



SPECIFICATION

**Meadow Road Park Project
Kettering**

**Design, Supply and Installation of Two Bank
Slides**

Spring 2020

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Background & Vision

1.1 Kettering Borough Council (the “Council”) is re-developing Meadow Road Park, Kettering, which is situated in close proximity to the town centre. The parks refurbishment is based on the wider town centre regeneration agenda and the Council are seeking to transform the park into the towns primary destination park.

1.2 The Council have began the first phase of the project with an all new equipped children’s play area, extensive pathways and landscaping, new street lights and seating.

1.3 Under the second phase of works the council seeking to introduce two large ‘side by side’ bank slides. As the park is based on a sloping hillside – with the present play area sitting on flat terraced sections – the vision for the bank slides will be to allow children entering from the main top path to ‘slide down into the main play area’ whilst mum/dad walk down the nearby pathway.

2. Equipment details

2.1 Each slide shall be in excess of 10 metres long but sized to fit the westerly facing slope in accordance with the other below requirements. Please especially note pictorial sections below.

2.2 The slides will be made of stainless steel. They may be in one piece or sectional. Consideration should be given to the accessibility of the site. Works vans can access the location of the slides but not larger vehicles.

2.3 The top of the slides will be onto a (i) single ‘tower’ or (ii) two connected towers. The tower(s) maybe timber or steel construction provided that the support legs have metal lowers for ground attachment. Installing timber legs directly into the ground is not an option. Where the tower(s) are made of metal, they shall be coloured so as to ‘blend’ in with the surrounding trees. So bright colours will not be considered.

2.3.1 The appearance of the tower(s) is important and ‘telegraph pole’ looking tanalised timbers would not likely be considered appropriate, so timber construction should consider this point.

2.4 All fixings shall be in stainless steel and be of a tamper proof type .

2.5 The tower(s) shall be of a sufficient size to accommodate up to 4-5 users waiting their turn to slide.

2.6 The decks of the towers will NOT be a of a timber or synthetic based composite material. They shall be steel, rubber or solid timber (where the main tower(s) is made from timber.

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2.7 The tower(s) will be accessible to children with mobility restrictions, but will not require wheelchair accessible ramps. Preference will be given to designs which incorporate additional features into the tower(s) such as a climb wall, net etc.

2.8 The tower(s) will be secure in that there will be minimal opportunity for users to fall from them. Therefore they will be open only at the entry and exit points. Other points on the towers will include fencing of some sort.

2.9 Bank slides require a fall of at least 30 degree minimum. The slope where the slides are to be installed are in the order of 25 degrees – so a slide following the contours of the land will not suffice. The council has considered cutting into the base, in order to achieve the required fall but this has been discounted. Therefore the slides will need raised towers at the top of the bank.

2.9.1 In order to ensure that the towers are not too tall, it is suggested that the towers can be placed 'in the slope' rather than on top of the slope, so that the tower(s) protrude like a seaside pier. Details of these are listed below.

2.10 The two slides may track side by side for the duration of their run, or alternatively be curved inwards to meet at the bottom or outwards like cow horns. These alternative curved designs would add to the overall design and be considered positively. The supplier should consider this against the cost.

2.11 The slides will be open and NOT covered.

3. Installation & Access

3.1 Installation will be a soft dig

3.2 RoSPA standards seek 'impact attenuating surfacing' for fall heights of 1.5m or above. To minimise the use of un-necessary surfacing, its use should be restricted to where 1.5m fall heights exists. A 'wear pad' will be required at the landing spot at the bottom of the slides and around the tower(s) access points.

3.3 Surfacing will be a bonded rubber mulch laid over a compacted stone base in order than a level surface be provided.

3.4. An access route from the end of the slides back up to the tower(s) will be provided. The design will be left to the supplier, but formal cut in steps would suffice, or perhaps a series of rocks forming a 'natural' staircase.

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The above internet image gives an accurate portrayal of the Meadow Road site in terms of slope length and fall (though this is not Meadow Rd park). It also shows how the slides will need to have a steeper slope to them than the natural slope of the land. Please see drawing of the tower design below to show how the tower should fit into the slope. Note that Option 2 is the preferred option.

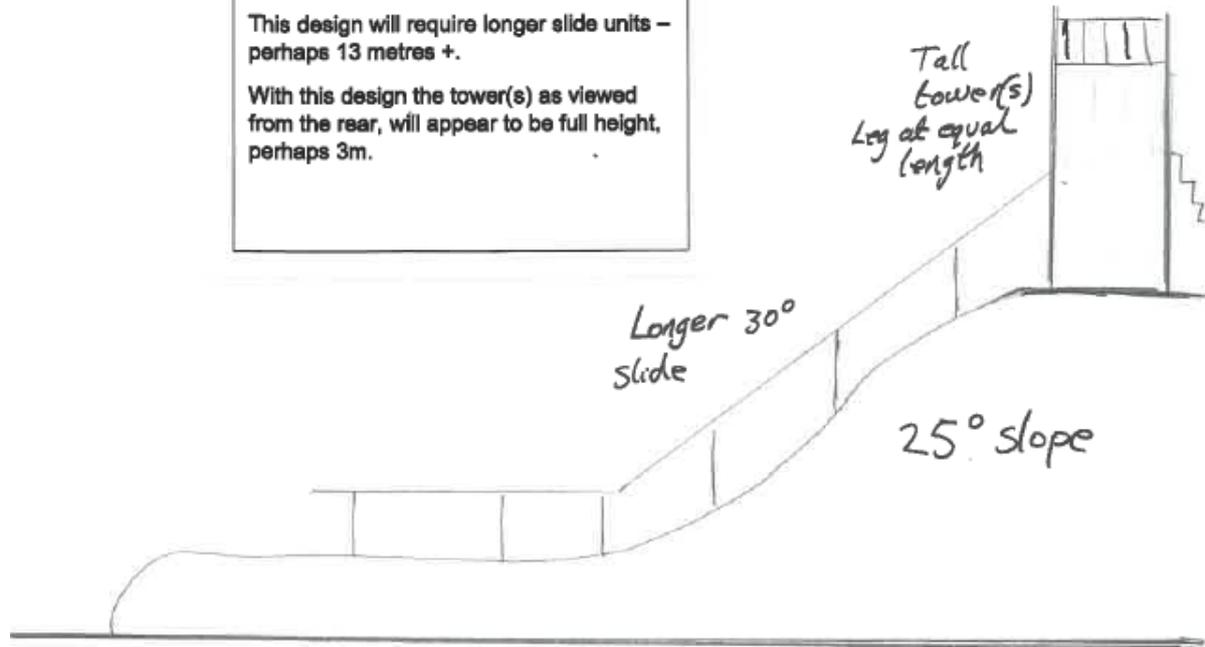
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Option 1 - NOT PREFERRED

Tall tower(s) is placed at the top of the slope and may need to be 3m tall to ensure 30+ degree fall of the slides.

This design will require longer slide units – perhaps 13 metres +.

With this design the tower(s) as viewed from the rear, will appear to be full height, perhaps 3m.



Option 2 PREFERRED

That the tower(s) be 'brought forward' in relation to the slope so that the front legs be on the slope. Accordingly the front tower support legs will need to be longer than the rear support legs.

The tower will therefore protrude, like a pier, into the slope.

With this design the overall height, as viewed from the rear, will appear lower, perhaps 2m.

This design will mean a shorter yet steeper slide run.

