7 Outdoor Spaces and Gardens

We are proposing a series of different outdoor spaces that can be used and enjoyed like outdoor rooms:

1 The Courtyard
The central courtyard is designed as an outdoor room, suitable for gatherings, play, relaxation, and incorporating sustainable drainage features. By positioning the courtyard at the heart of the proposed buildings, it ensures easy access, natural light and ventilation, and a strong visual connection to nature. The courtyard is surrounded by a covered walkway and will be paved with York stone. It includes a new flowering multi-stem tree as well as planting and seating steps around the edges.

2 Retreat Garden
The Retreat is predominantly a landscaped garden room which provides an extension and a contrast to the central courtyard. Lush sensory planting will help create a sense of seclusion which is enhanced by the canopies of the retained Plane trees. A “clearing” with seating provide a quieter space immersed in nature. Round cuts from the felled Plane tree will form the ground surface as well as provide timber seating.

3 Drop-In Play Area
The Drop-In play area will provide a secure and safe space beneath the canopies of the retained plane trees. The raised timber deck becomes an extension of the internal area, and includes recessed storage units as well as a miniature tree house which evokes the architecture of the Hall and provides a framework for individual and group play. Woodland and sensory understory planting around the site boundary will help to provide screening and privacy.

4 Quiet Garden
The Quiet Garden situated in between the Health Visitor, Midwife and Quiet Room is a smaller enclosed courtyard, which provides a secure and secluded space for staff or parents with small children, surrounded by planting to enhance biodiversity with year round interest, and provide screening for privacy. Stained glass artwork to the adjacent glazed link will also prevent views from the main courtyard into this space. Raised growing boxes will be provided along the southern end of the Hall.

