

Pheasant Hill Playground

Chalfont St Giles

Pheasant Hill Play Area is set in the village centre, adjacent to the duck pond and close to the village green. As a result, it is used regularly by children through the year, parents and grandparents take their little ones to feed the ducks and spend some time in the playground despite it being very tired and in need of a makeover.

Chalfont St Giles Parish Council had been discussing renovating the existing playground for a couple of years as we were beginning to spend money replacing equipment, however our biggest concern was that it was not a play area open to all children as it wasn't fully inclusive to young people with disabilities.

We carried out a survey with our Parishioners on line and face to face to seek their thoughts on the existing play area and asked what equipment they would like to see if we were to in a position to proceed.

The survey identified that there was huge support for a new playground and that it was used regularly by many of our Parishioners.

As the HS2 tunnel passes directly under the pond and play area, we approached Align for funding having received approximate costing from a playground contractor.

Align agreed to give us 50% of the costs provided we could raise match funding, which we did with money from our own budget and assistance from the Community Board.

In November we went out to tender and received five responses to our brief for a playground for younger children, which would be inclusive and accessible for children with disabilities and sensory issues, equipment and design should be in keeping with the surrounding area (pond, river and meadows) and finally consideration should be given to the fact that the playground is in the heart of the village conservation area.

From the responses received we selected HAGS, their designs were fully inclusive with good guarantees for equipment and costs within our budget. The design for the new playground (see attached visual) is fully inclusive with equipment for children of all abilities and will encourage development, improve motor skills, enhance creative imaginative ideas and complements the surrounding area.

Ideally the PC would have liked the project completed by Easter, however lead in times for all the contractors made this impossible so we are looking at the beginning/middle of May for completion. The PC plan to make the opening of the playground a celebration event, inviting everyone who has been involved to attend, but more importantly for our Parishioners and our young residents to see the new equipment. All our signage around the play area will acknowledge the support from the Community Board (and Align).

During the next few months the PC will be advising our Parishioners on social media and at the site about the progress of the project as we want to bring the community along with us on this journey.

Chalfont St Giles Parish Council would like to thank the Community Board for their grant which has helped make this project possible.