

Appendix 3 - Direct Services – Garden Design

Garden Design.

As discussed my vision for the garden, based on the feedback from your team and customers, is to create a mixed use garden. Firstly, I wanted to create more privacy and a greater sense of security for your garden. I feel this will significantly enhance customer's potential to relax and fully benefit from the space. This is achieved by the new fence. There is a relatively substantial amount of clearing required to facilitate the new installation including the removal of some trees. The trees, in a horticultural sense, are of low benefit/value and we will mitigate their removal by replanting. The replanting selection will tie into our overall theme and be a complimentary selection of colours and shapes.

Next I wanted to ensure all areas of the garden are accessible and safe for everyone – although there is a change in height from the main doors we can still create a continual, step free series of paths throughout. These will cover your existing paths as well as into the planting areas, sensory trail, gazebo and greenhouse. We can still discuss the surfacing but I would like to recommend a coloured tarmac. These are more interesting than standard black tarmac but offer the advantage of a smooth yet non slip surface and are easy to sweep/clean. There is a huge range of colours and can include coloured aggregates/stone to further enhance their appearance.

As requested the pond will be removed and the area will be used for a gazebo. The gazebo I recommend is one commonly used in schools and public facilities as an outdoor classroom. It is hexagonal with a 6.7 metres diameter and has integrated benches and fencing (as pictured). We should hopefully be able to add electricity to have both lighting as well as sockets as I thought it might be useful for music etc. The flooring will be a continuation of the overall paths – step free, non-slip access. We will have some trellising and climbing plants to some sides of the structure. There may be a planning requirement for this structure and power but I am sure we can work this all out.



We will replace the greenhouse with a slightly larger one. This is toughened safety glass and it's the highest spec available in the UK. It is very strong and even if the glass was to break it shatters to small blunt pebbles, the same way a car windscreen does. This greenhouse will have the same surfacing as the rest of the paths and will have double sliding doors for wheelchair friendly access. There are integrated shelves for positioning seeds trays etc.

The rest of the garden is to be divided into a more passive and more active areas.

The active area is primarily focussed on new raised beds with workstations. This will be partially planted as examples with the bulk of the space available for customers and groups to use. A little way down the line but we could probably start growing a lot of plants in your greenhouse ready to be transplanted out in spring. I've also included picnic benches in this area for outdoor dining.

The more passive area will be a sensory trail and primarily areas of grass. We will extend your fruit trees to create a mini orchard with a variety of bulbs planted amongst them. The sensory trail is going to provide colour and scent via a variety of suitable plants. I would like to use large log sections, boulders, sand stones, mosses and similar to create ad hoc seating and add a lot of texture to our trail. There are traditional benches as well. Finally, the water feature will add sound and disguise some road noise. There is a lot more than can be done to enhance the sound aspect of the trail, I have for example found some interesting information on *sound maps*. We would need to discuss and develop this to suit the specific requirements of the centre.

Beyond these key features there will be a range of landscaping to make it all fit together. From the feedback from your customers I feel like lots of separate areas is more desirable to one open garden - Areas you freely move about but that facilitate being able to spend some time alone and have some privacy with others where you can spend time in a small group etc. I would like to achieve this sectioning with living structures. I often use *pleached* trees as alternatives to fencing as well as willow structures (particularly in forest schools). This is high level one I did in a house in Wimbledon as an example.



And an example of a willow archway.



Essentially it is training branches around wooden frames to create shapes. These do take several years to establish but that epitomises a garden in my opinion. I have factored in coming back for several years to continue training these structures.

Kinds regards,

Barber Environmental Ltd