

# Appendix 1.8 Play Areas

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Information from L.J. Faulkner January 2016

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## **Introduction**

There are 4 play areas\* in Cranleigh with children's play equipment. One does not have equipment. During September 2014, Jim Faulkner looked at these sites, using checklists, which had previously been provided by Fields in Trust for inspecting potential Queen Elizabeth II fields.

This report shows what was found at each site. It comments on their location explaining how they fit in with the Six Acre Standard. These comments could be updated when the new Standard is issued in December 2015.

There are also notes on problems found during investigation and these will be considered against proposed future developments.

I would like to thank the people and organisations who assisted:

Waverley Leisure Department,  
Clerk at Cranleigh Parish Council,  
Fields in Trust.

Linden Homes are yet to respond.

The areas are –  
Snoxhall Playing Field,  
Lashmere,  
Queensway Recreation Ground,  
Swallowhurst,  
Ground close to Glebelands.

Cranleigh has one major play area suitable for a range of age groups, three smaller areas mainly for younger users and one open and not obvious open space.

\*Roberts Way Play Area built 2006

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### **Snoxhall Field.**



#### Owners

Main Field, Play Area, Tennis Courts and part of the skate park – Cranleigh Parish Council.

Land adjacent to Leisure Centre and the majority of the skate park – Waverley Borough Council.

The Children's Play area is split into 4 zones; each one caters for a different age group. The equipment is of a high standard and is well maintained. There is adequate seating for adults. There are practical "youth shelters".

The safety surfacing is adequate.

The site has suitable notices about age zones and who to contact if there is a problem.

The fencing is suitable and has a number of well-controlled gates.

A large site needs obvious pathways between zones and equipment; this site is fine.

There is some outdoor gymnasium equipment in both the play area and elsewhere. This is suitably sited with correct bases.

These areas are maintained and inspected by Cranleigh Parish Council.

Closer to the Leisure Centre is a skateboard park. This is owned and maintained by Waverley Borough Council. The equipment is adequate. Training courses are held on this site.

The play area adjoins a large open space, which is maintained in a suitable condition for casual play.

The field can be entered from Village Way and from Knowle Lane. There is parking at both entrances. There are sufficient litterbins. Despite this, on some days there is significant litter on the sites.

This is a suitable large central site for the village, which may need expanding to cater for a larger population.

### **Lashmere**



#### Owner

Waverley Borough Council.

The children's play area is a single fenced area at the entrance to a larger open space. The play area is about 60 metres by 50 metres. The equipment is of a high standard and is well maintained. There are 3 seats suitable for adults. The site is designed for use by children up to 14 years of age.

The safety surfacing is adequate.

The site has suitable notices showing whom to contact if there is a problem.

The fencing is suitable and has two spring-controlled gates.

This site has obvious pathways, which are rubberised between equipment.

This site is maintained and inspected by Waverley Borough Council.

The play area adjoins a large open space which, when inspected had grass that was suitable for dog walking; but too long for ball games.

The field can be entered from Lashmere. There is a shortage of parking in the area. There are sufficient litterbins. This is a suitable small site for an area within the village. A good site but access, the need to cross a busy road and parking may limit its use.

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### Queensway Recreation Ground



#### Owner

Waverley Borough Council.

The children's play area is a single fenced area at the entrance to a larger open space. The play area is about 30 metres by 20 metres. The open space is about 90 metres by 25 metres. The equipment is of a high standard and is well maintained. There is a seat suitable for adults outside the play area. The site is designed for use by children up to 14 years of age.

The safety surfacing is adequate.

The site has suitable notices showing whom to contact if there is a problem.

The fencing is suitable and has two spring-controlled gates.

This site is maintained and inspected by Waverley Borough Council.

In addition to the normal swings and bouncy items, there is a kick in goal and basketball hoop. The play area adjoins a large open space, which had grass that was suitable for dog walking.

The field can be entered from Queensway. There is some parking on local roads. There are sufficient litterbins.

This is a suitable small site for an area within the village. This is a good site that can be accessed by foot from a significant area without the need to cross a busy road.

### Swallowhurst Recreation Ground



#### Owner

Linden Homes.

The children's play area is a stand-alone fenced area. The play area is about 24 metres by 24 metres. The equipment is of a high standard recently installed by Playdale. There is a seat suitable for adults inside the play area. The site is designed for use mainly by younger children.

The safety surfacing is grass growing through a rubber base and, if maintained, should be excellent.

Currently the site does not have suitable notices showing whom to contact if there is a problem.

There is a frame for putting one up. The ranch fencing is not suitable. It is easy for children to climb through and for dogs to enter. The gates are free swinging and unsuitable.

I cannot find out who will maintain this site. It may be looked after by a management company.

Waverley Borough Council stated that they do not wish to maintain any future sites. Cranleigh Parish Council has not been approached. They said that it would be likely that they would need a contribution from an infrastructure levy before they would take the responsibility.

The field can be entered from Swallow Grove and from a walkway that leads to BookHurst Hill.

There is some parking on local roads. There are sufficient litterbins.

This is a suitable small site for an area within the village. This is a good site, which can be accessed by foot from a significant area without the need to cross a busy road. However, it is on the edge of the development and is close to an area of deep water.

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### **Ground close to Glebelands**

#### Owner

Waverley Borough Council

This site is maintained by Waverley Borough Council.

This is small open space. It was initially meant to have a couple of small items for children's play.

There was no section 106 money, so it is now an open space.

Added in to report (2018)

### **Roberts Way Play Area**

Owner Affinity Sutton

A formal assessment was not carried out on the site.



The children's play area is a single fenced area.

There is a bench inside the play area.

### **Summary**

There are 4 children's playgrounds (does not include Roberts Way play area) with equipment in Cranleigh. Three are properly maintained by the owners.

One playground has been developed. Its final ownership is not yet known. We do not know who will maintain it, or if they will be qualified. We do know who is not going to maintain it.

There needs to be small areas for play at the north of the village and in the Summerlands area.

Waverley BC Leisure Department have stated that they do not plan to maintain new play areas. This means that any new projects need to have a method of funding to continue maintenance of the sites. This may be achieved by setting up a maintenance company or providing finance to the Parish Council. A site, which is not inspected and not cared for easily, becomes dangerous.

Cranleigh is still short of informal play areas within easy reach of homes. Snoxhall is a good central facility that will need enlargement when there is extra demand.

We now need to talk to the Sports Team to ensure that we are not at cross-purposes.

The new guidelines from Fields in Trust for play and leisure spaces were issued on November 5<sup>th</sup> 2015. We should reference these in our final document.

The latest play area has attempted to provide a good site. However, the risk analysis missed the security of the area. We need to reference the need for this in our report.