

# PROJECT PROPOSAL

## The Hopeman 'Play Sanctuary'

Mid Street



\*this is a working document\*

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# 1. Summary



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s and volunteers

- Logistics: The shed would be accessed through a padlock with code given to select adults. It would operate as a shared responsibility between myself and users to maintain the space and update loose parts when needed. Communication between users would be facilitated online and workshops advertised through usual mediums.
- Budget: Loose parts can be donated as they are often items that have been found or disregarded. Once support and objections have been collected by the community, ideas for fundraising can be discussed and grants can be applied for to purchase the shed to house equipment. As many local sources as possible will be used to encourage community ownership of the space.

## 2. Introduction

After attending a conference of the IPA (International Play Association) in June 2023, it struck me how many opportunities for rich and meaningful play experiences are being missed for the young people in Moray. There are plenty of play parks and green open spaces but little to really challenge children's imagination, creativity and cognitive skills – a hugely important part of play and development. I am a Primary Teacher, previously a Play Worker and I am currently a Support Worker for Scottish Autism. I have a passion for play pedagogy and inclusive education. Through my journey in teaching, I have learnt the importance of outdoor education for mental and physical health as well as the benefits of appropriate free play opportunities on inclusion, engagement and social skills. I have also learnt the significance of "loose parts" play; items used for play that have no pre-determined purpose allowing for open-ended imaginative play and endless creativity and discovery.

Seeing the numerous projects individuals were undertaking around the world at the IPA conference inspired me to look into what I could do for my own community. I was lucky enough to grow up in Hopeman and attend Hopeman Primary School. I was young when the old Scout Hall was demolished, and nothing has been done in that space since. Located directly opposite the Primary school, the land has changed ownership a few times as plans to build upon it consistently fell through. The land now belongs to Tullochs of Cummingston, whom in preliminary talks, support this project and do not have any current plans for this ground. Blair Tulloch has estimated 5 – 10 years before they may request the land back.

The most vital part of this project is the children and the community. Thus far, Hopeman Primary, The Church of Scotland, The Baptist Church, The Scouts and Girl-guides have been contacted to ask if they have interest in such a space and if they would like to be involved. After a meeting with the current Headteacher of Hopeman Primary, I have been given names of other parties in the local area who may be interested. Any progression in the space will be done with children and with the community to ensure it is exactly fit for purpose and the needs of the village. Within the space, there would be opportunities for events with charities and educators, community play days, demonstrations for outdoor learning and more, additionally it could hopefully lead as an example for other areas within Moray and Scotland.

The space would consist of a shed, fundraising/grants would be used to cover all costs, that could securely house loose parts (a list of potential loose parts follows), it would also house outdoor learning equipment, tarps to create dens, art materials; anything the children would like for their space and anything that interested parties would like to keep. It could also house books on play education, leaflets for parents and sign in sheets/risk assessments etc. The rest of the grassy space would remain mostly free, this may change based upon children's input and the needs of the space. Anything built on the space must be easily removed as Tulloch's will eventually want to use the land themselves, in which case, other areas within the village could be looked at to continue the project. A fence will be erected around the space to ensure safety for the children. The shed will be locked using a combination lock, to which the combination will be given to select adults within the community who accept a shared responsibility for the space.

### 3. Needs and Concerns

Though Hopeman Primary has use of the park, this is mainly accessed by stairs making the moving of equipment difficult and the space less inclusive for those with mobility issues. The school's playground is concrete which limits the learning available and is less suitable for risky play and quality outdoor learning. These same reasons apply for all other groups within the local community – they are lacking a suitable space for well facilitated play.

There are potential concerns for vandalism of the space and misuse of equipment. These concerns are well founded though much can be done to minimize these risks. The location of the ground is well overlooked by houses which would deter vandalism. It has also been shown in research that if children and young people feel ownership over a space that they will take pride in it, working to ensure it's longevity. Further down the line it could be useful to invite local high schools and youth groups down for play days, work experience and decorating. Their involvement in this project could be crucial to ensuring the space is maintained and cared for.

There will also be concerns about the location of the space being directly beside a road. This will be put forward to the council to assess the risk and see if anything can be done. A painted crossing and warning signs are two potential solutions. The area will also be fenced to better support individuals still learning road safety skills. The idea of the space would be that there is always adult supervision which would hopefully minimize road safety concerns.

The initial idea for security of equipment would be a locked shed with a combination. Select adults will have access to the combination and it would be a shared responsibility to ensure all equipment is locked away when not being used. This may be a trial-and-error situation and ideas on how to best protect equipment is welcome and encouraged.

At all points through the process, any queries, complaints or questions from the community will be addressed promptly by myself and all suggestions will be taken on board.

### 4. Loose Parts

“Introducing simple, everyday objects can improve creativity, boost social and problem-solving skills and support inclusion.

A ‘loose parts’ toy, is open-ended; children may use it in many ways and combine with other loose-parts through imagination and creativity. Nature, which excites all the senses, remains the richest source of loose parts.” – Play Scotland Website

Loose parts play allows children to use their imagination when playing, rather than engaging with toys with a pre-determined purpose. It encourages children to engage with risk, problem solving and creative thinking as well as allowing for rich outdoor learning experiences.

Within nature; many loose parts can be found and used for whatever purpose a child may imagine: pine cones, leaves, sticks, feathers, shells, rocks etc

Wood is a fantastic play resource, planks and wooden pallets can build a den and truck slides can act as a seat or stepping stones.

Building materials such as pipes, guttering, cable spools can be used for a range of purposes as well as sand, tyres and tarpaulin.

Household items such as old pots and pans, colanders, spoons, buckets, cardboard boxes are all perfect examples of loose parts and can be easily sourced.

For more extensive research on the importance of loose parts play and outdoor play, please follow these links.

[https://www.playscotland.org/resources/print/Loose-Parts-Play-Toolkit-Revised.pdf?plsctml\\_id=10924](https://www.playscotland.org/resources/print/Loose-Parts-Play-Toolkit-Revised.pdf?plsctml_id=10924)

<https://www.pacey.org.uk/news-and-views/pacey-blog/2019/march-2019/getting-to-grips-with-loose-parts-play/>

<https://www.scrapantics.co.uk/>

## 5. Estimated Timetable

	Description of Work	Start and End Dates
<b>Phase One</b>	HCA approval and addressing of community concerns	July – September 2023
<b>Phase Two</b>	Community engagement and child input	September – November 2023
<b>Phase Three</b>	Fundraising and donations of equipment	November – February 2024
<b>Phase Four</b>	Construction of space	March 2024

This timetable is open to change however it would be my goal to ensure the space is ready to use for Spring 2024. As the project progresses, this timetable will be updated to ensure transparency with the community.

## 6. Budget

I intent to source majority of the loose parts free of charge through recycling centres and donations from the community and local businesses. Depending on the interest in the project and the amount of resourcing needing to be stored – funds will be needed to purchase a shed/container. There will need to be discussion on storage material and size. There may also be a desire to purchase tents or teepees for shelter, this could also be looked at. There will also be a cost for the fencing of the area. For all expenses; grants, donations and volunteering will be the first port of call. Below are some rough estimations for costs, decisions on purchases will only be made once all interested parties are in agreement.

	Possible Options	Approx Cost
<b>Wooden Shed</b>	Wooden sheds would have to be large and contain shelves for storage or equipment. Wooden sheds are flammable which makes this a less desirable choice.	£700+ depending on size
<b>Metal Shed</b>	Metal sheds are a preferable method for storage as they require less maintenance and are more difficult to damage.	£500 - £700
<b>Small Containers</b>	Lockable outdoor containers could be a solution for storage once the space is more established.	£300 - £400
<b>Tents/Tee Pees</b>	There are a variety of tents and tee pees available, these would be suitable for all and any adults using the space would be taught how to erect them safely.	£200 - £300
<b>Fencing</b>	Fencing off the area will be the main concern for the beginning of the project. Quotes on this cost are yet to come back but it will be a larger expense and will only be done with full approval from Tullochs and all potential users of the space to ensure it is safe and fit for purpose.	

## 7. Key Personnel

Project Manager	Charlotte Ball
Land Owner	Tullochs of Cumingston – Blair Tulloch leading correspondence
Potential Stakeholders	Hopeman Primary School, Hopeman Baptist Church, Church of Scotland, Hopeman Scouts, Hopeman Girl Guides, Hopeman Community Association, Earthtime Nursery, Hopeman Gala
	Open invitation for different groups and schools after approval

## 8. Endorsements

Blair Tulloch – Tulloch of Cummington

Jenny Adams – Minister for Church of Scotland

Georgina Young – Headteacher Hopeman Primary School

This is a working list. Awaiting correspondence from other parties listed in section 7, thus far there have been no objections. The houses that border the space will be contacted personally by myself to ensure they are happy to have this designated play space beside their properties.

## 9. Next Steps

- Put proposal forward to the Hopeman Community Association
- Speak to local residents and groups and assess support and concerns
- Prepare materials to collect children's ideas for the beginning of the next school year
- Create a itemized list of costs for fundraising and grants
- Contact Moray Council

## 10. Contact Information

For all questions, concerns and suggestions please contact Charlotte Ball

Mobile Number: 07597048010

Email: [charlotteb1995@outlook.com](mailto:charlotteb1995@outlook.com)

I currently reside in Glasgow finishing up my studies however I can provide a Hopeman address if postal correspondence is preferred

## 11. Images of Land



