

Design and Access Statement

Upper Radnor Park improvement programme

Sarah Robson, Head of Communities, Shepway District Council

Proposal: The development of a new play area, landscaping and complementary features (such as seating) at Upper Radnor Park, Folkestone.

Features on existing site

The area is on an existing park, mainly laid to grass with some trees. Features include Radnor Park Lodge, a historic building, which has recently been renovated and opened as a community tea rooms. Leading from the lodge, are pathways, a disused public fountain surrounded by hedging. Public toilets and a small, fenced play area are also on site.

How access issues will be addressed

Existing park access routes will be retained.

Layout of proposed development

The Upper Radnor Park improvement programme develops a cohesive and play design focusing on play, sport and fitness provision for the whole community, specifically babies, under 5's and older children (up to 18 years old) , including traditional play equipment alongside climbing, balancing and create play equipment.

Inclusive by design, the scheme will provide an accessible play experience for disabled and non-disabled children alike.

The design captures four key elements; a formal entrance space, toddlers zone, terrain for play and adventure play.

For further details, please refer to the Landscape Masterplan.

Landscaping details in the proposed development

The proposal provides an integrated landscaping programme to bring the lodge, fountain, outdoor seating, walkways, planting and play area into one cohesive, user experience and visual journey. Where possible, it will make use of sustainable and natural resources.

The existing pathways will be resurfaced with a mix of resin bound gravel and bonded gravel. Existing trees will be retained where possible, with any new tree planting using native tree species. Unsightly hedges will be removed and replaced with low level shrub planting to create a sense of openness and better lines of visibility across the area. Formal bedding will be incorporated into the scheme, complemented by traditional metal archways with flowering climbers and timber benches and picnic tables.

Gentle mounding will be created to create a sense of 'natural play', circa 1.5m depending on available on site spoil.