

Batheaston Parish Council – Council Meeting 21st March 2023
Recommendation for the Award of Phase 2 Playground Project Contract

Summary

The Clerk and Playground Working Group have reviewed quotations received for the replacement of Under-5's provision in the Playground, and have reached a decision on the favoured submission, which they recommend to Council.

Background and Process

- In January and February 2022, Council undertook repairs to address some safety issues, which involved the replacement of the slide. This was funded using ring-fenced Section 106 funds of £18,790, with a total budget of £23,393.
- Council approved the formation of a Working Group to progress the next phase of the redevelopment of the Council's Playground at its July 2022 meeting.
- Council was successful in its application for £27,000 from the Enover Trust in January 2021. Council approved further funds of £14,000 principally from reserves in its September 2022 meeting, some of which was assigned to the £4,604 contribution required for Phase 1, and £3,000 to secure the Enover Funds. A further £757 has been spent on urgent repairs, and £470 on community engagement.
- The remaining funds have £5,220 have been allocated to this Project, giving a total budget of £32,220.
- The Working Group held a "Park Party Event" in October 2022, at which the views and priorities of residents (young and old) were solicited.
- As a result of this event, and other feedback received, and in consideration of what was achievable with the funds available, the Working Group decided that this Phase of work should focus on the provision of play equipment for the Under-5's (November 2022 Council meeting).
- Cllr Skelton has offered to oversee the preparation of the ground for the installation of the play surface. This will be undertaken free-of-charge by her husband, with only direct expenses reimbursed. This saving of Contractors' costs will result in an additional £5,000 being made available for the provision of equipment.
- The Working Group and the Clerk developed a Request for Quotation ([Batheaston Parish Council - Playground Project Phase 2- Request for Quotation - final.pdf](#)) which was issued on 23rd February 2023 to 5 suppliers that were selected based on recommendations from neighbouring Councils and others.

Evaluation of Quotations Received

- Three quotations were received by the Clerk on 1st March. Two companies declined to submit quotation citing the tightness of the deadline and difficulty in allocating resources to provide the requested documentation as the main reasons.
- The Clerk verified that all bids were compliant, in respect of the provision of supporting documents, and were within the assigned budget and timescales, etc.
- The members of the Working Group were sent the quotations for individual review, and then met on 9th March to review the quotations together.
- Members of the Working Group have submitted their individual evaluation of the quotations, using the criteria defined in the Request for Quotation (with the weighting to be applied as follows):

Play Value 35%

Design Rationale 30%

Inclusivity 15%

Durability 10%

Program of works 5%

References 5%

- A clear preferred candidate has emerged, for the reasons given below. A confidential report is provided to Council, with the scoring of each of the candidates.
- The principal reasons given by the members of the Working Group for this preference were:
 - The play value – the number of ways that children can play on the equipment provided – was substantially greater than the other bids.
 - This offer included climbing apparatus was bigger than comparative equipment from others.
 - The wheelchair inclusive roundabout, positioned at the entrance to the playground (south-east corner) provided the best option for accessible play of the quotations received.
 - The overall design made best use of the space available, noting in particular that the ground slopes away from this play area quite steeply.
 - The aesthetic of the equipment is in keeping with the environment in which the playground is located.
 - The inclusion of the rope-walk as an optional addition along the ability to make a variety of adjustments to the design if desired.
 - A choice of surfacing (EPDM Mulch and Wetpour).
 - The design allows for a higher number of children to be using the area at any one time with equipment that offers a broad level of challenges across the age range.

Cllr Kate Skelton, on behalf of the Playground Working Group

Richard Maccabee, Parish Clerk

16th March 2023