

Gasson's Lane Playground Installation

Location

Somerton Recreation Ground, Sille Le Guillaume Way, Somerton, TA11 6HU (new location and currently green space. The old play area will remain for the time being)

Area is approximately: 37x 67 metres marked in Red on below map.



Scope

This project requires the supply and installation of new play equipment (ages from 2 - 14 years) including play area surfacing. The principal focus of the new play equipment is imagination and inclusivity, providing play items for the up to 2-14-year-old age group.

The council is seeking a play area which incorporates imagination, challenge, and excitement for the target age group, and as such the proposed list of play equipment items set out below is a broad indication of the councils and communities' vision. The list of play equipment items is intentionally generic by description, allowing Contractors to use their innovation and experience from within their own organisations and product ranges.

The council is content with a range of materials to be used and seek to see the use of sustainable or environmentally friendly products which are durable in nature.

The successful bidder must supply play equipment meeting British Safety Standards for Playground Equipment and include a post installation inspection. Lay safety surfacing to meet safety standards (BS EN1177). Colours shall be in all instances complimentary of the local environment. This applies to the surfacing also, but black is acceptable for surfacing if matting.

Contractors are encouraged to consider a range of play values and disciplines and make clear within the submission, the play value for each individual item of equipment. The playscape should incorporate the widest array of possible activities to stimulate both the physical and social growth of users.

The list of play equipment items to be considered must include but are not restricted to:

- 1 Basket swing
- 1 pair Flat swings to include accessible options
- 1 large Centre piece - multi-play unit with range of play features including a slide, bridge and angled climbing wall and activity panels (not too enclosed)
- 1 smaller multi-play for younger children
- 1 balance trail to bring the scheme together
- 1 Monkey Bars
- 1 Rope net pyramid spinner
- 1 Rope swing
- 1 Spring rider
- 1 In ground trampoline
- 1 pair Toddler Swings
- 5 Benches
- Accessible meandering path

Inclusivity and Imagination

Design Concept

A Wildlife & Countryside Adventure — a playful journey through meadows, forests, and rivers, celebrating the natural beauty and biodiversity of the countryside. The design encourages imaginative play, sensory engagement, and inclusive participation for all children, regardless of ability or age.

Principals

- **Inclusivity:** Every feature accommodates a broad range of physical, sensory, and cognitive abilities.
- **Imagination & Role Play:** Spaces encourage storytelling, exploration, and cooperative play.
- **Nature Connection:** Use of some natural textures, materials, and soundscapes to evoke the outdoors.
- **Age-Appropriate Zoning:** Different challenge levels for toddlers, juniors, and older children, yet visually connected.
- **Sensory & Social Engagement:** Quiet spaces and social hubs to suit both energetic and reflective play styles.

Supporting Features

- Accessible pathways with clear contrast edges and tactile indicators.
- Inclusive signage with symbols, braille, and visual cues.
- Natural materials: timber, stone, recycled materials, and edible planting.
- Rest & social areas: benches with armrests, and wheelchair space

Inclusivity and imagination are important elements of this project. Contractors are encouraged to consider items of play equipment that are inclusive for all and promote imagination, inquisitiveness, and curiosity in the

children. Consideration of natural woodland shapes, colours, materials, range of equipment, ease and assistance for access are features the Council is seeking to include. Connectivity within the play space is an essential feature, enabling people with impaired mobility or those in wheelchairs and with pushchairs to manoeuvre within the play space.

Presentation

The Council requires the Contractors proposals to be set out on a scaled drawing showing the layout of each item of equipment, entrances and connecting paths. The layout plans should itemise each item of equipment on an accompanying 'key'. The Contractor may submit 3D visual drawings showing the play area layout on the site. The Contractor is encouraged to visit the site. The Contractor should show within its price the cost for the removal, supply, and installation of any surfacing.

Tender submissions

All concepts and quotes must include equipment, delivery, installation, ground works including safety surfacing, post installation inspection, removal of spoils and clearly state warranties and guarantees.

Contractors must hold public and employer liability insurance of at least £10 million, must be legally registered to carry out construction and installation work in the UK, comply with relevant UK Health and Safety regulations and be able to provide two references for similar local play area installations.

Somerton Town Council reserve the right to approve the final design following community consultation.

Delivery, Installation and compliance with relevant safety standards are mandatory.

Community Engagement

Final designs and concepts will be reviewed by Somerton Town Council and shared with the community for feedback.

Score will be marked on

- 1) Imagination and inclusivity
- 2) Innovation and experience
- 3) Quality of submission, concept and design
- 4) Sustainable or environmentally friendly products
- 5) Durability and quality
- 6) Range of play values and disciplines physical and social growth of users
- 7) Nature Connection
- 8) Age-Appropriate Zoning
- 9) Outcome of Public consultation over concepts received
- 10) Cost