

Help Us to Raise £85,000 to upgrade the Strontian Playpark!

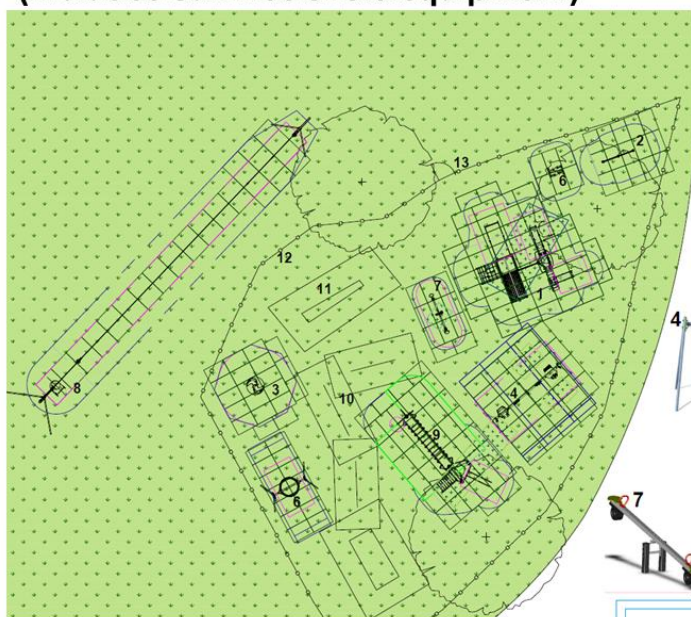


Donate Now at our Just Giving Page:
https://www.justgiving.com/page/playpark?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Most the equipment in the much loved playpark in Strontian is over 30 years old and badly in need of replacement. As a local parent exclaimed “I remember using those swings when I was at primary school!”

The village is defined as the local ‘key strategic settlement’, and with Ardnamurchan High and Strontian Primary Schools, two hotels, Campsite, Village Hall, the largest shop on the peninsula, petrol pumps, post office, café, part time GP surgery and the Oakwood Tourism & Crafts Centre it provides a service hub for visitors and locals alike. The playpark is used by thousands of visitors as well as families from across the area – not just Sunart – and we want to make sure the playpark is the best it can be and operational for another 30+ years.

Proposed Layout for September 2026 (includes outlines of old equipment)



ITEMS LIST

Play Equipment

1. 3 Tower Diabolo Multiplay Unit Special - Including 3 Slides (0.6m, 1.17m, 1.37m High) – Green & Timber Panels
Ref:UKJGP24-295-CC-UK2025-48
2. Metal Trim Trail Senior Horizontal Bars
Ref:JPS19A-S-M
3. Low Platform Roundabout
Ref:J2404A
4. Metal Combination Swing: 1x Me to you, 2x Flat & 1x Inclusive Seat (2.09m high frame)
Ref:UKSPAcier60-UK2024-130
5. Metal Pod Swing
Ref:J441A
6. Face to Face Springer
Ref:J858A
7. Metal Seesaw
Ref:Z25-0047
8. Metal Cableway for level ground
Ref:J514A
9. 1x Metal Multiplay Unit
Ref:J2535A-M

Existing Play Equipment

10. Existing Trim Trail
11. Existing Slide

Existing Ancillaries

12. Existing Fencing
13. Existing Gate

Safety Surfacing

- Area to be surfaced with 345m² Grassmat Requiring:
- 12x Ground Stabilising Mesh for grassmat (1x30m roll)
 - 230x Grassmats (per mat)
 - Supply & Lay 34m² Grassmat Shockpad - Playsmart 30 Smart Play 2 (to achieve +2m cft)

Background

In 2005 the community established the Strontian (now Sunart) Community Company to acquire various pieces of land in and around the village being sold off by the then Scottish Executive. This included including the green space behind the shops, on which the former Community Association had raised funds for the playpark many years previously.

At the time of the community acquisition, the Highland Council had agreed to continue to cut the grass in the playpark, organise annual inspections and running repairs. We are delighted to say that this relationship will continue once the new park is built, potentially saving the community many hundreds of pounds per year. The Council will also organise the tendering for a new supplier, organise the rebuild and handle the VAT.



The catch is that we need to raise the capital funding to replace the equipment.

Whilst this is a big hill to climb, we are happy that the arrangement with the Council means there is no ongoing fundraising demand for annual overheads. We are also aiming to replace the equipment with the most up to date, low maintenance ground covering, and predominantly stainless steel equipment which is much more long lasting than (cheaper) timber.

2025 Developments

In 2025 discussions began with Highland Council to seek support for the replacement of the park. For many years now, the local authority has not generally replaced play equipment in remote locations, unless in receipt of specific central government support.

Happily we have secured £20,000 from such a fund, and the Council Amenities Team have committed this budget to a renovation in Winter in 2026 but the funds must be spent by March 2027. In addition, the Sunart Community Company has £6,000 ringfenced from an earlier funding application for play equipment.



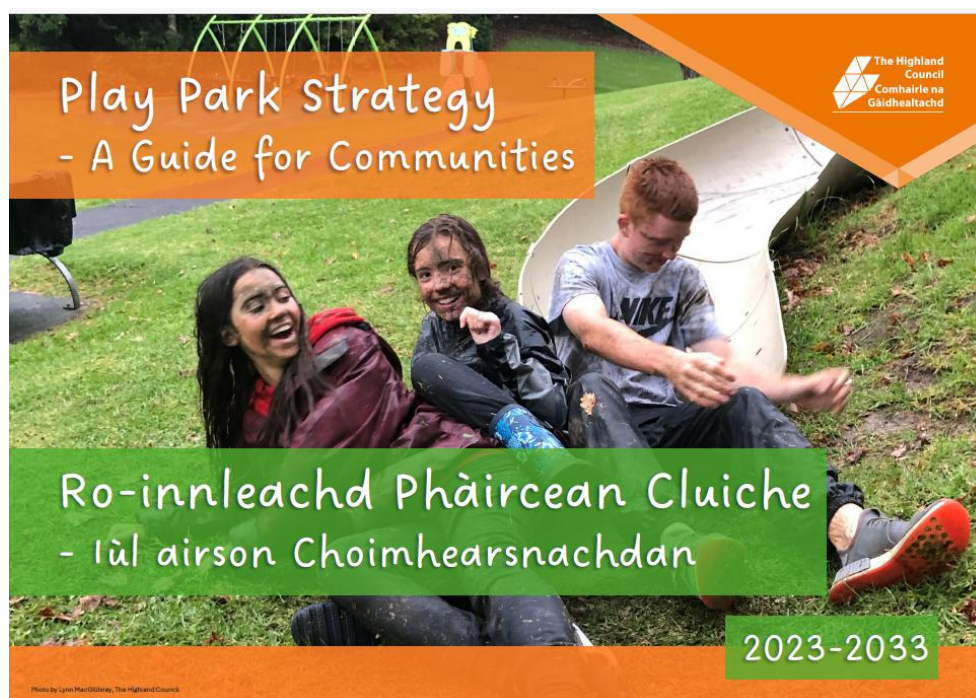
On March 6th 2025 we received the Councils November 2024 Audit of the park, which highlighted the considerable amount of repair work required – but which would only have been a temporary fix. This did not seem like a sensible way to spend limited funds and so discussions progressed regarding a more extensive piece of work.

The £26,000 ‘on the table’ put us in a strong position to discuss a complete refurbishment with the Council, rather than attempting a piecemeal replacement of the worst pieces and repair of already ageing equipment.

As of 14th September we have raised £6,670 – can you help us close the £20,000 gap?

2025 Consultations

Working with the *Highland Play Strategy Coordinator* and the Council’s Amenities Service Team, we learned that all new equipment must comply with the Councils Play Park Strategy. In particular there is an emphasis on inclusive play – to enable as many young people as possible to enjoy the new park.



In **March 2025** an informal Playpark Steering Group was established to inform the Community Company Trustees, and the Strategy was reviewed and some initial concepts were discussed.

We then circulated the **Highland Councils online survey** to parents and children to gather feedback about what was wanted and what people did and didn’t like about the current playpark.

There was a good response rate of 23 responses. 13% from nursery aged, 30% from primary age, 9% secondary school aged children. There was a high adult response rate of 48%. 96 % of respondents thought it was important for all children to be able to play inclusively together regarding any upgrades.

The survey report in May concluded *“The comments on inclusivity support that this should be a main focus of the park.”*

The Highland Council then approached a range of suppliers to access a number of quotations to see what sort of equipment might be available. In the Autumn these were shared with the Committee.

The groups met again on **December 1st 2025** to refine their requests to the Council and detailed tenders were requested from three suppliers. The current large slide will be retained.

This resulted in three proposed layouts and equipment choices which were put to the Community. A special display was mounted in the Sunart Centre Library, listing choices A, B or C.

Multiplay



January Consultative Vote – For Option B - Results:

- 35 Responses were received
- Not everyone completed all questions, with 3 people only voting for their first choice however all these three voted for 'Option B'
- 22 people put 'Option B' first with the climbing frame popular, (aggregated score of 33)
- 17 people put 'Option A' second with the Double Zipway popular, (aggregated score of 32)
- 26 people put 'Option C' third
- 20 people voted to retain the old slide, with 12 not minding if it was removed.
- 1 person commented the old slide would look old and not in keeping with the new equipment
- 1 person wanted a picnic bench (not in the 'Option B' bid)
- 2 people preferred the 'Option C' Roundabout
- 2 people preferred a skate park to the 'springers'.
- 1 person wanted two of everything.
- Several suggestions for an adventure park and gazebo were made which may form a 'Phase 2'

It is proposed to install all the equipment at once as soon as the money is raised, so the new playpark will be ready for use in early 2027.

The current budget for 'Option B' is £85,000 based on the three tenders received by Highland Council. This is the target we hope to achieve by the end of October 2026

Briefly this project will:

- ✓ Replace the existing equipment (except the old slide),– with new, modern, inclusive equipment, designed to last between 25-30 years. (Including new 'mini zip-wire'!)
- ✓ Maintain current arrangements whereby the development is on land already owned in perpetuity by the community, but will be installed and managed by Highland Council, including annual inspections to comply with ROSPA standards.
- ✓ Benefit all local and visiting children alike – and cater for a wider age group. (The climbing bars are suitable for calisthenics i.e. fitness activities.)
- ✓ Provide a much-needed facelift for this part of the village.

Fundraising

To date we have secured:

	TARGET £
	85,000.00
Confirmed Source of Funding	
Highland Council (Scot Gov Playpark Funds)	20,000.00
Sunart Community Company	6,000.00
Sunart Community Council	4,000.00
Sunart Community Benefit Fund	20,000.00
National Lottery (announced via a phone call last week)	4,859.00
Total Grant Funding	54,859.00
Community Fundraising	
Laudale Estate (via Just Giving)	3,000.00
Steve Fox Carnoch Estate	1,500.00
Liverpool Half Marathon Participant	1,200.00
Spring Craft Sale	481.00
Strontian Hotel Fundraiser	150.00
Ardgour Community Council	375.00
Sunart Café Ladies Karaoke Night	280.00
Primary Sch. Pupils Sponsored Swing	385.00
Pupil Pyjama Day	190.00
Refreshment Stall at School Music event	220.00
Sunart Café Summer Fair on the village green	530.00
Kids activity Day (30th Aug by Laura Wilson)	200.00
Loch Shiel Garage (via Just Giving)	250.00
Sunart Camping Collection	500.00
Balance of Just Giving (general donations)	550.00
Total of Community Fundraising @27th July	9,811.00
Balance To 14th September	64,670.00
Current Shortfall	20,330.00

Forward Plan:

September / October
£20,000

Ellie Coldwell, Katherine Paterson, Caitlin Hilder

Strontian Playpark Renovation Committee (raising funds for Sunart Community Company) Email: ellieellie7373@gmail.com Facebook : Strontian Play Park Committee

Swings



Sunart Community Company

Registered Company SC293485 Registered Charity SC039640

Registered Office – Oakwood tourism & Crafts, Strontian, Acharacle PH36 4HZ

www.sunartcommunitycompany.co.uk