

*Henley's
consultation*

Makins Consultation Report

Saturday 11th June 2016



Summary

Following a meeting of the Parks Sub-committee on Wednesday, it was decided we could use an upcoming Gainsborough Residents Tea Party to consult with young people about the improvements we plan to make to Makins Recreation Ground. A display board was created to give a visual overview of the top results of the previous GRA consultation and Henley Town Council consultation and a questionnaire created to find out exactly what the young people who use the park would like to see it updated with. The children were asked about what kind of equipment they would like to see installed – colourful, wooden or metal and whether the equipment should have a theme. Following the previous consultations it was clear that residents wanted to see more sensory equipment, spring equipment, climbing equipment and a den for small children, not accessible to older children who may use it to loiter. Children were asked what varieties of this equipment they would like to be installed. Due to the decision to extend the playground, requiring extra fencing, the children were also asked if the fence should be coloured or plain as it is now. 43 children were consulted, over a five hour period. Whilst this is a small fraction of the overall usage of the park, it is a large proportion of the children that use the park on a very regular basis. Names and ages were supplied from all children consulted, apart from those who were too young to be consulted by themselves and had the assistance of a parent.

Section One

Type Of Equipment

The children were shown examples of colourful metal equipment, wooden equipment and plain steel equipment. They were asked to rank them from most preferred to least preferred, 1 being their top choice and 3 being their last. The lowest the most popular answer could score was 43 and the highest the most unpopular could score was 129.

- Coloured equipment scored 91 and was top choice 13 times.
- Wooden equipment scored 76 and was top choice 16 times.
- Plain steel equipment scored 88 and was top choice 14 times.

Whilst wooden equipment is slightly more preferred, the results are mixed with no out-right winner.

Section Two

Themes

The children were asked whether there should be a theme to the new equipment.

- 32 answered YES
- 11 answered NO

Out of the 32 children that answered yes and suggested their favourite theme, there were 3 top choices.

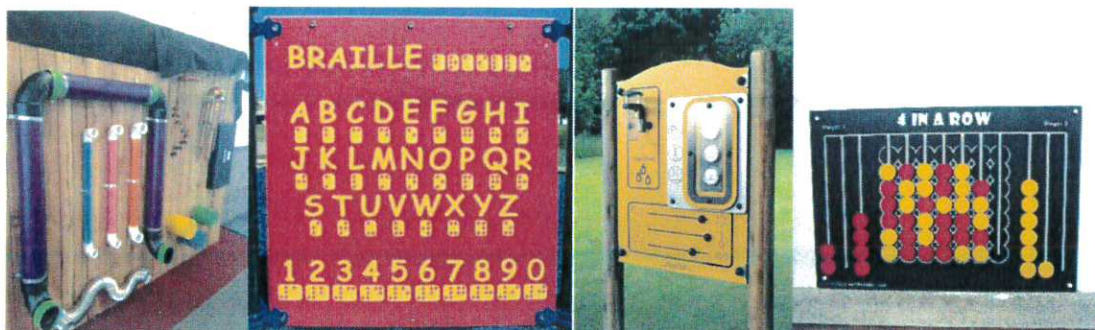
- Wildlife theme (bugs, flowers, nature) was suggested 9 times.
- Farm theme (animals and tractors) was suggested 7 times.
- Boat theme (water, ships) was suggested 4 times.

Other suggestions received by 1 or 2 people were; emergency services, castle/princess, laundrette, vehicles, adventure/outdoors, vets, trains and jungle.

Section Three

Sensory Panels

The children were shown examples of the four types of sensory boards. Musical – to make music, educational – to learn from, interactive – to play alone by twisting, turning, pulling etc and lastly, multiplayer game panels – to play with others such as scavenger hunt and tic tac toe. The children were asked to rank the four type of panels in order of their favourite. The lowest the most popular could score was 43 and the highest the most unpopular could score was 172.



- Musical panels scored 93 and was top choice 23 times.
- Educational panels scored 100 and was top choice 10 times.
- Interactive panels scored 122 and was top choice 3 times.
- Game panels scored 119 and was top choice 7 times.

Musical panels were by far the most popular choice, however, all the sensory panels were well liked by the children being consulted.

Section Four

Ground Markings

The current playground floor is natural grass. It has been discussed that we may change the flooring to something safer but still cost effective such as rubber mulch. This would give us the opportunity to mark the ground with additional games. The children were shown four types of ground games – puzzles such as a maze, multiplayer games such as snakes and ladders, simple games such as hopscotch and sports markings such as long jump measuring. The lowest the most popular answer could score was 43 and the highest the most unpopular could score was 172.



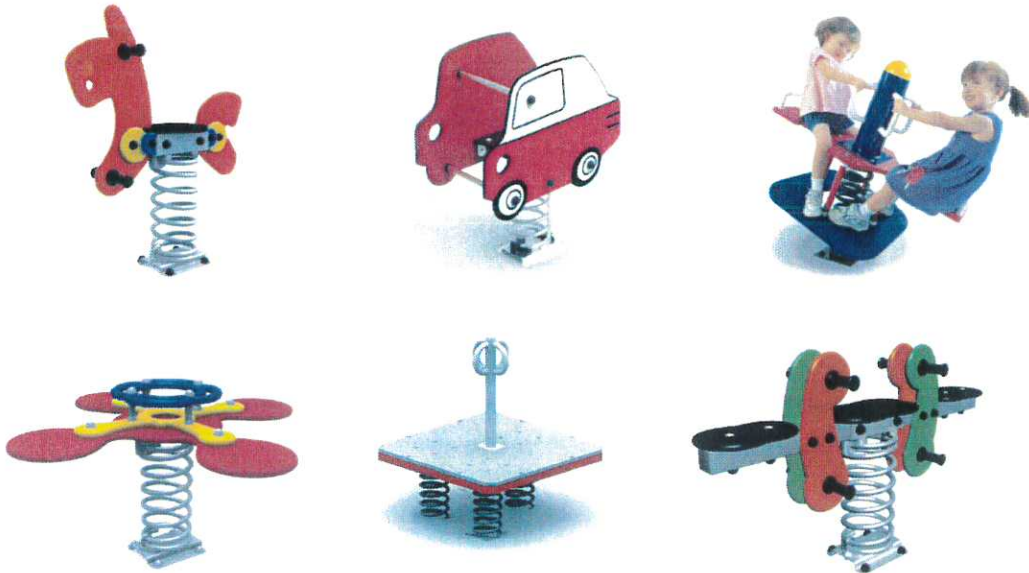
- Puzzle games scored 120 and was top choice 8 times.
- Multiplayer games scored 98 and was top choice 9 times.
- Simple games scored 125 and was top choice 5 times.
- Sports markings scored 88 and was top choice 21 times.

Sport markings and measurements were clearly the most popular choice of markings. All were well received by the children consulted.

Section Five

Spring Equipment

Previous consultations indicate that residents would like more spring and climbing equipment at Makins. The children were shown solo spring equipment, duo such as spring seesaws and larger spring equipment for up to 4 children to play on together. Children were asked to make their top choice. A mixture of equipment was not given as an option, however, some children insisted!

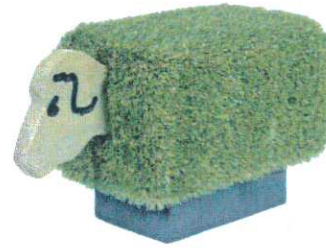
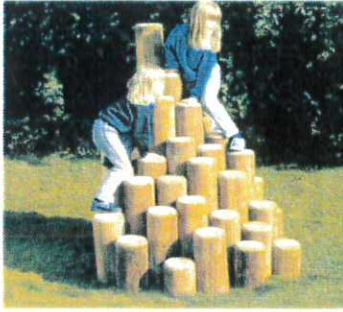


- Large spring equipment for up to 4 children was top choice 17 times.
- Seesaw-type duo springs was top choice 11 times.
- Solo spring equipment was top choice 8 times.

Out of the 43 children questioned, 4 children requested a mixture and 3 children did not mind as long as some were installed. The most popular choice was the larger spring equipment.

Climbing Equipment

The children were shown a variety of climbing equipment – logs and boulders for natural climbing play, small animals placed around the park to ‘clamber’ over and metal frames aimed towards older children. Again, a mixture of equipment was not given as an option but was chosen regardless.



- Logs, boulders and natural climbing equipment was top choice 29 times.
- Small animal climbing equipment was top choice 6 times.
- Wire frame equipment was top choice 5 times.

Out of the 43 children questioned, 4 children requested a mixture and 4 children did not mind as long as some climbing play was installed. The most popular choice, by a long way, was logs and boulders.

Section Six

Dens/Small Shelter

The children were shown a large variety of dens from traditional playhouse designs to more natural and perhaps unusual designs made from wood, grass mounds, stone and metal. The children were each asked to suggest two features they would like in a den, giving 86 answers in total.



- Mound with a tunnel was suggested 13 times.
- Den made of large stone was suggested 13 times.
- Cave-style den was suggested 12 times.
- Traditional wooden hut was suggested 11 times.
- Large bushes/natural-style den was suggested 10 times.

The type of den that is clearly the winner is a mound and a tunnel, with a stone appearance like a cave. When discussing this with the children, words such as 'hobbit,' 'cave,' 'small,' 'hill,' 'rock' and 'natural' were used a lot to describe the den that they would like.

Fencing

The children were all asked if the fence should be the same or change to a different colour. They were only shown examples of plain metal fencing and dark green fencing, but chose differently in some cases. There were 43 answers.



- Multi-coloured was suggested 13 times.
- Green was suggested 10 times.
- Plain metal, as it is currently was suggested 8 times.

Other colours were suggested such as purple, pink, red and blue. Despite not being offered as a choice, multi-coloured fencing is the preferred option.

Makins Consultation

Section 1

Please tick for your most preferred choice and cross your least preferred choice of equipment.

A. ☐

B. ☐

C. ☐

Section 2

Would you like themed play equipment installed at Makins? Yes ☐ No ☐

Please give your preferred choice of theme, if yes _____

Section 3

If Henley Town Council installed play boards such as those pictured, which type would you prefer?
Please tick your top **two** choices.

Musical ☐

Educational ☐

Interactive ☐

Games ☐

Section 4

Please tick which ground marking you prefer.

A. ☐

B. ☐

C. ☐

D. ☐

Section 5

On the board are some examples of the type of spring and climbing equipment being proposed.
Please list any suggestions you have for this type of equipment. Eg – solo play or joint play, natural or creative.

Section 6

Following previous consultations, small den-type shelters for young children have been proposed.
On the board are examples of different style dens. Please list any suggestions you have for this type of equipment.

The area of playground that is fenced will be increased, giving us the opportunity to look at whether we would like to keep as is (plain metal) or paint a different colour. Are you happy with the current fencing of the playground?
