

# Beacon Park, Camborne

## *Phase 1 Consultation – September 2016*

### Summary

When looking to improve an open space, it is important to get a sound understanding of what users and non-users consider is good and bad about it, and what issues they would prioritise. Before considering new play equipment, we first need to get a feel for what play experiences are missing. Climbing was the most popular followed by sliding. Whilst the majority of respondents identified the lack of facilities, in particular play equipment, as the worst thing about the park, it would be a lost opportunity not to explore other ways in which the overall open space could be improved for all of the community. Seating was the most popular addition, with the entrances and football field being identified for improvements.

A full list of recommendations is made in the conclusion.

### Methodology

Local residents were consulted via questionnaires, completed during the Fun Day held on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2016. These were supplemented by pictures & comments done by children on the day. For anyone that missed the opportunity the questionnaire was posted on-line between 13<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> September.

45 questionnaires

21 pictures & comments

15 on-line questionnaires

**81 individuals consulted**

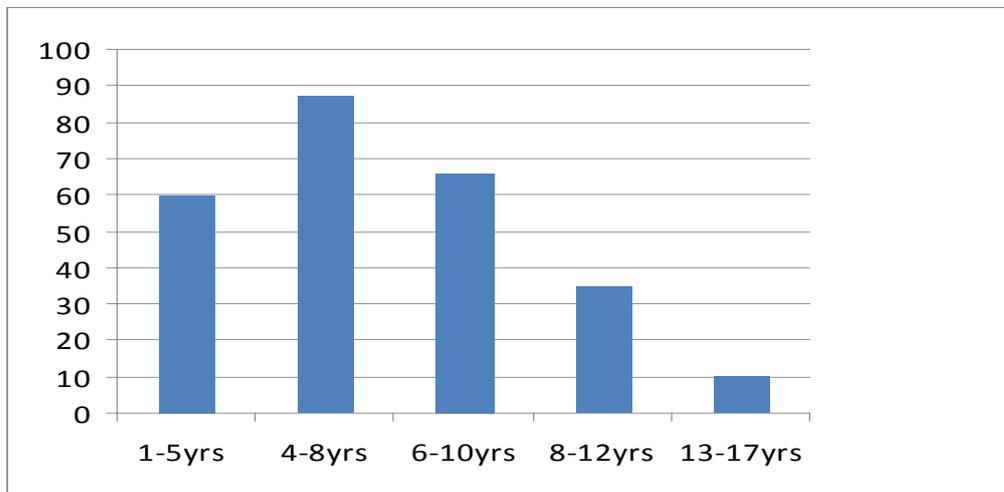
Surveys were split into 2 sections: one on the play area and the second on the general playing field.



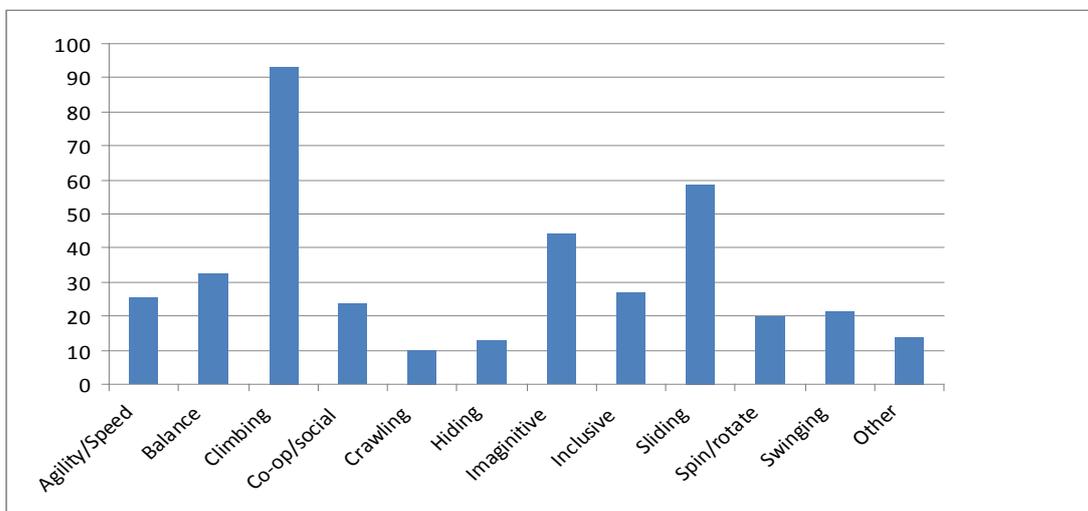
## Play Area Results

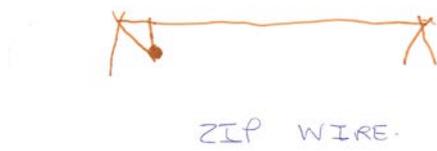


1. How should we prioritise the ages of children served by the new play equipment?



2. What play experiences are most missing from the current play area?

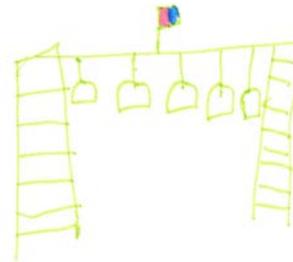




Other suggestions: -

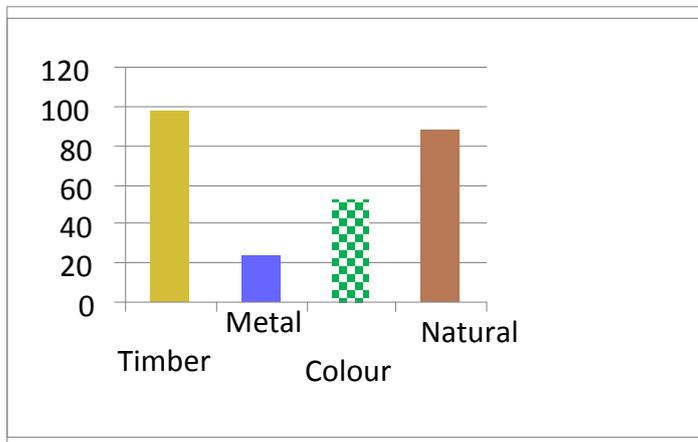
- 5 x Skate/scooter
- 4 x zip wire
- 2 x trampoline
- 2 x monkey bars
- Spring things
- Dog free

- Fenced play area
- Sandpit
- Tractor/train



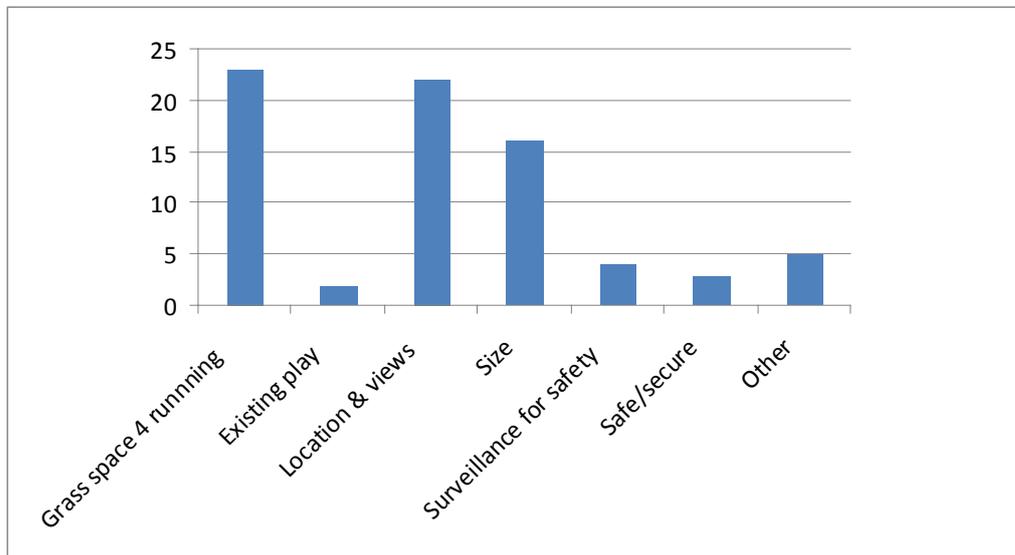
monkey bars

**3. What style of new children's play equipment would you prefer?**



## General Playing Field Results

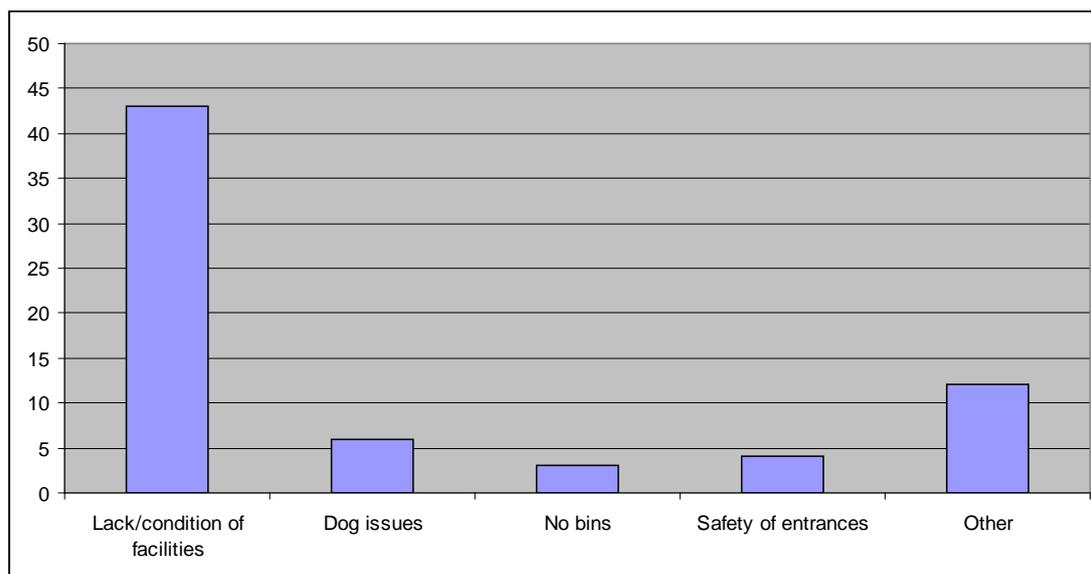
### 4. What is the best thing about the playing field at Beacon?



Other things: -

- People
- Climbing trees
- Access
- Quiet area
- Riding my bike

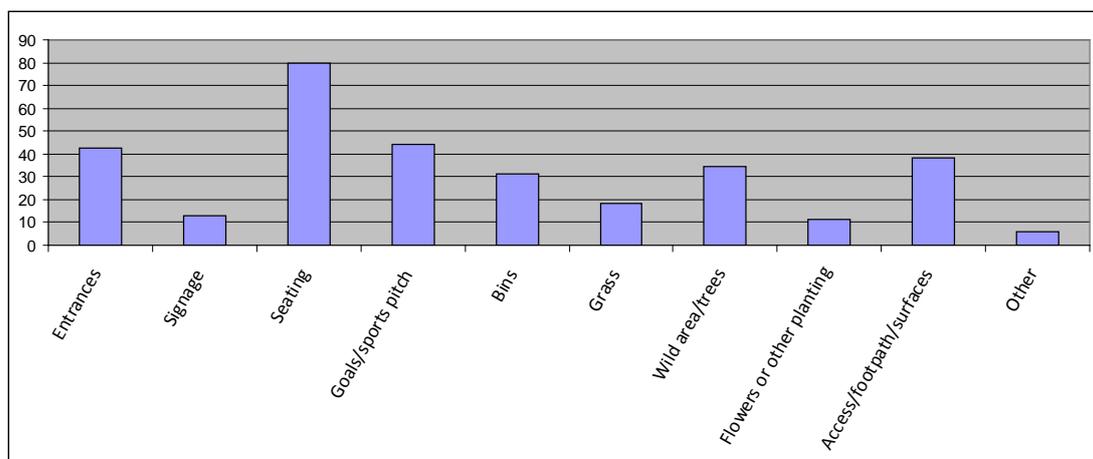
## 5. What are the worst things about the playing field at Beacon?



### Other things: -

- Parking
- No seating/picnic table
- Nowhere to ride bikes/scooter
- Everything rubbish
- Lack of trees
- Public awareness
- No fenced area, poor upkeep
- Lack of use
- Underutilised, parking, access
- Busy road
- Grass cutting
- It attracts old teenagers who like to swear, drop rubbish. Not enough protection from the next door cricket field as balls leave the field regularly. The grass is usually too long. Not enough dog poo bins for dog walkers passing through. The spinney area could do with tidying up and the rubbish being removed. The hedge could also do with being trimmed back and if the football area at the top of the feild is included in this it could do with a bit of enhancement (ie cut grass).

**6. APART from new children's play equipment what would you like to see improved from the list below?**

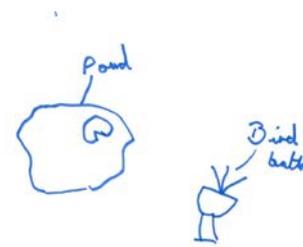


Other suggestions: -

- 2 x Putting green
- Skate facility
- Copse, sensory garden, wildlife friendly
- Disability parking
- Parking

**7. Anything else you want to tell us about regarding the playing field at Beacon?**

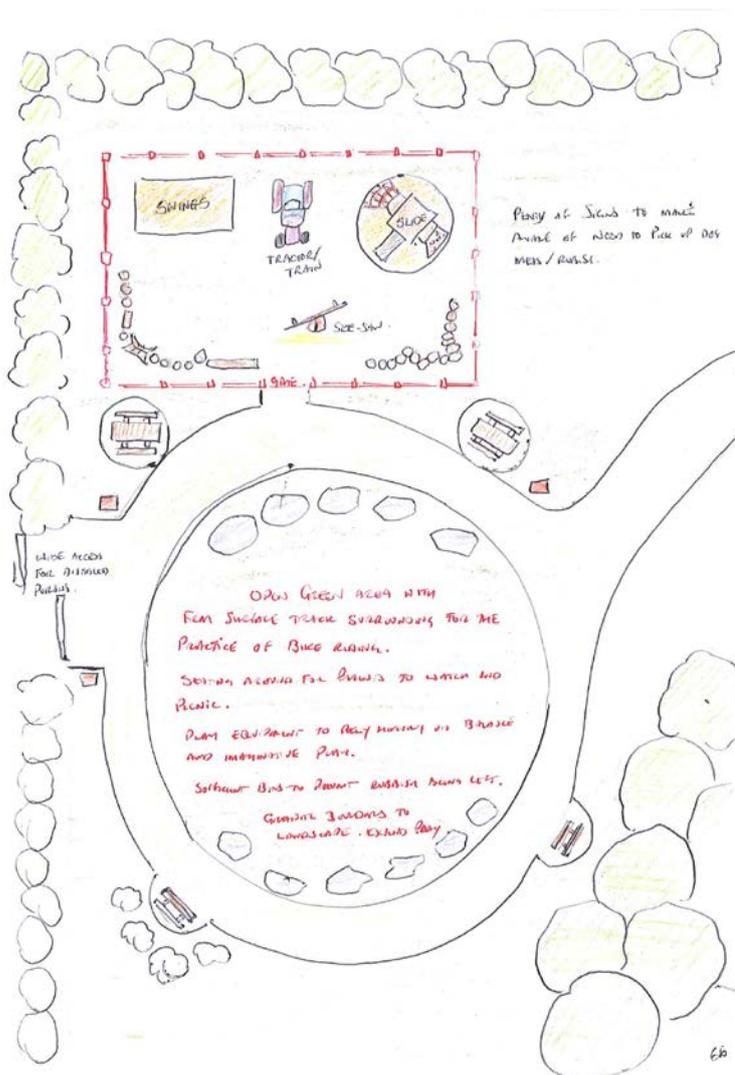
- 3 x Bigger goals with net
- 2 x Model on Heartlands
- 2 x Cater all ages of children/young people
- More village functions
- Community space for all
- Equipment for my autistic daughter
- Dog bins
- Trees & natural play
- Dog free in child areas
- Area needed to socialise - community spirit
- Must remain a playing field
- BBQ & Picnic tables
- Pond & bird bath
- It may be difficult to include teenagers as this may face opposition, but up to about age 12 would be great.
- Lots of villages benefit from a recreation area, beacon has a lots of families with children that would appreciate somewhere safe to play.
- It should be made no dogs allowed
- Some things for bikes
- An area for children of a variety of abilities is a great resource.



Be good to think about children with individual needs.

- The area for play area is a lovely big space for recreation but i am concerned at the speed some drivers travel on both roads adjacent to the park entrances. It would be good to have signs up warning of children and highlighting the entrances so that car users are aware that children could come out onto the roads. More rubbish bins and some seating would enhance the area for parents to sit whilst out with their children. It would be lovely to see lots of age groups using this open space. There is a need to make dog walkers clear up their dog mess, being a dog owner we always clear up after our dog. Perhaps an all weather pitch / basketball hoop.
- Need something hard wearing and not easy to vandalise
- The grass at all parks, including this one is left to grow too much throughout the year

Design idea submitted at Fun Day:



## Conclusion

We recommend that a landscape architect be commissioned to work with the Friends of Beacon Park and other stakeholders to develop a design for the park that includes the following priorities: -

1. Evaluating the most favourable long term position & layout for an equipped play area that factors in natural surveillance, safety from cricket balls, accessibility, noise impact to housing and dog nuisance.
2. A timber multi-use play unit with climbing apparatus & slide. Footings in ground should be long lasting and ideally galvanised steel. Catering age 5-10 years.
3. Low level adventure trail suitable for 3yrs+. Natural/timber construction.
4. Inclusive play item. Catering age 1-5 years + .
5. Picnic table near to play area.
6. Redesign entrances in consultation with Highway Officers. Some hard standing inside park possible. Possible short link to accessible play item (see 4 above).
7. New dual-use bins at each entrance in dialogue with waste contractor. High visibility bins.
8. Install bench for shelter/view, where unlikely to impact upon adjoining residents.
9. Replace existing low level goals with junior goals & net, and minor ground re-instatement to remove ruts.
10. Enable volunteer conservation activities in wooded area and possible expansion of habitats.
11. Explore other elements of the findings as directed by the Friends of Group.

In the short to medium term it is felt that there is too little demand for extensive pathways, surfaces and skate facilities to justify the significant costs associated. This can always be re-evaluated at any point in the future, once the initial phases of works have been completed.

Stuart Wallace  
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