Council July 2022
Item 8 Groombridge Playground

Background

At its September 2021 meeting, Council agreed unanimously to proceed with the Tender submitted by Southern Landscape & Construction Ltd for the new Groombridge play area on the basis that all funding is in place before the Contract is formally signed and that it is possible to negotiate some amendments to the design.

At its March 2022 meeting, Council agreed to apply for a Public Works Loan of £50,000 towards the project, which has now been authorised and must be drawn down before 31 May 2023.

Since these meetings…

- further consultation was undertaken to agree the final design (now a semi-circle rather than full circle to allow better visibility from the recreation ground, and inclusion of more stand alone equipment)
- significant fundraising efforts have been made
- up to date costings have been received

Fundraising (Confirmed as at 5th July 2022)

PWLB Loan (confirmed)	£ 50,000
Lottery grant (confirmed & received)	£ 10,000
Shanly Fdtn grant (confirmed & received)	£ 2,000
Local fundraising showing on Collectiv	£ 11,905
Private donations (received into bank account)	£ 4,000
WPC EMRs (from CiL & Speldhurst grant)	£ 28,355.50
TOTAL	**£106,260.50**

Costings (as at 22 June 2022)

GROOMBRIDGE	OBRA	Price Includes Delivery,
Obra prices held until end February 2022	Product Code	Installation & Surfacing
Surfacing is Techniz Safa Grass Rubber Matts		
Prelims		3,000.00
Rospa Inspection		500.00
Special Castle Groombridge	special	70,218.75
Obra Mini Play Wall Combination 3	41202	5,748.75
Speaking Tube Stainless Steel	69051	2,541.00
Obra Mini Play Wall Combination 2	41201	5,260.50
Obra Mini Crawling Tunnel	41490	7,906.50
Viking Tau Swing	45180	6,497.40
Ring, single & Double Swing with Toddler Swing	45190	6,996.15
	Total	108,669.05

(These prices will be held for 8 weeks from 22 June 2022)

Should councillors wish to view the pieces of equipment they can go to the Obra website Play equipment from OBRA - wooden playground equipment / playground equipment (obraplayground.co.uk), click on the magnifying glass (top right) and, where it says 'Search', type in the 'Obra Product Code' which is in the second column above.

The Playground Group has reviewed the standalone pieces of equipment and have made the following observations which would affect the costings:

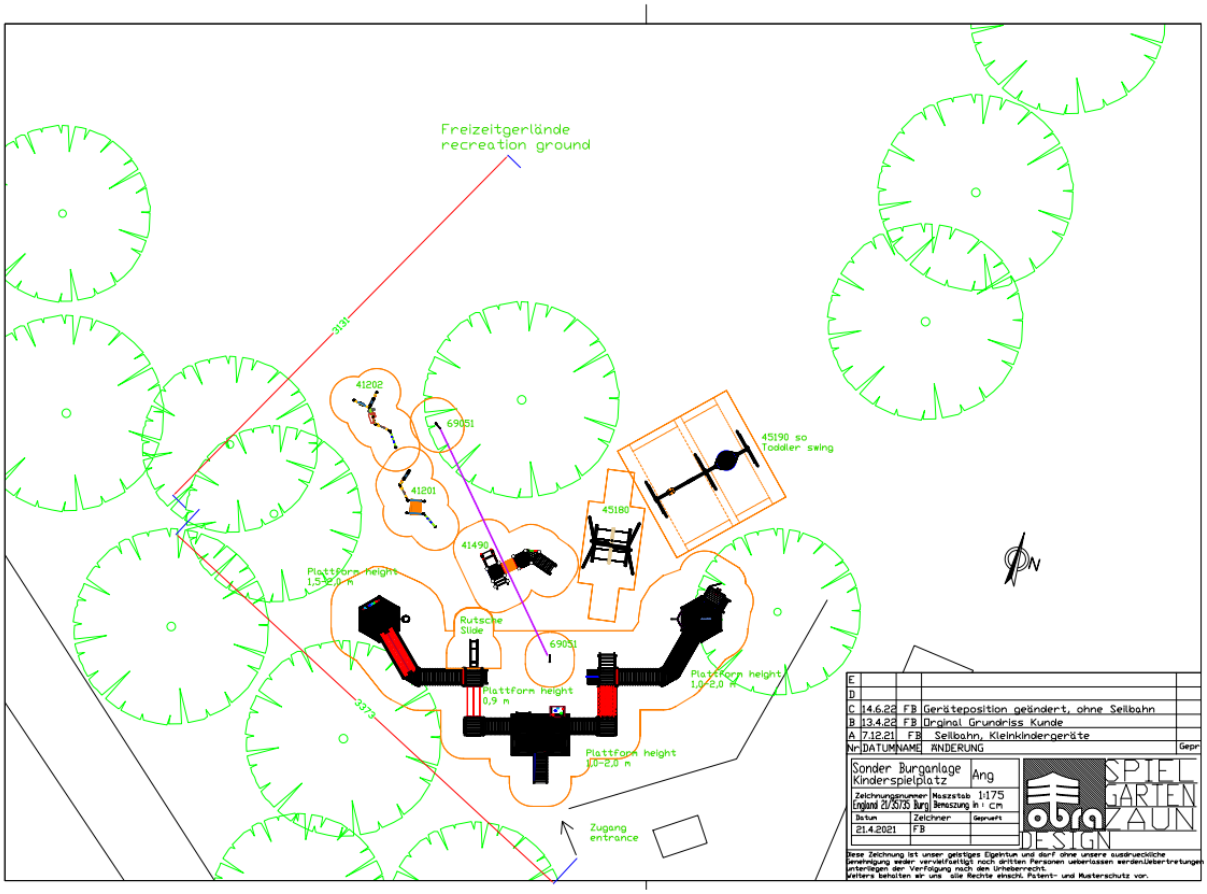
- On looking at the Obra combination walls there is duplication, so I would suggest to the councillors that we remove one of these i.e. Combination wall 3 £5748.75. This way we are on point for the funding
- If we do manage to get further funding we would like to review the combination wall as we want to make sure we are providing apparatus for the 6mth to 4 years olds; the combination wall is great but wondered if we can upgrade it.
- We met with a resident whose son is disabled and has no mobility, we spoke about maybe a wheelchair accessible roundabout which all children can use, this could replace the combination wall 2. The resident would be prepared to pay for this, including installation etc., he also has access to sponsorship for projects like this particularly if we are making the playground accessible to wheelchairs.

REVISED COSTINGS WITHOUT COMBINATION WALL 3 £5748.75 = **£102,920.30**

This means that there would be a surplus of £3,340.20. Council is asked to keep this available to the project to pay for the plaques, perhaps some picnic benches/seats and allow a little contingency.

Design

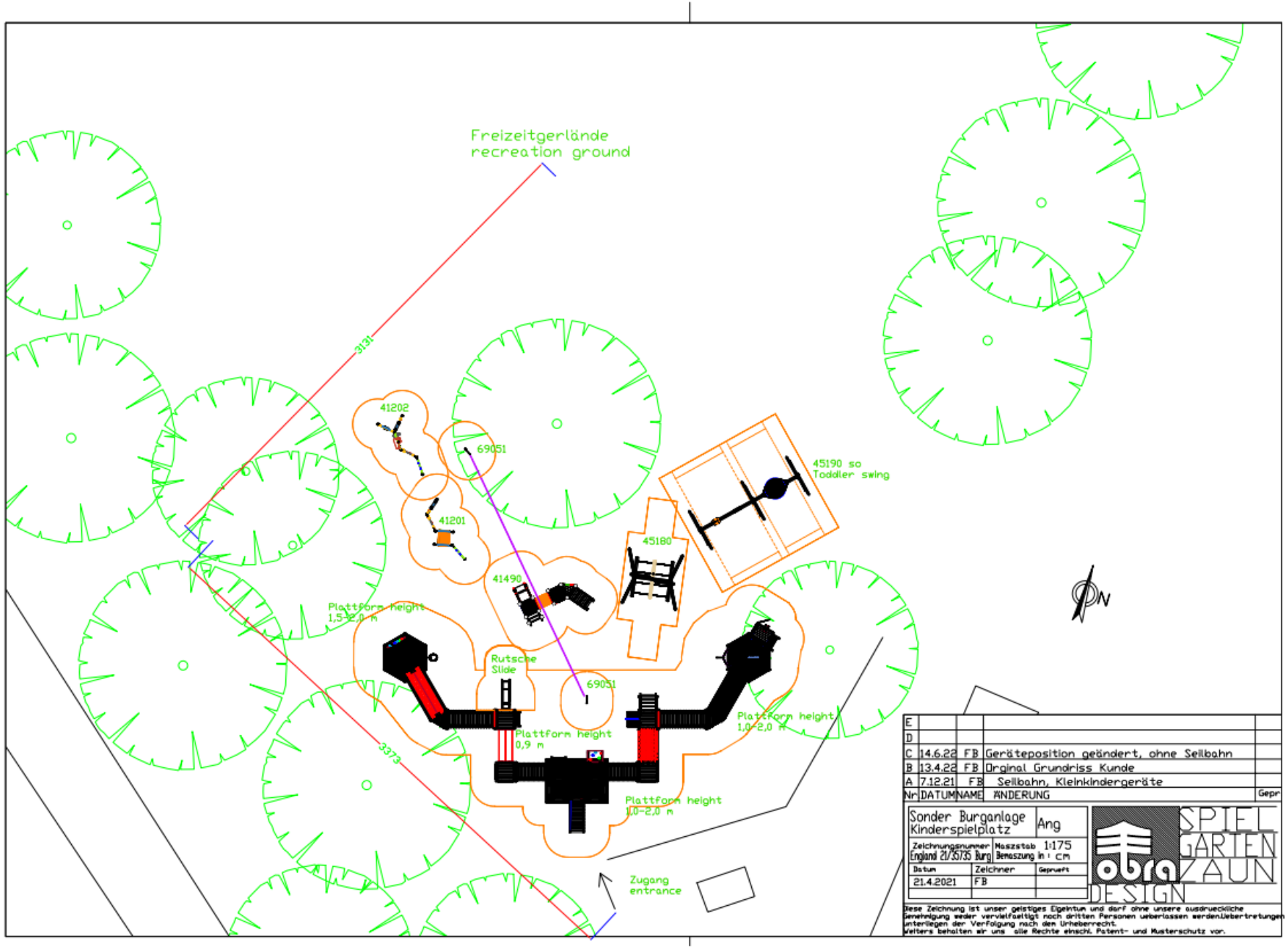
Council requested an in-situ plan to show the layout of the playground within the trees etc, and to demonstrate that it will fit. The following has been provided:



Also attached as Appendix 1 is an A4 version of this plan.

The lead-in time from point of order is around 20 weeks.

Council is authorise the Clerk to place the orders/make the following expenditure:

- ***£102,920.30+VAT to Southern Landscapes & Construction Ltd as detailed above (Parish Councils can reclaim VAT)***
- ***Up to £3,340.20 for items such as plaques, picnic benches/seats and contingency***
- ***If more money is fundraised then reinstatement of the combination wall that was removed, or similar***
- ***A wheelchair accessible piece of equipment tbc, once income is confirmed***

Appendix 1 – A4 plan