

Playbuilder – Maple Way Open Space October 2009

Voluntary Action Hinckley & Bosworth's Neighbourhood Management & Stronger Communities Team in partnership with Earl Shilton Town Council are working together to develop a natural play space, open to all and valued by the local community, with a particular focus at this stage for children aged 8-13yrs at Maple Way Open Space.

This project aims to encompass Play England's Ten Design Principles for successful play spaces making good use of natural elements and recycled products which can be used flexibly and imaginatively, providing a wide range of play opportunities prioritising those identified through consultation process.

The play area should be;

- a place where children can be sociable or solitary
- a place with opportunities to build, construct and test boundaries
- a place to take acceptable levels of risk
- a welcoming place for children of all ages and members of the local community to meet and socialise.

Through the consultation process the following activities/ opportunities have been highlighted and we would like them to be creatively incorporated in your designs.

- Swing
- Slide
- Climb
- Areas to chill out, chat, sit and watch
- Spin
- Jump
- Hide
- Run/race
- Imagine/pretend
- Balance

Some sense of feeling free with wind in hair, adventure, agility type course.

Other considerations;

The central area should be left for playing team ball games –such as football / cricket. The basketball hoop should remain.

Different textures and surfaces to walk on and feel.

Where possible, equipment that enables a disabled child and carer use the equipment together.

A variety of seating.

A flow to the area (this will help children with autistic tendencies become used the area in stages)

Possibility of lighting.

It is intended that the play area will be developed further in the future.

Important Points

- If we are successful in gaining playbuilder funding. The funding will be available from April 2010 and the project must be open to the public by 31st March 2011
- The final design chosen will be made with consultation with children, parents, the local community and the Town Council.
- Contracts for the work will be drawn up with Earl Shilton Town Council

Financial details

The **total** budget will be £50,000