

Owslebury Play Area Plan

Specification: -

To purchase Accessible Play Equipment for the Owslebury Play Area that will Enhance the Play Facilities for Children, from Toddler to 12 years old, including those with disabilities, in the Parish of Owslebury

Plan: 3 phrases: -

- Phase 1 - to add a bird's nest swing and see-saw - £9027 + VAT;
- Phase 2 - to remove igloo and add a play structure for under 5's - £9,576 + VAT;
- Phase 3 - to add a play structure for the 5 - 12's - £13,563 + VAT;

Current Facilities - Owslebury Play Area: -

Photograph of play area as it is today



- The Play Area supports Flat and Cradle Swings; a Roundabout, a Climbing Frame in the shape of an igloo; a Slide and a Basketball Net.

Current Facilities: -

- Owslebury Play Area is situated within a small housing development off the main high street, in the largest village within the parish.
- Parents in the Parish and the Parish Council together developed the Play Area in 1985, installing the slide, swings and climbing igloo. The Roundabout was added in 2002 and the Basketball Net in 2004.
- The Parish Council maintains the area and has proactively sought to keep the area safe for the children in line with the annual risk assessment. E.g. In 2007 by: -
 - Purchasing a new swing-shut gate and raising the height of the ground beneath the gate to prevent dogs wandering into the play area.
 - Installing railings at the top of the slide to improve its safety
 - Repairing wetpour around the roundabout to reduce trip hazard
 - Purchasing a new accessible sign for users to ensure their safety and to meet health and safety standards.

Why the Project is Needed: -

- Our Play Area is tired. It is unappealing to young children, only suitable for a narrow age range and compares badly to alternative playgrounds in the County.
- Our toddlers and children have told us that they like the roundabout; but the igloo is dated and the slide doesn't slide.
- There is nothing for the Under-2 year olds to do.
- Our swings need a coat of paint.
- There are currently 3 pupils at the school holding a statement of special educational needs for autism or autistic tendencies who would benefit from **accessible equipment** being available.
- **Hampshire Portage Service**, a service which supports children with additional needs from birth to school age, has confirmed that there are at least 6 children from birth to school age in the Owslebury area **with additional needs**. And that many families would bring their children to Owslebury from the surrounding area if we advertised that we had accessible play equipment.
- There are nearly 120 children under 12 in the village. The Parish does support two other areas of green for recreational use, but this is the main area for play for the smaller children.

Project Aims and Objectives: -

Aims: A modernisation of the playground which: -

- expands the appeal from 1 to 12 years old, providing a focal point in the village for that age group;
- structured to develop the children's physical, mental and social skills;
- offers more variety;
- designed with input from children attending Owslebury Toddler Group and Owslebury Primary School giving them more ownership.

Objectives: -

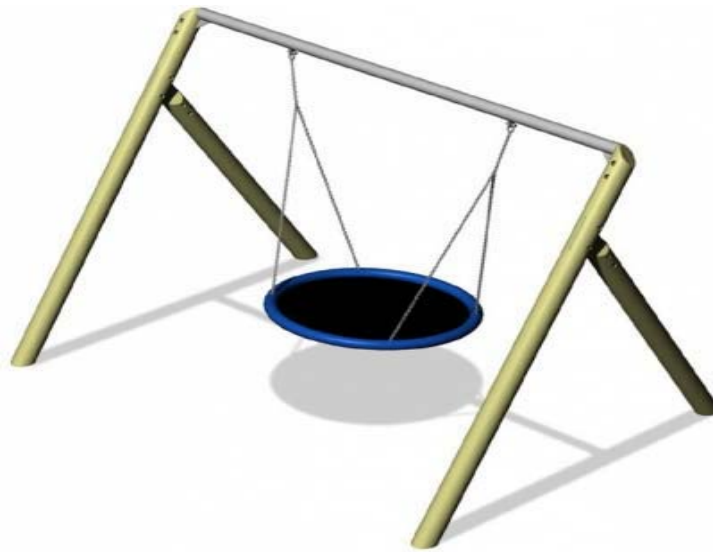
- play area becomes a vibrant area where people want to spend their time;
- encourages outdoor activity at an early age as part of a balanced approach to healthy living;
- becomes an exciting resource for Owslebury's children within walking distance.

Steps Taken to ensure Community Support: -

- **The Toddler Group** approached the Parish Council in June 2008 and asked whether they could support the Council in updating the play area for the village children;
- **Children using the play area (age 7 - 12 years)** have asked whether we can purchase equipment to make the play area more exciting;
- **Owslebury Primary School** currently has 86 children on roll. Their **student council** has provided us with a 'wish list' of equipment they would like to see in the play area, suitable for children from a range of ages at the school;
- **Village engagement** through the Parish Newsletter and Community Fundraising Events.

Phase 1 Detail: -

Bird's Nest Swing - Playdale - £4,259 plus VAT



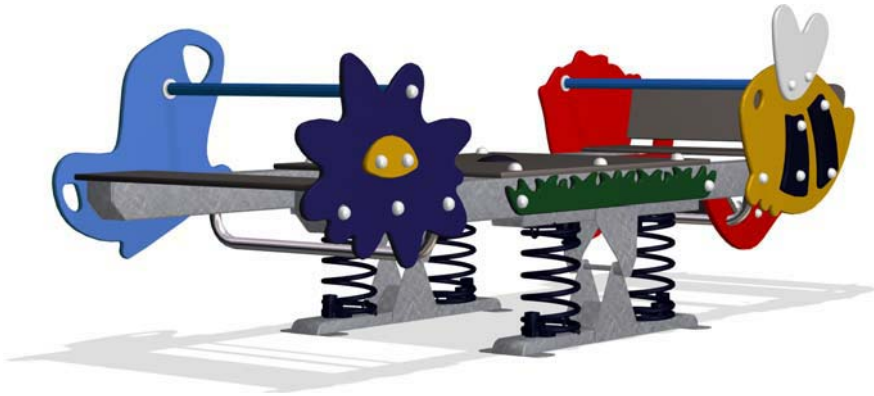
The Birds Nest Swing: -

- can be used by all age groups, including responsible adults;
- more than 1 person can use it at the same time which will improve social skills;
- style of basket is suitable for use by disabled children.

Cost: -

- The "Playdale" Birds Nest Swing has been identified owing to its larger basket (diameter 1.2 metres) and value for money (price range £3,800 - £8,000 excluding VAT between recognised makes)
- The Toddler Group children and parents have tried out various Birds Nest Swings in different play areas and identified the "Playdale" Birds Nest as best suited for toddlers and primary aged children, including those with disabilities.
- The quotation of £4,259 plus VAT includes the:
 - delivery and installation of birds nest swing and safety surfacing
 - uplift and replacement of the memorial bench. This is currently sited in the safety area of the Birds Nest Swing. Its new location will improve the vision for responsible adults of the whole play area.

Seesaw - Kompan - £4768 plus VAT



The Seesaw: -

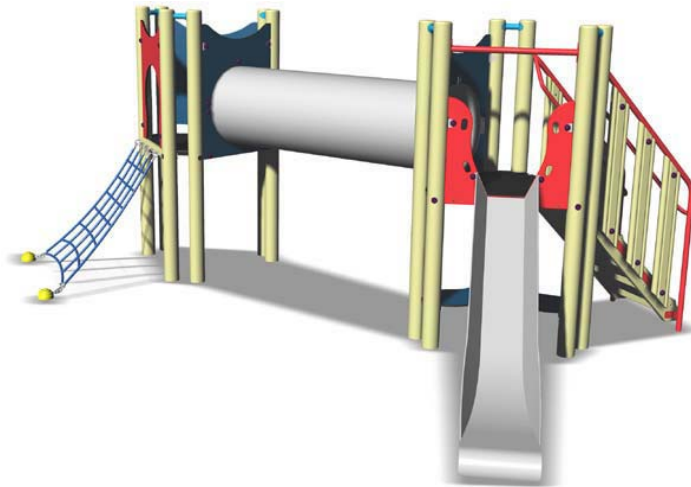
- can be used by all age groups, including adults;
- with a wooden support it can be used by 1 year old children and disabled children;
- more than 1 person can use it at the same time which will improve social skills;
- it is balanced to enable use by 2 children or a child with a responsible adult;
- the flat surface in the centre enables children to balance whilst the equipment is in motion.

Cost: -

- The "Kompan" Seesaw has been chosen to compliment the Birds Nest Swing.
- Most Seesaws are in fact "springers". Whilst more expensive, the Kompan Seesaw engages children in balance, teamwork and social activity.
- The Toddler Group children and parents have tried out this Seesaw and confirmed its enjoyment for use by children together, children with a responsible adult and children with disabilities.
- The quotation of £4,768 plus VAT includes: -
 - delivery and installation of the seesaw and safety surfacing.

Phase 2 Detail: -

Toddler Play Structure - Frekleton - Playdale - £11,225 plus VAT



The "Frekleton" Toddler Play Structure: -

Overall the "Frekleton" was chosen due to it's outstanding balance of challenging activities, ability to offer independent play, and solid design which supports safe play without excessive supervision required. More specifically it offers: -

- **Low gradient enclosed stairs**, making under 5's feel more secure and giving parents confidence to let children learn to play independently.
- **Peek-a-boo tunnel** encouraging exciting social interaction. Evidence from research with children found they prefer a tunnel over alternatives such as bridges (not as exciting), or rope net bridges (which require a degree of confidence for children to be able to cross).
- **Scramble climb** as alternative to stairs, offering an alternative challenge to ascend to keep play structure interesting to slightly older children.
- **Safe slide** with horizontal bar at top to force children to sit down before sliding, and being at a relatively lower height than alternatives, again giving parents comfort to let children explore their own play even from low ages.
- **Social seating area** under the tunnel for young children to sit, play and interact with other children.

Cost: -

- The quotation of £9,576 plus VAT includes: -
 - The uplift and removal of the existing igloo climbing frame & old matting
 - Topsoil and Turf 44.74 sq. mtrs.
 - Delivery and Installation

Phase 3 Detail: -

Older Children Play Structure - Proludic - Ixo J2523 - £13,563 plus VAT



The Proludic Play Structure for Older Children: -

The children of Owslebury Primary School chose this play structure. It includes all the elements that they wanted, most importantly, a climbing facility to support a variety of ages and a more exciting slide for the older children. More specifically it offers: -

- **A speed slide**, to improve balance and co-ordination
- **A Gyro**, to improve balance and strength by holding on to the bars whilst spinning round
- **A Great Arc**, which can be used as monkey bars to strengthen arms and stamina, and can sit and socialise on top, increasing confidence at heights.
- **A Delta Incline Net**, enabling easier access to the platform for the young children and developing climbing skills
- **A Parrot Mast**, to improve climbing skills and a fireman pole down

The structure can safely support 15 children at any one time.

Cost: -

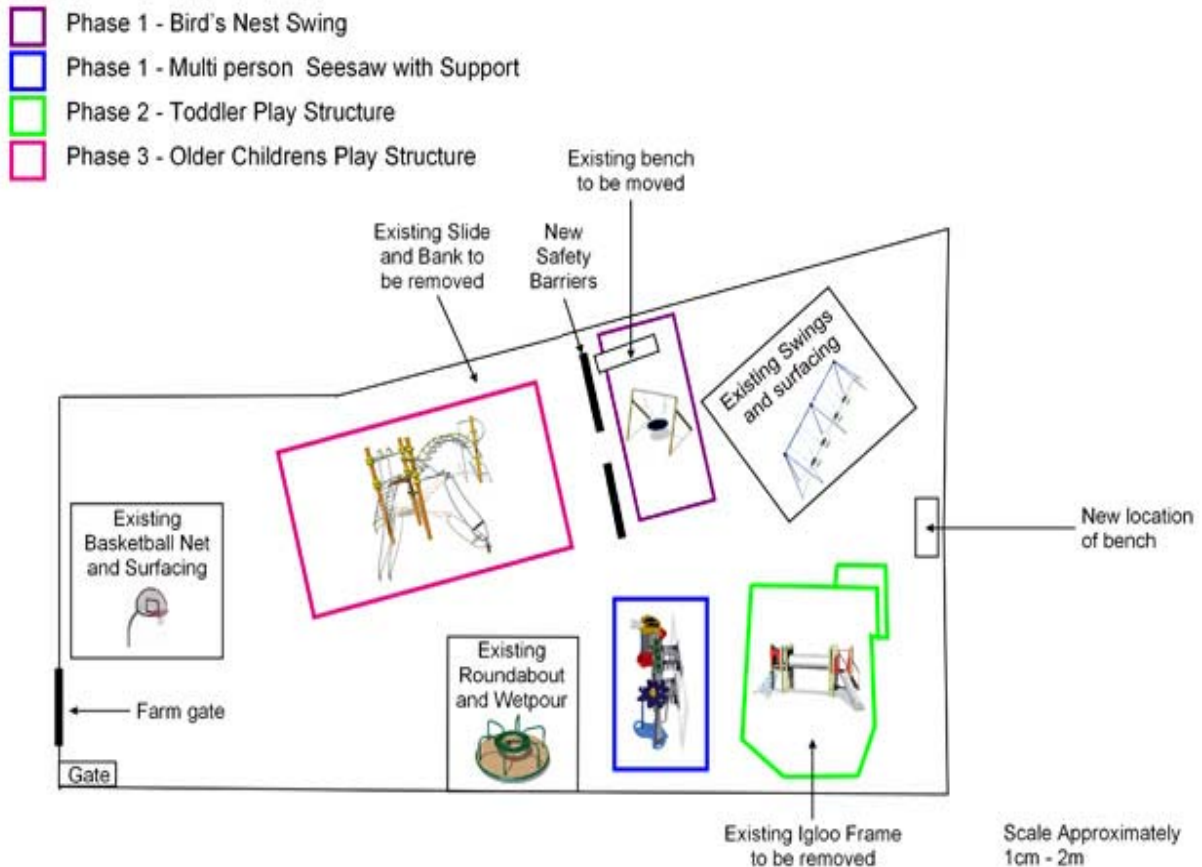
- The quotation of £13,563 plus VAT includes: -
 - The play structure, safety surfacing, delivery and installation

Safety Surfacing: -

- **Grass Matting** is to be installed under and surrounding all new pieces of equipment and is included in the price of the equipment above.

Location within the Play Area of the Birds Nest Swing, Seesaw, Toddlers Play Structure and Older Children's Play Structure: -

Owslebury Village - New Playground Equipment



- The Birds Nest Swing has been placed at an angle so social interaction can take place between those on the Birds Nest and those on the flat swings
- The Seesaw, primarily for the toddlers and smaller children, has been placed next to the Igloo, which we intend to replace with the Toddlers Play Structure.
- The Toddler Play Structure is next to the seesaw and the cradle swings. for the younger children.
- The Older Children's Play Structure is next to the basket ball net roundabout and birds nest swing.
- Equipment spans all ages up to 12 years and children can move easily between without risk of accidents between the older and younger age groups.

Partnership in the Community to Make it Happen: -

- A small Working Party comprising members of the Toddler Group and the Parish Council are leading the project;
- Children in the Toddlers Group and the Primary School have been involved in choosing the equipment;
- The Village communities are kept engaged through the parish newsletter and fundraising events;
- Health and Safety legislation has been a priority when identifying equipment;
- Advice has been obtained from Hampshire Playing Fields Association, Winchester City and Hampshire County Council playground personnel in proceeding the project.

Commitment from the Parish for the Project: -

- The Toddlers Group are arranging fund raising events e.g. Family BBQ and fun day; Race Night; Sponsored Sing etc. and banking every penny.
- The Parish Council, Owslebury and Morestead Community Association and Hampshire Playing Fields Association have all pledged a donation.
- Parents of the Toddlers Group have committed their time to repaint the Swings and complete ground preparation.
- Grants are actively being sought from local organisations and charities.
- We have about £8,000 pledged in donations to date, which is excellent progress. Thanks to peoples generosity we are now able to purchase the Birds Nest Swing and with a little more funds will be able to purchase the seesaw. Would you like to help? Would you like to know more?

Thank you for Your Interest

- We appreciate your interest and value your support. If you would like further information about the project or would like to pledge a donation, please do contact: -

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e-mail: psharpe76@gmail.com

Liz Manship, Clerk to Owslebury Parish Council. Tel: 01962-777264;

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Thank you.