Leisure & Recreation Committee

Report: Edinburgh Street Recreation Ground
Date: 12.11.2026
Report author: Andrew Briggs, Operations Manager

1. Purpose of the report

To report on the condition of the footpath at Edinburgh Street Recreation Ground following a concern raised by a resident, and to recommend minor localised repairs and continued monitoring. The report also updates Members on the wider condition of the recreation ground and matters requiring further attention.

2. Background

The compacted stone footpath links Chapel Street to Edinburgh Street and has a school entrance along its route. It is approximately 145 metres long and 2.5 metres wide, giving an indicative surface area of 362.5 square metres. The route provides a connection through the recreation ground as well as access to the school.

The surface is subject to continual wear. Following the resident's concern, an inspection was undertaken to review its overall condition and identify whether repairs were required.

3. Inspection findings

At the time of inspection, the path was generally in an acceptable condition, and no significant concerns were identified. There were, however, localised areas of wear and unevenness where minor repairs would help improve the surface. The attached photographs illustrate the conditions observed.

The compacted stone material is difficult to patch repair effectively, and small repairs may require further attention as wear continues. Localised repairs would address the areas identified without amounting to a comprehensive renewal of the route.

Any more substantial improvement or resurfacing of the approximately 362.5 square metre route would require a significant funding commitment. A specification, quotations and a separate funding decision would be needed before such a scheme could be progressed.

4. Proposed approach

Officers recommend identifying and completing practical minor repairs to the worn areas, subject to confirming the method, cost and available maintenance budget. The condition should then be monitored through routine inspections, with further action considered if deterioration becomes more widespread.

Andrew Briggs – Ops@centralswindonnorth-pc.gov.uk / 01793 466499

5. Wider condition of the recreation ground

At the time of inspection, the recreation ground looked very good overall. Completed work on the hedgerows, removal of epicormic growth and grass cutting had contributed to a well-maintained appearance. Members are asked to note the positive impact of this work.

A complete refresh of the play area remains a wider matter for the site. This is being considered through the Play Area Working Group and the play strategy.

The tree mapping and survey work currently being completed is also likely to identify further work. The extent, priority and cost of any tree works will need to be considered once the survey findings are available.

Growth is encroaching onto the footpath along Buller Street. Localised vegetation removal and edging back should be assessed to restore the available path width, with responsibility for the affected boundary and footpath confirmed before work is arranged.

6. Financial implications

Minor repairs involving additional stone and compaction are estimated to cost a few hundred pounds and are proposed to be met with the existing maintenance budget.

Any expenditure beyond the available budget or delegated authority would be brought back for approval before commitment.

More extensive resurfacing would require a significant funding commitment and would be considered as a separate project, supported by a costed proposal and an identified funding source. No capital allocation is requested through this report.

7. Recommendations

1. **Note** the residents' concern and the inspection finding that the compacted stone path was generally acceptable, with no significant concerns identified at the time of inspection.

2. **Support** minor localised repairs, subject to officers confirming a suitable method, costs and available maintenance funding, and continue to monitor the path through routine inspections.

3. **Note** that more extensive resurfacing would require a significant funding commitment and a separate costed proposal for approval.

4. **Note** the good overall presentation of the recreation ground following the completed hedgerow work, epicormic growth removal and grass cutting.

5. **Note** that the play area refresh is being considered through the Play Area Working Group and play strategy, and that further tree works may be identified through the ongoing mapping and survey work.

6. **Request** that officers assess and arrange appropriate removal of encroaching growth along the Buller Street footpath.

Andrew Briggs – Ops@centralswindonnorth-pc.gov.uk / 01793 466499

Appendix A Compacted Stone Footpath

Photographs supplied with the inspection observations.



Path entrance and transition onto the compacted stone surface.



Localised wear and unevenness within the stone surface.

Andrew Briggs – Ops@centralswindonnorth-pc.gov.uk / 01793 466499

Appendix B Wider Site Observations



View along the recreation ground path, showing the maintained grass and tree setting.



Buller Street footpath, with vegetation encroaching along the recreation ground edge.

Andrew Briggs – Ops@centralswindonnorth-pc.gov.uk / 01793 466499