



**NEWS RELEASE – 17 May 2011**

## **IT'S ALL FUN AND GAMES IN CHERHILL**

The sound of young people at play can once again be heard in Cherhill village following the opening of the refurbished Tommy Croker Memorial Playing Field last week.

The opening ceremony took place on Thursday 12 May and was performed by Mike Hill, chief executive of the Hills Group, who said “This is an enchanting children’s play area and it will remain a wonderful community asset for many years to come. It is a pleasure and privilege for the Hills Group to be associated with the development.”

The Tommy Croker Memorial Playing Field is located on land gifted to Cherhill village in 1953 by the Croker family in memory of their 21 year old son, Tommy, who passed away following a motor cycle accident. Dorothy and John Croker, cousins of Tommy Croker, who attended the opening commented “we are both delighted with the new play area and honoured to be part of the celebrations.”

Also in attendance were a number of Cherhill residents and representatives from Wiltshire Council, Community First, the Community Foundation for Wiltshire and Swindon, and the Childrens Playground Company.

Shauna Bodman, chairperson Cherhill Parish Council said, “Cherhill village is indebted to the Tommy Croker Memorial Playing Field committee who spent huge amounts of time and energy on the project and provided us with a phenomenal play area. We are also especially grateful to all our funders and supporters who gave so generously and without whom this project would not have been possible.”

Local youngsters who attended the opening gave the official ‘thumbs-up’ when asked what they thought of the new playing field:

“I think the new park is brilliant as the colours are bright and cheerful. The zip wire and the basket swing have been the biggest changes and the goals are superb, as they are proper ones and not a strip of metal like before. I will go to the park more often now to meet my mates.” (Boy, 11 years old).

“I like the park and the zip wire because it goes really fast.” (Girl, 4 years old)

The playing field’s new layout and equipment is based on designs and ideas gained through consultation with both parents and children from the local community.

**ENDS**



Image :

Left to right: Taryn George (Community Foundation for Wiltshire and Swindon), Travis Young (Wiltshire Council), Nicky Williams (Wiltshire Council), Mike Hill (The Hills Group), Colin Kennerson (Wiltshire Council), Rebecca Lamont-Jiggins (Community First) and John Ashcroft (Tommy Croker Memorial Playing Field committee)

Notes to editors



- Funding for the playing field was obtained through:
  - The Hills Group via Community First with a grant from the Landfill Communities Fund (£22,528)
  - Playbuilders Fund through Wiltshire Council (£20,000)
  - Community Foundation for Wiltshire and Swindon (£5,000)
- The play equipment, most of which is constructed from natural wood, was supplied by the Childrens Playground Company Ltd
- The Hills Group Limited, established in 1900, is a privately owned family company with a broad and successful portfolio of business activities which include recycling and waste management; quarrying of aggregates and production of ready-mixed concrete; and building new homes.
- Over the past 15 years the Hills Group has channelled some £8 million into environmental and other good causes across Wiltshire through the Landfill Communities Fund.  
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**Media contact:**

Monique Hayes, Communications Officer, The Hills Group Limited

Tel: 01672 518941     [mhayes@hills-group.co.uk](mailto:mhayes@hills-group.co.uk)

