Summary
Daventry District Council identified funding to provide additional playground equipment at Hidcote Way, Middlemore.

Consultation was undertaken with residents on the preferred design for the playground.

Residents Consultation
A letter drop was carried out to properties that adjoined the playground. The consultation was publicised in the local paper, DDC website, local noticeboard and the Residents Association. People could respond by either completing a paper form or via an online survey. The consultation period was open for three weeks.

58 responses were received to the survey.

The responses to each of the survey questions are outlined below.

Q1 – Should additional equipment for 4 to 8 years olds be added to the playground at Hidcote Way?
57 responses were received to this question. The majority of responses (94.7%) agreed that yes additional playground equipment for 4-8 year olds should be added to Hidcote Way. 3 responses (5.26%) disagreed with the proposal.
Q2 – If no, why not?
3 people responded to this question. The reasons they did not think that additional playground equipment should be added to this playground were that:

- There is already too much screaming and yelling by children and clanging noises from the zip wire
- There is enough playground equipment already and money should be spent on more urgent issues
- Equipment should actually be provided for those children who are aged over 8.

Q3 – Please select your favourite design?
54 responses were received to this question. The favourite playground design was Option A (46%), followed by Option C (25.9%), Option D (14.8%) and Option B (12.9%).

Q4 – Do you have any other comments you would like to make about the upgrade to the playground for Hidcote Way?
Comments received included:

- Would prefer to have a skateboard/scooter facility
- More rubbish bins are needed and signs to encourage people to use them
- Police to monitor the playground occasionally
- More equipment would bring in more children and more screaming and yelling which is already too unbearable on fine days. We don’t want it.
- Fence off the area
• This shouldn’t happen
• Provide suitable seating and a flat area for pushchairs/prams
• Poor repair job to existing soft floor of this playground and existing small play area is in very poor condition
• More equipment in all areas of Daventry including the country park is needed for under 4s
• Carparking spaces along the edge of the part to get all the parked cars of the road
• Correct flooring also needs to be part of this project
• Equipment needs to be provided on the upper playground beside existing play area. This ensures that families with children of different ages can still all play together and parents can supervise all kids in one place. This then leaves the lower vale area for free play and sporting games.

Q7 – Are you a parent/grandparent/guardian of any children who would use this playground?
Of those that responded to the survey, 81.8% were parents/grandparents/guardian of a child who would use this playground.

Conclusions

Of the 57 people who responded to the survey, the majority (94.7%) supported the proposal to provide additional playground equipment for 4-8 year olds at the Hidcote Way playground.

54 people voted for their favourite playground design. The most popular design was Option A (46%).

As a result of the consultation, the design by Kompan was selected for the new playground.