



Report on the findings from feedback received during a public engagement on the proposed changes to Shepley play area, Huddersfield.

Shepley

Summary

- The Shepley play area consultation took place from 4th October to 19th November 2021.
- The purpose of the consultation was to communicate the draft proposals for a new play area directly with the public and gather feedback.
- The methodology used was a short online survey.
- The survey involved sharing the draft plans and asking for views via several closed and open questions.
- Overall, 14 respondents completed the online survey.

Headline Results

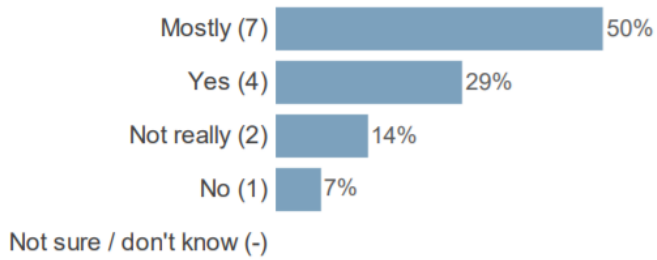
- The **majority of respondents (79%) agreed** to some extent with the Phase 1 proposals for the redesigned Shepley park (**29% Yes / 50% Mostly**) with **21% not in full agreement**.
- **Security** was the main area of **concern** to emerge for **Shepley** – respondents were worried that **removing the fencing** nearest the carpark would present a risk to younger children, and that the **proposed boulders** would attract gangs of youths after dark and pose a **threat of anti-social behaviour**.
- The most **popular suggestion** for Shepley was to include **extra equipment** suitable for a wide age range. **The existing proposals were described as ‘dull’**. When shown the Phase 2 proposals respondents selected ‘additional equipment’ as the most popular choice.
- Comments also called for the **fenced area to remain in place at Jos Lane**.
- Making both sites **more accessible for disabled children** was also a concern frequently raised throughout.

Results

A summary of results for each question as it appeared in the survey is detailed below.

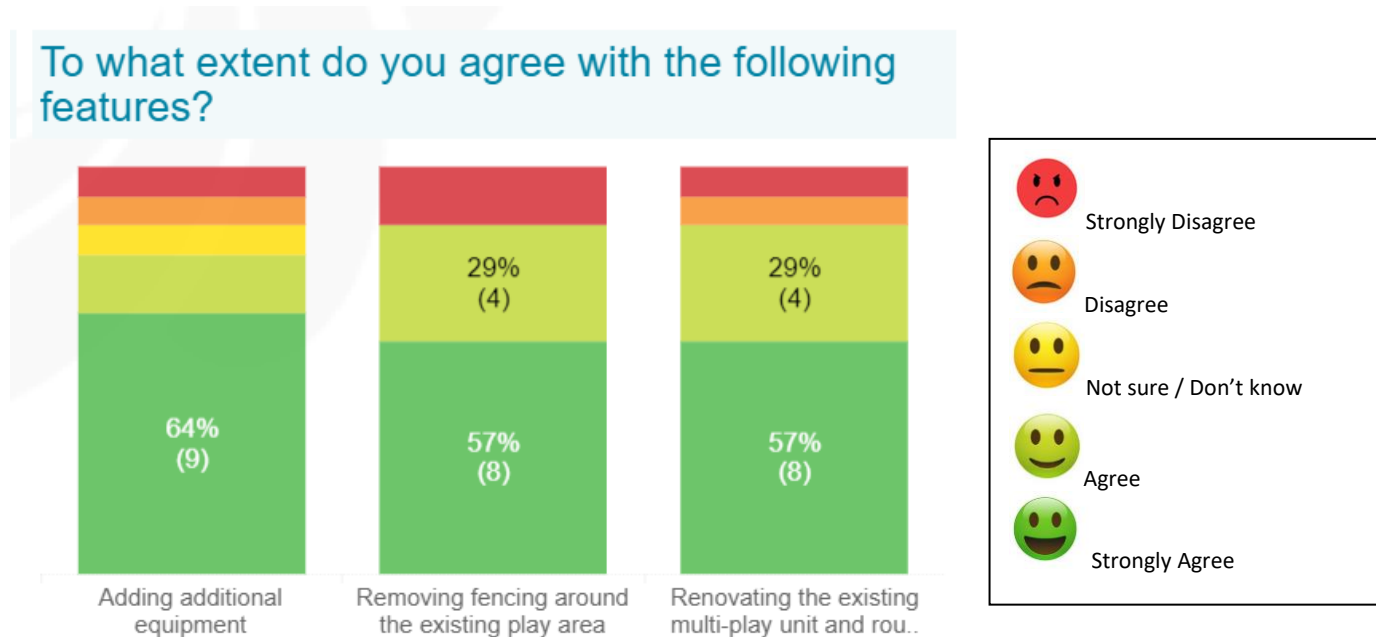
Please note percentages may not always total 100%, due to rounding.

The map/images show an overview of the proposed Phase 1 design. Are you generally supportive of this proposal?



A total of 79% of respondents agreed to some extent with the Phase 1 proposals (29% Yes / 50% Mostly), with 21% not in full agreement (7% No / 14% Not really).

Respondents were then asked to what extent they agreed with the 3 key features of the proposed Phase 1 Shepley plan:



The majority of respondents were in agreement with all 3 key features, with only 14% disagreeing to some extent with each. The most significant being the proposal to remove the fencing around the existing play area, with 14% selecting 'strongly disagree' to this feature.

Respondents were then asked two open questions:

The play area has been designed to cater for a wide range of ages and abilities. Do you have any suggestions for how the proposed Phase 1 improvements can better meet local needs?

There were 11 comments received on this question.

- More equipment was the biggest theme to emerge. Specific suggestions included tunnels, obstacle courses, more climbing equipment, a see-saw, a slide, musical equipment and puzzles. A few respondents stated that this additional equipment should be instead of the proposed climbing boulders, and suitable for a wide range of ages, especially age 6 and over.
- Other comments included equipment suitable for wheelchair access, improved security such as CCTV or lighting, and an area for children to ride bikes and scooters.

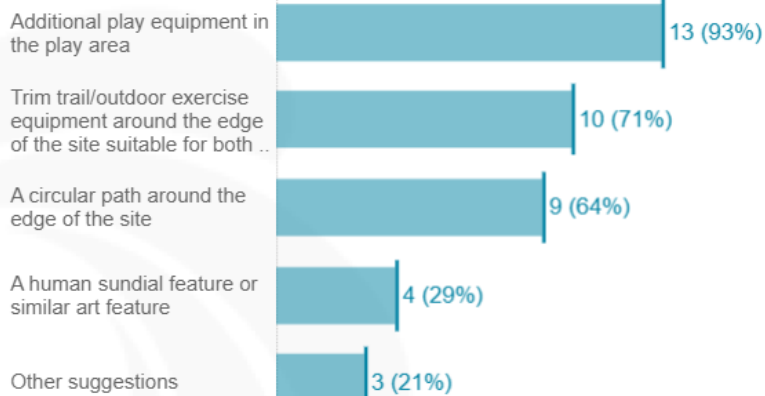
Do you have any specific concerns about the Phase 1 play area renovations?

There were 11 comments received on this question.

- The proposal to remove the fencing was the biggest concern to emerge, especially at the edge of the field nearest the car park, to protect younger children.
- The proposed new equipment was the second biggest concern. Respondents commented that the proposals were 'dull', not suitable for children with additional needs, and suggested that a new climbing area, swing and slide were required.
- Also mentioned here was the security concern that the proposed boulders would encourage young people congregating after dark, which would have a negative impact on local residents.

Respondents were then shown the Phase 2 plans for both Shepley and nearby Jos Lane park and asked the following questions:

What additional improvements would you most favour at **Shepley recreation ground?** (Select all that apply):



Please note this was a multi-choice question therefore percentages do not add up to 100%.

For Shepley, the Phase 2 proposal to introduce additional play equipment was the most popular suggestion (93%), followed by the trim trail (71%) then the circular path (64%). The human sundial was the least popular suggestion at 29%. The 'other' suggestions made were to include a skate park, a timber play frame similar to the one suggested for Jos Lane, and more wheelchair accessibility (e.g. tunnels that a wheelchair could fit in).

What additional improvements would you most favour at **Jos Lane park?** (Select all that apply):



Please note this was a multi-choice question therefore percentages do not add up to 100%.

The Phase 2 proposals at Jos Lane were both almost equally popular with respondents, with no 'other suggestions' made.

Please use the space below to provide any other comments about the Phase 1 and/or Phase 2 proposals:

There were 5 comments received on this question.

- Support for the proposed redevelopment was the biggest theme.
- Other comments included: the fenced area to remain in place at Jos Lane for the younger children, the park to be more inclusive for children with additional needs (e.g. introducing a sensory path), and for the area to be monitored due to increased anti-social behaviour concerns arising from the proposals.

Inspiring a Smoke-free Generation in Kirklees with Smoke-free Playable Spaces

To help us create a smoke-free generation in Kirklees we are proposing to introduce smoke-free playable spaces. Your views, opinions and suggestions are important to us and we would be grateful if you could answer the following questions:

	Agree	Disagree
I support a voluntary code of not smoking within playable spaces across Kirklees	12	0
I support a voluntary code of not using e-cigarettes within playable spaces across Kirklees	11	1
I am in favour of not smoking in front of children	13	0

Please see <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/countryside-parks-and-open-spaces/playable-spaces.aspx> for information about our next steps going forward following this consultation.