

Sleights Children's Play Park

The completion of the superb new Play Park in Sleights has proved how local people can help to shape their own community.

Five local people joined together in 2007 with the aim of refurbishing the village play park for the children and young people of Sleights. Ingham Play Park Committee was formed and since then, members have worked hard to carefully plan every detail of the play park and to submit applications for both large and small grants to pay for the redevelopment.

Their work has included seeking guidance from local and regional advisors. The committee have liaised with the Eskdaleside Cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council and the Borough Council to negotiate the long-term maintenance of the play park.



Members of the Ingham Play Park Committee

Members of the committee visited local schools to find out what kind of play area and equipment was wanted. They also went to other play parks to see what types of equipment is available. They wanted to ensure that only the best possible, most fun, enjoyable and challenging equipment was installed on the site. They also consulted with local residents to find out their preferences for the landscaping and design of the whole area.

During 2008 and 2009, members of the committee submitted a total of 15 applications to 10 different funding bodies.

In April 2010 the committee were successful in their bid to the Community Spaces Lottery programme and were awarded £100,000. In addition to this the group asked for a £36,000 grant from the North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER programme, which was also successful. Further funding has come from Eskdaleside Cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council, The Northern Area Committee, The Mayoress' Community Fund and Cllr Herbert Tindall.

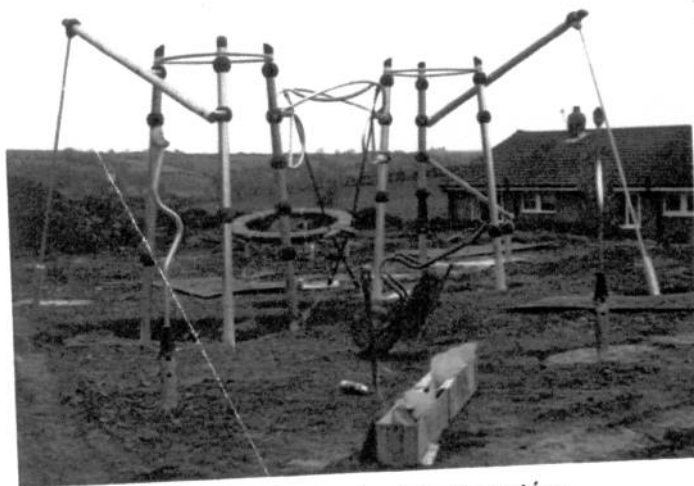
The ongoing costs of health and safety inspections will be paid for by the Eskdaleside Cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council. The Committee are responsible for annual insurance costs and continue to raise money for this from domino drives organised by committee member Ted Gibson.

The play area is split into 2 areas – the toddler area designed for children up to 6 years old, and the junior area – which suits ages 6 to adult. The equipment was selected as it offers challenging play experiences for older children and young people. The various different activities contribute towards meeting children's developmental needs. These include spinning, balancing, imaginative play, swinging, gathering, training, rocking, experimenting, climbing, sliding and social interaction.

The whole area has been designed to include seating and picnic tables for the whole community to use and enjoy. Both wheelchair users and parents with prams and pushchairs will find the park user friendly as paths and central areas have been tarmaced. The re-developed site provides a fantastic outdoor facility for people of all ages.

Committee members – Lisa Ward, Alyson Elder, Janet MacDonald and Ted Gibson said in a joint statement – "After all our hard work it's so rewarding to see the completed play park. It is the end result of all our negotiations, administration and planning and it is a wonderful play area for the children of Sleights to use and enjoy".

Article by Lisa Ward.



Play Park Under Construction