LAP Information Pack - Update

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As a result of experience and advice from a number of national organisations the Council considers it necessary to clarify some of the specification.

With regard to the entrance of a LAP; where circumstances permit, the minimum is 2 Nr. self close gates to the site. (Such as IAE, Massey and Harris, Prosafe, which are to ROSPA standards or other similar to approval). Dog grids would be welcomed in addition, but not in place of the gates. It is now required that the fencing and soft, self close gates should be 1200mm high and constructed of Mild Steel bow top with 16mm minimum bar diameter and designed to meet ROSPA standards. It should be hot dipped galvanised (to BS 729) as should all fixings which should be “anti-vandal snap off cone nuts” or similar approved fixings. The fence panels including the gate should be polyester coated a primary (agreed) colour in addition to the galvanising.

The info pack sets out the National Playing Fields Association’s standards for LAPS and for the avoidance of doubt these areas should incorporate features only indicative of play and not traditional fixed items that slide, rock or swing etc. The selected play equipment should conform to the new BS EN 1176 /1177 and TUV standard. To encourage variety, a supplier or product list for approved play items has not been provided. The preferred ‘indicative play’ features should be: - patterned floor surfacing incorporating shapes and symbols for example, wet pour surfacing, safe sculpture, approved rounded play boulders, rubber stumps / mushrooms or similar approved. Traditional bench seating should, in general, be avoided and instead informal perch seating may be used. However in certain circumstances bench seating may be requested.

There is no requirement to adhere to the circle design for the activity areas and in fact creativity is encouraged for a child friendly environment. Providing that the activity area is usable and no closer than 5 metres to the nearest property boundary the design can be irregular in shape.

With regards to surfacing, information is required about the proposed depth and Critical Fall Heights of any safety surfacing. All tarmac areas should be to SMBC adoptable standards, have “fall” towards grass/planting areas for drainage and have concrete edging. Finished turf level should have a maximum fall of 14° (1 in 4), falls above 1 in 3 should be planted out and wet pour should be laid in accordance with our select list. Changes in level can be usefully employed for variety and interest but consideration must always be given to maintenance and heath and safety implications.

If it is the intention of the developer to ask the Council to adopt these areas, it should be noted that the current rate for adoption of such areas is calculated per sq.m. The amount finally required will be based on the rate current at the time of adoption. Once the LAP is constructed a ‘Practical Completion Meeting’ should be arranged with the Council to approve the works. The developer will then be responsible for the maintenance and defects for the first year following practical completion. The site must be open and available for use during this time. At the end of the 12 month maintenance period a ‘Handover Meeting’ will be held with the Council. At this meeting the developer must supply the Council with ROSPA inspection details of the safety surface, 6 copies of as built plans and confirmation of the title of ownership. At this point the LAP must be in an acceptable condition.

All details need to be clearly marked on plan at an appropriate scale. The guidelines contained herein may be subject further to change.
Plant Selection

We do not supply developers with a preferred plant list. Plant should be selected to meet the individual requirements of the site. However developers must take into account the seasonal value and maintenance requirements of each plant selected.

Poisonous Plants - The following is not an exhaustive list.
The developer should endeavour to avoid known poisonous plants.

Abras precatorius (Rosary Pea or Castor Bean) - A single seed has caused death
Atropa bella-donna (deadly nightshade) - All parts poisonous.
Aconitum sp. (Monkshood) - All parts poisonous
Brugmansia - Toxic if eaten
Colchicum Autumnale (Meadow Saffron) - Can be fatal
Cicuta spp. - Water Hemlock or Cow Bane - All parts fatal
Conium maculatum - Hemlock - All parts fatal
Convallaria - Lily of the Valley - Toxic if eaten
Coriaria - toxic if eaten
Cytisus - Broom - Can be fatal if eaten
Datura (Angels Trumpet) - All parts poisonous
Daphne mezereum - all parts poisonous
Delphinium (including Larkspur) - Highly toxic, can be fatal if eaten
Dielmenbachia (Dumb Cane) - All parts poisonous
Digitalis sp. (Foxglove) - All parts poisonous
Euphorbia (Poinsettia) - Sap poisonous
Gloriosa superba - toxic if eaten
Hysocyamus - toxic if eaten
Helleborus - Christmas Rose - Root Toxic
Hyacinthus - Bulb Toxic, can be fatal
Ipomea violacea - Seeds Toxic
Iris (some spp.) - Rhizome (root) toxic. Severe, but not usually serious-digestive upset.
Jasminium - Jasmin - Berries toxic, can be fatal.
Juniperus sabina (Juniper, low growing) - seeds or foliage can be toxic
Laburnum - All parts poisonous
Lantana camara - Red Sage, Yellow Sage, West Indian Lantana - Green berries can be fatal
Lathyrus spp. incl. odoratus - Sweet / Tangier / Everlasting / Caley Pea and Singletary - Seeds are toxic
Leucothoe davisciae - drooping laurel - all parts toxic, can be fatal.
Ligustrum vulgare - privet - all parts toxic
Lilaceae - Bulbs toxic - Many members of the lily family are potentially poisonous; avoid eating bulbs.
Lobelia (perennial types) - All parts Toxic
Lupinus sp. (Lupins) - All parts poisonous
Mandragora - Toxic if eaten
Menispermum canadense - Moonseed - Berries can be fatal. Blue, purple color, resembling wild grapes
Mirabilis jalapa - Four o’clock - roots & seeds toxic
Narciissus (Daffodil) - Bulbs poisonous
Nerium oleander - Leaves & branches extremely poisonous. Affects the heart, produces severe digestive upset and has caused death.
Oenanthe crocata - Toxic if eaten
Parthenocissus quinquefolia - Virginia Creeper - Berries Toxic
Privet - Leaves & berries poisonous
Potato - Stems Poisonous
Phytolacca americana - Poke Weed or Poke Root, toxic if eaten
Podophyllum peltatum - fruit, foliage and roots Contains at least 16 active Toxic principles
Prunus (some spp) - wild and cultivated. Twigs, foliage, seeds can be fatal.
Ricinus Communis - Castor Oil Plant - Seeds toxic, can be fatal.
Rheum - Rhubarb - Leaves Poisonous
Rhododendron - Leaves & flowers poisonous
Ranunculus sp. (buttercups) - sap poisonous. Irritant juices may severely injure the digestive system
Sambucus - Elderberry - All parts, especially roots; seeds (stones) - Can be fatal.
Solanum sp. (nightshade) - All parts poisonous
Taxus Baccata (Yew) - Leaves & berries poisonous
EXAMPLES OF INDICATIVE PLAY OPTIONS

- Plastic stepping stumps
- Colour wheel patterns
- Markings based on nature or animals
- Footprints of animals or people
- Totem poles

Grass
Low level planting
Tree planting
Bit mac surfacing
Approved, rounded seating / play boulders
Extent of activity zone
Brightly coloured thermoplastic markings
0.5m wide mowing strip where required
Notice board and 'No Dogs' sign
1.2m high approved fencing with 1.2m wide self closing gate
Litter bin
Wet pour surfacing with informative / themed infill shapes using a min of 3 primary colours or colour wheel

NOTE: 1. Refer to text guidance for further specification

LAP GUIDANCE
Example 1