



Marten Drive

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

Summary

- The Marten Drive play area consultation took place from 22nd November to 6th December 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, 40 respondents completed the online survey.

Headline Results

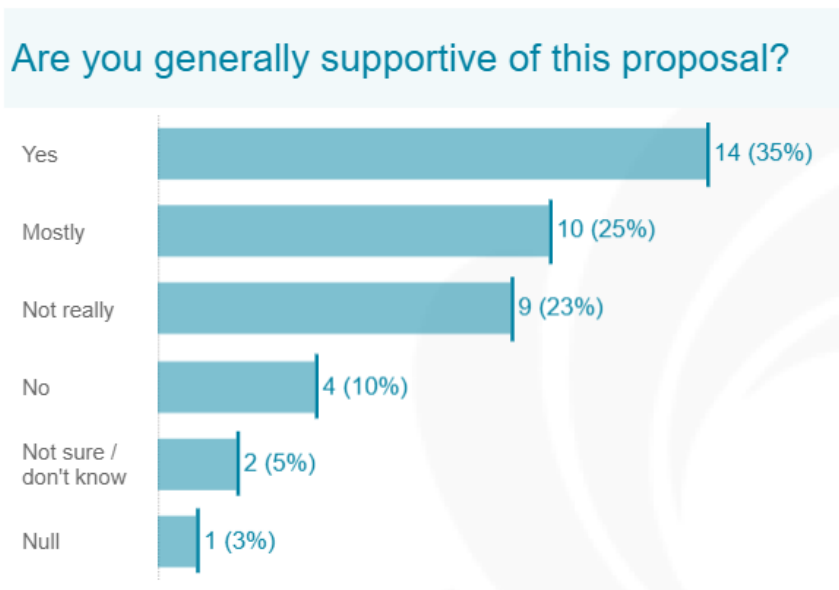
- The **majority of respondents (60%) agreed** to some extent with the proposals (**35% Yes / 25% Mostly**) with **33% not in full agreement**.
- A minimum of **60% of respondents agreed** with every **key feature** of the plan.
- The key theme to emerge from the **suggestions and concerns** was that the plans were too limited, **not enough equipment** was being proposed overall, and that the proposals would result in less equipment being at the site than was currently available.
- **Prioritising the slide** in the original plan as opposed to waiting for additional funding was the most popular suggestion, followed by the inclusion of **climbing equipment**.
- **Prioritising extra play equipment above planting new trees** was also a key theme to emerge.

Results

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

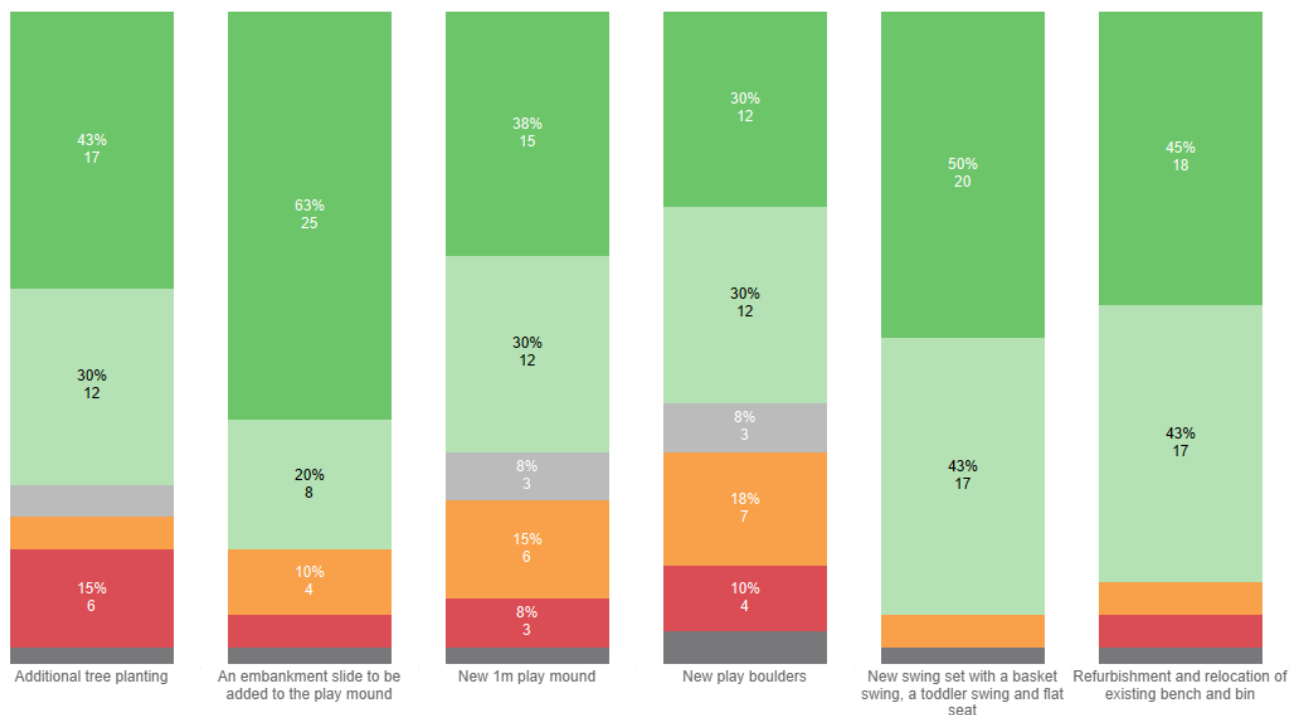
Please note percentages may not always total 100%, due to rounding.

Respondents were first shown an image of the new proposed play area design and then asked the following question:



The majority of respondents (60%) were in agreement with the proposed plans to some extent (35% Yes, 25% Mostly), with 33% not in full agreement, and 8% either unsure or choosing not answering this question (Null).

Respondents were then asked to what extent they agreed with the 6 key features of the proposed plan:



As you can see, the majority of respondents agreed to some extent with all 6 key features.

The 3 features to receive the highest percentage of agreement were the proposed swing set (93% agreement), the proposed refurbishment and relocation of the existing bench and bin (88% agreement), and the proposed embankment slide should additional funding become available (83% agreement).

The other 3 features received a slightly lower level of approval; with 28% disagreeing to some extent with the natural play boulders, 23% disagreeing to some extent with the 1m play mound, and 20% disagreeing to some extent with the additional tree planting.

Respondents were then asked four open questions:

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

This was an open question and received 32 comments.

- Not enough equipment being proposed in the plan was the biggest theme to emerge. Respondents commented that if the proposed renovation went ahead, there would be less equipment in the play area than there is currently. Several people suggested that extra play equipment should be prioritised over trees.
- Young children, babies, toddlers, older children and teenagers were all mentioned as being age groups that were missing out due to the general lack of equipment being proposed.
- The piece of equipment most frequently mentioned as missing from the proposals was a slide.
- As well as a slide, respondents also suggested the following equipment should be included in the plans: a sand pit, monkey bars, climbing frame, see-saw, rope walk, tunnel, zip line, rockers, balance beams, and at least 2 flat swings so that friends could play together.

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

This was an open question and received 30 comments.

- The lack of equipment being proposed was by far the biggest concern to arise. Respondents commented that they were underwhelmed with the plans as they were very limited and did not include enough equipment. Comments suggested that the play area would be worse off following the renovation and would include less useable equipment for children than it did currently.
- A slide and a climbing frame were the items most frequently requested amongst the comments.
- Several respondents also commented that they disagreed with the proposed new trees as they would prefer to have more equipment.
- There were also some safety concerns raised over the proposed boulders – some respondents suggested that younger children might injure themselves.

What additional improvements would you like to see at Marten Drive?

This was an open question and received 25 comments.

- Prioritising the slide in the first phase of the renovation as opposed to waiting for additional funding was the main improvement respondents suggested.
- Including more seating / picnic benches was also requested by several people.
- Other equipment that respondents said they would like to be included in the play area were: balance beams, a climbing frame, a rope climb, a roundabout, a see saw, extra swings, a sensory area, roktagons and football goals.
- Not letting funding get in the way of creating the right play area was also mentioned, especially as new family housing was being built nearby. One respondent commented that the community would be able to raise extra funds if needed.

Please use the space below to provide any other comments about these proposals?

This was an open question and received 17 comments.

- Criticism of the limited and basic nature of the plans was again mentioned here. Respondents called for the slide to be funded as part of the original proposals and for extra equipment (such as a climbing frame) to also be included.
- The need for dogs to be kept on a lead and for a dog waste bin to be included in the park was also mentioned.

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	36	2
I support a voluntary code of not using e-cigarettes within playable spaces across Kirklees	34	3
I am in favour of not smoking in front of children	35	2

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.