

Cookham Parish Council

Alfred Major Recreation Ground – Improvements to our Play Area

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why on the Alfred Major Recreation Ground?

Cookham Parish Council owns and manages the Recreation Ground. It is one of the few pieces of land owned by the Parish Council.

Where has the money come from?

The project will cost approximately £80,000, funds for these improvements have been obtained from two main sources:

- The Parish Council Precept (Cookham's part of your Council Tax), we have been saving up for this project over several years.
- Funds from developer's contributions (called S106 funds), these have built up from projects dating back up to 15 years.

Who are Sutcliffe Play?

Sutcliffe Play Ltd are based in Pontefract, West Yorkshire, where their equipment is designed, manufactured and distributed from their purpose built factory.

Please visit their website at [Home - Sutcliffe Play](#), have a look at their 'About us' pages for more about their ethos and history.

Their frequently asked questions can be found here <https://www.sutcliffeplay.co.uk/faqs>

Why are we using Sutcliffe Play Ltd?

As a Local Authority, The Parish Council are obliged to seek tenders for this level of spend. We did that in September 2021 and Sutcliffe Play Ltd responded to the request.

Play for All:

The Parish Council would like to include as many children as possible and Sutcliffe Play Ltd are considered a leader in inclusive play equipment.

Quotes from the Sutcliffe Play Ltd website

"We believe passionately in inclusive play and we deliver this in an invisible way, with the aim of allowing all children to play side by side irrespective of their perceived ability."

"We believe that every child should have equal access to good, meaningful play opportunities by designing our equipment to enable users with a wide range of abilities, rather than just for disabled children, to enjoy play spaces together, to play together. Play equipment that creates new challenges for all."

Sutcliffe's believe passionately in designing play spaces that encourage children of all abilities to play together. Many of their products, right through from a simple springie to large play structures, have been designed to be accessible and playable for children with different abilities, they consider themselves to be one of the market leaders in this area.



This symbol in the product pages on their website and in their catalogue indicates the inclusive nature of the equipment.

Notes on Safety:

Safety regulations for play parks are complex and detailed. Getting safety right is the most important factor in this improvement. The request for tender and design brief have made it clear that design and installation must be compliant with laws and regulations but additionally should also follow best practice. This is why the Parish Council as "amateurs" has handed this specialist task over to a Sutcliffe Play Ltd. a professional design, manufacturer and installation company.

Safety standards are a very important aspect of the equipment Sutcliffe's produce. Wherever possible they obtain independent safety accreditation to recognised national and international standards. For example the vast majority of the fixed play equipment and play areas comply with EN1176 which is the leading play area standard in Europe. They also carry out and promote risk benefit assessment (RBA) as advised by the Play Safety Forum and endorsed by the Health and Safety Executive

Currently our play area has an annual RoSPA inspection as well as further quarterly inspection checks. We review the findings regularly and address them where necessary. This will continue when the project is completed.