

RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE NEW PLAYGROUND AT THE NEW STREET RECREATION GROUNDS

July/August 2012

Summary

Funding was recently approved for a new playground to be built on the site of the bowls club at the New Street Recreation Ground.

Given that a new skate park is to be built for teenagers in an adjoining area it was felt that this site would be best suited to a playground aimed at children aged 11 and under.

Consultation was carried out between 17th July and the 6th August 2012 to gather the views of local children and their families as to what they thought the playground should look like and what were their favourite pieces of playground equipment.

The following methods were used to consult as widely as possible:

- Online questionnaire
- Focus groups with local school children
- Market Stall/voting at locations across the town (family events at the Country Park and Leisure Centre and New Street). Children were asked to vote for what they would like the playground to be made out of and what were their favourite pieces of equipment. Adults were asked to provide any additional comments.

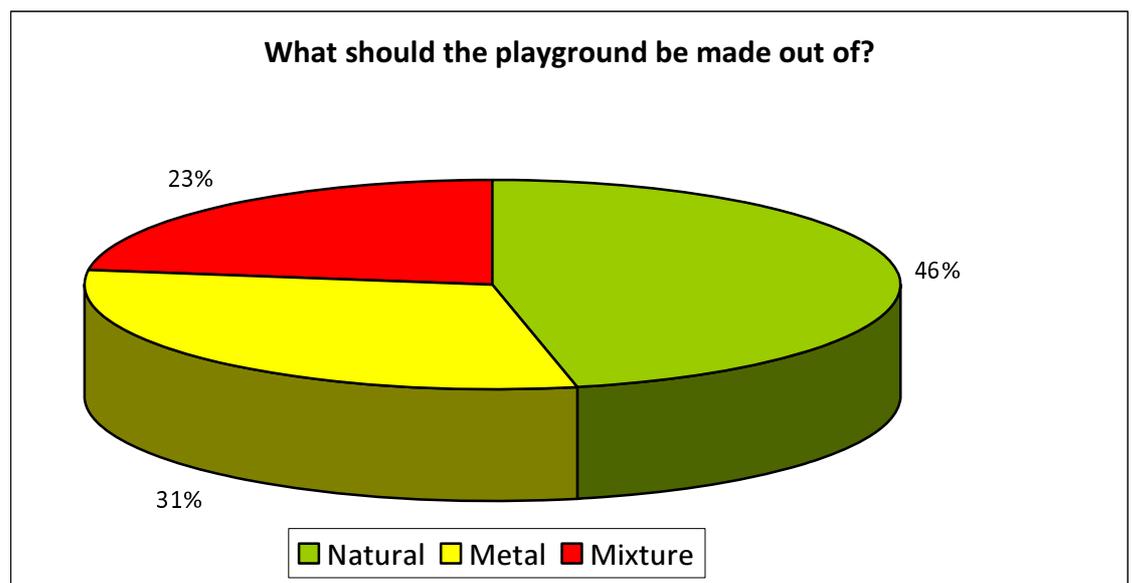
The consultation was publicised in the local paper and on the DDC website. Leaflets were also dropped at local nurseries to engage with working parents with young children.

Questionnaire

1. What would you like the new playground to be made out of...?

There were 408 responses to this question. The responses were as follows:

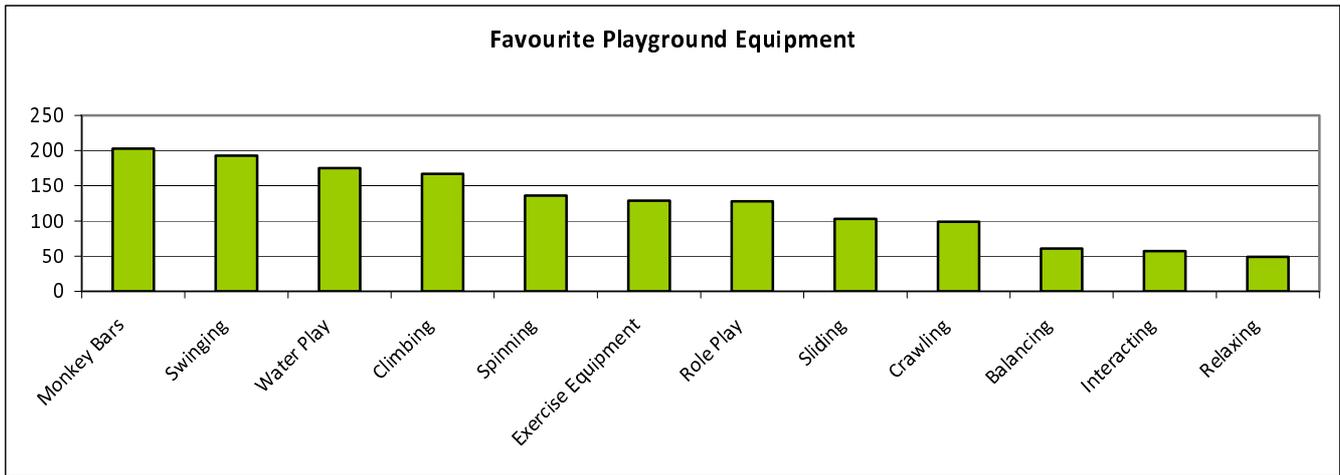
- 191 votes for the playground to be made of wood/natural materials (46%)
- 125 votes for the playground to be made of metal (31%); and
- 92 votes for the playground to be made of a mixture of materials (23%).



2. What things do you most like to do at the playground?

There were 1500 votes cast for favourite pieces of playground equipment. The results were:

Equipment	No. Votes	%
Monkey Bars	203	14%
Swinging	193	13%
Water Play	175	12%
Climbing	167	11%
Spinning	136	9%
Exercise Equipment	129	9%
Role Play	128	9%
Sliding	103	7%
Crawling	99	7%
Balancing	61	4%
Interacting	57	4%
Relaxing	49	3%



3. Any other comments

COMMENTS - AGE
<i>There should be no demarcation between 0-3 and 4-6 this should be one group</i>
<i>Under fives would be a better age group to consider, i.e. pre-school A challenging environment that children can access with minimal adult help.</i>
<i>Good for all ages so kids can play together</i>
<i>Make sure there is ample equipment for all ages. Something for both little and bigger kids</i>
<i>A playground where everybody can join in e.g. younger and older siblings</i>

COMMENTS - MATERIALS
<i>Consider what is best for the environment, lasts the longest and is vandal proof</i>
<i>Choice of materials depends on price</i>
<i>Needs to be graffiti proof</i>
<i>All weather material</i>

COMMENTS - EQUIPMENT
<i>Interactive sand play e.g. diggers or tip and scoop, pulleys</i>
<i>Skateboard ramp</i>
<i>Themed item –examples requested- a train, boat, car, bus, pirate ship, castle</i>
<i>A big slide with more than 1 slide so several can go at the same time</i>
<i>A zip wire</i>
<i>Paddling pool</i>
<i>A swing for a number of ages and enough of them</i>
<i>An area with grass and trees and bushes. Build it up high make sure its big and with 3 playgrounds and loads of activities to do a massive gate around the play grounds with a swimming pool and bouncy castle</i>
<i>Include adult things to do</i>

<i>Zip wire, climbing frame, and a giant swing. Swings, a giant wavy slide and musical instruments area. A paddling pool and a club/tree house</i>
<i>Something like the country park but maybe more for 0-4 year olds and definitely water play/music making/sand</i>
<i>Sandpit; more swings - never enough swings!</i>
<i>Needs to incorporate fun with exercise</i>
<i>Please build big swings on it</i>
<i>Like to hide. At the country park they have a big swing. Might there be a couple at the new park</i>
<i>Visually appealing. Role-play opportunities. Enough equipment to encourage families to come and use it.</i>
<i>Would like a trampoline and water fountain</i>
<i>Like equipment at the Country Park like the roundabout, zip wire, bucket swing and all the roleplay equipment in our school playground</i>
<i>Equipment that is safe for smaller children i.e. they don't need constant supervision so that parents get a chance to relax as well</i>
<i>Consider placement of equipment e.g. not directly under trees to avoid bird poop</i>

COMMENTS - GENERAL
<i>Barriered off from unwanted people</i>
<i>Use of shady areas for hot days, Picnic areas, seating (relaxing for Mums, Dads & Nans)</i>
<i>Sign saying No Dogs</i>
<i>A maintenance plan needs putting in place the amount of litter ruins a park in the centre of our town</i>
<i>Opportunity to open up the rec to families. Currently underused. Also fence it to keep out dogs. Need to be innovative to attract young children with carers. Pleased that a new area will be created.</i>
<i>Seating in the playground and also around the Recreation Ground</i>
<i>Leave the old play equipment as it gets lots of use</i>
<i>Would be happy to pay if there were supervised sessions</i>
<i>Bins and seating</i>
<i>Need to build something that will attract people to Daventry</i>

Recommendations

From the results of the consultation it was determined that the most popular materials for the playground to be built from were wood/natural looking materials.

The top five favourite things to do at the playground were:

- Monkey Bars
- Swinging
- Water play
- Climbing
- Spinning

It would be expected that any designs for the playground would feature these elements as far as practically possible.

What Happens Now?

The results from this survey will be used to inform the report to Senior Management Team at the end of August. From this report approval will be sought to go out to tender for the playground design/build based on the results of this consultation.

It is anticipated that once the council receives proposed designs from the companies that have tendered that we will be able to go back to local school children to give them the chance to vote for their favourite playground design.