



Stanway

Parish Council

Catherine Clouston
Deputy Parish Clerk
Victory Hall, Villa Road,
Stanway, Essex CO3 0RH
P: 01206 542221/07785987734
deputyclerk@stanwaypc.org.uk

PLAYGROUND UPGRADE: SILVER WITCH GREEN AND LUCY LANE SOUTH

What do we want? Stanway Parish Council is aware that careful preparation and planning are essential to the long-term success of its play spaces. The locations are fixed so the Council is seeking a contractor who can plan around all the other features to produce two modern playgrounds fit for purpose. They will need to engage all local children, be inclusive and accessible, be safe to use and ensure that children's physical, emotional and educational needs are catered for when upgrading, whilst ensuring the investment of public funds have been put to a worthwhile purpose.

Stanway Parish Council manages two playgrounds in Stanway and plans to upgrade these dedicated play areas:

Lucy Lane South is a small playground in the middle of a residential development. The space is restricted and there are issues of noise and control. It is the older of the two playgrounds, with out-dated equipment, but as it gets less play traffic, is not as worn. Since the area is slightly hidden away consideration must be given to who would be attracted to this space. Stanway has experienced problems with anti-social behaviour, so covered spaces would not be something we would welcome. It is used more by the local children rather than a go-to destination.

<https://www.google.com/maps/@51.890197,0.83417,141m/data=!3m1!1e3?hl=en-GB>

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Lucy+Lane+South+Playground/@51.8901367,0.8340016,3a,75y,90t/data=!3m1!1e2!3m6!1sAF1QipMGyRNesfAOsCwGvThPBrYv-eM0i8BiG4jpA0tb!2e10!3e12!6shttps:%2F%2Fh5.googleusercontent.com%2Fp%2FAF1QipMGyRNesfAOsCwGvThPBrYv-eM0i8BiG4jpA0tb%3Dw114-h86-k-no!7i4032!8i3024!4m5!3m4!1s0x47d90330daf3892b:0x48ca2477f3f8850c!8m2!3d51.8901367!4d0.8340014?hl=en-GB>

Silver Witch Green is the newer of the two playgrounds and has heavy play traffic. In May 2021 an outdoor adult gym will be installed next to it, and this should be taken into consideration when planning. There is much more space available, and it is suggested that design should include a separate section for younger children and then another area for older children, thinking that teenagers and above would be attracted by the adult gym, taking the cohesive design of a wider community space. It is surrounded by several schools so is an attractive stop-off on the way home. Therefore, a play space which appeals to children of a broad range of ages and abilities may be the most feasible solution.

<https://www.google.com/maps/@51.8865676,0.8401041,266m/data=!3m1!1e3?hl=en-GB>

https://www.google.com/maps/@51.8860577,0.8395745,3a,90y,32.09h,92.62t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1sH1GsK9w9YepSKIQWqjuTnA!2e0!6shttps:%2F%2Fstreetviewpixels-pa.googleapis.com%2Fv1%2Fthumbnail%3Fpanoid%3DH1GsK9w9YepSKIQWqjuTnA%26cb_client%3Dsearch.revgeo_and_fetch.gps%26w%3D96%26h%3D64%26yaw%3D40.66515%26pitch%3D0%26thumbfov%3D100!7i13312!8i6656?hl=en-GB

Design brief:

There is growing evidence that children spend less time enjoying outdoor play than at any point in our modern history. At the same time, under current pandemic conditions, outdoor play is one of the few options available as a leisure activity for children. The new play areas will need to inform the creation of outdoor play space for years to come, doing justice to children's endless capacity for adventure and imagination, their need for exercise and social interaction and, above all, to their innate sense of fun. Places where children play can be important social places, not just for children and young people, but also for parents, carers and the wider community.

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The play space will need to be of high quality and good design to attract children and families and become a valued part of the local environment. Safety is often a barrier to encouraging outdoor play, so we want play space that helps children play safely and to encourage parents to let their children play outside, allowing children to learn about managing risk.

The principles to consider for designing the play spaces for Stanway:

- Age appropriate
- Hard wearing
- Imaginative play
- Freeflow play
- Design based around maximum usage
- “Bespoke”
- Make use of natural elements
- Provide a wide range of play experiences
- Meet community needs
- Allow children of different ages play together
- Build opportunities for children to experience risk and challenge
- Sustainable and appropriately maintained
- Allow for change and evolution
- Accessibility for both able and disabled children
- Place for children to play safely
- Place where parents feel secure about letting their children play

Specifications:

- Sustainable construction materials best suited to this tender
- Wetpour or other rubber flooring
- Ease of maintenance
- Environmental features
- Educational features
- Design aesthetics
- Differentiation between each play area
- Repair and maintenance as part of tender
- Budget (£50k)

