



WELCOME
TO
WOODROAD PARK

Woodroad Park & Leisure

'A Hub of Activity for the Community'

By Councillor Neill Watts - December 2022

History of Woodroad...



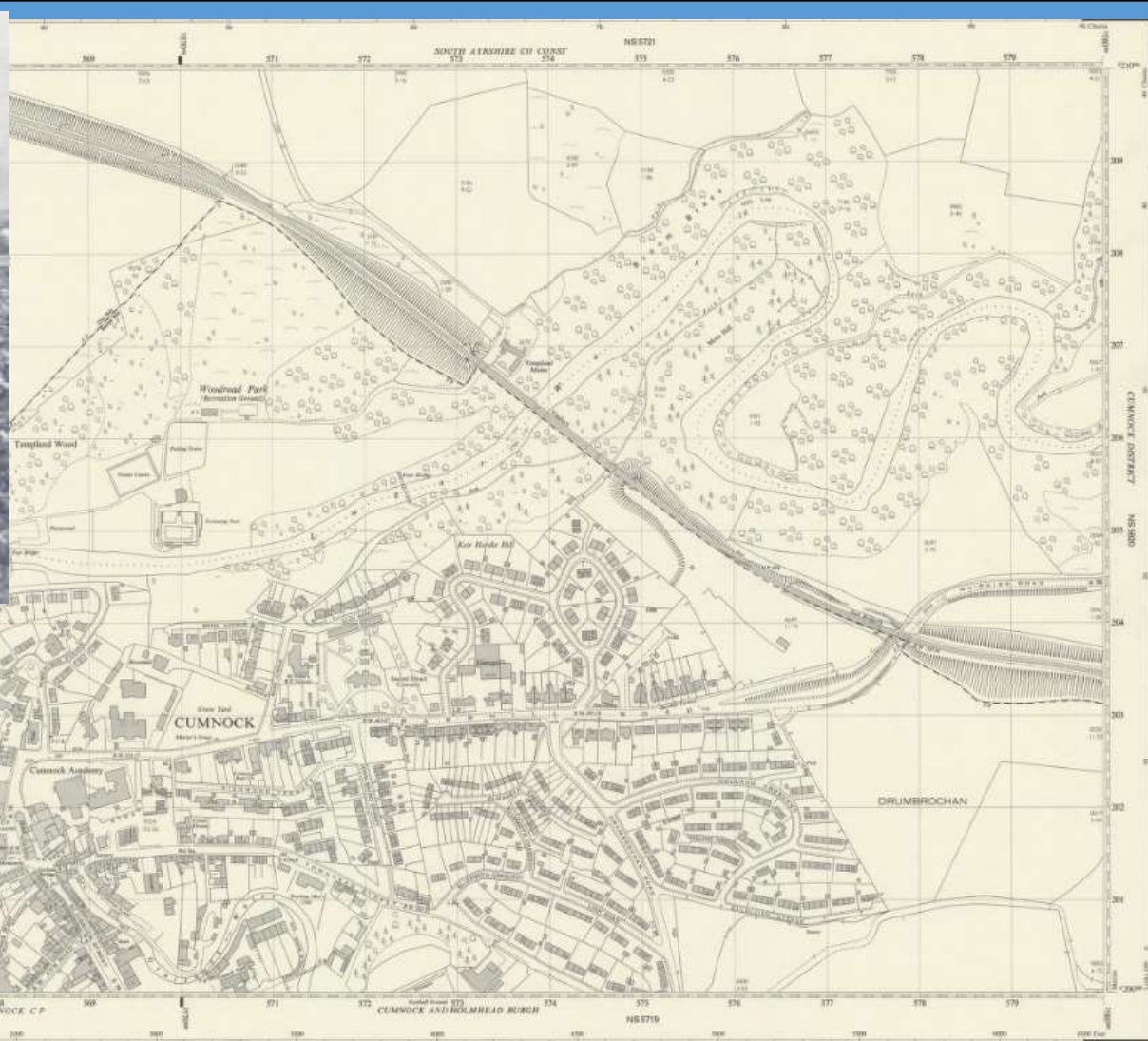
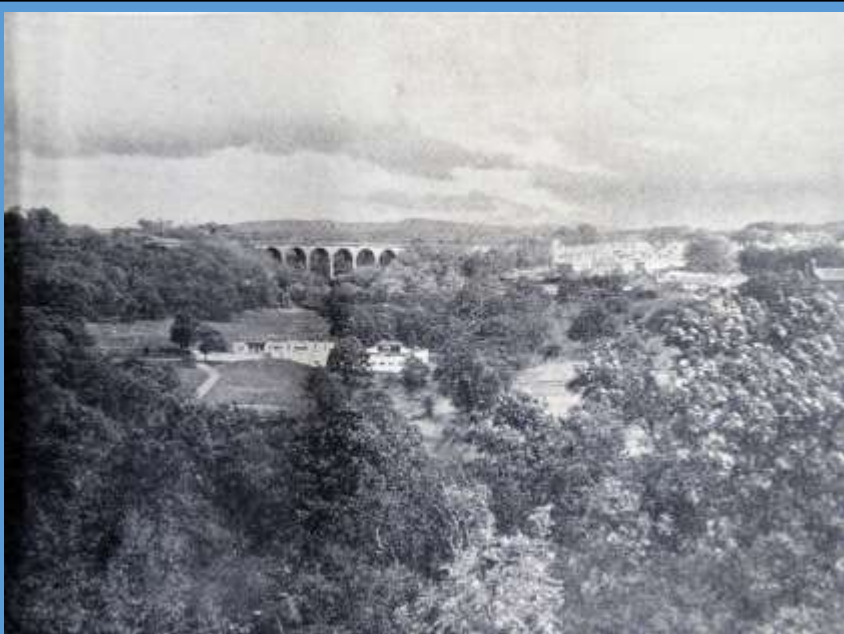
The Templand / Lugar Viaduct
from the River Lugar



Map of Woodroad Park Area, Cumnock in 1843

Woodroad has been the name of this area in Cumnock since the 1800's. It was bought by Cumnock & Holmhead Town Council and used as a Park and Community Space from approximately 1850, development of the area's facilities took place from 1935 onwards.

Woodroad Park was used as the Hub for the Community with facilities and events provided over the years by the Town Council and then the District Council.



Map of Woodroad Park Area, Cumnock in 1950

Between 1935 and 2000 Woodroad Park, with investment from the local Council, the Community had the following facilities: outdoor swimming pool, café, tennis courts, roller skating rink, curling rink, caravan park area, seating arbours, changing rooms, toilets, woodland walks, old style playground and an events area.

Only the woodland walks remain, with a poor and rundown play area.



Cycle Rallies from 1958



Funfairs & Carnivals - 1935 - 1980



Tents & Caravans 1972



These Cannock Academy schoolboys could hardly wait to get down to (putting) business when the Woodroad Park opened its putting greens and tennis courts to the public last Saturday. Since the opening we understand both enterprises have been doing well and getting a good share of patronage.

Putting Green Fun 1940



During a tour of Ayrshire in 1955 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth visited Cannock where she was welcomed by the late Provost John Edgar and Town Clerk R. D. Hunter. The Queen was photographed signing her commemorative portrait.

Queen Elizabeth II, Provost & Town Clerk as the Queen visits Woodroad Park 1977



The new path to Kings Drive—Holmhead 1973



Table tennis on the Tennis Courts 1971



Old Play Area in the snow - 1960

Pictures of the Cumnock Outdoor Pool 1935 onwards



My Vision
for the
future...

The River Lugar



My Vision for Woodroad Park...

As you can see from the maps & photos, Woodroad Park used to be the 'hub' of community events in Cumnock. Over the last 20 years this has been eroded and now the Park, once a vibrant heart of the Community, is rundown and unloved. Little is left of previous facilities provided by the old Town and District Councils..

My vision is to revitalise the Park into a vibrant recreational facility for all the community, providing a Community Hub, visitor centre with coffee shop, toilets, sports areas, kids indoor soft play, picnic area and changing rooms.

Woodroad Park has almost limitless potential to provide all year round local and visitor facilities, creating valuable employment and apprenticeship opportunities giving a major boost for all ages of the Cumnock community. This project will have a beating heart, giving us new facilities and job creation.



We need to encompass the natural beauty of the Park and enhance it for the benefit of all. The proposed layout on the next page illustrates where each of the facilities might be located, real investment in the area would be fantastic for the local economy; only a short walk from the Town Centre and with the potential of a 'new' railway station, it would promote tourism for Cumnock and the surrounding area.

Stepends Bing

Templand Wood nature reserve - walks

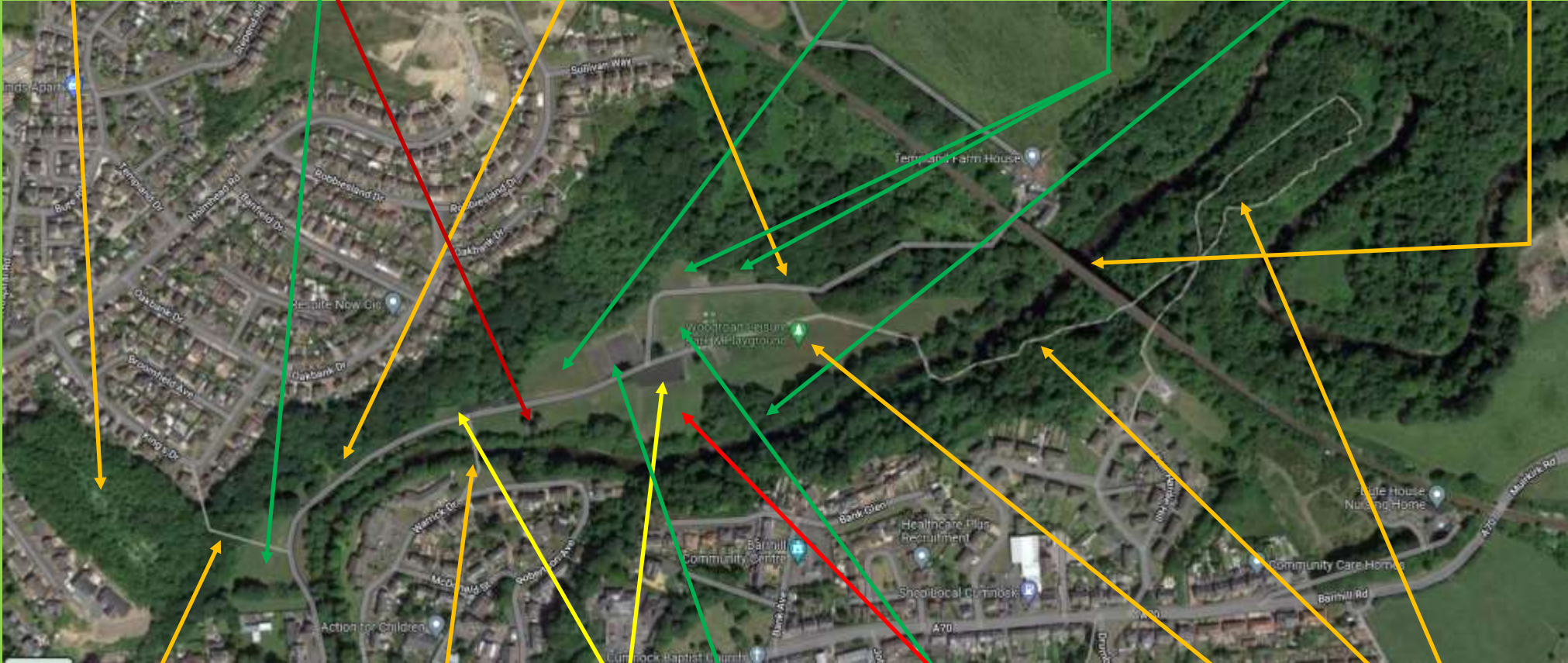
New arbours

Historic Templand Viaduct

Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Rose Garden & **planted gardens**

Community Hub, Visitor Centre, coffee shop, toilets & picnic area

River Lugar Landing - kids play area & climbing wall.



Holmhead Steps

Lugar Bridge

Car parks

New Adventure Playground, **Skateboard & BMX area.**

Events space

Entrance from Auchinleck Road

Tennis, badminton & basketball courts

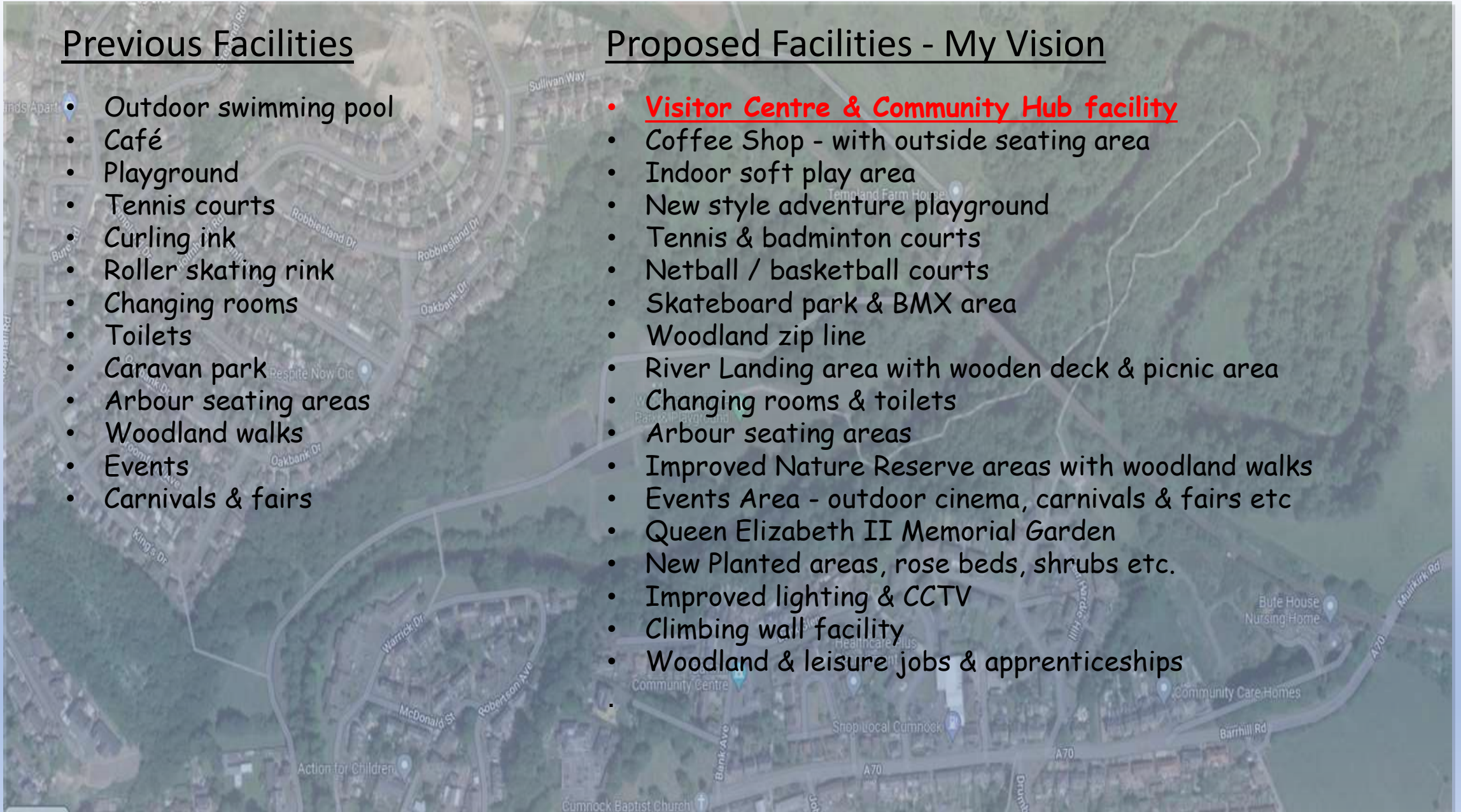
Viaduct walk & Mote Hill nature area

Previous Facilities

- Outdoor swimming pool
- Café
- Playground
- Tennis courts
- Curling rink
- Roller skating rink
- Changing rooms
- Toilets
- Caravan park
- Arbour seating areas
- Woodland walks
- Events
- Carnivals & fairs

Proposed Facilities - My Vision

- **Visitor Centre & Community Hub facility**
- Coffee Shop - with outside seating area
- Indoor soft play area
- New style adventure playground
- Tennis & badminton courts
- Netball / basketball courts
- Skateboard park & BMX area
- Woodland zip line
- River Landing area with wooden deck & picnic area
- Changing rooms & toilets
- Arbour seating areas
- Improved Nature Reserve areas with woodland walks
- Events Area - outdoor cinema, carnivals & fairs etc
- Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Garden
- New Planted areas, rose beds, shrubs etc.
- Improved lighting & CCTV
- Climbing wall facility
- Woodland & leisure jobs & apprenticeships



My vision for Woodroad Park...

- This project could harness the natural beauty of the Park and enhance the recreational facilities for the benefit of all. The Templand/Lugar viaduct could be lit at night providing a focal point, using the historic monument.
- The Hub would be run by a Community Trust or Association, with support from Cumnock Community Council, Cumnock Action Plan, the Cumnock History Group and others as appropriate. The success of the future of the Hub will be the income stream the facilities generate.
- The variety of proposed facilities should appeal to a broad spectrum of all ages within the local community, delivering a sorely missed focus for healthy outdoor activities, and giving a special focus on the Woodland Nature Reserve areas.
- Such a vision could not be delivered in one stage, but would act as the basis for a five to ten year strategy of investment, jointly funded by the Council with alternative sources of funding - such as the 9CC Group.
- On safety issues, the Hub would apply for one of the Council Community defibrillators with training and the river landing areas would have safety equipment eg lifebelt stations.

Neill Watts

Councillor Neill Watts
Cumnock & New Cumnock Ward





Stepends Bing & Holmhead Steps



Proposed Site for the 'Woodroad Hub'



Proposed Site for the Tennis Courts etc.



Proposed Site for the QEII Memorial Garden



Proposed Site for the Rose Gardens



Bridge to Mote Hill / Viaduct / Bank Ave



Templand / Lugar Viaduct



Proposed River Landing Area



Entrance to Event Space Area

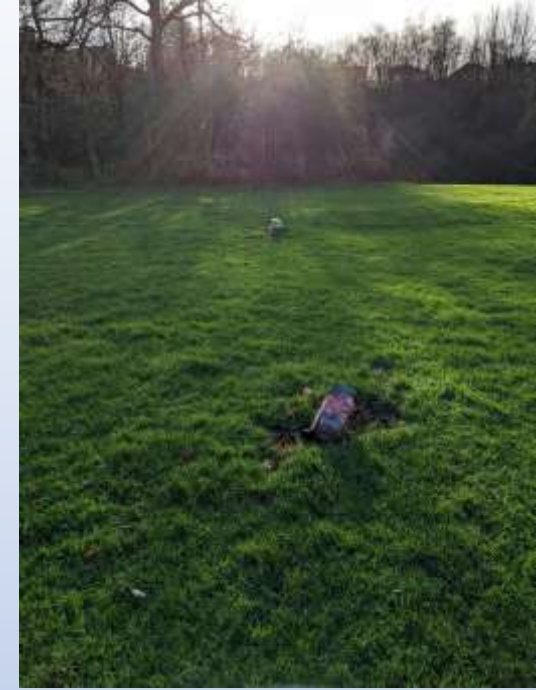


Woodroad Park - Main Car Park

Rundown
and
unloved...



Woodroad Play Area



These pictures show the unloved area at the entrance to the current events space, exposed wires, broken lamps and missing bulbs, as well as the 'Queen's Steps' covered in paint and crumbling.



The current rundown & unloved Play Area facilities in Woodroad Park - serving 8,500+ Residents



"My thanks to the Cumnock History Group, for all the help they gave me with access to old photos and news clippings of Woodroad Park, which allowed me to research how Woodroad used to be the Hub of our Community in years past."

"Our challenge now begins, both financial and physical so that we can restore Woodroad Park as the Hub of Activity for our Community once again."

Councillor Neill Watts
Cumnock & New Cumnock Ward

December 2022

