

BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
AND PERFORMANCE

29 MAR 2021

RECEIVED

Democratic Services  
Bassetlaw District Council  
Queens Buildings  
Potter Street  
Worksop, Nottinghamshire  
S80 2AH  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear whom this may concern,

I am writing to you regarding a recent petition I have started for the desperate need of improvement required for the children's play facilities on St John's Field in the Gateford area of Worksop. The petition in just over 3 days has already reached over 250 signatures from families and visitors, who agree the standard of play equipment that currently stands for children aged over 5 is inadequate. As you can see from the pictures attached there is very limited play resources for older children, there are no swings, no slides and no climbing equipment. The park used to have one frisbee swing which had to cater for over 3000 children that is no longer available. This park caters for over 5000 residents and is in vicinity of 3 primary schools all of which have access to the park daily. Having this amount of equipment is just not acceptable. In a time when we are told to 'stay local' it has opened the community's eyes to the lack of facilities available for older children and thus has resulted in more crime. Children's mental health and wellbeing should be a priority for the council and having somewhere for these children to exercise and play is crucial in these desperate times.

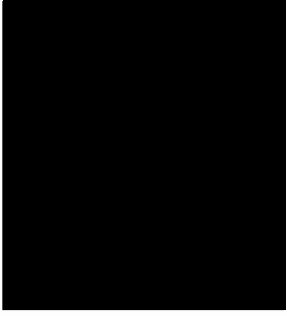
I am aware of a recreational build taking place in Gateford in the near future on Churchill Way in Gateford, however this does not support the needs of children who live locally to the St John's Park which use this park on a regular basis and do not have their needs met. There is also a play park on Valley Road not far from our chosen park; however this again has no swings or is local to Gateford, the petition focuses on the standard of facilities at our current park. Children aged 5 and under have a lovely play area on the same premises however I have found the security gates do not fully close and there are divots which cause little ones to fall over, which again is another reason why maintenance is very important in this chosen play area. The area itself is such a huge open space and has very limited facilities to offer for a total of over 3000 children.

I am calling for Bassetlaw Council to take into consideration the views from over 250 residents (not including the children who are in agreement too) to desperately restore the play facilities on this park, adding new equipment so children aged 5 and above can have a place where they can spend a generous amount of time and families can feel proud of their area; knowing our council tax is actually being spent wisely. I believe years ago this park served the purpose for the amount of children living in the area, however there are more new house builds, shops and schools surrounding this park nowadays.

In support of my argument please find attached the petition which was created Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021; a list of signatures and comments from residents, photos from the existing play area site and maps of the surrounding area. I hope you take into consideration the true meaning of what we are aiming for here as a community, somewhere for children to enjoy their childhoods, having a positive effect on their mental, social and physical wellbeing. Please find it within yourselves how far you would go to provide a lovely area for your children to play.



Yours Sincerely,





# New play area Gateford



**259** have signed. Let's get to 500!



**Lauren Elliott** started this petition to [Bassetlaw Council](#)

With all the new builds and continuous new builds for the foreseeable future our children only have access to a limited amount of play parks in the Gateford Area. The ones we do have cater for a very small number of children mostly age 5 and under, with no slides/swings/ parkour or basic play equipment for older children. There is nowhere for older children to let off steam apart from one swing which has to be shared between 3000 children?! The quality of the parks are in desperate need of a refurbishment anyway as torn matting, constant littering and damaged equipment cannot be consistent with Health and Safety Regulations. This is for the wellbeing of our children.

Retford already has a beautiful play area in the Kings Park area yet it is still having more added to it. We only have the canch which again is not within walking distance and not as run down as the local parks.

I have contacted Bassetlaw Council and Nottinghamshire County Council numerous times and have diverted my attention every time. If we have strength in numbers maybe this dream can become a reality.

Please help give children what they deserve, a lovely outdoor space for all the family where they can have fun and enjoy their childhood safely.



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Main body of handwritten text, appearing as several lines of cursive script, though the content is largely illegible due to fading.







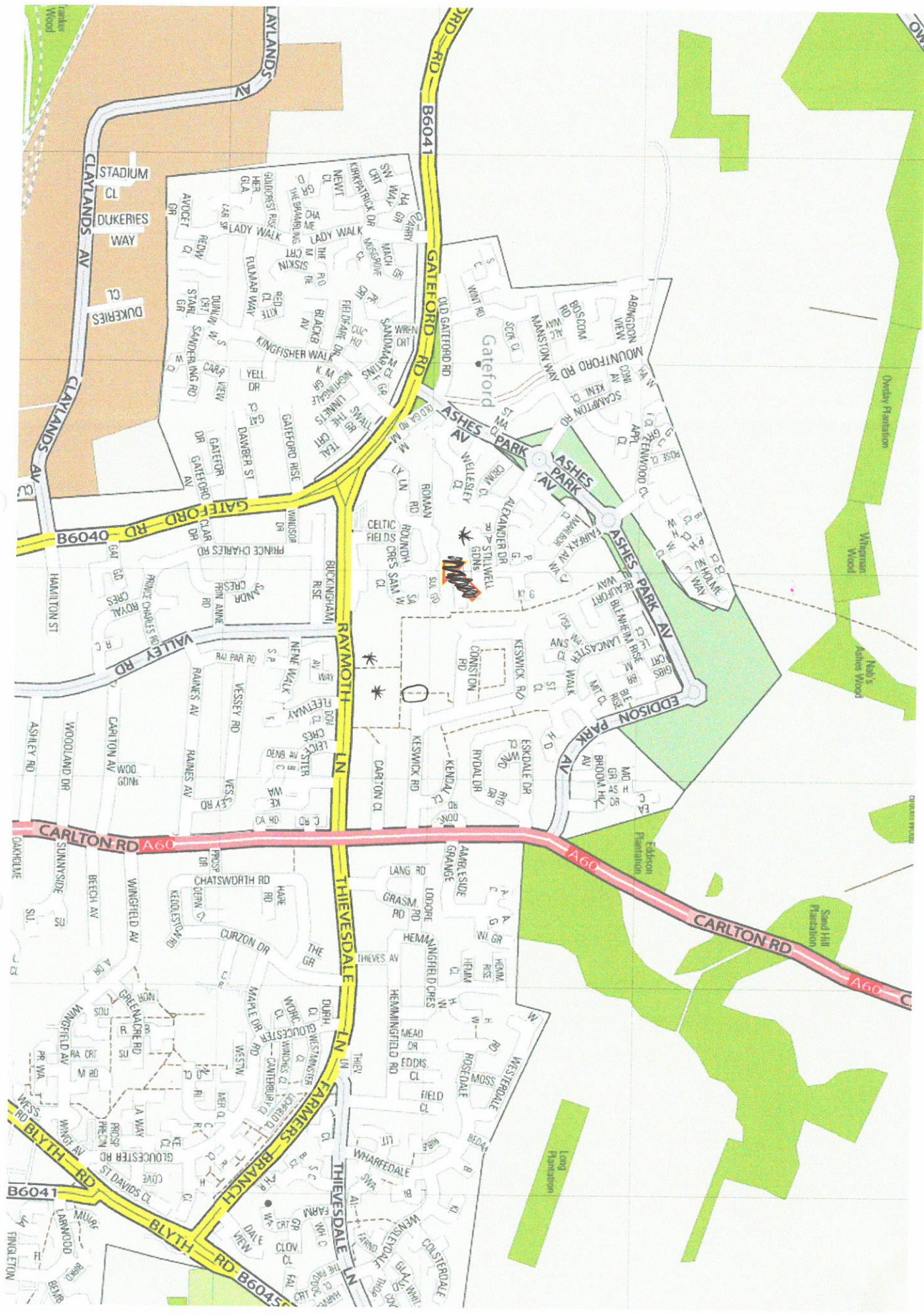








MAP 1 - GATEFORD AREA







KEY

- - Play area location
- \* - Schools / Pre-schools
- Gateford Park Primary School
- St John's Primary School
- Ruddleducks Pre-school
- ★ - Proposed park plans (never went ahead)

