



Probus Parish Council

YOUR PARISH, YOUR COMMUNITY

Probus Parish Council Play Area Strategy 2026–2031

1. Introduction

Probus Parish Council owns and manages the children's play area located adjacent to the King George V Field. The play area is designated for children up to 14 years of age and operates as an enclosed open-access space with CCTV monitoring. This strategy sets out the Council's approach to maintaining, improving, and safeguarding the play area over the next five years.

2. Strategic Context

Play England emphasises that *“Parish councils have a vital role in supporting children's play in rural areas”* and that good play provision requires community involvement and strategic planning. The Council recognises its duty of care under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, Occupiers Liability Acts 1957 & 1984, and disability legislation.

3. Objectives

1. Safety & Risk Management

- Annual ROSPA inspection
- Routine safety inspections, by accredited contractors, based on risk profile
- Risk–benefit assessment approach
- CCTV governance and compliance
- Boundary management with adjacent residents

2. Quality Play Provision

- Provide imaginative, inclusive, and challenging play opportunities
- Incorporate natural play features
- Maintain equipment to high standards
- Align design with Play England's *Design for Play* guidance

3. Community Engagement

- Annual consultation with Probus Primary School
- Establish a link with “Friends of Probus School”
- Participate in Playday
- Use digital channels for communication

4. Environmental Sustainability

- Biodiversity-friendly planting
- Sustainable materials
- Improved drainage and litter management

5. Funding & Investment

- Annual budget allocation
- Seek external funding to sustain improvements (S106, CIL, Lottery)
- Maintain a five-year capital replacement plan



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4. Risk Management

The Council adopts Play England's principle that "*some element of risk is beneficial to children.*" Risk-benefit assessments will be used for all equipment and design decisions.

5. Maintenance & Operations

- Weekly/fortnightly routine checks
- Monthly operational inspections
- Annual independent inspection
- Boundary vegetation maintained by adjacent residents
- Fencing maintained by the Council
- CCTV maintained and reviewed monthly

6. Development Plan

Years 1–2: Surfacing improvements, equipment repairs, signage updates

Years 3–4: Natural play features, inclusive equipment, landscaping

Year 5: Major equipment renewal cycle

7. Monitoring & Evaluation

Annual evaluation following ROSPA inspection

Applying Play England's Tools for Evaluating Play Provision.

8. Review

This strategy will be reviewed every two years or following major changes.

Document control

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