

Design and Access statement, landscaping and Transport for the proposed new playground at Crowmarsh Recreation Ground. 10-11-2017

The proposal

To replace and increase the size and play amenity value of the play area.

The existing play area is over 20 years old and in need of replacement.

Site Plan CRO-PO2 shows the existing size and the photographs the context of the existing play area.

To provide a new external gym.

Design and Access

The proposal aims to take account of the 10 principles for designing successful play spaces. Set out in Play England's guide document – Design for Play

1. are 'bespoke'
2. are well located
3. make use of natural elements
4. provide a wide range of play experiences
5. are accessible to both disabled and non-disabled children
6. meet community needs
7. allow children of different ages to play together
8. build in opportunities to experience risk and challenge
9. are sustainable and appropriately maintained
10. allow for change and evolution

Please see the proposed plan CRO-P03 and CRO-P13 for 3D images.

The proposal aims to create a play area that is different to others in the area and offers children a variety of play opportunities that promote discovery, fun and challenge. There are bespoke and different elements than used in other local parks, such as the mounds M1 and M2 and associated equipment, the 6-bay swing (3), 30m dual cableway (1) and Extron equipment (15).

The location in the recreation park next to the Pavilion and the car park, allows for good access on foot or by vehicle. The Pavilion and Play park facilities can both benefit from each other. It is intended that the Pavilion WC's are made more accessible to local people using the play area and recreation ground, while taking into account issues of security. The viability and use of the Pavilion for children's parties etc. could increase as some will also benefit from use of the play area.

The play area will use natural elements such as the existing trees and bushes, using grass for the ground, 4 soil mounds, 3 with grass over. The play equipment where possible and appropriate will use timber frames, which will help blend in and be more aesthetically appealing. The timber is to be obtained from sustainable sources and treated with environmentally friendly preservatives. See CRO-P11 for images and CRO-P12 for sizes and elevations. Equipment references numbers are used on the site plan.

There would be a wide range of play experiences for children of all ages and abilities. Many of the play equipment items will be 'Inclusive' - for use by the less abled, these are noted with 'DDA' on plan CRO-P03 and on equipment sheets CRO-P11. Some of the seating with tables will be inclusive for wheelchair use.

Play values include: Running, jumping, climbing, social interaction swinging, balancing, crawling, sliding, spinning, bouncing. With play benefits of Upper and lower body strength development, balance development, social interaction and inclusion, motion awareness, hand, eye and foot co-ordination, co-operation, challenge, competition, acceptable level of risk taking.

CRO-P10 shows elevations of the 2 pieces of equipment that exceed 4 metres in height.

The external gym location is shown on CRO-P03, images of the equipment on CRO-P11 sheet 6 and a 3D image on CRO-P13 sheet 6

Benches and tables are to be provided as located on plan CRO-P03. For an image see CRO-P11 sheet 1 – item 8.

Landscaping

The 4 existing trees shown on plans CRO-P02 and P03 will be retained. Bushes will be trimmed. New planting will be incorporated to increase the play amenity and to enhance the visual appearance.

The existing play area uses wood chippings for the ground, which will be removed. This area and the rest of new increased play area will be grass, except for the path and 1 of the mounds (M4) which will have artificial grass, as noted on the plan.

To reduce grass wear and increase safety, grass matting, which lets grass grow through, will be used round the equipment. See CRO-P11 item 29 for a detail and plan CRO-P03 for locations.

Transport

No change from existing. The numbers of vehicle parking spaces for the Recreation Ground as a whole, are noted in section 10 of the Planning Application.