



Churchill Road Play Area Consultation

Key Findings

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Who responded?

The survey ran from early August to early October 2022. 207 people responded, 86% of these were aged 25 plus, 81% described themselves as parents or grandparents and 19% lived close to the recreation field. 14 people responding said they are caring for a child living with a disability. Most people responding were aged 18 pluVery few children or young people responded to this consultation.

Traditional or Adventure Play Equipment?

83% of people responding in the survey were in favour of having Adventure Play equipment rather than Traditional Play equipment in the park. Zip wire, and basket swings were frequently mentioned in comments as being popular, Some comments

My children all loved the zip wire and large basket swing. ‘

‘The basket swing was extremely popular - maybe we could have more than one as the teenagers used to constantly use it when it was on site and the little ones didn’t get to have much of a chance to use it’

;PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE don’t get rid of the zip wire (but if it has to be replaced please replace with a bigger one).;

Which age group?

83% wanted play equipment for early years to 7, 79% wanted play equipment for children aged 7 to 12 but only 34% wanted equipment for children aged 13 plus. Some residents expressed concern about the problems of unsocial behaviour by teenagers in the field and the need for them to have a separate area away from the children’s play area.

Some comments

‘There needs to be a separate area for The Teenagers as There is often conflict at the park between parents and teenagers swearing at the kids.’

Somewhere for older kids/teenagers to hang out and recreation for them would be very useful to reduce vandalism due to boredom.'



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Should we include inclusive play equipment?

89% of people wanted some of the play equipment to be inclusive, accessible to all children including those living with a disability.

Some comments

'As a mum of child with additional needsplease do '

'I think inclusive equipment is a must. No child should be excluded, even if there's only one child in town it's needed for it's worth it '

Where should play equipment be sited?

80% agreed it made sense to put the play equipment close to the entrance off Churchhill road as it would be easier to lay a path for wheelchair/buggies to that part of the field. Some local residents expressed concern that this spot was too close to houses which might cause a disturbance to residents.

Some comments

'Yes I agree this would be the best place because it has easy access and the sensory garden is in disrepair'

'Yes, but with due consideration to houses in close proximity to the area. '

Steel / Wood & Colour Scheme?

80% were in favour of using steel equipment rather than wood as it last much longer and provides better value for money. 63% were in favour of having natural colours and 37% in favour of bright colours.

Some comments

'Given the play parks location, with the Long Mynd as its backdrop, more natural colours would seem appropriate.'



'natural - as some children with neurodisability are put off by bright colours - also will look better in light of the AONB landscape'

Benches?

96% were in favour of having benches close to the play equipment. Some people were concerned that having covered benches might encourage teenage vandalism. Open sided shelters which provide cover from the rain/sun might address this concern.

'As the temperatures increase covered seats would afford some shade in the hot sun and also shelter from the rain and winds later in the year.'

'Covered seating would encourage older children to assemble and cause a nuisance with their loud music.'

Fencing?

There were mixed views about fencing in the play equipment with 39% wanting a smaller area fenced in, 27% wanting all the play equipment fenced in and 34% wanting no fencing at all. There were many comments from people concerned about dog mess in the field.

'This area is popular with dog walkers and unfortunately some owners do not clear up dog poo, so fencing to keep the dogs out is essential'

'There is a really bad issue with dogs weeing on the play equipment and also poo not being picked up. Although fencing isn't ideal it the safest option.'

'The current open-ness of the main play equipment is appealing and makes it look far more accessible, inviting and user-friendly.'

What else would you like to see? – A significant number of people expressed concern about anti-social behaviour of bored teenagers and thought this might be prevented by providing a separate area for teenagers with a teenage shelter and equipment suitable for them. Some people indicated they would like to see adult gym equipment in the field.

'Teenage shelter together with their own swings - other swings sized for the under 12s. Current issues with the existing play area would be resolved if it were relocated as far from the houses as possible, allowing the residents to enjoy the peace and quiet of their home and gardens.'



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'Somewhere for older kids/teenagers to hang out and recreation for them would be very useful to reduce vandalism due to boredom.'

'Teenagers don't just need a separate area they need something to keep them busy. Climbing equipment/ games.'

'Gym style equipment as well similar to Craven Arms who have a good park.'

A more detailed report of this consultation is available on the Town Council website.