

## **Summary of current play from information provided by Ashley Parish Council**

This Summary of Play report has been produced by East Cambridgeshire District Council following the 2012-13 Play Audit on behalf of parish councils to help guide their planning and funding for new or upgrading play facilities.

The report includes details of current provision and any issues highlighted by the Parish Council when completing the consultation. The findings are based on information provided by the parish council during 2012-13 and have been compared to the local planning standards which provide a benchmark on provision that should be available according to population size.

The findings indicate where there may be deficits and will be useful for parishes that are considering any improvements or enhancing play provision to address deficits or growth.

### **Play Provision and Informal Open Space**

The table below identifies all play areas and areas of informal open space in Ashley, using information provided by Ashley Parish Council in September 2012.

Map Ref	Location	Category <sup>1</sup>	Age Group(s)	Size (hectares)
2A	Recreation Ground/High Street	Play Area	TJY	0.04
3A	Church Street	Informal Open Space	N/A	0.11
3B	The Green	Informal Open Space	N/A	0.04
3C	Silhalls Close/High Street	Informal Open Space	N/A	0.14
3D	Silhalls Close	Informal Open Space	N/A	0.08

T = Toddler (2 to 5 year olds)

J = Junior (6 to 12 year olds)

Y = Youth (13 to 18 year olds)

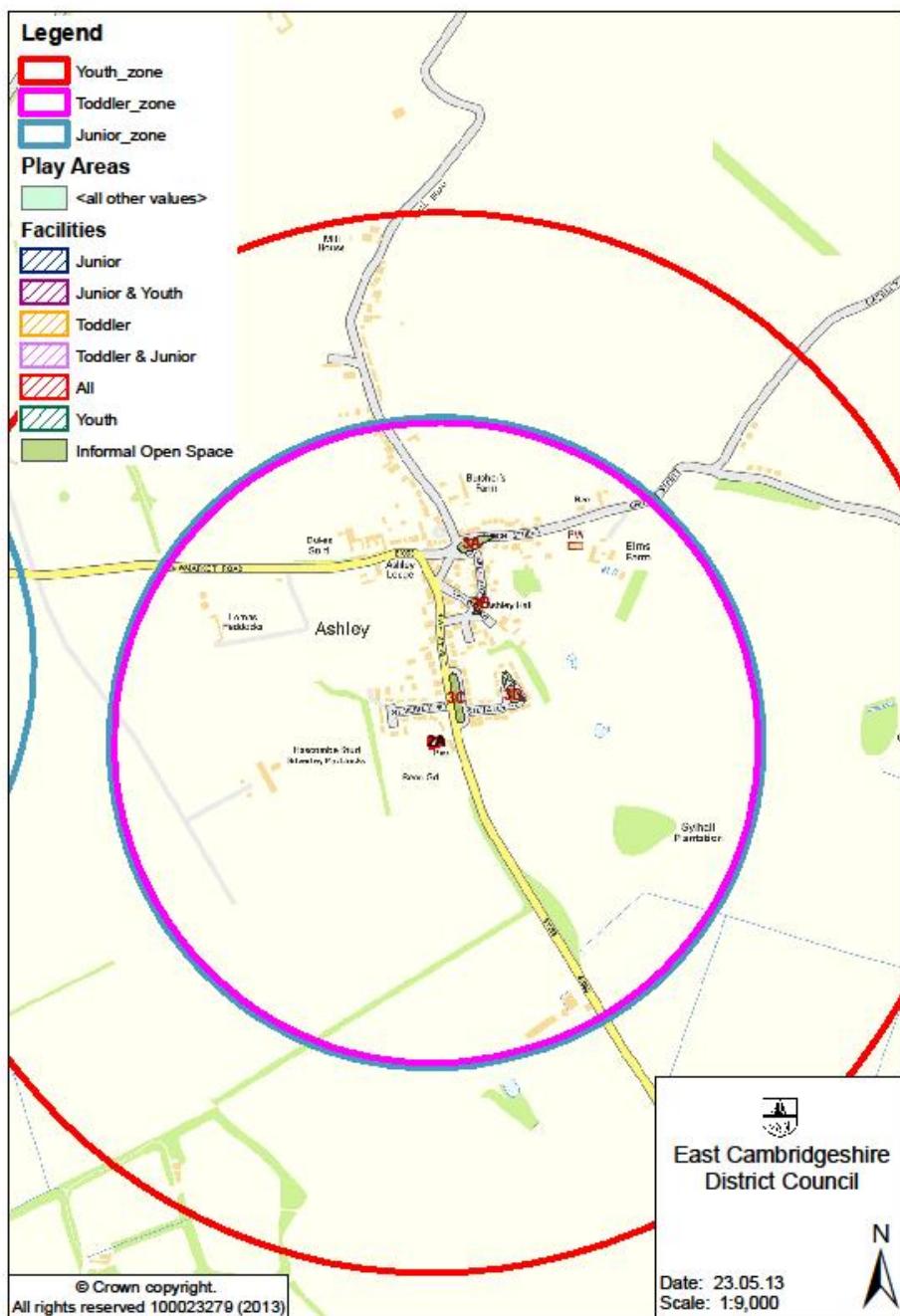
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<sup>1</sup> Play Area: A space with equipment sited for the purpose of enabling children and young people to play legitimately (including Skate Parks)

Informal Open Space: Areas of informal space (not used for formal sports), including parks, kick-about areas, green corridors and village greens.

Map illustrating the locations of existing play areas and areas of informal open space.  
The attached map illustrates the locations of play areas and areas of informal open space in Ashley.

Radial travel distances have been outlined to illustrate catchment areas for each play area. The radial travel distances are a part of the East Cambs planning standard for play areas set out in the East Cambs Sports Facilities & Play Areas Assessment 2005.



Toddler: Approx 600m straight line distance  
Junior: Approx 600m straight line distance  
Youth: Approx 1000m straight line distance

### **ECDC Assessment of play provision and informal open space against the local planning standard**

#### East Cambs Planning Standards for Play Areas and Informal Open Space

Local provision standards set by the East Cambs Sports Facilities & Play Areas Assessment 2005 and the East Cambridgeshire Informal Open Space Study 2005 were used to measure against existing provision in order to determine whether or not there is a surplus or deficit of provision.

<b>Category of Space</b>	<b>Space per person (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Standard size of area (ha)</b>
Informal Open Space	25 square metres (2.5 ha)	
Toddler Outdoor Play Space (2 to 5 years old)	0.2 square metres (0.02 ha)	0.01 ha
Junior Outdoor Play Space (6 to 12 years old)	0.8 square metres (0.08 ha)	0.04 ha
Youth Outdoor Play Space (13 to 18 years old)	1 square metres (0.1 ha)	0.1 ha

Population  
749<sup>2</sup>

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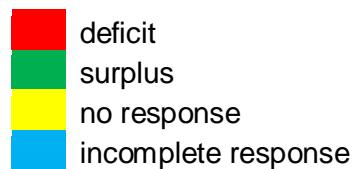
<sup>2</sup> 2011 Census, Neighbourhood Statistics, January 2013

Informal Open Space (hectares)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
0.38 hectares	1.87 hectares	-1.49 hectares

Toddlers (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
4.36 facilities	1.50 facilities	2.86 facilities

Juniors (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
1.09 facilities	1.50 facilities	-0.41 facilities

Youths (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
0.44 facilities	0.75 facilities	-0.31 facilities



## **Analysis of existing provision in Ashley**

There is currently one play area and four areas of informal open space in Ashley.

### **Deficits and surpluses of provision**

The play area in Ashley caters for toddlers, juniors youths and the parish council advise that there is a sufficient play area provision to meet community requirements however the audit identifies shortfalls in provision for juniors and youths.

Ashley Parish Council advises that there is adequate provision of informal open space, however the audit identifies that this is in fact a deficit based on the planning standard per head of population.

Any areas of open space with pitch markings or containing sporting infrastructure (e.g. goal posts, basketball hoops) have not been included in this audit as they are categorised as formal open space/sports pitches.

The map identifies that the all of the houses in Ashley fall within the radial travel distance of youth play provision.

The majority of houses in Ashley areas that fall within the radial travel distance of toddler and junior play provision, apart from properties at the north end of Mill Road, and some properties on the Gazeley Road, Dalham Road and Church Street junction.

### **Play Experiences**

The parish council advised that there is a wide range of play experiences available for children. The play area on the recreation ground provides a good mix of activities for children from 3-12 years. Older children are catered for with a cableway and youth shelter.

### **Future development**

The current play area was provided in 1991 and the surrounding structure is wooden. Within the next 2-3 years, the parish council will consider refurbishment or total replacement. It is not possible to identify an alternative site at this early stage.

### **Consultation**

In 2010, a consultation was carried out with older children regarding the type of equipment they would like in Ashley. The result was that the majority of children wanted to see a zip wire installed. The Parish Council was able to obtain grant funding and a cableway was installed in October 2011.

### **Accessibility**

Ashley Parish Council has advised that access to the play area is flat and open and that some equipment could be used by children with disabilities.

## **Further information**

### **Fields in Trust protection**

Protecting outdoor recreational space is vital for the health and wellbeing of communities now and in the future, and to increase wildlife diversity and provide habitat.

Fields in Trust works with landowners to protect outdoor spaces with legal documentation. The landowner will nominate the site and a deed of dedication is drawn up by Fields in Trust and signed by both parties. There's no transfer of ownership or management to Fields in Trust.

For further information on safeguarding outdoor recreational space, visit [www.fieldsintrust.org](http://www.fieldsintrust.org).

### **Best Practice Guidance**

Attached you will find up-to-date, best practice guidance on play area development, with information on the following:

- Location
- Design
- Access and inclusion
- Consultation and participation
- Quality
- Risk Management

### **Promotion of online tools**

The following websites may provide useful information regarding play and open space, along with helpful ways to promote your existing facilities:

Fields in Trust Protected Fields Map

[www.fieldsintrust.org](http://www.fieldsintrust.org)

East Cambridgeshire District Council

[www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)

Play England Nature Play Map

<http://www.playengland.org.uk/nature-play-map.aspx>