

# Invitation to Tender for Sunningwell Parish Council Playground

**Site location:  
Sunningwell Cricket Club  
29 Sunningwell Road  
Sunningwell  
Abingdon  
OX13 6RL**

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## **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

Sunningwell Parish Council (“the Council”) is proposing to replace its playground equipment with the installation of new equipment, foundation and appropriate surfacing for younger children. The play area is intended to be used by children with ages ranging from toddler to 12 years old.

Experienced play area installers are invited to tender for the contract. It is anticipated that construction work will be carried out in September 2026 with the playground ready for use in October 2026 at the latest. An earlier construction programme can be agreed with the Council if preferred by the contractor.

Please refer to the ‘site information’ section of this tender for the background information to the site.

A map of the location is attached on page 14.

The children’s play area is located in a fenced off section within the cricket field.

All prices are to be **net, excluding VAT**.

Companies must be registered with the API (Association of Play Industries) to tender for this contract. Please supply a copy of current certificate for accreditation for the above membership plus details of any other relevant accreditations.

A timescale for commencing this project will be agreed between the Council and the chosen Contractor.

## **PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Name of project:** Sunningwell Playground Project 2026

**Project budget:** Up to £110,000

**Location:** Sunningwell Cricket Club, 29 Sunningwell Road,  
Sunningwell Abingdon, OX13 6RL

**Responsible Officer:** Katie Bennett, Parish Clerk  
(Email: [clerk@sunningwell-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sunningwell-pc.gov.uk))

**IMPORTANT:** A site visit is essential to assess access, gain detailed measurements, assess location of nearby properties and access points to and around the site. The play area is an open site and suppliers are welcome to visit the site at their own convenience without penalty.

## 1. **TENDER PROCESS**

- 1.1 The Council wishes to employ a Principal Contractor to carry out the supply and installation of new play equipment, foundation and safety surfacing suitable for an age range of toddlers to 12 years old.
- 1.2 Tenderers are required to submit a fixed price lump sum tender on the Form of Tender provided with this document.
- 1.3 Tenders should be returned in a sealed envelope bearing no company identification and marked TENDER FOR SUNNINGWELL PLAY AREA to: The Parish Clerk, Sunningwell Village Hall, Sunningwell, Abingdon, OX13 6RD by 17:30 on 30 January 2026.

The following documents should be submitted:

- Tenderer Questionnaire
  - Quotation Breakdown form
  - A copy of your certificate of Public Liability Insurance
  - A copy of your company's Health and Safety Policy
  - A copy of your company's API (Association of Play Industries) Certification
- 1.4 Designs should be presented on A4 and A2 as well as a digital image in a standard format (JPG, PNG, etc).
  - 1.5 The Council does not bind itself to accept any tender. The Council reserves the right to delete any items from the tender should the tender exceed the budget. No payment will be made in respect of any expenses incurred by the tenderers in submitting a tender.
  - 1.6 Tenderers should liaise with the Parish Clerk ([clerk@sunningwell-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sunningwell-pc.gov.uk)) during the tender period regarding any queries or concerns on the content of this specification.

Any questions about the project are to be sent to the Parish Clerk by 16 January 2026 - any responses after this will not be responded to. All questions asked will be shared to all interested parties via blind copy email

### 1.7 **Sustainability**

- Contractors must submit an Environmental Statement and outline how they and their suppliers are minimising environmental impact including:
  - Sourcing materials
  - Manufacture
  - Packaging
  - Transport
  - Disposal and product end of life options

- Priority will be given to sustainable and easy/affordable equipment to maintain.
- Contractors and any companies involved in the supply/procurement of the play equipment must comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies.
- The Council will look favourably to organisations that pay the Living Wage.

## **2. PROJECT AIMS**

- 2.1 To provide an innovative, inclusive modern play area to suit children with ages ranging from toddler to 12 years old.
- 2.2 To supply and install new foundations, play equipment and safety surfacing.
- 2.3 The play area must suit toddlers to 12 year-olds of all abilities.

## **3. SITE INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Contractor should visit the site at their own expense to satisfy themselves as to the conditions on site that may affect in any manner whatsoever the execution of the works detailed hereafter.
- 3.2 **Compound**  
A designated compound will be agreed prior to works commencing. The area must be secure and safe and must not impact on surrounding facilities. The Council reserves the right to determine the final location of the compound in consultation with Sunningwell Cricket Club.

## **4. DESIGN BRIEF**

- 4.1 The design brief has been determined by the Sunningwell Parish Council Playground Working Group comprising Council members and other residents of the village.
- 4.2 Supply and install new foundations, play equipment and safety surfacing suitable for children aged from toddler to 12 years old. The design of the play area must include equipment which complies with the full identified age range. The Contractor will be required to show how their chosen play equipment accommodates this age range.
- 4.3 The playground equipment should fit in with the rural aspect of the village.
- 4.4 The playground equipment should include the following criteria/activities:  
**New equipment**
- 4.11 Some of the following equipment items should be incorporated into the design along with the general requirements for swinging, climbing and sliding.

- Cantilever swing
- Obstacle course
- Monkey bars
- Two playboards for toddlers - eg. Noughts & Crosses
- Train or similar item of imaginative play
- Balancing beam
- Big tube slide
- Zip wire

4.5 The playground should have a “centrepiece” item, however this piece of equipment does not need to be situated in the physical centre of the playground.

4.6 The play area layout should be designed such that the equipment intended for younger children is grouped separately and together, and not within or amongst equipment intended for older users. This area for younger users should also include seating (benches) for parents/minders and it would be beneficial if this seating could provide some shade from the sun. Provision of a waste bin should be included in the design.

4.7 The successful tenderer will need to show the inclusive play value of their design. A fully inclusive playground promotes the social model of disability where barriers to play are designed out. It enables self-esteem and builds confidence as well as encouraging independence.

4.8 All works equipment and IAS shall be manufactured, tested, installed and conform to the relevant British and European Standards (i.e. BSEN1176 and BSEB1177).

4.9 The play equipment must also comply with the DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) i.e. all-inclusive play and accessibility.

### **Existing play equipment, foundations and surface material**

4.10 All existing play equipment, foundations and surface material must be removed and disposed of by the Contractor, unless otherwise instructed.

### **New equipment**

4.11 The following equipment should be incorporated into the design along with the general requirements for swinging, climbing and sliding.

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### **Preparation and groundworks**

- 4.12 Excess materials, spoil and surfacing from excavations must be disposed of at a licenced recycling centre at the Contractor's cost.
- 4.14 The Contractor must provide skips when required and secure all skips behind Heras security fencing when unattended to avoid fly tipping.
- 4.15 Please identify the price within the Tender for any necessary grass, tarmac and other reinstatement works that may be required following completion of works.
- 4.16 Ownership, liability and responsibility for insurance of the play area and installation works will lie with the Contractor until a satisfactory RoSPA Post-Installation Report has been accepted by the Council. This will be confirmed in writing on the day of the handover of the site by the Parish Clerk or nominated representative and the Contractor.
- 4.17 Storage of new play equipment, machinery and equipment, etc during the construction period will be the responsibility of the Contractor.

### **5. SITE MANAGEMENT DURING INSTALLATION**

- 5.1 A project co-ordinator or single point of contact must be nominated by the Contractor who should be readily contactable to deal with any queries and problems that may arise.
- 5.2 The play area must be contained within security fencing – Heras temporary security fencing or similar, supplied by the Contractor, whilst work is in progress and Heras temporary security fencing should remain in place until a satisfactory RoSPA Post-Installation Inspection and Report has been completed and submitted to the Council.
- 5.3 Subject to the agreement of the Sunningwell Cricket Club, there is potential welfare in the pavilion building, which has running water and electricity. The use of this building will be discussed at a pre-start meeting. The Contractor shall provide mobile toilets for use by employees.

- 5.5 Access to the remainder of the playing field open space must be available and safe at all times.
- 5.6 All equipment and machinery should be fit for purpose and maintained in accordance with current legislation, i.e. MoT, Tax, LOLER, PUWER, etc. The Contractor shall ensure that any construction noise does not cause nuisance to any users of the open space or neighbouring residential properties or roads, etc outside the site boundary.
- 5.7 Radios are permitted, however the volume level should be kept at a reasonable level as not to cause a nuisance to neighbouring residential properties.
- 5.8 The Contractor will need to supply the Council with a copy of their site Risk Assessment, Method Statement and a copy of their public liability insurance at least 14 working days before the start of the project.
- 5.9 The Contractor shall advise the Council immediately of any deficiencies in the Method Statement or Risk Assessment, or unforeseen hazards to Health and Safety which may become apparent as the project proceeds. This includes notification of any RIDDOR incidents during construction.
- 5.10 It is not known if there are any underground services within the play area, the Contractor is advised to have satisfied themselves of the extent and location of all underground services in order to safely undertake the works. The Contractor is to allow for all costs associated with protecting from and working with the materials within this tender.
- 5.11 The Contractor shall take all precautions as are necessary to protect the health and safety of all persons employed by him and shall comply with all the requirements of any Acts, Regulations, orders or directions pertaining to the health and safety of employed persons, the employees of the Council and all other persons.
- 5.12 The Contractor shall allow the Council representatives such access as may be required to buildings, locations, vehicles or operations used in relation to this project.
- 5.13 The Contractor shall be required to attend such meetings as the Parish Clerk or their nominated representative may require for the administration and successful completion of this Contract.
- 5.14 The Contractor will be responsible for reinstatement works for any damage whatsoever caused to the interior and exterior of the play area or the surrounding open space inside the cricket ground perimeter, pathways, fencing, kerbing, signs, street furniture and private land/property resulting from installation works or deliveries. The Contractor will carry out all reinstatement works in accordance with good landscape

practices. Full payment may be withheld until the site and adjoining areas are left in a state deemed acceptable, and to the satisfaction of the Council.

## **6. SURFACING**

- 6.1 Supply new foundations and lay safety surfacing which is durable and longstanding that complies with the relevant British/European safety standards.
- 6.2 There is no preferred finish, however it must not be loose fill.
- 6.3 Details must be provided about preparation of the sub-base and foundations. It is expected that all new surfacing will be laid on a sub-base, not directly onto soil.

## **7. MAINTENANCE AND AFTERCARE**

- 7.1 A full schedule of maintenance requirements is to be provided once the play area is completed. This should include a breakdown of items, specifications and maintenance requirements to assist with the future site management, inspections and maintenance.
- 7.2 The Contractor must provide details of their own and manufacturer guarantees and warranties on equipment, safety surfacing and installation works with the Tender.
- 7.3 The works will be subject to an independent Post-Installation Inspection (PII) before the project is signed off (as per the pricing and payment section). The Contractor shall undertake any remedial issues identified as part of the PII report, as part of the existing project cost. The play area must not be opened for public use until the PII has been signed off to the satisfaction of the Council.

## **8. LIMITATION OF WORKING HOURS**

- 8.1 Works are permitted to be carried out during normal working hours, 8am – 5pm Monday to Friday. Out of hours work may be permitted by the Council and Sunningwell Cricket Club, subject to the nature of works. Noisy works will generally not be permitted at weekends.
- 8.2 Site working hours to be agreed with the Council.

## **9. PRICING AND PAYMENT**

- 9.1 The Contractor shall supply and do everything necessary for the proper execution and completion of the work that may be reasonably inferred

from the Contract Documents whether described in detail or not, without any extra payment in respect thereof.

- 9.2 Payment will be upon satisfactory completion of the works and following receipt by the Council of a satisfactory RoSPA Post-Installation Report. This report should be commissioned, paid for and supplied to Sunningwell Council by the Contractor before the play area is released back to Council.

## 10. TIMETABLE FOR PROJECT

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Closing date</b>
18 December 2026	Publish tender using Contract Finder and by email notification to companies that have expressed an interest	
26 January 2026	Deadline for questions on the project to the Council	26 January 2026
6 February 2026	Question responses distributed to all parties.	6 February 2026
9 March 2026 17:30pm	Tender Offer Submission Deadline	9 March 2026 17:30pm
April 2026	Full evaluation of anonymous tenders to select shortlist of preferred designs as per evaluation criteria	April 2026

30 April 2026	Full Council meeting to select preferred supplier	
3 May 2026	Contractor notified*	
May 2026 - APM	Public reveal on selected designs	

## 11. EVALUATION CRITERIA

To ensure that tenders are evaluated fairly, the tables below aim to identify the scoring criteria and evaluation methodology:

### Scoring system

	Play Value	35%
	Design Rationale	25%
	Inclusivity	15%
	Durability	15%
	Program of works	5%

	References	5%
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A standard 0-5 point scoring system will be used and is detailed below:

0	Unacceptable: Non-compliant / deficient for the criteria used
1	Poor: Limited response which is lacking sufficient detail or is inaccurate
2	Below expectations: Minimal achievement of requirements with weaknesses or omissions
3	Adequate: Reasonable achievement of requirements with weaknesses or omissions (which would be difficult to overcome)
4	Good: Comprehensive response, detailed and relevant with no inconsistencies
5	Excellent: Exceptional submission, demonstrating high ability, understanding and experience to deliver the project to a high standard

The score for each section will then be divided by the maximum number of marks for that question and then multiplied by the weighting to give a weighted score for that element.

For example, the score for a 50% weighted section where 2 out of 5 possible marks is scored will be calculated as follows:

$$2/5 \times 50 = 20\% \text{ for that section}$$

Each section will then be added together for an overall mark out of 100%.

The evaluation of the tender processes will be carried out by the Playground Working Group.

## 12. **PROCUREMENT PROCESS**

The procurement process will be conducted and in compliance with The Public Procurement Regulations 2015 as amended. The objective is to be fair, transparent and proportionate based on the type of project and to ultimately selection the most economically advantageous tender.

The tender process will be by Open Tender.

The play area is an open site and suppliers are welcome to visit the site at their own convenience without penalty.

All questions and requests for clarification should be by email and will, subject to there being a confidentiality issue which cannot be resolved, posted to a dedicated page on the Council's website for all potential bidders to see.

### **13. EVALUATION AND AWARD CRITERIA**

All tenderers shall provide all the information requested in the tender pack.

In the interest of transparency with the exception of the covering letter, all presented information within the tender including designs should be anonymised with no identifying logos or hyperlinks.

Unclear tenders may be discounted in evaluation. The Council reserves the right to seek clarification.

To ensure that tenders are evaluated on a consistent basis it is essential that responses are made to all the requirements listed within this document and are clearly reference to specific evaluation criteria.

The Council will collate its findings and make the final selection of the preferred Contractor.

The Council's decision is final and will reflect the offer that most meets all the specifications and public expectations.

#### **Quotation Breakdown (to be included with your Tender)**

Preliminaries	£
Cost of clearing the site and disposal of waste	£
Cost of Foundations	£

Cost of Safety Surfacing	£
Cost of play equipment	£
Installation of equipment	£
RoSPA Post-Installation Inspection	£
Reinstatement works	£
Contingencies	£
Project Total	£

**MAP SHOWING PLAY AREA LOCATION.**

Please note that there is a Public Right of Way in front of the playground.

