Playground inspections, repairs, grass cutting and weed treatment

**Inspections and Repairs**

Historically some of the simpler faults highlighted in the inspection reports have been carried out by members of the Parish Council or volunteers from the village with more serious issues tendered out to professional bodies.

I carried out a monthly inspection of the playground equipment to highlight any obvious problems that needed to be addressed between the inspections by approved professional bodies.

Ipswich Borough Council

Contact in 2018 was: Nigel Campbell - [nigel.campbell@ipswich.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.campbell@ipswich.gov.uk)

They were very slow to respond to our queries(6 weeks waiting) and were not contracted for the inspections and repairs or grass cutting. At that time they carried out the above at Sutton and Ufford.

Suffolk Norse

Contact in 2019 was: Simon Walker [-Simon.Walker@ncsgrp.co.uk](mailto:-Simon.Walker@ncsgrp.co.uk)

Contracted for inspections and repairs in 2019

Starting in July 2019 we contracted Suffolk Norse to carry out 3 routine inspections per year in July, October and January with an independent inspection arranged by them in April.

May 2020 - We received no communication regarding any inspections carried out by Norse and no indication that an independent inspection had been arranged or carried out. In contravention of the signed service contract no reports were received from Norse indicating areas of concern with the play equipment and the contract with them was terminated.

RoSPA

April 2020 - Contacted RoSPA and joined their scheme for an independent annual inspection. Under this scheme RoSPA visits Suffolk annually during September/October and carries out their inspections at a reduced rate. They contact the Parish Clerk each year with a reminder and the visit is then booked for that year. A link to the report is provided to the Parish Clerk together with the invoice. The report can then be downloaded. They do not provide quotes for repairs.

Contact: Sophie Balchin - [sbalchin@rospaplaysafety.co.uk](mailto:sbalchin@rospaplaysafety.co.uk)

REJB

June 2020 - Contracted to carry out maintenance inspections prior to school holidays, namely before Christmas, Easter and end of July. The contract covered the inspection, electronic report and quote for repairs. We used this company for some of the repairs to the play equipment on receipt of their reports.

March 2022 - last inspection carried out by REJB. The council decided to cut costs by reducing the inspections to the 1 per year carried out by RoSPA

Contact: Admin Sports Services - [admin@rejbandco.co.uk](mailto:admin@rejbandco.co.uk)

[www.sport-services.co.uk](http://Www.sport-services.co.uk)

Timberwolf

We have used a local companyTimberwolf Services to replace rotten timber on the play equipment.

Contact: Andrew Frost - [timberwolfservices@gmail.com](mailto:timberwolfservices@gmail.com)

Eastern Play Services

Based in Bury St Edmunds. They look after Alderton playground

[info@easterplayservices.co.uk](mailto:info@easterplayservices.co.uk)

Moles can be a problem on the playground and Peter Widdup has the contact details for a local mole catcher and will usually contact him on behalf of the council.

David Gouch 07799801394

**Grass Cutting and weed control**

Suffolk Norse

Contact in 2018 was [Paul.Tynan@ncsgrp.co.uk](mailto:Paul.Tynan@ncsgrp.co.uk)

April 2018 - Contract with Suffolk Norse for 4 cuts per year in April May July and October on the playground and the dog walking field plus 2 weed treatments per year to treat the nettles on the playground.

August 2019 - A complaint was raised that the July cut and second weed control treatment had not been carried out as per the contract. They admitted that we had been missed out and the final cut eventually took place in November rather than October. The contract was not renewed for 2020.

CGM Group

April 2020 - Contracted to cut playground and dog walking field providing 4 cuts per year in April May July and October and 2 weed and nettle treatments per year. Renewed annually before March.

2021 - Unseasonal weather and long gaps in grass cutting (CGM schedule) caused problems with overlong grass especially on the playground.

2022 - Problems with too few cuts encountered in 2021 plus rising prices in 2022 forced a rethink on the number of cuts and weed treatments. New contract allowed for 6 cuts of the playground per year plus one weed and nettle treatment. Pathways on the dog walking field were cut 6 times per year leaving the rest of the field to grow wild.

2023 - Contract renewed in March as per schedule for 2022

Contact: [operationseast@cgmltd.co.uk](mailto:operationseast@cgmltd.co.uk)