



Sports & Play Consulting

INDEPENDENT ADVICE
AND SUPPORT



Independent advice and support for organisations looking for a new outdoor play or sports facility, who do not have the time or experience to effectively manage the process.



About us

From Assessment to Installation

At Sports and Play Consulting, our mission is to help organisations make informed choices and follow best practice. We specialise in walking you through all aspects of a new outdoor play or sports facility, including assessing your current facilities, cost analysis, requirements for procurement and tender writing, public consultation, and evaluating tender responses to get the right contractor for the project.

Additionally, we will project manage the installation and ensure the contractual obligations are met until it is formally handed over to you. We have the relevant experience to deliver the project in a timely, professional manner with open and effective communication.

Sports and Play Facilities

Projects we can help deliver include:

- Playgrounds
- Wheeled Sports
- Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)
- Outdoor Gyms
- Tennis Courts
- Sports Surfacing
- Sports Lighting

We ensure that, when considering what could be a large investment for your council, school or community, all aspects of the project have been considered as an independent advisor.

Services

Stage One

Planning & Feasibility

For many organisations such as schools, community groups, home builders or councils, a new playground or sports facility may be an unfamiliar exercise. For what can be a large investment, we will guide you through the entire process.

We can assist initially by providing you some of the basic yet critical information to assess the viability of a project, and how to start planning for the formal process.

Some considerations and questions include:

- What is this going to cost?
- What equipment, surfacing and groundworks would be recommended?
- How long does a project like this take?
- What regulations do I need to follow?
- Do I need a maintenance and sinking fund?
- Is planning permission needed?
- What about drainage, seating and pathways?
- How often do I need to inspect the new playground or sports area?

This is the first step to really understanding what is involved and how you should go about getting a new play or sports facility, ultimately leading to the next step: tendering and evaluation.





Stage Two

Tendering & Evaluation

The next step is starting the formal process to find the right, design, equipment and contractor for the work. There are a large number of suppliers in the UK in terms of experience, quality, products, coverage, and who and how they manage supply chains.

The 2015 Public Procurement Regulations also stipulates the best practice and guidance that councils and other publicly funded bodies need to follow.

Some considerations for this stage include:

- How do I write a brief and formal tender?
- What should I allow for the budget?
- How do I score the submissions?
- What if I do not have time to meet or answer the supplier's questions about the tender?
- What technical information will I need to ensure a "fit for purpose" facility?
- What are the procurement regulations I should follow?
- Who will be the most suitable contractors for my project?
- Should I conduct a public consultation and what is the best approach?

The tender and evaluation process can take many months of planning, publicising, and evaluating the responses. This is probably the most critical stage, and we can make sure you follow the right guidelines and assist you effectively when choosing a contractor.



Stage Three

Contract & Project Management

The final and most rewarding stage of the process is the construction phase, as this leads to the finished product and the tangible goal of all the hard work. Although a contractor has been selected, many risks are still present, and any number of factors can cause delays, quality control issues and any number of challenges for you and your organisation.

Our organisation takes away the pain and manages the process on your behalf alongside the contractor. The primary goal is to make the installation process as smooth as possible, while updating you regularly and effectively with complete transparency.

Some considerations for this stage include:

- When will the project start and finish?
- What impact will there be on the local community?
- How do I know the work is being installed as it should be?
- How quickly can an issue be resolved?
- Is there a 'Construction Plan' in place?
- Is everything on track, and what are the risks of delay?

Our goal is to ensure that every stage, right through to the completion of the play or sports facility is to the best standard, and the contractor has met the contractual obligations. Although things can go wrong, our role is to manage these risks in the best interest of you as the end customer.





Michael Carter
Managing Director

Michael started Sports and Play Consulting in March 2018. With a strong background in global account management, procurement and project management, he used his 10 years of industry experience with some of the largest indoor and outdoor play and sports providers in Australia and the United Kingdom, to combine these into what is the unique business offered today.

Michael has worked in Sydney, Perth, London, and completed numerous courses and accredited training sessions, from a Degree in Business at a Sydney University, Account Management in Singapore, Procurement and Project Management courses in London and is a fully Accredited Prince2® Practitioner.

Testimonials

Canon Park Redevelopment Project (Fitness area, playground and MUGA)

Berkeley Town Council started their journey in the summer of 2019 and soon discovered that requesting quotes from play companies was not going to get us what we wanted for the budget that we had.

Sports and Play Consulting supports and manages the whole project and specialises in Play Equipment, Fitness and Multi-Use Games Areas. Michael advised us that the aim was to act in the best interest of the Council (and Town) in terms of advice, time, risk and value for money. The project would be split into three phases Procurement, Evaluation and Consultation, and Project and Contract Management. Due to the size of the project we had to comply with the 2015 Public Procurement Regulations and Michael was well aware of the process.

The whole project was complete by August 2021. During the build Michael met the suppliers regularly on site and was always there to help with advice and any post installation problems.

Many small councils only have a part time Clerk, and we would never have been able to produce such a wonderful recreational area without the help of Sports and Play Consulting and would thoroughly recommend their services.

Justine Hopkins,
Town Clerk for Berkeley Town Council

“Kidlington Parish Council used Michael’s services to prepare a tender for a large playground and outdoor fitness project in the village. He was knowledgeable, professional, and made the whole process efficient and straightforward. Michael led us through the entire process from tender to awarding the contract and negotiated on our behalf with the potential contractors. I would not hesitate to recommend Michael for a similar project.”

Rachel Faulkner,
Clerk to Kidlington Parish Council

“Micheldever Parish Council would be very likely to use Michael for any future projects. He saved a considerable amount of time for the Councillors and Clerk and delivered the project in a very short period of time whilst maintaining good relationships and communication with all involved.”

Jocelyn Jenkins,
Clerk to Micheldever Parish Council

“Michael was key to moving our project forward from drawing up the specification and tender documentation, guiding our consultation, negotiating with contractors then right through to project managing the build. His experience and knowledge of how the town and parish council sector works was enormously helpful too. We’ll have no hesitation in using his services for future projects.”

Shelley Parker,
Town Clerk for Marlborough Town Council

“Equipment is not cheap and must be selected carefully to ensure it has longevity with minimal future maintenance costs. The suppliers offer such broad ranges of equipment these days, it can be difficult to identify the correct play equipment for your situation. Personally, I am glad we have used Michael Carter’s services and I have no doubt that we will have benefited from his involvement with this process.”

Andrew Edmondson,
Wicken Parish Council





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