

Playground Committee -Report

The Committee's main task continues to be to progress the renewal of the Bourdillon Field playground. This has involved applying for planning permission for an extension to the playground, inviting tenders from potential suppliers of playground equipment, evaluating the tenders received and deciding on a preferred supplier to recommend to Council.

Planning Application:

The planning application submitted (ref: P24/S3823/FUL) for the proposed extension to the existing playground area has now been approved. When the final design, the equipment to be supplied, and the nature of any works required are known the Council can apply for approval as permitted development which should take 2 weeks. If more substantial 'engineering' work (e.g. the laying of extensive poured surfacing) is involved, a full planning application will be needed which will require biodiversity and arboricultural reports. A contract with the preferred supplier cannot be signed until planning permission has been secured.

Tenders

Tenders were received from six suppliers on 7th February. The suppliers bidding were:

Wicksteed, Eibe, Komplan, Playscheme, Proludic and Sutcliffe.

Evaluation

The Evaluation Work Group developed an evaluation scheme setting out the principal criteria and, within those criteria, their elements and the weighting to be attached to them. Each member of the Evaluation Group has individually and separately assessed and scored the tenders with their scores then aggregated to form a basis for ranking bids.

The Evaluation Group has met three times to review the bids in detail. At its last meeting on the 26th February, when the aggregated scores were evaluated, it decided on a preferred supplier/design to recommend to the Playgrounds Committee. The Evaluation Group considered that the preferred supplier's design required some changes and there will be discussions with the supplier accordingly without at this stage letting them know their status.

References from three Councils that currently use the preferred supplier are being taken up..

Council Decision

The Playgrounds Committee will put their recommendation for a supplier to Full Council. The recommendation will include options for variations in design and associated costs. Because of the need to give this significant item of expenditure due consideration and because Council will need to satisfy itself that the recommended supplier and design meet the needs of the community, the Committee proposes that an extraordinary meeting of the Council be held solely to consider the recommendation. There may also be considerable public interest.

The Invitation to Tender launched by GPC in November confirmed that implementation of the new Bourdillon playground is required in July 2025 to coincide with the school summer holidays. It stated that an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council may be required in March 2025 to reach a decision on preferred supplier. Suppliers are expecting that the Council will announce its decision by the end of March and have prepared implementation plans on that basis. All

suppliers have a circa 16- week implementation period from contract award. Communication with the village has also stated that the new Bourdillon playground will be live for the school holidays this year.

We are planning to be in a position to sign contracts week commencing 7th April and a date of the 24th March has been pencilled in for an Extraordinary Meeting to achieve that date.

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