



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

Norman Park

Summary

- The Norman Park play area consultation took place from 8th February 2022 to 29th March 2022.
- The purpose of the consultation was to communicate draft proposals for two new play areas in the north and south areas of the park 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, 36 respondents completed the online survey.

Headline Results

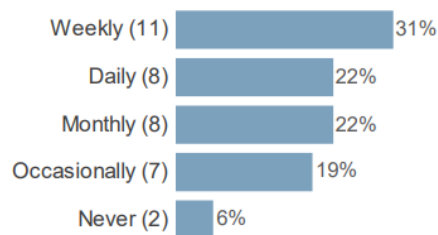
- The **majority of respondents (75%)** visited the park **monthly or more frequently**.
- The **majority of respondents (61%)** also used the **Jack Hill** area of the park.
- The **majority of respondents (61%)** described themselves as a **'parent/carer or guardian who visits the park with children'**.
- **Walking, playing on the equipment and enjoying nature** were selected as the **most popular activities** undertaken in the park.
- **Creating a swale of planting to help manage flooding** was the most **popular proposal** across both areas of the park.
- **All proposals** were **well received** by respondents, with a **small amount of disagreement** arising with **integrating boulders into the slope near the slide**.
- The **biggest concern** to arise from the open questions was the **problem of flooding** within the park, and how this requires attention as it is **becoming a more frequent occurrence**.
- **Safety** was also a **concern** at the **Jack Hill** area of the park.
- Other suggestions included a **clean up of the park, extra bin collections, and providing facilities for older children / teenagers** in the Jack Hill area.

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.

How often do you visit Norman Park?



The majority of respondents (75%) visited Norman Park either monthly or more frequently.

Those who answered that they 'never' visited the park were asked:

Can you tell us why you don't visit?

This was an open question and received 2 responses:

- Safety concerns (drugs and dangerous dogs)
- Substandard play area

Do you also use the Jack Hill area of the park (on the other side of the road)?



The majority of respondents (61%) answered that they did visit the Jack Hill area of the park to some extent.

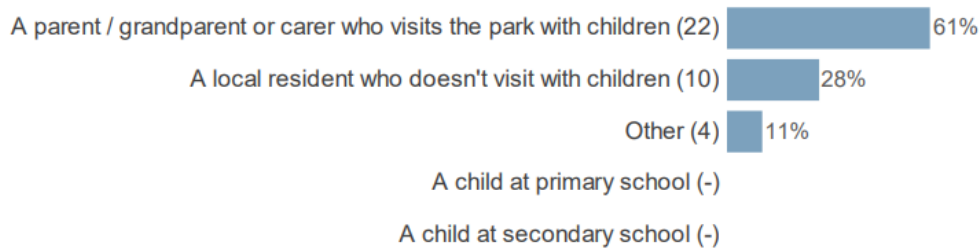
Those who answered 'no' to this question were then asked:

Can you tell us why you don't use the Jack Hill area?

This was an open question and received 12 comments.

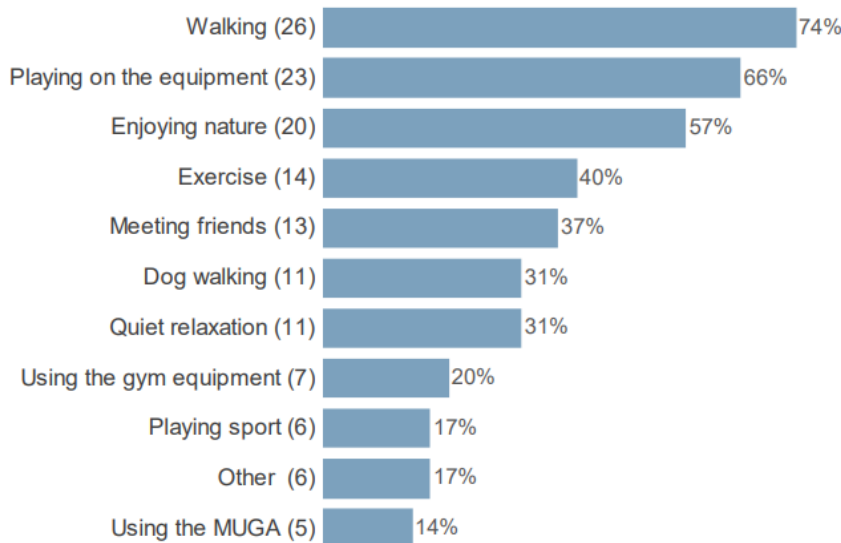
- This area of the park feeling unsafe was the main theme to arise from the comments. Respondents described this area as dark, secluded, unsafe and dirty.
- Some respondents commented that they were not aware of this area.
- The play equipment being unsuitable for the age of their children was also mentioned.

How would you describe yourself:



The majority of respondents (61%) described themselves as a parent / grandparent or carer who visits the park with children.

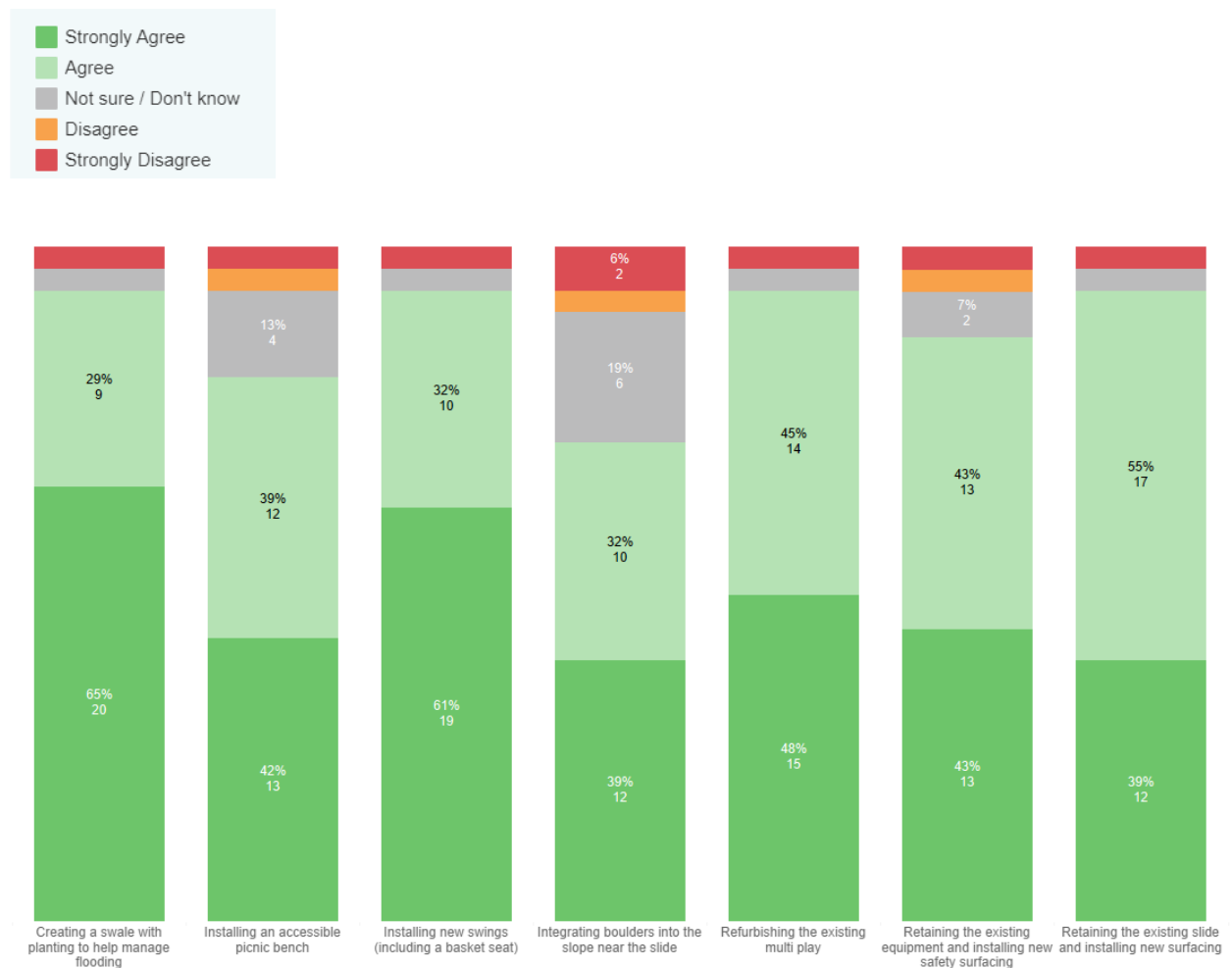
What do you do at the park? (Select all that apply):



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

‘Walking’ and ‘playing on the equipment’ were the most popular activities, both selected by over two thirds of respondents, closely followed by ‘enjoying nature’ (57%).

Respondents were then shown the proposals to improve the play facilities in the north area of Norman Park, and asked to what extent they agreed with the 7 key features of the proposed plan:



As you can see, there was a high majority of agreement with all the proposed key features.

The most popular feature proposed was to create a swale with planting to help manage flooding, with 94% of respondents in agreement (65% strongly agree, 29% agree).

The feature with the lowest level of agreement (71%) was the proposal to integrate boulders into the slope near the slide, with 29% of respondents either disagreeing to some extent or answering ‘not sure / don’t know’.

Which piece of equipment do you prefer?

7 (20%)



28 (80%)



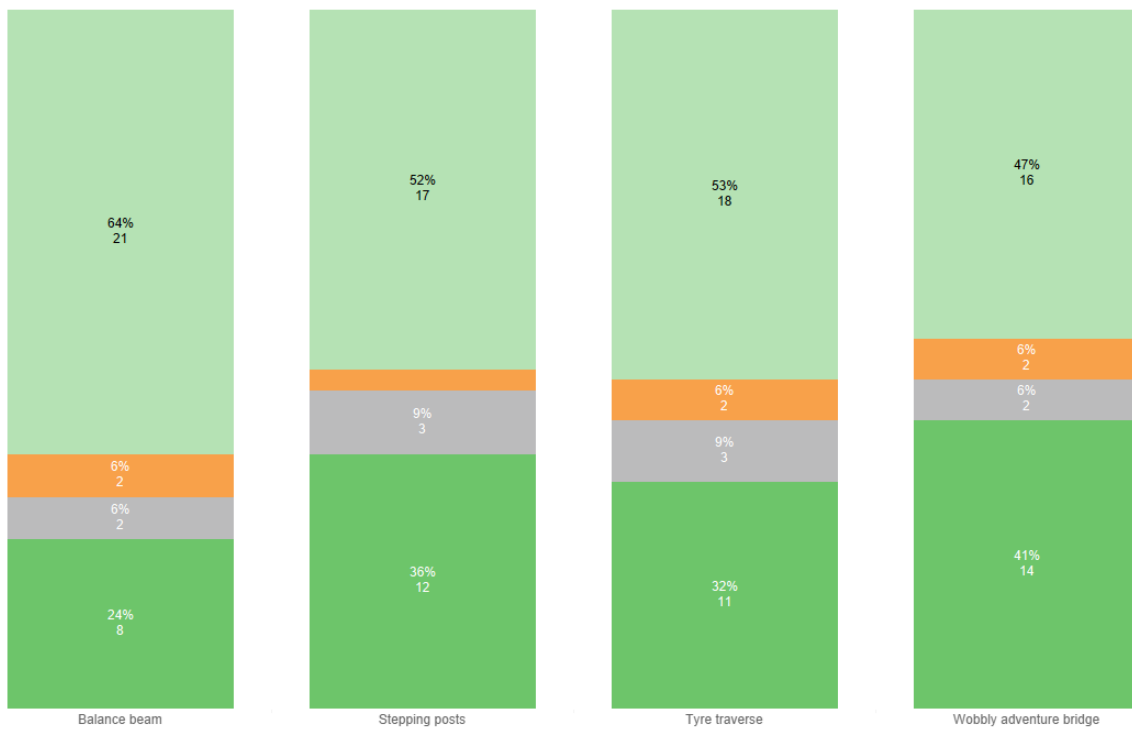
The Caloo Robinia low level multiplay climbing frame was the most popular choice (80%), with the Hags Swingo only receiving 20% of the vote.

Respondents were then shown the proposals to improve the play facilities in the south area of Norman Park (Jack Hill) and asked to what extent they agreed with the 3 key features of the proposed plan:



As you can see, the majority of respondents agreed to some extent with all key features. No respondents disagreed with any of the proposals, although over a third answered 'not sure / don't know' to the proposal to install a new cricket wall in the MUGA.

Respondents were then asked to rate proposals that may be considered if additional funding became available in the future:



All 4 proposals were rated highly by respondents, with the balance beam, stepping posts and wobbly adventure bridge all scoring 88% agreement, and the stepping posts scoring 85% agreement.

Respondents were then asked three open questions.

Do you have any general comments or concerns about any aspects of the proposals?

This was an open question and received 22 comments.

- Flooding in the park causing excessive mud and other issues was the biggest concern to arise. People commented that the flooding seemed to be getting worse and more frequent, affecting properties that bordered onto the park. Respondents called for a better system to be put into place to prevent and deal with the flooding, and that the culvert cover in the stream needed to be re-assessed.
- General support for the proposals also emerged as a theme.
- Other comments included calls for extra equipment suitable for infants and younger children such as baby swings, and to ensure that all age groups were represented and catered for.

Do you have any other suggestions of ways we could improve Norman Park?

This was an open question and received 23 comments.

- Cleaning up the park was the biggest theme to emerge. Respondents commented that litter was a problem in the park and bin collections needed to be made more frequently. Several people reported that rats were a problem and people should be encouraged to pick up dog mess.
- Flood issues arising from the stream and problems with the culvert that needed to be resolved was the second biggest theme to emerge, as mentioned within the previous question. A flood defence wall being installed to protect properties was suggested by some respondents.
- Toilet blocks, and additional seating / picnic areas were also suggested.

Do you have any suggestions of ways we could improve the Jack Hill area of the site?

This was an open question and received 16 comments.

- Tackling safety issues was the biggest theme to arise. Respondents commented that the area was dark and uninviting, and often frequented by youths taking drugs and people with dangerous dogs. Fly-tipping and litter problems were also mentioned, CCTV being suggested as a deterrent.
- Equipment aimed at teenagers and older children such as outdoor gym equipment and improved sports facilities was another key suggestion.
- The need to tackle the problem of flooding was also raised again.

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	30 (94%)	2 (6%)
I support a voluntary code of not using e-cigarettes within playable spaces across Kirklees	27 (87%)	4 (13%)
I am in favour of not smoking in front of children	29 (97%)	1 (3%)

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.