

## **Summary of current play from information provided by Sutton 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 Sutton 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 Sutton, using information provided by Sutton Parish Council in September 2012.

Map Ref	Location	Category <sup>1</sup>	Age Group(s)	Size (hectares)
2A	Stirling Way	PLAY	TJ	0.0564688
SUT001	Darbys Yard	PLAY	T	0.0078
3A	The Brook	INFORM		0.029601
3B	The Orchards	INFORM		0.008623

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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.

3C	Station Road	INFORM		0.096828
3D	High Street	INFORM		0.016749

T = Toddler (2 to 5 year olds)

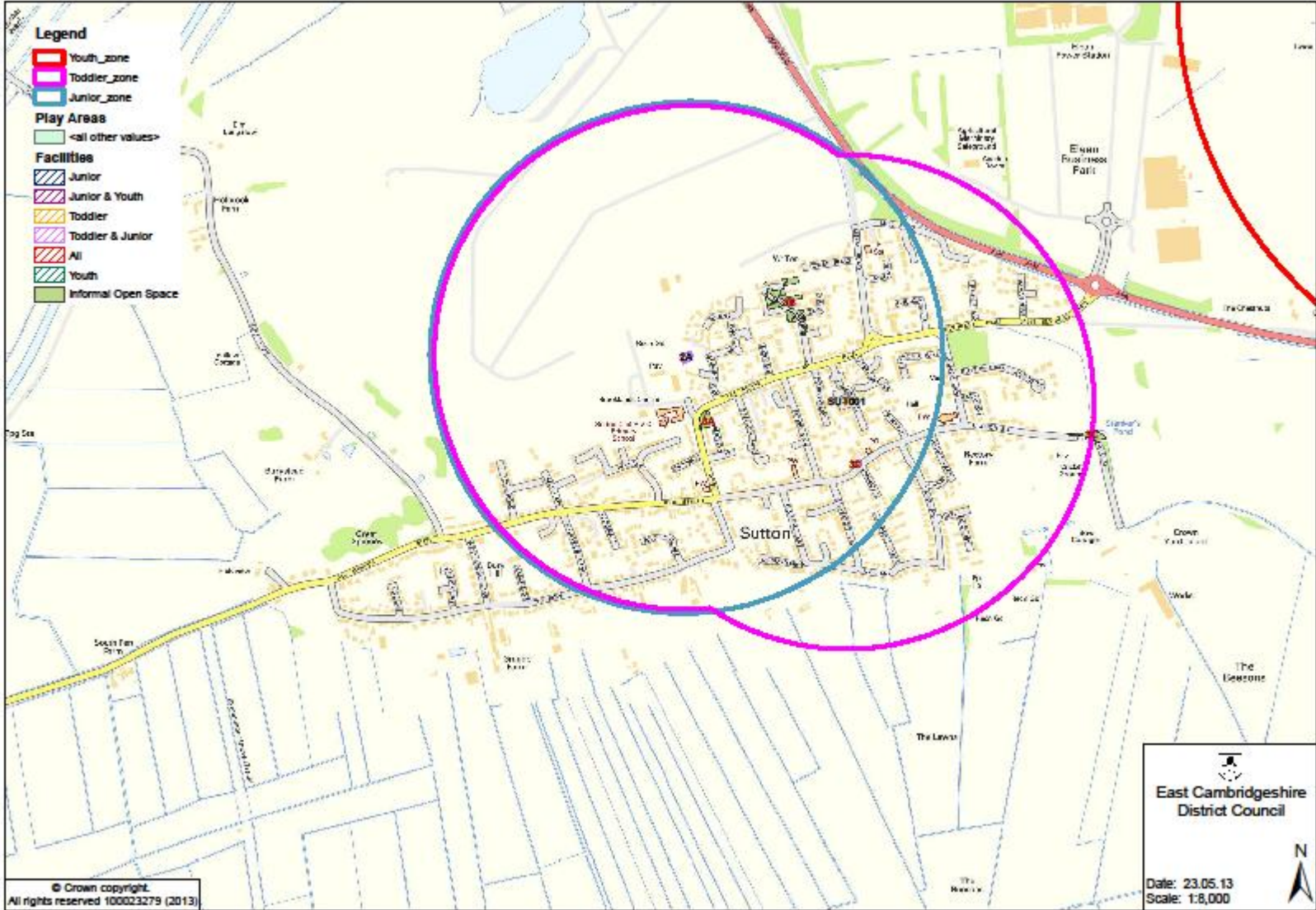
J = Junior (6 to 12 year olds)

Y = Youth (13 to 18 year olds)

Map illustrating the locations of existing play areas and areas of informal open space.

The following map illustrates the locations of play areas and areas of informal open space in Sutton.

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 (m2)</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

3,952<sup>2</sup>

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

Informal Open Space (hectares)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
0.152 hectares	9.88 hectares	-9.728 hectares

Toddlers (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
6.43 facilities	7.90 facilities	-1.48 facilities

Juniors (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
1.41 facilities	7.90 facilities	-6.49 facilities

Youths (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
0.00 facilities	3.95 facilities	-3.95 facilities

	deficit
	surplus
	no response
	incomplete response

## **Analysis of existing provision in Sutton**

There are two play areas and four areas of informal open space in Sutton.

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

Sutton Parish Council state that there are insufficient play areas to meet existing community needs. This is backed up by the audit findings as deficits for all age groups.

There is no provision for youths in Sutton; however the largest deficit is in Junior provision.

Sutton Parish Council have identified that there is sufficient informal open space within the parish, however when measured against local planning standards, there is in fact a deficit based on the size of the population.

Based upon the radial travel distances for the two existing play areas, the majority of the village of Sutton falls within the catchment areas for the two play areas, however the deficits arise due to the size of the play areas (particularly Darbys Yard which is measured at just 0.0078 hectares).

The west of the village falls outside the catchment areas for both Toddler and Junior provision, this includes the west of the America, the west of The Row and West Lodge Lane.

As well as the west side of the village, the east of the village also falls outside of the radial travel distance for Junior provision, areas include:

- the east of Ely Road
- the east of Station Road
- Church Lane
- Lawn Lane
- part of Link Lane

### **Play Experiences**

Sutton Parish Council identify that play provision is limited and does not provide a wide range of play experiences.

Sutton Parish Council scored the existing play areas using a modified version of Play England's Play Space Quality Assessment Tool Kit which considered the following criteria:

- Level of usage
- Maintenance
- Health & Safety
- Location
- Range of play experiences

Darbys Yard was scored particularly poorly by the parish council, with play experiences scoring '1' (serious weaknesses, improvements needed). Sutton Parish Council also notes that Darbys Yard is also poorly located.

The play area in Stirling Way scored a '3' (average needs some improvement) for the range of play experiences provided, however usage scored a '5' (excellent). This may be due to the

location of the area (which scored a '4') and the fact that there is little to no alternate provision within the parish.

There are no facilities for Youths.

Sutton Parish Council advise that despite significant growth in the village over the past decade (over 3000 new homes), play provision has not expanded at the same pace.

#### Accessibility

There is currently no equipment specifically designed for disabled children.

#### Future Provision

Sutton Parish Council advised that there are no plans to develop any new play areas or areas of informal open space.

#### Consultation

No recent formal consultations have been conducted specifically regarding play provision, however in the autumn 2011 Sutton Vision consultation there were 10 comments requesting adequate play areas for the number of children in the village in response to a question regarding top priorities for improvements residents would like to see in the village.

More recently a Facebook poll on the 'Sutton Notice Board' (Facebook page used by Sutton residents) over the past month has received 87 unique responses calling for play area improvements in the village.

## **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>