



SOVEREIGN
Bringing imagination into play

Case study

Edwinstowe Parish Council | Nottingham



"From our first meeting to the completion of the construction, we felt that Sovereign was on our wave-length and because they listened and worked with us, we have got exactly what we want and the area, which was rarely used before, is now a lovely place to meet and play."

Alice Dunn, Parish Clerk, Edwinstowe Parish Council



Edwinstowe Parish Council, Nottingham

Edwinstowe Parish Council in Nottingham has renovated a small play area in the middle of a housing estate in their vibrant and busy village in the heart of Sherwood Forest, the home of the legendary Robin Hood.

The issue:

The parish council needed to renovate an existing playground under a strict budget. The original play area was outdated, offering children very limited scope for imaginative or challenging play.

The resolution:

Edwinstowe Parish Council wanted an interesting play space that would be suitable to children under the age of 13, whilst at the same time providing an attractive meeting place that appealed to family groups.

As it was an existing site, most of the equipment really needed to be replaced, but some, for example, the swings, were still very serviceable. Sovereign worked their plan around what could be kept and designed a really interesting play space. Real regard was given to the budget constraints, ensuring the parish council got excellent value for money.

The process:

Various quotes for the work were obtained and Sovereign was awarded the contract as the parish council felt that they had a real understanding of their needs.

According to Alice Dunn, Parish Clerk at Edwinstowe, "Sovereign were really open to our ideas. We had involved our local children to see what they wanted from their play space and Sovereign interpreted those ideas into their designs".

The installation:

The open-plan, unfenced design featured a wide range of timber structures and play equipment that would answer the brief and offer unstructured play, providing children of different ages with challenges befitting their abilities.

A wooden roof pergola and two round picnic tables and benches were installed to give a social area and meeting place for family groups to enjoy their surroundings.

In addition to the practical and aesthetic solutions, Sovereign's design also ensured the wide range of new play equipment blended and mixed in perfectly with the existing equipment the parish council wanted to retain.

Included in the installation was one of the ideas suggested by the local children; a wooden adventure trail that would be suitable for the younger users. The result includes two balance weavers, clatter and drop rope bridges, a rope wall climber and a log traverse, interspersed with stepping stones and balance beams. Other equipment installed includes two adventure towers, the Cat and Mouse and The Buzz.

The benefits:

- The play area has become a real hub of community activity, with parents, grandparents and childminders meeting up for a chat while their children play.
- Provides unstructured play to encourage physical, mental and social development.
- The picnic benches and shelter attract local mums who often come together for picnics.
- Area is purpose-built and safe, allowing children to play freely with minimal parental supervision required.



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