

Specification for Langham Parish Council Play Area upgrade.

15th June 2022

Background- Langham Parish Council owns and maintains the area known as Langham Recreation Ground, School Road, Langham. (For clarity this is Langham Essex and not Langham Rutland or Norfolk.).

The children's play equipment has been in situ for over twenty years with minimal improvement. It is therefore in need of significant updating to meet equality and diversity needs as well as a more stimulating variety of equipment for a wider age range.

The schedule of specifications outlined below has been determined by consultation with residents which was a village wide survey carried out to ascertain residents' requirements. This was additionally supported by drop-in sessions at the village Community Centre. The improvement of the play area facilities came out top of the list of our residents' requirements.

This specification should be read in conjunction with our attached plan.

We will ask a minimum of five respondents in line with public sector procurement guidelines.

The decision to look to procure metal framed equipment was based around consultation and the additional perception that it was more expensive to maintain wooden equipment given the UK climate over winter.

The equipment list was compiled after considering what equipment we currently had which could be upgraded, as well as what was readily available from suppliers to further enhance the offering.

The anticipated timeline for deployment will very much be driven by the availability of supply in the current circumstance worldwide.

Equipment – to be metal framed.

1. Existing equipment numbers – 1, 2, 3, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14 and bench (16) to remain in situ.
2. New roundabout with disabled capability
3. New log swing ride. Horizontal movement.
4. New multi directional swing suspended from cantilever arm with child friendly saucer style seat.
5. New ground level trampoline 1.5m square.
6. New combination play area with at least the following features: -
 - a. Slide, at least partly covered/tube style
 - b. Climbing feature
 - c. Bridge feature – rope style?
 - d. Firefighter's pole or similar
 - e. A small but open covered area or small tunnel feature
 - f. Sensory or any other neurodiverse feature
7. Perimeter of the play area to be secured with 1.2m high bow top metal railings powder painted in green. The fenced area alongside the hedge is to remain as is. Any required repairs to be done can use the existing fencing panels that are being replaced.
8. Existing entrance points indicated on the plan are to be retained. Existing gates are to be re-used where possible and painted to match new railings.
9. One double gate feature is needed as on plan to permit access by lawn mowing equipment.
10. Picnic table is required as space permits, ideally as located on plan.
11. Postman Pat ride (10) is not required but replaced with a more contemporary design and located in a safe area recommended by you and potentially in the area of equipment 12,13,14.

12. Equipment 8, 9 is to be moved as per (bullet point 11) and ideally co-located with the new contemporary piece.
13. Item (4) is not required.
14. Equipment 5, 6 & 15 are out of scope.
15. Recommendations are requested for the existing equipment to be re-painted or cleaned.

Ideas and suggestions for a minor alteration in the layout or alternative new equipment to those mentioned at 1 – 6 will be considered. We appreciate that space may also be an issue and would welcome suggestions as a value-add offering from providers who regularly install recreational facilities.

Equipment Area

This is to remain mainly as grass other than safety flooring around each item of equipment, although we would welcome offers as to how we may replace the complete area with safety surfacing in terms of value-add recommendations. Existing safety flooring can be retained if considered adequate and safe. Assessment and recommendations about the flooring around the existing equipment is required and must be itemised by each piece of equipment. Where appropriate please advise on style of ground covering felt appropriate and quote for each style.

It is within scope for the play area to be extended as required and annotated in the diagram.

Maintenance

It is a requirement that all equipment in the play area will be inspected after installation and maintained by an accredited RoSPA Inspector which may or may not be the successful contractor. Langham Parish Council has an obligation to have this equipment checked annually by a RoSPA accredited inspector, as well as being checked weekly by our own suitably trained personnel.

Design Suggestions from Suppliers

Whilst the above statement of requirements has been determined via community consultation, should and prospective respondents feel there is either a better way to implement the suggested equipment or a more diverse choice of equipment available, we are willing to listen and consider this but do ask that the requested configuration is responded to in the first instance.

Success Measurements:

With a very high proportion of respondents to a village survey in 2021 citing improving the play area as key, a measure of success will be the visible increase in usage of the facility by a wider age group. The in-situ equipment is very much targeted at the younger age groups (3-5) with limited stimulating equipment for those in older age brackets. The key trigger for better use will be to see the inclusive nature of what we hope to deploy and the equipment being used by those with varying degrees of disabilities both physical and otherwise.

Langham Parish Council
June 2022

END