



Manor Park Sports and Activity Space Project Rationale and Engagement Summary

As you know, in the High Peak, we value community, we value fairness, opportunity, and making the most of the borough. However, insight tells us that only 1 in 5 girls and young women feel very comfortable in parks. That's not just a statistic — it's a signal that something's not working. And we know that when people feel welcome, they move more, connect more, and contribute more.



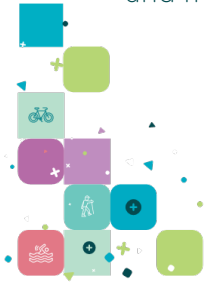
The initial need



Context: The old tennis courts at Manor Park had aged beyond practical use after 25+ years.

Challenge: The space no longer met the needs of a diverse, modern community.

Opportunity: To reimagine the space as a vibrant, inclusive, and multi-use area.



Strategic Foundations

Guiding Strategies:

Move More High Peak Strategy

High Peak Parks Strategy

Active Derbyshire's "Making Our Move"

- **Key Principles:**
- **Accessibility**
- **Inclusivity**
- **Physical and mental wellbeing**
- **Community ownership**



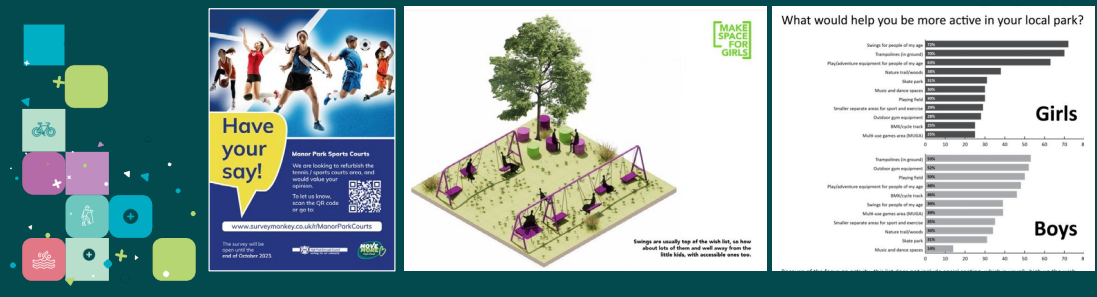
Learning from National Movements



Inspiration: Make Space for Girls campaign

Key Insight: Traditional park design often overlooks teenage girls and non-sporty users.

Response: Design with visibility, safety, and social interaction in mind.



Further useful links to the research and data:

[Make Space For Girls - Councils](#)

[63f60a5a2a28c570b35ce1b5_Make Space for Girls - Research Draft.pdf](#)



Collaborative Design Process

Partnerships:

Outdoor sports facility experts (Kompan)
Community engagement specialists (Kakou)
Active Derbyshire
HPBC

Approach:

Co-design with strategic alignment
Emphasis on non-prescriptive, open, and welcoming spaces

Being active helps not only individuals, it benefits communities and wider society and has a knock-on effect on the economy and the environment. Through our combined effort in helping people to become more active:

1. People become healthier, happier and more fulfilled by improving their health and wellbeing

2. Communities are more connected, stronger, feel safer and the local economy is enabled to thrive

3. Society is more equal, with empathy, effort and resources being invested in the right places, enabling good lives for all

4. Environments encourage movement, are welcoming, highly valued and contribute positively towards tackling climate change

The Design Concept

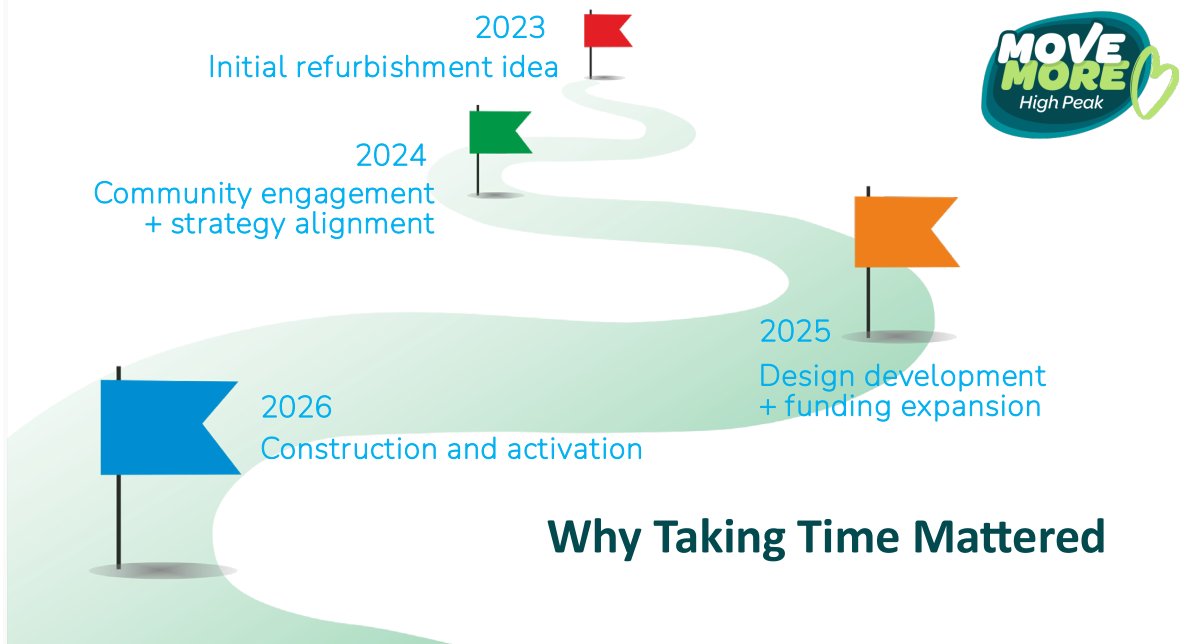


Features:

- Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)
- Outdoor gym and cardio equipment
- Social seating pods and freeform activity zones
- Inclusive access for all abilities

Design Ethos:

- “See and be seen,” “Swing together,”
- “Move more, together”



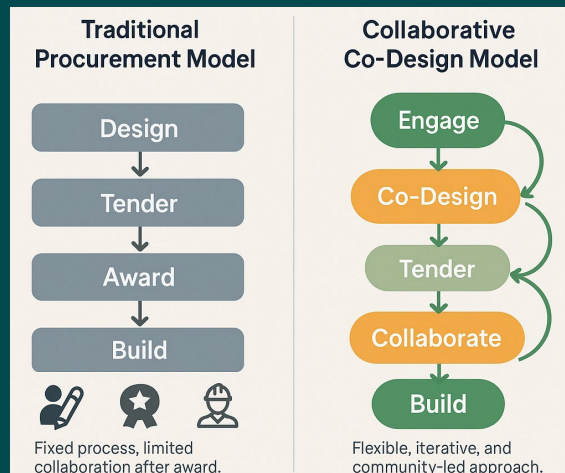
- **From Refurbishment to Reimagination:**
What began as a simple plan to refurbish old tennis courts evolved into a bold vision for a multi-use, inclusive community space.
- **Listening and Learning:**
Early engagement revealed that the community wanted more than just sports — they wanted safety, visibility, social spaces, and inclusivity.
- **Strategic Maturity:**
Over two years, our thinking matured. We moved from a “facility-first” mindset to a “people-first” design approach.
- **Funding Growth:**
Thanks to this thoughtful, phased development, we’ve attracted **three times the original budget**, enabling a much more ambitious and inclusive design.



Reimagining the Process, Not Just the Place

To truly co-design a space with the community, we had to rethink how we work — including how we procure and partner.

From Traditional to Transformational Evolving our project approach



- Challenged traditional procurement
- Adapted specification for collaboration
- Contractor as co-creator, not just supplier



Next Steps

Summer 2025 - Community consultation
Autumn 2025 - Final design adjustments
Spring 2026 - Construction completion



Rationale for the Manor Park Sports and Activity Space Project

1. Strategic Alignment

This project is a direct response to the priorities set out in both the **Move More High Peak Strategy** and the **High Peak Parks Strategy**:

- **Move More High Peak Strategy** calls for inclusive, accessible spaces that encourage physical activity for all — especially those who are currently inactive.
- **High Peak Parks Strategy** emphasises creating safe, welcoming environments that support wellbeing, social connection, and environmental stewardship.

The Manor Park redevelopment embodies these goals by transforming a limited-use tennis court into a vibrant, multi-use space designed for **diverse, everyday movement** — not just sport.

2. Reaching the Inactive Majority

While tennis has value, it appeals to a **small, already active segment** of the population. Research and local engagement show that:

- Many residents — especially girls, women, older adults, and those with disabilities — feel excluded from traditional sports spaces.
- The new design includes **freeform zones, social seating, accessible equipment**, and **non-prescriptive areas** that invite casual use, play, and movement.
- These features are proven to **reduce barriers** and **increase participation** among inactive groups.

This is not a loss — it's a gain in inclusivity, relevance, and community impact.

3. A Thoughtful, Evidence-Based Process

This project has been **two years in the making**, shaped by:

- **Early engagement** with residents and stakeholders
- **National learning** from initiatives like *Make Space for Girls*
- **Strategic partnerships** with Active Derbyshire and design experts

We've taken time to **listen, learn, and adapt** — resulting in a design that reflects real community needs.

4. Innovative Procurement for Better Collaboration

To support this new approach, we've also **challenged and evolved our procurement process**:

- Instead of awarding a contract and walking away, we've appointed a contractor to **co-create the next phase** with us and our partners.

- We worked closely with procurement colleagues to **adapt the specification**, allowing for flexibility, collaboration, and community input post-award.

This is a **test-and-learn model** that prioritises outcomes over process — and sets a precedent for future projects.

5. Addressing the Fear of Change

We understand that change can feel uncertain — especially when it involves removing something familiar. But:

- The current courts are underused and in poor condition.
- The new space will serve **far more people**, more often, and more meaningfully.
- We're not removing activity — we're **multiplying it**.

This is about **making space for more people to move, connect, and thrive**.

6. A Call for Support

We invite councillors and community members to:

- See this project as a **flagship for inclusive design**
- Help us **champion the benefits** of active, welcoming public spaces
- Join us in **shaping the future of Manor Park together**

Manor Park Sports and Activity Space Project

– Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Why are the tennis courts being removed?

The existing courts are over 25 years old and in poor condition. Usage data and community feedback show that they serve a small, already active group. The new design aims to open the space up to a much wider audience — including those who are currently inactive or excluded from traditional sports.

2. Who is this new space for?

Everyone — but especially:

- People who are currently inactive
- Girls and young women (inspired by *Make Space for Girls*)
- Older adults
- People with disabilities
- Families and social groups

The design includes features for movement, play, fitness, and socialising — not just sport.

3. How does this align with local strategies?

The project directly supports:

- **Move More High Peak Strategy** – by creating inclusive, accessible spaces that encourage everyday movement.
- **High Peak Parks Strategy** – by enhancing safety, visibility, and community ownership of public spaces.

4. Why not just refurbish the tennis courts?

A simple refurbishment would have limited impact. By reimagining the space, we can:

- Reach more people
- Support mental and physical wellbeing
- Create a safer, more welcoming environment
- Attract more funding (we've already tripled the original budget)

5. Will there still be space for sport?

Yes. The design includes a **Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)**, as well as open zones that can be used for informal games, fitness, and play

6. How was the community involved?

We've engaged with residents, partners, and national campaigns over two years. Their feedback shaped the design — especially the need for:

- Open, visible spaces
- Social seating
- Non-prescriptive activity zones

We're now entering a new phase of community consultation to refine the final design.

7. What's different about how this project was delivered?

We challenged traditional procurement methods to allow for **collaboration after the tender**. Instead of appointing a contractor to deliver a fixed design, we've brought them in as a **partner** to co-develop the next phase with us and the community.

8. What if people still want to play tennis?

We recognise that some residents value tennis. We're exploring options in conjunction with the Lawn Tennis Association and Glossop Tennis Club for alternative provision.

9. When will the new space be ready?

- **Summer 2025:** Community consultation
- **Autumn 2025:** Final design confirmed
- **Spring 2026:** Construction complete

10. How can I get involved or share my views?

We'll be hosting a community engagement session on 11th August in Manor Park, and below you can find a website link and survey.

movemorehighpeak.kakou.org.uk/

