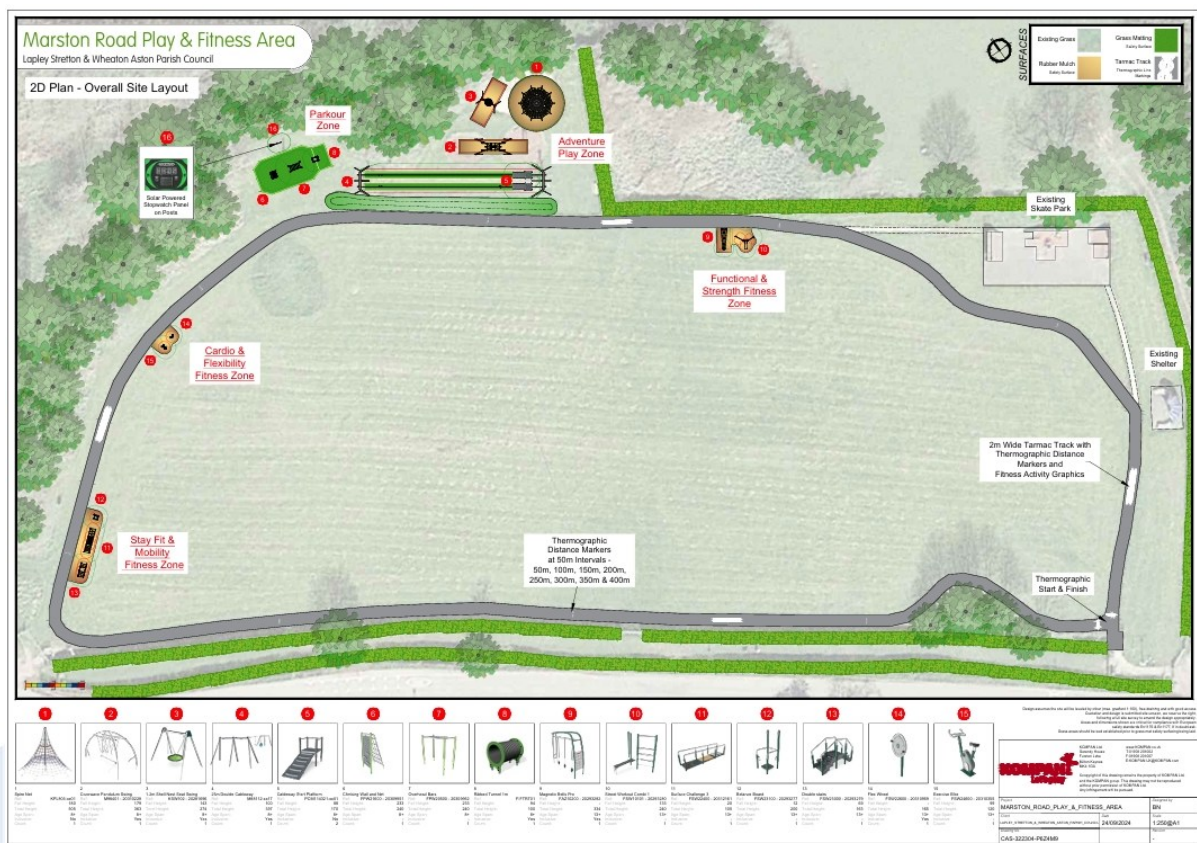


# Marston Road Play & Fitness Area Wheaton Aston

On 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 I met with Amy Watson-Parish Council Manager & Rob Sharratt-Leisure & Health Team Manager at South Staffordshire Councils to discuss and visit a big project that they have been working on in Wheaton Aston, which was the Marston Road play & fitness area. The plans were drawn up in 2024 using the area available which was on Marston Road play area, as shown in the diagram below.



This area is outlined with a running/walking track and dotted all around the edges are the different pieces of equipment, all of which have been designed for people of all ages, abilities both young and old including, cardio, weights and balance. In the centre is a huge area of green space for recreational use. I was very impressed with the design and layout, and

there are cameras monitoring the space which makes it feel safe for all to use. The Council do maintain the area as I saw firsthand on my visit.

Regarding funding for the project, the total cost so far is £38000. £13000 was paid for by the parish council and £25000 from the Uk SPF funding.

It took a total of 3 weeks to instal everything and has been spaced out around the field to allow more equipment to be installed when more relevant funding becomes available.

As you can see below there are professional illustrations of the equipment bought for the park and the various uses of them.



They are a great example of multi-generational design and pieces of equipment and include features suitable for wheelchair users, making the gym fully accessible.



Here we have Rob demonstrating some of the equipment 😊 The steps and walking zone are specially designed for toddlers through to older age to help with mobility and fitness. The bike has various resistance levels to suit all ages.





The weights have different options depending on capability and can be used by everyone from wheelchair users to adults of all heights.

The balance board on the right helps with core stability and balance and all the equipment has a QR code so you can scan the various options for use.





Here we have the sit up bench again with various heights and options for use, and next to that there is the flexi wheel which helps exercise the upper body and arm muscles.





Here is an example of some ways in which you can use the equipment using clear colour diagrams.

On the right there are some more fun climbing nets with everything being made from natural materials and will keep the children amused.

Overall, I think this project has been a great success and is used by many in the village of Wheaton Aston. It is located right on the edge of the village and is accessible on foot from the local area. This equipment wasn't cheap, but it's quality will last for many years.

This is a great example of where local organisations are re-designing green open spaces to enable all residents to move more and become fitter for free.

What is there not to like 😊

If you would like any more information about this project, you can contact either of the following people.

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Please get in touch if you have a story to share at

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