

Consultation report for Raleigh Crescent Playground Refurbishment project

A consultation exercise was held on 9th December 2017 at the West Witney Primary School Christmas Fayre. The Fayre was very busy and was an excellent opportunity to consult with local children who used the play space.

People were offered the following ways to give their opinion:

- By selecting their 3 favourite items from a selection of play equipment. People were given 3 sticky dots with which to make their choice. The sticky dots were colour coded by age.
- By completing a questionnaire
- By writing ideas on a post-it note and adding it to the display
- Verbally to the project manager

Summary of results

Selection of 3 favourite items

A total of 214 sticky dots were used to choose play equipment. This equates to 71 people making a selection of 3 items

Sticky dots were colour coded by age as follows:

Colour coding	Number of sticky dots	Number of respondents
Blue 0-5 years	100	33
Green 6-8 years	63	21
Red 9-12 years	39	13
Yellow 13+ years	3	1
Orange adults	9	3




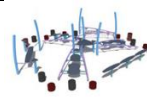





Play equipment was grouped by category on the display

Category	Total number of stickers
Slides	40
Rotating equipment	34
Other (including trampoline, panels, static train)	28
Multi play equipment	23
Climbing equipment	23
Trails	22
Playhouses	13
Swings	13
Existing equipment	10
Springers, see saw	6
Basket swing (from somebody writing it on a post it note and then others subsequently choosing this)	2

Most popular category by age group

0-5 year olds	Slides
6-8 year olds	Slides
9-12 year olds	Rotating equipment
13+ year olds	Other
Adult	Slides and climbing equal

Most popular pieces of equipment by total number of stickers (all ages)

	Large slide 25 stickers
	Trampoline 16 stickers
	Aerial see saw 12 stickers
	Trail 10 stickers
	Tube slide 10 stickers
	Imagination train 8 stickers
	Climber 7 stickers
	Climber 7 stickers
	Cradle swings 6 stickers

To note:

- The trampoline is the only piece of equipment in the table above that has been selected by every single age category.
- The large slide has been selected by all ages other than 13+. It is most popular with children aged 0 -8.
- The aerial see saw is most popular with children aged 9-12.

Questionnaires

12 questionnaires were completed during the consultation event.

100% of respondents said that they would visit the play area more often it is was refurbished.

How often do you visit Raleigh Crescent play area?

Once of more a week	25%
Several times a month	42%
Several times a year	25%
Never	8%

Please give us your opinions and thoughts, including ideas for equipment that you would like to see there.

Note – number of mentions are low given the low number of questionnaires, but should be noted that top 5 comments have therefore been mentioned by 25% of respondents

Comment	Number of mentions
Include things for toddlers	3
Too muddy	3
Bigger area (expand into field)	3
Ground is too uneven/too many mole hills	3
Keep baby swings/basket swing/Different types of swings	3
Safe gates	2
Needs fencing	2
Mow grass more regularly	2
Music/interactive things/sensory boards to fit wheelchair under	2
Make visible from all approaches – currently shrubs obscure view and encourage misuse	1
Outdoor gym for adults	1
Suitable for all ages	1
Tall climbing tower with zip line	1
Not the right area for bigger children	1
Disabled access	1
Wider slide so parents can help disabled children	1
Accessible roundabout	1
Wobble equipment	1
Caterpillar with several seats	1
Different height bars	1

Post-It notes

Only 4 post-it notes were completed, suggesting that people were happy with the selection that they had been given to choose from. These were as follows:

- A really high climbing tower (like The Leys)
- Basket swing
- Please could we keep the trees and create a fun path through it.
- Rotating see saw (like at Burwell)

Verbal feedback

Parents were keen to discuss the project with the Project Manager. There were several recurrent themes:

- Very positive that the children had been asked to give their input
- Whether there was any possibility to extend the space into the field, as general feeling was that the field was not currently used much.
- Retaining the trees
- The timescale for the project
- Where the money was coming from
- The importance for including something for really small children as there was feeling that The Leys no longer caters for them and that some parents drive to Hailey and Abingdon as a consequence. Some parents also felt that Oxlease now does not cater well enough for small children.
- The poor state of the grass and the lack of drainage; the site is too boggy to use unless it is the summer months
- Keeping the fence; the lack of fencing at Oxlease now was mentioned several times

Conclusion

There is very positive feeling within the community about the refurbishment of the play space. General consensus is that it is well overdue and therefore people are supportive of it.

In coming up with a design brief there are some key elements that will need to be considered:

- The kind of surfacing, given the issues with drainage, weighed up against the budget available
- Retention of the fence
- Removal or better maintenance of the shrubs around the space
- The possibility of whether the footprint can be extended at all
- Ensuring that the new equipment caters adequately for toddlers as this appears to be important to the local community; the youngest age category formed the largest number of respondents.
- Inclusion of a large slide. Given lack of space careful consideration should be given to finding a piece of equipment that offers climbing as well as a large slide, to take into account the most popular requests, whilst also ensuring that this is accessible to all age groups – maybe by different means of accessing the slide. This would ensure that a wide age range is catered for and therefore offer value for money as well as play value. It will still be important to include separate toddler equipment, even though a large number of younger children selected the slide.
- Inclusion of an in-ground trampoline.
- Inclusion of a trail, that caters for younger children too, such as the one that was the most popular.
- Consideration of whether there will be enough space to include a piece of equipment such as the aerial see-saw, given that was also a popular choice.
- Include both flat bed and toddler swings.
- Ensure the space is inclusive and accessible for disabled children.