

Rural Activity Garden Centre

West Drayton Road UB8 3JE

<https://discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/2811/Rural-Activities-Garden-Centre>

Introduction

1. The RAGC is a training and learning centre for adults with disabilities and learning difficulties. It is a busy family orientated place; that has outgrown its current facilities. The Centre is owned and managed by the London Borough of Hillingdon; a local authority dedicated to putting citizen's first, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged people.
2. The RAGC Team are Gold Award winning horticulturalists, and they have the expertise and knowledge to deliver a landscaping in house, but need assistance in planning and presentation on drawings. In 2018 the RAGC was awarded Gold at Hampton Court flower show. For the last 5 years the RAGC has been awarded Gold, in the small park category, for London in Bloom. For the last 2 years the RAGC has been overall category winner (meaning they are the best small park in London).
3. The nursery produces flowers and plants for sale in the shop. The nursery consists of several commercial greenhouses and outdoor planting.
4. The shop sells the products produced in the nursery; also some items purchased for sale and goods made for the garden centre by volunteers. The current shop is a wooden shed in a state of disrepair; it will be demolished and removed as part of the scheme.
5. The Gardineers working in the nursery have a wide variety of disabilities and learning difficulties. They are able to take qualifications in gardening and horticulture through the Royal Horticultural Society Scheme.
6. The Café is a training place for people with autism. It is managed by the charity Hillingdon Autistic Care & Support. The HACS staff and volunteers run the café and provide work and life skills training for autistic and other disabled people usually moving from fulltime education to the world of work.
7. Events run at the RAGC, such as Tea with the Easter Bunny, Easter egg hunts, meet Father Christmas and Halloween Parties. These events are designed specifically to be safe events for children with special needs.
8. Men's Club meet on a Wednesday afternoon and support the work of the RAGC, for example building fences and display stands.
9. The ecology of the site and good environmental practice is an essential site component. Because of the purpose of the site and the location on the edge of green belt. For example waste food from the Café feeds the chickens and the eggs are returned to the Café. The site has several ponds, including one large pond hand dug by the Gardineers.
10. The RAGC is a pet friendly environment, for example disability assistance dogs are frequent visitors.

Architectural and Consultancy Services

Architectural Design from and including RIBA Stage 4 to completion, Employers Agent, Principle Designer, Quantity Surveying and Cost Management, Structural, Mechanical, Electrical and Ventilation including managing the release of all planning conditions, including the management of new utility and service provision. Landscaping design working in collaboration with the Gold Award winning RAGC team. Building Control approval through LBH. Exclusion civil engineering

design of the roads and car parks, and the adjacent barn. Planning consent because this has already been given.

Full detailed design and delivery of the project through Traditional JCT Contract. Including the preparation of all drawings and employers requirements; ready for tender to builders through LBH Procurement Team. Be part of the tender evaluation team, and manage the site works as construction proceeds to practical completion, excludes managing the defect liability period, includes final completion certificate works.

Commence design works April 2020.
Commence builders procurement May 2020
Complete construction October 2020

Architectural and Consultancy Services

Start June 2020 completion March 2021

Site description

Site address: Rural Activity Garden Centre, West Drayton Road, Uxbridge, UB8 3JE

The entrance to the site is through a garden centre with very restricted lorry access. Adults with learning difficulties work in the garden centre and they must be protected and safeguarded from the construction works. Children are also to be protected and safeguarded from harm. The main construction site is in a field; that is unimproved grassland and the road may not be complete before the barn construction commences and temporary roads may be necessary if the rain does not stop.

The road contractor will be the principle contractor if they are on site at the same time as the barn construction.

LBH will appoint a principle designer.

The garden centre is open to the public every day, except Christmas.

Working hours 0700 to 1800, usually Monday to Friday with weekend working only with pre-approval.

Contractor to cut own keys for access and return the keys to the RAGC site manager at the completion of the works.

The site has a cash only cafe; that Contractor's staff are permitted to use, if open due to the COVID19 crisis.

