



SPARK the PARK Seminar



east lothian
play association

Tranent

Friday 3rd February
2023



PLAYCAN



Fa'side
Area Partnership

#chooseplay #playoutside

OUR INCLUSION JOURNEY

Dr Andy Zieleniec
Chair
Include Us

Include Us
Catherine Street Inclusive Park
Catherine Street
Dumfries
DG1 1JA



Scottish Charity: SC048168

CHARITABLE PURPOSES

- To create and maintain an accessible and inclusive play space in an existing urban pocket park.
- To facilitate and promote social interaction through play and recreation for all members of the community
- To ensure that Catherine Street Park is an all-ability play and recreation green space



DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Not every element needs to be accessible to every child or young person
- But every child or young person should be able to access the social experience of play/choices
- Designed so features of the play area support a range of types of play, behaviours and activity

Challenges:

- Shared use by those of different age ranges
- Some issues of vandalism and anti-social behaviour (open 24/7)

This has been mitigated by:

- CCTV
- Good partnership arrangement with community police/schools
- Youth Engagement



BRIEF CHRONOLOGY

- **2016 - working group formed led by parents of disabled children, local residents and partners (to campaign for inclusive and accessible play spaces)**
- **Feb 2017 - D&G Council agreed to a £500k investment for 3 inclusive play parks in the region.**
- **Catherine Street Park was selected as the most appropriate site in Dumfries**
- **2017-2018 neighbourhood, children and young people consultations**
- **Participatory appraisal approaches used - design workshops for fencing, gates, equipment and play experiences.**



CHRONOLOGY CONTINUED

- February 2018 - Include Us established and registered as a SCIO
- April 2018 - Asset Transfer from D&G Council to Include Us
- May 2018 - Appointed Landscape architect after a tendering process
- Include Us & Catherine Street Park - key case study in Play Scotland's new publication: *Free to Play: A guide to creating accessible and inclusive public play spaces.* (Launched at the Scottish Parliament 30th May 2018)
- June 2018 - gained planning permission for changes to the existing park.



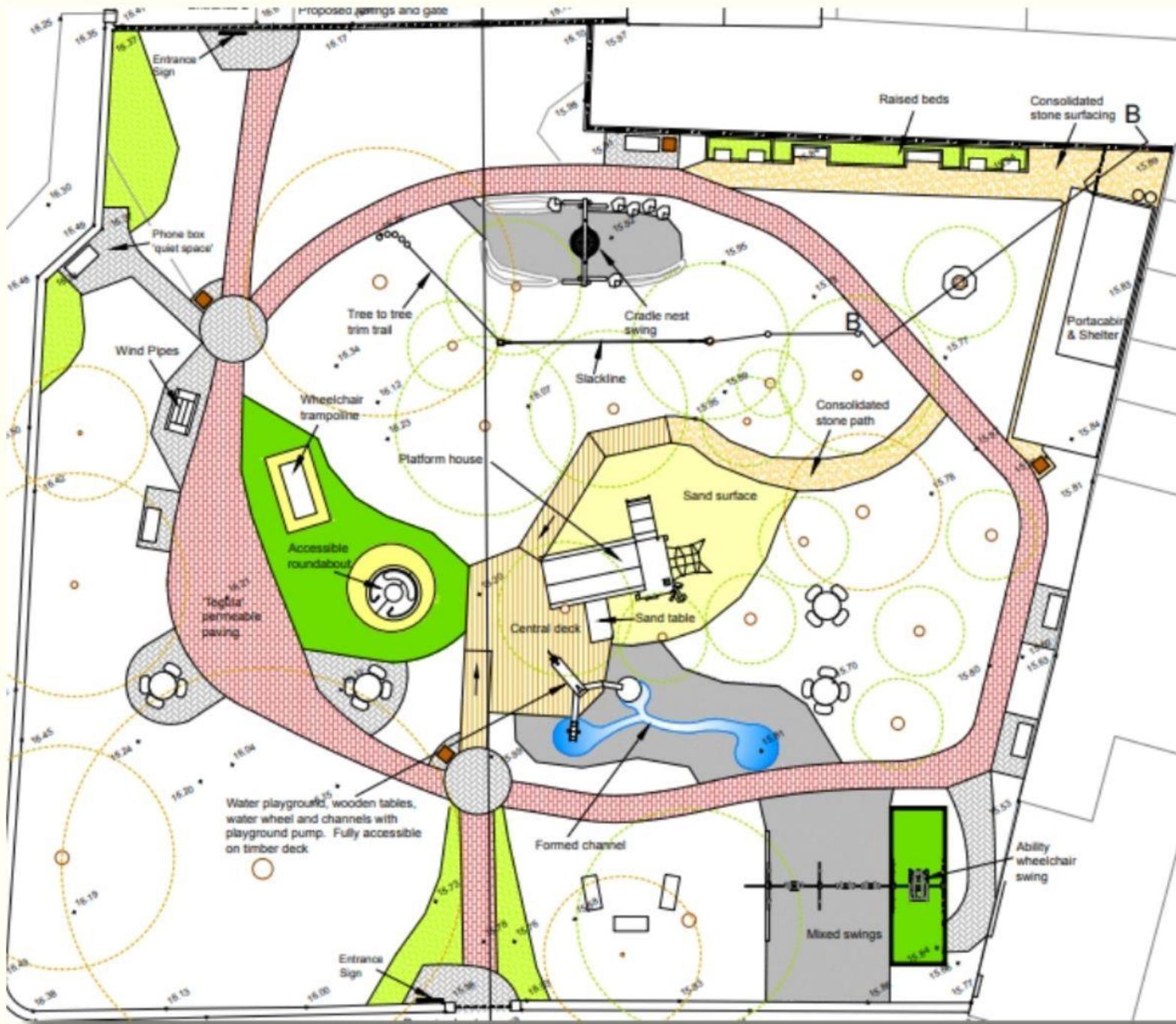
CHRONOLOGY CONTINUED

- July 2018 - raised finances for purchase/installation of new play equipment/landscaping, office, outside storytelling area, gardening tools and staffing
- July 2019 - appointed Development Manager.
- December 2019 - appointed Community Gardener
- February 2020 - The park formally opened.
- July 2020 finalists in the Landscape Institute Awards - Excellence in Health and Wellbeing.
- 2023 - UNICEF case study of inclusive spaces (publication pending)



DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

- **Original site** - small run down, local authority playpark, residential conservation area, Dumfries town centre
- **Aim** - to make Catherine Street Play Park & Community Garden a welcoming, inclusive, accessible green space for all, in the heart of the town
- **Opportunities for naturally playful recreation and education.**
- **Enhance play value & biodiversity by planting additional trees in addition to the existing 25 mature trees, site and to accommodate a range of informal play, leisure, cultural and educational activities.**
- **Accommodate a range of informal play, leisure, cultural and educational activities.**

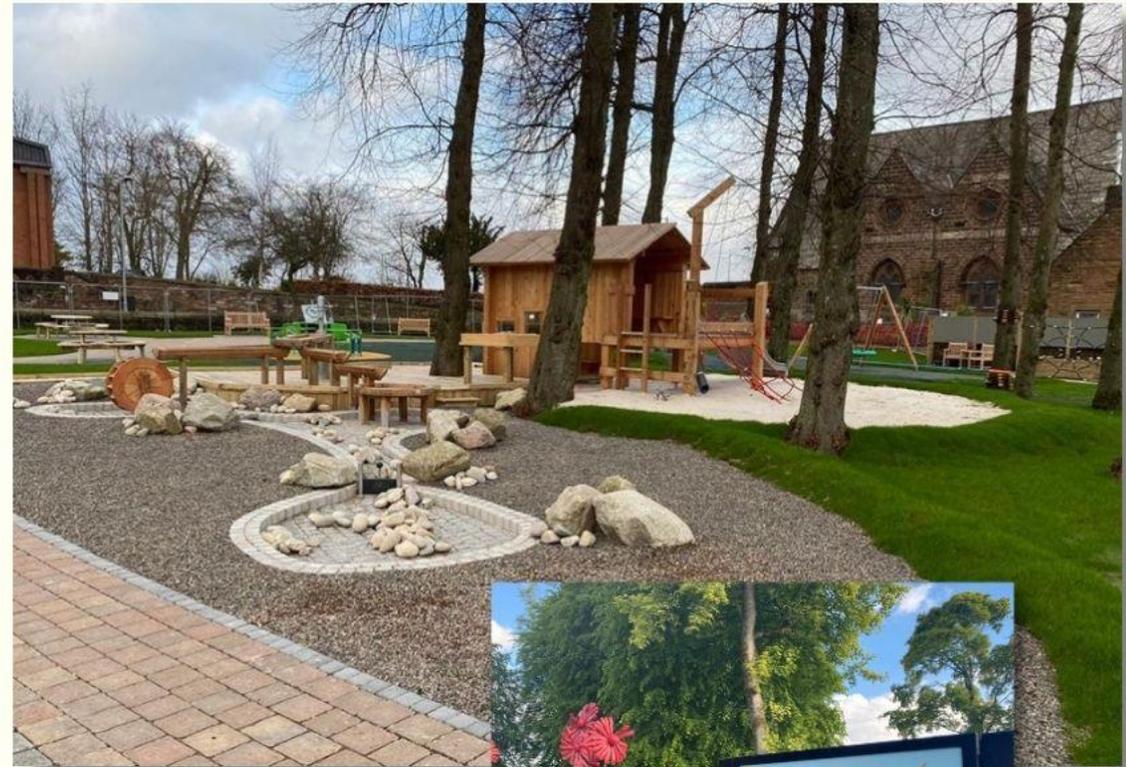


- **Circular pathway, grass areas, flower beds, raised beds, accessible seating, water play feature, sand pit, play house, wheelchair swing, swings, a wheelchair roundabout and trampoline, slack line, climbing frame & sensory play equipment.**
- **Accessible and inclusive, a place to play, relax and spend enjoyable time together**
- **Gathering places as informal performance and educational space.**

BEFORE...



...AFTER







INCLUSIVE & ACCESSIBLE

- Gated entrance/accessible ramps
- Entrance to Changing Places Toilet in the Usual Place café
- Accessible paths and seating
- Inclusive play equipment and features
- Sensory & edible planting
- Storytelling/performance/learning shelter
- Free events and activities that ensure social inclusion





PARK PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

- **Lisa, our Development Manager will now discuss how the day-to-day activities in the park and working with volunteers, trainees, and events makes the park a continuing success.**
- **A community centre without walls**



CATHERINE STREET INCLUSIVE PARK

Breaking barriers - building connections



Lisa Callander-Bone
Development Manager
Include Us



CATHERINE STREET INCLUSIVE PARK

opened on 17th February 2020





EXPECTED USER GROUPS

- **Nurseries & Childminders**
- **Schools**
- **Families - all abilities**
- **Care Services**
- **Children & young people**



UNEXPECTED REGULAR USERS

- **Social Work - contact visits**
- **CAMHS support visits**
- **Teens and young adults**
- **Single fathers**
- **Elderly or lonely**
- **Minority groups / individuals**
- **Multiple deprivation**



LEARNING TO BE TOGETHER

**"It's cool that you let us play here. People tell us we are too big for parks. No one really wants us around"
(12 year old)**

**"Gangs of teenagers at lunchtime, abusing the equipment.
Far too old to be playing in a park"**



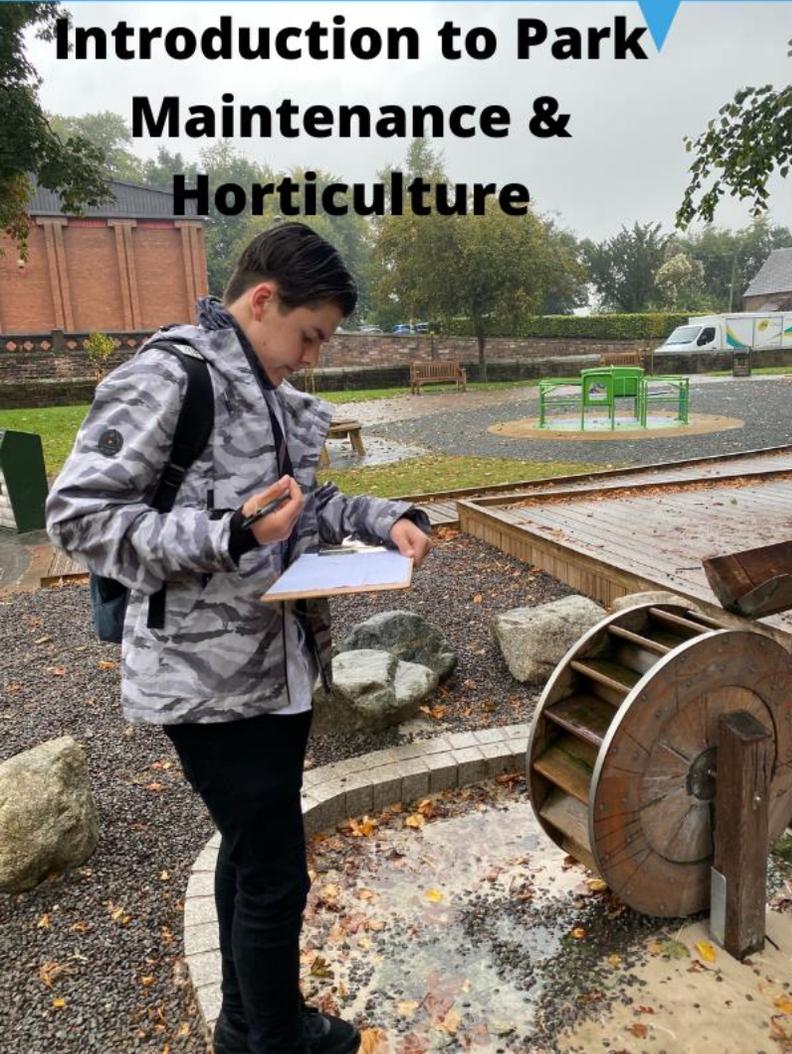
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The Dream Team



TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT - PILOT

Introduction to Park Maintenance & Horticulture



Rural Skills Nat 4

Nature Explorers



TRAINING PROGRAMME

1

Nurture Programme - One-to-One

2

Growing Together - Group Projects

3

Business Roots

4

Branching Out



SKILLS & CONFIDENCE



OUR VISION

“To create a future where learning and recreation is accessible to all, and wellbeing flourishes”



COMMUNITY CONNECTION - LLC



COMMUNITY CONNECTION - CARERS



COMMUNITY CONNECTION - PLAY



COMMUNITY CONNECTION -ACTIVITIES



COMMUNITY CONNECTION - PLANTASIA



COMMUNITY CONNECTION - EVENTS



COMMUNITY CONNECTION - WELLBEING



SUPPORTING CONNECTION

"I've never met a Muslim person before, she was really nice" (Mum and teen)

"Having you here makes me feel less awkward in a play place" (Single dad)

"Why is she wearing weird makeup?" (7yr old child)

"I was too anxious to book but everyone is so lovely" (Young mum)

"Come and see what I found!" (Most children)

"I don't know who to ask for help?" (Polish)

"I miss my garden back home..." (Ukrainian refugee)



WHAT'S NEXT?

More of the same ... plus

- A children's storybook
- '5 steps to improved mental health' programme
- Enterprise initiatives
- Live Music & Games
- Outdoor gym



A COMMUNITY CENTRE WITHOUT WALLS

The inclusion journey doesn't end with an accessible space.

The magic happens when connection is supported within it.



THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

Any Questions?



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PLAY CAN

Partnership Project:



SC049885

INSPIRING SCOTLAND

Outdoor community play fund

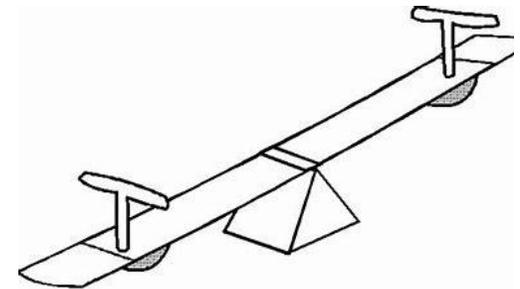
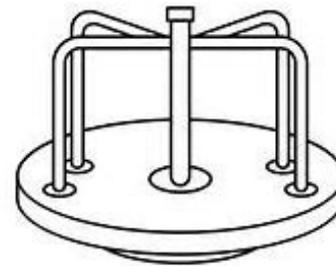
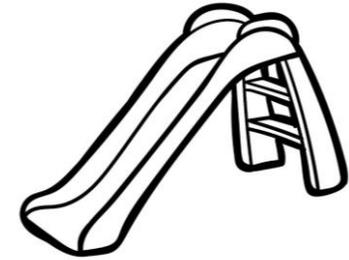


Project Aims:

- Promote Children's Right to Play
- Make existing provision more accessible to children & families with ASN
- Free, Fun, Friendly
- Include children with ASN in use of local community spaces
- Support play for whole family.
- Involve children & families in project design



Image of a Play PArk:



#playcanincludeusall



PLAYCAN



Musselburgh

Prestonpans

Cockenzie

Dunbar

Tranent

Whitecraig

Preston Tower

**11
SESSIONS**

**231
PARTICIPANTS**

7 Locations

PLAYCAN

“Great to have something that suits all ages and stages.”

“Lovely to see my child engaging with other people.”

“Nice to have something to do.”

“Comfort knowing children can still have fun and play whilst being safe.”

“Great to not have to join a waiting list.”

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PARTNERSHIP PROJECT:



INSPIRING SCOTLAND

OUTDOOR COMMUNITY PLAY FUND

#PLAYCANINCLUDEUSALL

Free, fun and friendly
EVERYONE WELCOME!



Fa'side
Area Partnership

Join us at the green space
between Tranent Library and
Lindores Drive (EH33 1AJ), and
The Fraser Centre



PLAYCAN



Friday 3rd February
Tranent

SPARK the PARK

explore, linger, play



TENT TALK

Learn about inclusive play
spaces with IncludeUs

A morning with inspirational guest
presenters and an afternoon of activities,
workshops and play. Join us for the next
step of our Spark the Park project!

Spark the Park: reimagining local parks,
play spaces & overlooked community spaces.

water play
hammocks
park art
nature activities
refreshments

Morning 9am - 11.45am

Spark the Park Seminar

at The Fraser Centre, 3a Winton Place, EH33 1AF

Free (booking required)

On the programme!

- Catherine Street Inclusive Play Park, Dumfries present their 'Community Centre Without Walls'.
- CanDo presents: PlayCan include us all.
- Find PlayRadical in the creative breaks!

Afternoon 1pm - 3.30pm

Indoors at The Fraser Centre and outdoors at the green
space between The Fraser Centre and Lindores Drive

Free, fun, & friendly – everyone welcome!
(no booking required)

- Fun, flexible & natural play resources for everyone is to use.
- Loose parts play, hammocks, park art, Tent Talks and more!
- Our resources and activities are designed to be inclusive and suitable for everyone.
- Explore, linger and play in the space.



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