



# **The Future of Onchan Park**

*Report on the future provision of community services at  
Onchan Park*

## **Executive Summary**

This report has been prepared for

**The Board of Onchan District  
Commissioners**

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## Executive Summary

Feedback and correspondence from the public following the Authority's initial 'Call for Ideas' raised the following key points:

- The Park Fields are should retain its present open and green character;
- The Park is running well and people are enjoying the facility;
- The children's play area is popular and generally well maintained;
- Relocation of the tennis courts and additional parking on the old tennis court site is generally opposed;
- There are mixed opinions around the events and usage of the Nivison Stadium;
- Improvements and change are generally welcomed and looked forward to.

This report consulted the stakeholders and tenants of Onchan Park in order to ascertain what their views are about what direction the park should take. There are many views and points included in the substantive of this document however the key point(s) of each are listed below:

- Onchan Raceway – The operators of the motorsport facilities are keen to remain in the Nivison Stadium and state that they offer a unique attraction to the Park. They cite their long-standing operation and the large amounts of spectators that they attract to their meets;
- Onchan AFC – There are a number of issues regarding damage to the football pitch as a result of vehicles from motorsport events encroaching onto the grass. They believe a community sports facility that could improve footballing facilities alongside recreational facilities that the community would benefit from would be a good way to increase the usage of the stadium. This would also ease pressure on other facilities which are in extremely high demand;
- Onchan Crown Green Bowling – There are a small number of minor adjustments they would like to see made to their facility however are generally content. They suggest that any events that could increase footfall in the Park would be highly beneficial. They also believe that a community sports & recreation facility would be of more financial sense and community benefit;
- Onchan Park Café – There are a number of improvements that could be made to their building. They believe that events in the Park would improve the footfall and success of associated businesses. Additionally, advertisement and marketing for the

Park is in need of improvement. The motorsport facility in the stadium is perceived positively as a unique attraction;

- Pay Hut Operator – The Pleasure Park is generally running well however more needs to be done to market the Park as it appears that there is little advertising at present. It is also believed that the Park should host more events or corporate days to increase interest throughout the season;
- Isle of Man Flat Green Bowling – They are generally content with the current situation and are grateful for the maintenance of the green. They would support any development that would encourage increased sporting or physical recreation around the Park area;
- Fun Factory and Dance Studio – There were a number of issues regarding accessibility and windows however these are being looked into. A suggestion was made that an outdoor area would be appreciated; this would likely mean expansion over the current banked track. The hosting of special events is believed to have the potential to benefit the park a good deal;
- “The Views” Restaurant – A priority issue in regards to accessibility was identified as the only access at present is via stairs. Increased special events in the park would be perceived to have positive effect on associated businesses. The introduction of a sport and recreation facility is believed by the restaurant to have the potential for benefit to the year round use of the Park.

This report also consulted a number of other organisations and agencies for their opinions on the suggested developments. For the sake of brevity, their accounts have not been included in this summary however they can be found, in full, in the substantive document.

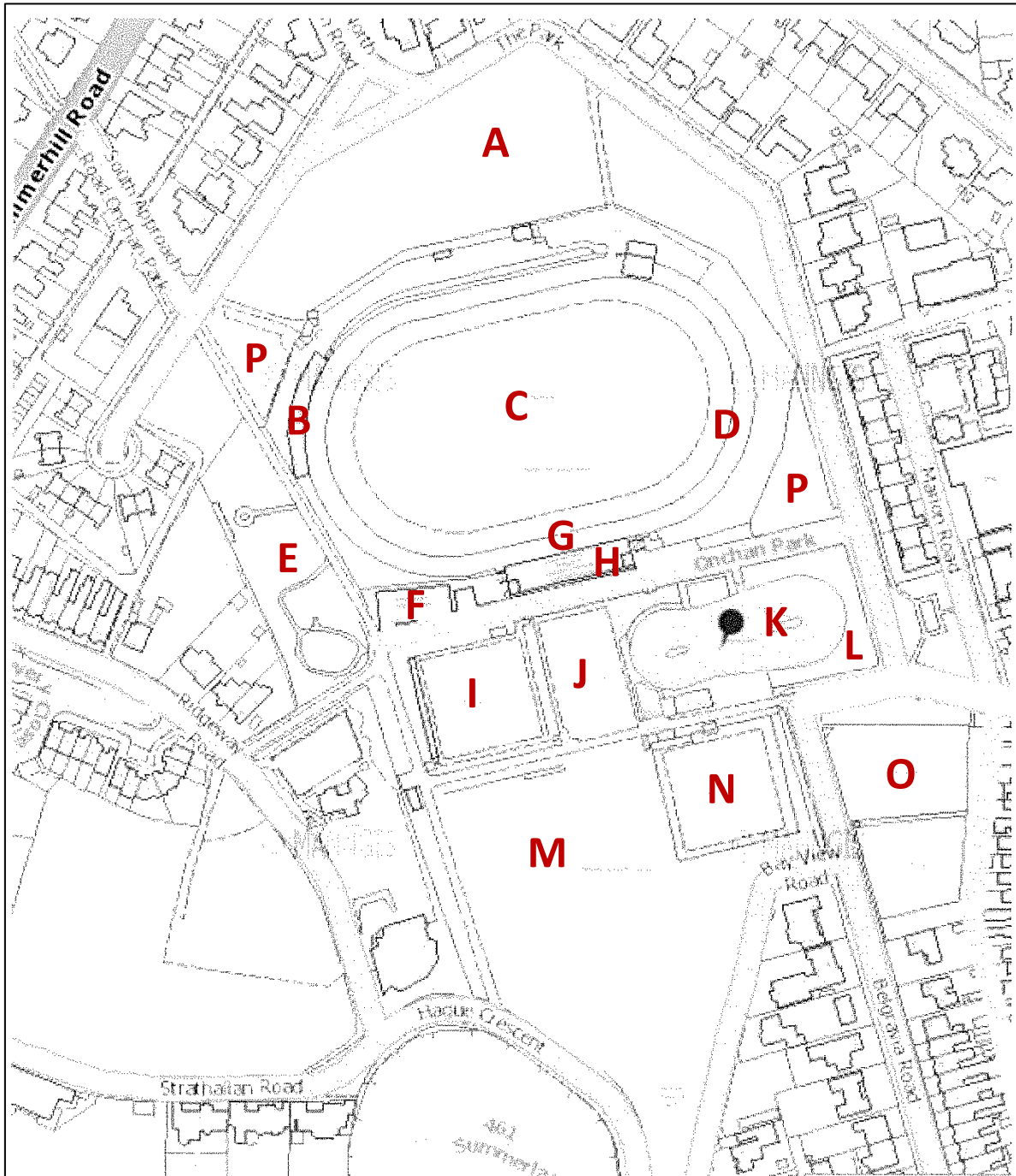
This report then goes on to make a number of recommendations based on the evidence gathered. They are as follows however explanations, debate and justification can be found in full in the substantive of this document.

- The crazy golf course should be replaced with new obstacles to make it a more attractive feature of the park;
- The battery powered kiddie-cars should be replaced and the track extended;
- The Park Lawn should be covered with a soft play surface which could facilitate year round, versatile play as well as acting as a hard standing for special events;
- The Nivison Stadium should be converted to a community based sports and recreation facility that can cater for a variety of leisure and sporting activities both indoors and outdoors;
- Lighting and decoration around the park should be improved so to increase the attractiveness and safety of the area;

- Efforts should be made to facilitate physical activity and active journeys;
- The Park should host a greater number and wide variety of special events to boost interest and footfall.

The overarching aim of Onchan Park should be to serve the local community; any development should therefore be designed with the community interest at its heart.

## Map of Onchan Park



- **A** – Park Fields
- **B** – Secondary Grandstand
- **C** – Football Pitch
- **D** – Motorsport Tracks
- **E** – Children’s Play Park
- **F** – Fun Factory and Dance Studio
- **G** – Main Grandstand
- **H** – Café and Restaurant
- **I** – Crown Green
- **J** – Park Lawn
- **K** – Boating Lake
- **L** – Crazy Golf
- **M** – Pitch & Putt
- **N** – Flat Green
- **O** – Tennis Courts
- **P** – Car Parking