

Bradfield Village Hall Proposals
for
New Community Facilities
for Bradfield



Children's Playground and **Multi-Use Games Area**



Bradfield Village Hall Trustees
September 2018

1 THE NEW CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

Introduction

The existing playground is situated in Bradfield Southend, the main residential area in the Parish of Bradfield, next to the Village Hall, close to the primary school, church and community shop. It has a variety of equipment for toddlers and children up the age of 12. It is very popular and extremely well-used.

However, the Village Hall Trustees are concerned about the current location of the playground and the dangers inherent in its access. It is proposed to move the existing playground with a brand-new play area in another location, which will be like-for-like, or better, in terms of play value. Natural materials will be used and colours more in keeping with the surrounding location than that of the current, rather dilapidated, equipment. The play area will be subdivided to provide for under 5s and older children.

Current Situation

- The present playground, comprising some 870 sq.m. is situated at the front of the site adjacent to the main road through Bradfield Southend, and to the main access into village hall site itself.
- The present playground can only be accessed directly from the car park and is adjacent to an increasingly busy main road. The location of the village shop is the other side of the entrance to the site and unaccompanied children walking or running directly between the two are in danger of being hit by vehicles coming in or out of the village hall site.
- This is considered to be a potential danger, hence the wish to relocate the playground to a more suitable, safer site.



The current playground is accessed through the car park

- All of the present equipment is at least 15 years old, some much older, for example the 1970s metal slide. Much of the equipment is showing signs of wear and parts frequently need replacing, such as the swing seats; and the roundabout requires constant adjustment. The multi-coloured plastic climbing frame has been repaired on a number of occasions.
- There is currently little equipment suitable for children with physical disabilities.



The current playground is need of updating

Proposals

The new play area will be situated in a much safer location away from the main road, in the area between the new Multi-Use Games Area [MUGA] and the Hall, flowing out to the edge of the field on the same side. There will be a fenced section closest to the car park with equipment suitable for children under five years of age. This will provide a safe environment for small children, who will be unable to exit the area without assistance. The fencing will also prevent dogs from coming into this space.

The replacement equipment will equal the current provision and, money allowing, may be increased. The visual impact on the field is lessened with no fences to delineate the older children's play area from the field, allowing the freedom to add additional items at a later date.

The play area will be accessed via footpaths from the field, the car park and Southend Road, and will be overlooked from the main hall. The design would be more inclusive for children with physical disabilities.

There are examples locally of playgrounds which are not fenced in, Hampstead Norreys and Lechampstead



The Playground at Hampstead Norreys Village Hall at the side of the playing field



The playground in Leckhampstead Cricket Pitch

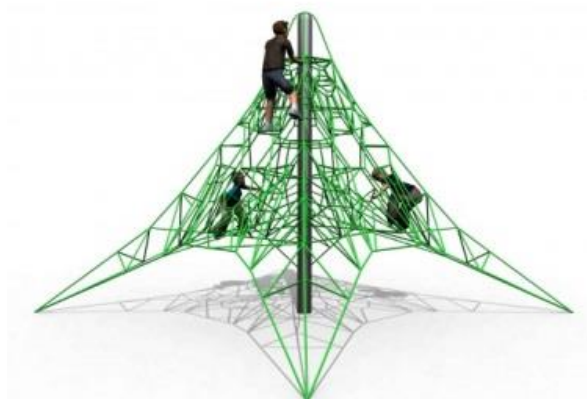
When funds allow, it is hoped to extend the equipment provided to include an outdoor gym suitable for use by adults.

The equipment shown below is indicative of the range of equipment being considered.

- Climbing Frame with Slides



- Play Net



- Two Springers for toddlers



- Two cradle swings for toddlers



- Two bay junior swing



- Cradle swing



- Swing bars at various heights



- Inclusive roundabout



- Seating and Picnic Tables - reusing current ones plus additional

Design Principles

When designing this playground, priority will be given to providing a safe environment, including safe surfaces and secure fencing for the under 5s. The emphasis will be on equipment made from natural materials such as wood, and colours will be chosen appropriate to the rural surroundings. Providing suitable equipment which can be used by children with disabilities will also be a major consideration.

Budget

A number of contractors have been contacted and they have proved very helpful in making suggestions on what could/should be provided and to varying budgets. They have provided estimates of how much providing and installing all the equipment could cost. Taking the average of all the figures given, some £60,000 has been budgeted at today's figures.

Consultation

There have already been discussions with hall users and parents from the Sunshine Club (Pre and After School Club) and other playground and court users; they have been shown examples of what equipment could be provided, such as those indicated above. This consultation with the users and their parents/carers etc. will continue during the process of finalising the design of the equipment and the layout of the space itself.

2 MULTI-USE GAMES AREA - MUGA

The current 'tennis' court dates back to the 1950s. It has been well used for tennis, football and other ball games. It has also been used as a safe area for small children to learn to ride a bike. It is regularly used in the winter by Bradfield Young Farmers and has previously been used by local football clubs for training.

The court is now well passed its best. The court was last resurfaced in around 2007 but currently needs attention. The wire fencing is in a very poor state and the lighting needs replacing. It also suffers from debris and a damp/slippery surface during the winter because of the hedge/overhanging trees lining the site boundary.



A typical new MUGA

A new MUGA will provide a much-improved all weather facility for sport and fitness in a clean and safe environment. The proposals move the new multi-use games area onto the field at right angles to the current court and away from the boundary vegetation. The size will be a little larger than the current court and will provide for various games, including 5 a-side football, netball and tennis. The lighting will be low-energy and designed to have as little as possible impact on the surrounding area. The lights will be timer controlled and will not be used after 10 pm.

FINALLY

It is considered that the construction of a new children's playground and MUGA will provide quality assets for the community and will meet the needs of both existing and future users. At a later date, it would be good to be able to provide for an outdoor gym for adults.



www.BradfieldVillageHall.co.uk
Facebook: Bradfield Village Hall
bvh@BradfieldVillageHall.co.uk