



## The Park, Kilnwick East Riding of Yorkshire, England



Credit: The Park, Kilnwick

**K**ilnwick, and the nearby villages of Watton, Beswick, Lockington and Lund are rurally isolated and lack any green community areas. Apart from a village hall, Kilnwick – which has a population of 250 residents (of whom 56 are children) – has no open space for recreation.

The project team wanted to provide an interesting and safe play area for local children to have fun and develop social skills as well as an open space for all members of the community to use and enjoy. The project team also wanted to provide youth volunteering opportunities and educational facilities (e.g. nature trail).

The team approached Village SOS - and through Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council (HWRCC) - received support to find a suitable legal structure, potential funding streams for the park and information about the practicalities of running a park.



### Keeping in touch...

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### PROJECT DETAILS...

The project team initially comprised three couples in Kilnwick who had purchased some land and wanted to convert it into open space for children and other community members.

With support from Village SOS, the project team became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with a board of trustees including representatives from the Parish Council.

### Action taken with VSOS support:

- Initial Support plan drawn up by HWRCC.
- The project team contacted East Riding Voluntary Action Services (ERVAS) for advice on their legal structure.
- HWRCC carried out a funding search and provided the project team with feedback on grant applications.
- HWRCC got in touch with Humber Playing Fields Association who undertook a site visit and gave advice on playground layout, legalities and insurance.
- Village SOS organised and paid for an initial land drainage survey carried out on the play park site.
- Village SOS paid for 2 of the trustees to attend a playground inspection course and sit an examination to allow for weekly, monthly and quarterly inspections of the site to take place.
- The project team found the general support, advice and information provision from HWRCC and its contacts "invaluable...particularly through the planning application."

## Funding the project...

The land for the play park had been purchased for £45,000 by three couples and this was donated to the CIO.

Going forward, the play park is estimated to cost £45,000 including the playground equipment (£33,000) – the project team have received a Tesco “Bags of Help” small grant and are continuing to fundraise/apply for grants.

## Learning from others...

The project team has contacted a range of organisations about how to set up and run a play park, including but not limited to: East Riding Voluntary Action Services, East Riding of Yorkshire Council Play and Sport Development Team, Humber Playing Fields Association, Play England, Groundwork, 7 Playground Manufacturers, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, East Yorkshire Rivers Trust, The Woodland Trust and the Land Drainage Consultancy.



**T**he project team has made a successful application for planning permission and drawn up documentation setting out the full project costs, a timeline and organisations to approach for input around technical/practical aspects of running a park.

The project team has received more than 200 support letters for the play park - with local schools, playgroups, Youth Clubs and exercise groups writing to express their support.

Seven playground manufacturers have responded to the project team’s tender for playground equipment. The Woodland Trust has also donated and planted 420 trees on the site. The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and East Yorkshire Rivers Trust have visited the site

to suggest ways of maximising biodiversity. The project team have had land drainage works completed on the site to maximise its use all year round.

## Passing on advice to other projects...

- Ensure you consult the community effectively and extensively.
- Research, plan and never work in isolation. Seek advice, create contacts and find best practice.
- Take photos (with permission!) to document progress.
- Have endless reserves of time, enthusiasm and patience!

## What comes next?

The project team’s vision for The Park, Kilnwick is for it to be “a thriving public space for all the community to meet, play, exercise and celebrate; combining facilities for the community, education needs, encouraging wildlife and offering volunteering opportunities to all”. In 2017, the project team plan to undertake further tree planting and grass seeding, install the play equipment, and open the park to the public.

By 2019 the project team hope the park will be well known and well used by people of all ages in the local community as well as providing an education resource for local schools and enabling young people (through volunteering opportunities) to generate skills to help them in the workplace.

## Other useful sources of support...

 Tesco “Bags for Life”  
[www.groundwork.org.uk/tesco](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/tesco)

 East Riding Voluntary Action Services  
[www.ervas.org.uk](http://www.ervas.org.uk)

 Humber PFA  
[www.humberplayingfield.co.uk](http://www.humberplayingfield.co.uk)

 Play England  
[www.playengland.org.uk](http://www.playengland.org.uk)

### HWRCC

This case study was produced by Humber and Wolds RCC as one of the Village SOS partners in England.

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND COUNTRY PARTNERS

