

Love your patch,  
**BUILD YOUR  
PLAYGROUND**

**GRANGE**  
BIG LOCAL

**CommUNITY** Barnet  
supporting community organisations

  
**NATIONAL  
LOTTERY FUNDED**

**BIG  
LOTTERY  
FUND**

**space + place**  
DESIGN  
By ANNA PROUMI - ARCHER

## WHO ARE WE?

Grange Big Local is a community association that was formed because a small pocket of East Finchley has been awarded lottery money that can be spent in any way local people choose until 2026. The borders of our pocket are the North Circular, East End Road, Church Lane, and the High Road. It includes the Grange, Brownswell, Font Hills and Thomas More estates. Our vision is "Promoting a thriving and caring community".

Most of our work is done by volunteers and anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the area is welcome to have their say.

## SO WHAT HAS THIS GOT TO DO WITH PLAYGROUNDS?

Lots of people have said that there are not enough play facilities in the area, particularly for children. We decided to look into this more closely – What kind of facilities? Where? For what ages? Would we need planning permission? Who else needs to give us permission? How much might it cost?

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

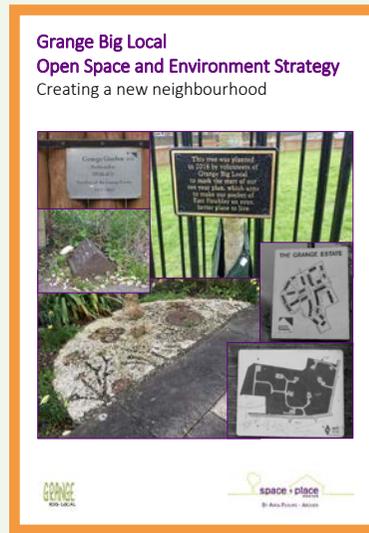
It is important because residents, young and old, told us it was. It is important because more than a quarter of the children living in the area are living in poverty.

It is important because only 2.95% of our area is green space, compared to a London average of 14.26% so we need to use it well. It is important because play is important for both physical and mental health. It is important because play spaces give parents and carers places to meet up. Finally, it is important because we have only 42% of the recommended amount of equipped play spaces in the area. And we do not think that is good enough.



## WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

We have mapped the area, and looked at what spaces there is and what it could be used for. We have asked residents what they want. We have had initial talks with local stakeholders, particularly Barnet Council, Barnet Homes and Optivo Housing Association – to get them on board. Finally we have written a detailed strategy that you can read at <http://www.grangebiglocal.org/open-spaces-and-environment/>. The strategy shows the things that could be done, if people agree and if people are willing to help.



## WHERE ARE WE GOING TO START?

We want to start with toddler play on Thomas More, a multi-use games area on the Grange and improving the Market Place playground.

We don't talk about having money to spend, we talk about having money to use. We want to use it to make a difference, and we want to stretch it by using it to bring more money into the area. That means fundraising.

Barnet Council say that the cost of maintaining the playgrounds on their land needs to be offset by cutting other maintenance charges – planting wildflowers so they don't need to cut the grass, starting a gardening club, that kind of thing.

Obviously, where projects are discussed with stakeholders, they will need to do their own surveys with residents before things gain approval. This is when we will be able to seek additional/match funding for each adventure! We support local people to make these projects a reality, and take "ownership" of "your patch".

# Can you HELP?

We need more people to help us make this happen. Please call **020 8364 8400 ext. 241** or email [info@grangebiglocal.org](mailto:info@grangebiglocal.org) if want to be a part of making our area a better place to live.

