

**Great Braxted Parish Council**

**Sarah Gaeta - Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer**

**Tel: 07307 891134**

**Email:** **greatbraxtedpc@gmail.com**

**What do we want?** Great Braxted Parish Council is aware that careful preparation and planning are essential to the long-term success of its play space. The location is fixed so the Council is seeking a contractor who can plan around all the other features of the village play area to produce a playground fit for purpose. The new playground will need to engage all local children, be inclusive and accessible, be safe to use and ensure that children’s physical, emotional and educational needs are catered for when upgrading, whilst ensuring the investment of funds have been put to a worthwhile purpose.

Great Braxted Parish Council manages one playground in Great Braxted and plans to upgrade this dedicated play area:

**Great Braxted** village has a small playground in the middle of the village. The 20+ year current equipment (which will be removed by external source) is looking somewhat tired and more than a little ‘unloved’, with out-dated equipment, that for some time has required replacement/upgrade so that it can be enjoyed by residents for generations to come. Within the play area there is an outdoor adult gym, and this should be taken into consideration when planning to ensure all British Standards and regulations are adhered too. A play space which appeals to children of a broad range of ages and abilities is an essential requirement of the project.

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**Design brief:**

There is growing evidence that children spend less time enjoying outdoor play than at any point in our modern history. At the same time, under current pandemic conditions, outdoor play is one of the few options available as a leisure activity for children. The new play area will need to inform the creation of outdoor play space for years to come, doing justice to children’s endless capacity for adventure and imagination, their need for exercise and social interaction and, above all, to their innate sense of fun. Places where children play can be important social places, not just for children and young people, but also for parents, carers and the wider community.

The play space will need to be of high-quality Timber and good design to attract children and families and become a valued part of the local environment. Safety is often a barrier to encouraging outdoor play, so we want play space that helps children play safely and to encourage parents to let their children play outside, allowing children to learn about managing risk.

Inclusivity, creative play and ensuring the playground can be enjoyed by children of different age groups, with a diversity of needs has been a key consideration when choosing the playground equipment.

**The Equipment Blueprint that must be applied is (structures predominantly all in timber):**

* 2-Bay Toddler Swing – 2x Flat / 1x1200mm Nest - DDA Accessible (Disability Discrimination Act)
* Junior Seat Swing
* 2 Springy Play seats – 1x Horse (DDA accessible), 1 x duck
* See Saw – 3000mm length, with ergonomic moulded seats
* Junior Play Unit (Key Stage 2 - Platform no higher than 1500mm with waney board barrier panels, also to include slatted suspension bridge, steel slide, steel fireman’s pole, inclined ramp with pull up rope, vertical climbing wall, scramble net in coloured steel core rope, 2x single pitch roofs)
* Toddler Play Tractor (Key Stage 1 – Platform no higher than 600mm, also to include colourful rock all, steel slide, real wheels front & rear)
* Embankment Slide – using all excavated soil from site installations and base works, create a mound which upcycles and repurposes existing steel slide. The mound will be shaped and lightly compacted prior to being raked over and seeded on completion of the works.
* DDA Roundabout - 2000mm DDA accessible roundabout manufactured in powder coated steel with a chequer plate surface.
* Sensory Play Station – with following features: Mini shelter complete with overlap boarded roof and seating, Dry wipe drawing panel, Animal spell play panel, Grocer’s shop play panel and Butterfly light play panel.

**The principles to consider for designing the play spaces for Great Braxted:**

* Age appropriate
* Hard wearing
* Imaginative play
* Freeflow play
* Design based around maximum usage
* “Bespoke”
* Make use of natural elements
* Provide a wide range of play experiences
* Meet community needs
* Allow children of different ages play together
* Build opportunities for children to experience risk and challenge
* Sustainable and appropriately maintained
* Allow for change and evolution
* Accessibility for both able and disabled children
* Place for children to play safely
* Place where parents feel secure about letting their children play

**Key Project Specifications:**

* Sustainable construction materials best suited to this tender
* All equipment laid on an all-weather safety ‘Eco-Mulch’ surface that meets all CFH per equipment on a bed of 50mm Type 1 MOT & Double Geotextile Membrane. (Surfacing cut in and laid in ground then backfilled with soil i.e. no hard edging.
* Consideration/pricing will also need to include an all-weather safety ‘Eco-Mulch’ pathway from the 5-bar gate on Tiptree Road to start of playground.
* Ease of maintenance
* Environmental features
* Educational features & Sensory elements for both able and disabled children
* Design aesthetics
* Differentiation between each play area
* PII, repair, maintenance & annual inspection for at least 5 years as part of tender
* If awarded contract supply a programme of works, RAMS, H&S and insurances
* Supply, erect and maintain heras security fencing around the perimeter of the working and storage areas for the duration of the works.
* Provide onsite secure storage facilities to house plant and tools for the duration of the works.
* Clear site of the above on the completion of the works.
* 20yr warranty on timbers required, 5yrs on surfacing, 10yrs on steel fixings, 10yrs for climbing hold & panels, 2yrs minimum for Swing Seats, Springs, Nets, Ropes
* Budget (£50-60k)
* Site working Hours: Mon-Fri 08:00-17:30 / Saturday 08:00-13:00 / Sunday: None