

### **Soft Landscaping specification**

There are a few considerations to be taken into account.

Redistribution of excavated topsoil should be aimed at creating shallow mounds with smooth profiles to roughly 30 or 40cms in height. They will hopefully be attractive to the smallest children for running along and up and down, but at the same time we would want to discourage young mountain bikers from using them for acrobatics and jumps. Judicious planting of tough shrubs may help there.

Planting around the 'Make Space for Girls' area should be attractive, help to define and delineate the area but without blocking sight lines and leaving the girls feeling vulnerable.

Any screening will benefit the adjoining houses by minimising the visual impact of the new sports area. Considerations.

- 1) Toxicity of plants and any fruits or berries. It would be good to install an information board naming the plants and their value for wildlife rather than for people.
- 2) The plants need to be robust enough to survive kids, dogs and balls.
- 3) Must be able to withstand pruning to maintain appropriate sizes.
- 4) Drainage. Area between seating and houses, (eastern side of side,) can be wet in winter so plants either need to be able to cope with that or they need to be planted on the new raised areas.
- 5) Consideration given to the implications for maintenance, mowing or strimming of creating mounds.

Suitable for wet soils:

Willow, either grown as individual trees/shrubs or as living screens.

Cornus stolonifera 'Flaviramea' and Cornus alba 'Sibirica', shrubs with yellow or red coloured stems in winter. (Once established will need pruning back annually.)

Plants requiring good drainage:

Crab apples - tree

Guelder rose - shrub

Amelanchier - can be either tree or shrub

Birch - tree

Tough plants may be grown as shrubs or as formal/informal hedging

Prunus lusitanica myrtifolia. Small leaved Portuguese laurel. Hardy, easy, may have small flowers and berries.

Elaeagnus ebbingei. Easy, pretty and tough. Flowers are small and sweetly scented, may have berries.