboard to avoid balls repeatedly falling into vegetation behind.
- It should have solid surface, in the form of a half court to allow games to be played.
- It should be located where any noise will be least intrusive.
- It will not be lit so will not cause noise after dark.



[https://www.sportsflooring.co.uk/sport-court/multi-sport-court-basketball-and-racket-sports-edition-dimensions-1/#iLightbox\[postimages\]/0](https://www.sportsflooring.co.uk/sport-court/multi-sport-court-basketball-and-racket-sports-edition-dimensions-1/#iLightbox[postimages]/0)

Other equipment can be incorporated, such as netball hoops, which could encourage girls to use the space



<https://www.amvplaygrounds.co.uk/challenge-unit->

Boules Court

Location

Suggest the corner between the tennis courts. The court should be located away from where dogs are exercised, so they don't run over it <https://w3w.co/maps.lows.transit>

A full-size boules court is 15m long, which is quite large. We suggest an approximate size 7m x 4m. Not full size but enough to play a game on.

In France, families have their own Boules sets, but we could provide one set to encourage people to play and keep it in a locked box close to the court



<https://stoke-rec-trust.co.uk/boules/>

<https://www.ukpetanque.co.uk/>

Table Tennis Table

Location

Suggest the space between the tennis courts and the Pavilion

<https://w3w.co/horns.books.fake>



<https://www.playcrete.com/concrete-table-tennis/>

Seating

Location

Suggest beside the tennis court and beside wherever the basketball court goes

<https://w3w.co/watch.brands.copy>

Considerations

- Provide more picnic tables and / or benches made from recycled plastic. Suggest not using tropical hard wood due to environmental impact and 'closing the loop' by buying back products made from recycled plastic, which is one of the most difficult waste streams to find a use for (outdoor furniture being one of the best uses for it)



<https://www.vprecycledplastic.co.uk/Picnic-Tables/Standard-Picnic-Table>

<https://www.tdp.co.uk/product/dalebench/>

<https://www.kronemag.eu/park-chess-table-set-campina-or>

Possible Location Plan

Not to scale

