
Urgent request for a children's play area in Crigglestone

From Katy Parton <k7ful@icloud.com>

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To Sarah Knowles <clerk@crigglestone-pc.gov.uk>

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Dear Crigglestone Parish Council,

I am writing to raise a serious concern about the lack of a suitable children's play area in Crigglestone, particularly for families living on the Pipers Green estate.

I have three children, aged 5, 8 and 10. My eldest is 10, and he and his friends regularly want to play outside and spend time together, but there is simply nowhere on the development where they can properly do so.

At the moment, the children meet around some green electrical boxes on the estate because there is no suitable alternative. It is concerning that this has effectively become their meeting point simply because there is nowhere else for them to go. These are obviously not play facilities and are not an appropriate place for children to spend their time.

I do appreciate that there is a trim trail at Betty Eastwood Park, as well as a BMX track, and that there is a play area at Standbridge Lane. However, I do not feel that Betty Eastwood or Standbridge Lane is somewhere I would be comfortable allowing my 10-year-old son to go without adult supervision. While these facilities are welcome, they do not provide what I believe local families need: a safe, accessible and appropriate children's play area where children can meet and play with their friends with a reasonable level of independence.

My son is 10 and is at an age where he naturally wants to be able to go out and play with his friends rather than always having to have an adult accompany him. As a parent, I want to encourage his independence and allow him to enjoy being outdoors, but I also need to feel confident that the environment is safe and suitable.

With three children aged 5, 8 and 10, I see first-hand how important outdoor play, exercise and socialising are. All three of my children would benefit from having somewhere local, safe and appropriate to play.

I am therefore asking the Parish Council to seriously consider providing a proper children's play area within or close to the Pipers Green development. Ideally, this would include equipment suitable for a range of ages, particularly children around 8–12 years old, who can often be overlooked when play facilities are planned.

I would also appreciate it if the Council could explain what provision is currently available for children in Crigglestone, what future plans exist for play facilities, and whether the Council could investigate suitable land and funding opportunities for a new play area.

I would be very happy for local parents and children to be consulted about what facilities are needed. I believe there is a genuine demand for this, and that providing somewhere safe for children to play would be a valuable investment in the local community.

I appreciate that the Parish Council has already provided facilities such as the trim trail and BMX track, and I am not dismissing the value of these. My concern is that they do not address the particular need for a safe, accessible play space close to where families live, where children such as my 10-year-old son can meet their friends and play without requiring constant adult supervision.

Children in Crigglestone deserve somewhere safe and suitable to play. They should not have to gather around electrical boxes on a housing development because there is nowhere else for them to go.

I hope the Parish Council will take this concern seriously and provide a meaningful response about what can be done.

Kind regards,

Katy Parton

Sent from my iPhone