



Newick Parish Council

Sound Survey

Manwaring Robertson Field

Summer 2023

Introduction

Newick's Playing Fields are located on Allington Road, Newick. They consist of the King George V Playing Fields (KGVPF) and the adjoining Marwaring Robertson Field. KGVPF is a designated Fields in Trust field. Both KGVPF and the Marwaring Robertson Field are owned by Newick Parish Council. Both have several rights of way and are well used by walkers as they give access to nearby areas of open countryside.

On the KGVPG site there is a Sports Pavilion, an area with play equipment, outdoor gym equipment (made available to use from May 2023), a cricket/stoolball pitch, a football pitch, a MUGA (multi use basketball/goal), batting cages and several benches.

The Marwaring Robertson field in Newick is home to a rugby pitch, three benches and a set of skate ramps. These ramps had been onsite for over 25 years and had come to the end of their useful life. In 2022 plans were drawn up for a new skate park, planning permission applied for, and these were approved by Lewes District Council.



Aerial view of Playing Fields including old skate ramps

Methodology

Newick Parish Council agreed to conduct a sound survey at Marwaring Robertson. It was agreed to conduct the survey over a period of five weeks. The survey started 31st July 2023, ending 3rd September 2023. Readings were taken daily in decibels using a sound level meter¹ at the same location (the Wayne Thomas Memorial Bench), for five minutes each time, by four Councillors (on a rota basis) and at different times of the day. Councillors were asked to record the highest/lowest recording, note the source of noise and any important/relevant information e.g., weather conditions. Newick Parish Council acknowledge that the survey was conducted during the school holidays, and therefore use of the Playing Fields likely to be elevated compared to other times of year. The Parish Council also acknowledge that the novelty of new Outdoor Gym equipment and new Skate Park will result in more users initially.

¹ The device used in the survey complies with the standard set in IEC61672-1 by the International Electrotechnical Commission

Survey Readings

Week 1 (31st July to 6th August 2023)

Date	Time	highest sound reading	lowest sound reading	comments
31.07.23	1040 to 1045	76.2	47.1	Damp, drizzly morning. Gusty winds. 2 dog walkers on field, 2 Adults and 1 toddler in playground. No skatepark users.
01.08.23	1925 to 1930	65.2	38.6	Dry, calm evening, Slight wind. 8 ladies exercise to music class. 4 boys on cricket practice nets. Football practice. 1 dog walker - 3 dogs, off lead. No skatepark users.
02.08.23	1555 to 1600	61.9	45.3	Wet, gusty afternoon. Only 1 dog walker. No skatepark users.
03.08.23	1010 to 1015	42.4	36.4	Dry, sunny morning. Gentle breeze. 6 dog walkers. No skate park users. Playground busy.
04.08.23	1955 to 2000	64.2	35.4	Dry sunny evening. 2 young boys on scooters using skatepark & chatting. 2 Boys on practice cricket nets. 2 dog walkers. Dogs off lead- Playground empty,
05.08.23	1425 to 1430	83.3	49.2	Dry, between heavy showers, gusty winds. 1 dog walker. No skatepark users. 3 young cyclists plus parents entering field as we left
06.08.23	1140 to 1145	54.8	37.8	Warm & Sunny day, light breeze. No skatepark users. Playground busy, 4 adults and 10 children. 2 adults and 1 child on Outdoor Gym. 3 Dogwalkers.

Week 2 (7th to 13th August 2023)

Date	Time	highest sound reading	lowest sound reading	comments
07.08.23	17.12 to 17.17	70.3	42.1	Sunny windy afternoon. A large group of young Mums and children who'd obviously been to the skate park were leaving as we arrived, but there were still 4 adults and 7 users 5 dog walkers, 1 with 3 dogs not on lead. 1 adult and 4 children using the nets and basketball hoop, 2 adults and 2 children in the playground.
08.08.23	16.20 to 16.25	66.2	33.9	Windy with drizzle. 1 Mum and 2 young children at the skate park. 4 youngsters playing by the basketball hoop, 2 in the cricket nets and 4 using the outdoor gym equipment. 1 cyclist and 1 dog walker with dog on lead.
09.08.23	16.52 to 16.57	73.6	44.1	Warm afternoon with a very gentle westerly. 8 lads (young teenagers) 7 with scooters and 1 on a bike were at the skate park. 2 lads in the nets, 1 chap doing white lining, 1 youngster on his own in the playground and 6 young teenage girls sat on the south side of the KGVPF chatting, some sat on one of the seats and the rest on the grass in front of them.
10.08.23	12.49 to 12.54	69.1	35.9	24 degrees and virtually no wind. 2 walkers, 2 in nets, 6 youngsters and 4 adults in the playground. At the skate park there were 4 lads but one left after a couple of minutes, all were active and having fun using scooters, occasional shouts of glee and 2 helicopters went over.
11.08.23	12.38 to 12.43	72.1	35.5	Overcast, dry and a gentle westerly. 5 at the skate park with 1 adult, a mix of scooters and bikes. 2 kids 1 adult in playground, 2 kids 1 adult in nets. 2 adult walkers and 1 adult with child and dog on lead.
12.08.23	14.56 to 15.01	79.2	53.1	Very strong and gusty south westerly wind. Cricket match being played with some spectators outside and the batting team watching from the bar. One dog walker, 3 children in the playground and 3 on bikes at the skate park. There was a plane going over and church bells being played during the monitoring, but the high readings were during the gusts which caused very loud tree noise.
13.08.23	17.41 to 17.46	55.4	37.3	Sunny 19 degrees and an occasional gusty south south-westerly. Nobody at the skate park. One runner, 2 adult dog walkers and 1 adult with 1 child in the playground. Tree noise from gusts were the higher readings.

Week 3 14th to 20th August 2023

Date	Time	highest sound reading	lowest sound reading	comments
14.08.23	10:20 to 10:25	73.1	37.8	Cloudy windy morning. 2 young mothers and 5 young children under 10 on 4 scooters and 1 small bicycle on skate ramp. Reading of 73 was due to a scooter falling and hitting the surface of the ramp. There were also 2 young mothers and 2 young children in the play area. Playing field empty.
15.08.23	17:55 to 18:00	71.1	35.8	Football training on main field. 1 youth on skateramp who appeared to be an experienced skater. 3 adults sitting adjacent to Waynes Bench with 4 children playing in the vicinity. Weather sunny and calm. Highest reading of 71.1 recorded when young girl playing in playing field screamed.
16.08.23	1650 to 1655	73.5	36.9	Sunny and calm. 6 youths in playground. 6 youngsters on scooters on skateramp. Family on gym equipment. Highest reading of 73.5 when 1 youngster shouted when he fell off his scooter.
17.08.23	1711 to 1716	67.8	41.4	A warm afternoon, 22c with a gentle easterly. 5 lads at the skate park all on scooters. Elsewhere, couple and dog, man and dog, plus 2 women and dogs. 3 kids riding bikes then headed off footpath, followed by parents walking. 3 kids and 5 adults in playground on our way in, they'd moved on to the outdoor gym on our way back, all except 3 adults who were watching. 1 adult and 2 kids using the nets.
18.08.23	1340 to 1345	71.1	37.3	Cloudy and strong gusts of wind. Field empty, play area empty and no skate ramp users.
19.08.23	13:20 to 13:25	66.3	43.7	Sunny with gusty wind. Playing field empty. Gym equipment empty, play area empty, skate ramp empty.
20.08.23	1740 to 1745	67.5	32.5	Sunny. Little in the way of wind. Playing field empty, play area empty. 1 youngster on scooter on skate ramp.

Week 4 (21st to 27th August 2023)

Date	Time	highest sound reading	lowest sound reading	comments
21.08.2023	12:30-12:35	41.2	31.3	Warm and Sunny with a slight breeze. No one at the Gym area or the playground. There was one family on the field and 2 dog walkers.
22.08.2023	13:27-13:32	48.4	35.9	Overcast with sunny spells. 3 boys on scooters on the skate park, 3 people on the field but over in the far corner. 4 children in the play area accompanied by 2 adults. No one using the gym area.
23.08.2023	16:13-16:18	68.7	35.4	Weather was very sunny and hot. On the field there were 3 people using the cricket nets and one person walking a dog. On the skatepark there were 6 boys, 3 with scooters and 3 with bikes.
24.08.2023	17:22-17:27	42.2	37.3	Weather was horrible - raining with Thunder spells! Therefore there was nobody to be seen.
25.08.2023	9:53-9:58	40.3	35.6	Cold but sunny weather on the day but no one using the skatepark or the play area. There were a family of 6 on the field with one dog and 2 other dog walkers. 3 people using the gym
26.08.2023	14:09-14:14	62.8	36.9	Weather was overcast with a relatively strong wind, there had just been a downpour. However, the cricket was taking place but only with 4 spectators and people had just arrived at the play area.
27.08.2023	10:09-10:14	69.3	36.9	Lovely day. There was an event at the scout hut, the car park was full. 5 people on the field but the Gym was not being used. 5 using the skatepark.

Week 5 (28th to 3rd September)

Date	Time	highest sound reading	lowest sound reading	comments
28.08.2023	14:57-15:02	69.5	34.2	Overcast with sunny spells but no wind. 3 using the gym area, 6 using the basketball area. 4 in the play area and 6 scooters using the skatepark.
29.08.2023	16:24-16:29	72.6	46.3	Overcast weather. 8 using the skatepark (6 scooters and 2 boarders). 3 families with 3 dogs on the field. The play area was being used by 6 yr6 or yr7. 2 people in the cricket nets and 5 at the basketball area.
30.08.2023	17:48-17:53	56.6	38.2	Warm but overcast with sunny spells. 4 using the skatepark (scooters). 2 using the cricket nets but no one at the gym or play area. 1 family of 4 with a dog.
31.08.2023	18:29-18:34	43.6	35.7	Weather was overcast with light rain and there was nobody to be seen anywhere.
01.09.2023	11:37-11:42	45.1	34.8	It had just stopped raining on my arrival but still drizzling with a light wind. No one using the gym, skatepark or play area. one person walking a dog and there was a toddler group taking place in the pavilion.
02.09.2023	13:13-13:18	84.3	48.3	Weather was lovely. Cricket on the field with a few spectators. Rugby match taking place with around 60 spectators, dogs by the bench (barking). 5 on the skatepark. It was generally busy everywhere!
03.09.2023	12:24-12:29	48.9	37.4	Weather was hot and sunny with stool ball on the field with 20 or so spectators. 3 using the gym area and the same number in the playground. 3 using skatepark.

Summary

Week one's highest reading was 83.3 due to wind (no skate park users), the lowest reading for that week 35.4 (two skate park users). The average high reading for this week was 64. The average low reading for this week was 41.4.

Week two's highest reading was 79.2 due to wind, the lowest reading for week 2 was 33.9 (two children one adult using skate park). The average high reading for this week was 69.41. The average low reading for this week was 40.27.

Week three's highest reading was 73.5 (from a skate park user shouting), the lowest reading for that week 32.5 (one skate park user). The average high reading for this week was 70.05, the average low reading for this week 37.91.

Week four's highest reading was 69.3 (five skatepark users), the lowest reading for that week 31.3 (no skatepark users). The average high reading for this week was 53.27. The average low reading for this week is 35.61.

Week five's highest reading was 84.3 due to family fun day at Rugby Field. The lowest reading 34.2 (six skatepark users). The average high reading for this week was 60.08. The average low reading for this week is 39.27.

The average reading across highs and lows for the five weeks is 51.12.

Conclusions

Councillors were pleased with the conduct of users of the Playing Fields overall. The highest readings were from wind and the family fun day at Rugby Pitch. Councillors noted that the surface of the skatepark itself is very quiet when in use. Newick Parish Council concludes that there is not a need for acoustic fencing next to the skate park. In the September 2023 meeting of the Parish Council, it was decided to have some plants along the fence line behind the skate park with the aim that as these grow and mature, they will provide more privacy for neighbouring properties and absorb some noise. This report has been shared with the Environmental Health Team at Lewes District Council.