

YOUR NEW PLAY SPACE IS REVEALED!

The parish council is delighted to be able to reveal the winning play space design, developed over a number of months and taking on board all the feedback both the children and parents gave us at all the consultation sessions, as well as input from RoSPA and Aylesbury Vale District Council. We are sure that you will be delighted - even RoSPA tell us that “the new play space certainly has the “WOW” factor.”!



Play England believe that children need to experience risk, challenge and excitement in their play so that they can “stretch and challenge themselves in every way”. To achieve this aim, a range of equipment to reflect all sizes, abilities and functions has been provided. Play experiences include role play, spinning, sliding, climbing, bouncing, rocking, gliding, balance, traversing, crawling and natural play. Challenging, stimulating and fun items of equipment have been included to appeal to older children for which our existing playground offers no facilities at all. The height (Cheops pyramid is 5.6m tall!), speed (eg aerial runway) and movement (eg climbing whirl) of some of this equipment, combined with its location on site, will allow users to play high alongside the tree canopies, experience new sensations and push their abilities in order to grow in confidence. We’ve even been able to reflect Pitstone Windmill in the design, turning the image into a 4 ‘sailed’ hopscotch graphic to reflect our local environment. When we sent the plans to RoSPA for a pre-installation review, they reported “Good to see such a wide range of equipment for all ages and abilities. The new play space certainly has the “WOW” factor.”

A central picnic area with hard surface has been provided, along with other seating/picnic facilities to provide social areas for parents and carers to meet whilst their children play freely and safely. RoSPA concur saying “Excellent idea to provide a focal point and good seating area.”

Play England asks developers to “imagine a play space where children of all ages play together”, where the boundaries are set by the users themselves rather than being imposed upon. Unlike the existing playground, the new design is a fully integrated area that will aid the child’s progression, confidence building and motor skill development rather than restricting the play experience dependant on age or ability. RoSPA comments in relation to this matter are “Excellent. Good to see.” You will see that the whole play area has been surrounded by loop top fencing, following your feedback that you didn’t want the play space open fronted to keep dogs out and small children running across the field.

The design has been formulated on an inclusive basis, allowing able and disabled bodied children to play and socialise together. A wide range of DDA compliant equipment has been incorporated into the design, predominantly located close to the central hard surfaced picnic area for easy access. This includes

equipment to cover a wide range of play experiences such as rocking, sliding, bouncing, swinging and spinning. We recognise that accessible play space is not just about getting the right fixed equipment, but also the design of the space and how it enables people to use it.

Children are also stimulated through colour, movement, tactile elements and varying levels of challenge. When assessing against this criteria, RoSPA say “Good to see the play equipment is obviously suitable for children with “special needs” and that it can be played with (and enjoyed) by all children without any stigma or embarrassment.”

Overall RoSPA say “Aesthetically pleasing as well as providing a challenging play environment with the use of such equipment, particularly the rope based elements.”

Here is a full list of all the equipment that will be enjoying shortly:

- Aerial Runway/Zip Wire
- Cheops Pyramid with bridge and high slide
- Climbing Whirl spinner
- Viking Swing
- Cantilever swing with nest basket
- Trim trail units including balance bridge, ladder traverse, rope traverse and monkey bars
- Tunnel through the embankment
- Wide embankment slide on play embankment
- Junior swings
- Midi Birds Nest Tree
- Windmill 4-sailed hopscotch
- Sunken trampoline
- Bike and Buggy springers
- Toddler swings
- Fortuna Play Course
- Nest Carousel
- Picnic tables and benches



The overall leisure area on the recreation ground has been designed with the skate-park and multi-use ball court the furthest away from existing housing. It is recognised that whilst these facilities themselves do not generate significant noise levels, that the general background level of young people enjoying themselves will be noisier than toddlers at play.

Within the play area itself, features designed for the older children (such as the cheops pyramid) or those likely to generate higher levels of excitement or noise (such as the aerial runway) have been located closest to the skate park/MUGA, whilst the toddler provision has been located by the northern end.

The planning application for the new play space (Phase I) is now being submitted. This will take approximately 3 months to go through, so we hope to be able to remove the old playground and install the new play space in September (subject to some land issues being resolved).

AVDC has been employed to procure the concrete skate park on our behalf, as Phase II. They currently plan to start the process this summer, with a view to installing the skate park next spring. The multi-use ball games court will follow as Phase III, but is dependent upon the sale of the neighbouring land within the Pitstone Development Area.