

Lochgoilhead Play Park – Now Open

The play park has been at the heart of our community for more than 20 years, and people will be aware that the much-loved facility has faced a number of challenges recently.

The play park is managed through a partnership between Lochgoil Community Council, Lochgoil Community Trust and Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS). FLS currently owns the land and is responsible for maintaining the boundary fence and carrying out regular safety inspections, while the Community Trust and Community Council organise and fund repairs when issues arise.

For some time, it has been clear that the ageing equipment needed significant investment. This was highlighted during consultation for the 2024 Lochgoil Local Place Plan, where improving the play park emerged as a priority for many residents. In late 2024, the community was advised that acquiring the land from FLS would strengthen applications for the estimated £100,000 of external funding needed to deliver a major upgrade.

While awaiting progress on the land transfer, the Trust worked closely with the Parent Council to explore options for the park's future. This included obtaining quotes, speaking with organisations such as the National Lottery and Play Forum, and continuing to manage essential repairs. However, the transfer process took longer than anticipated, with formal negotiations not beginning until April 2026.

Unfortunately, a safety inspection carried out by FLS in March identified several serious issues with the existing equipment, making it necessary to close the play park in the interests of public safety. The aim had been to complete repairs and reopen the site in time for the summer holidays, but a number of unforeseen challenges affected progress.

The good news is that the remedial works to make the play park safe have now concluded and the park is now open for children to play in, albeit with reduced equipment. The work has been carried out thanks to funds from the Community Trust.

Looking ahead, attention will turn to acquiring the land and delivering a longer-term refurbishment. The Community Council and Community Trust will continue to work with the school, parents and the wider community to decide whether a phased programme of improvements or a full refurbishment offers the best way forward.

We know how important the play park is to local children and families, and we appreciate the community's patience and support while this work progresses. Further updates will be shared as soon as more information becomes available.