

Consultation Summary – responses from various consultations undertaken in relation to Play, 2007

A number of consultation exercises have been carried out in relation to Play and Open Space provision over the past year. Over 1650 responses have been logged from children and young people, and targeted consultation of Parish Councils and Surestart has also been done. The consultation exercises undertaken are as follows:

- Web-based survey of school children mostly aged between 6 years and 16 years undertaken for the Play Strategy
- The Sure Start Survey of parents undertaken for the Play Strategy in Spring 2007
- Questionnaire survey of representative sample of local residents of Erewash for the Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Study
- A qualitative study involving children and young people undertaken as part of the for the Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Study
- Informal consultation with young people of a variety of ages, to explore their play experience and aspirations undertaken for the Play Strategy.
- Two surveys of Parish Councils:
 - Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Study Spring 2006
 - Play Strategy Spring 2007
- Surveys undertaken by Derbyshire County Council Youth Service.
- Interview with staff of Stanton Vale Special School.

Key Themes

A number of themes emerged from the various consultation exercises:

- Where children play
- Barriers to Play
- The activities that children and young people prefer.
- Opportunities to play or 'hang out'.
- What makes a good place to play or 'hang out'?
- What improvements are needed?

Where Children play

Under 12's play mostly at home or at friend's houses, less frequently at parks and even less in equipped play areas. Many prefer to play out on the street, using grassed open spaces to play and 'hang out'. Most walk to their play areas, and Victoria Park and West Park were the most frequently visited.

Young People largely 'hang out' on the streets or in the park preferring socialising over 'activity'.

Barriers to Play

Children & Young People:

- Behaviour of older kids; Anti-social behaviour and bullying
- Adults' complaining, more a problem for girls
- Not feeling safe, especially at night
- Lack of places to go which are accessible, safe and lit
- Lack of provision for children/young people with disabilities

Parents:

- Safety issues
 - Traffic
 - Stranger danger
- Dog mess and litter

Parish Councils:

- Lack of suitable land
- Lack of suitable premises
- Lack of volunteers

Activities children and young people prefer

- Organised sports
- After-school clubs
- Outdoor play preferred
- Hang out with friends rather than organised activities
- Mobile facility (DCC) very successful
- Under 5's supervised outdoor play

Are there enough opportunities to Play and 'Hang out'

- Not enough safe places to hang out
- Parents not happy about children playing out
- Adult perception of young people – ASB issues
- More local play space needed, especially in Ilkeston and Long Eaton
- More space and provision for teenagers, especially in rural areas
- Local opposition presents difficulties in siting teenage provision

What makes a good place to play?

- Somewhere safe close to home
- Space to run about and play sports/games
- Shelter & somewhere to sit (older children)
- Play equipment – especially to swing and climb on (younger children)
- Suitable for range of ages
- Casual surveillance by adults (parents)
- Somewhere indoors to meet and hang out (older children)
- More challenging equipment (older children)

Key Issues

- Anti-social behaviour and bullying
 - What measures are needed to ensure that children feel safe when they play out?
- Geography and Multiple Deprivation
 - Should the Play Strategy focus on geographical areas with the most children?
 - Should the Play Strategy focus on meeting the needs of children living in the most deprived areas of Erewash?
- Age & Gender
 - Which age groups should the Play Strategy concentrate on?
 - How can the Play Strategy address the needs of girls as well as boys?

- Indoor/Outdoor
 - Should the focus be on outdoor children's play spaces/ spaces for young people to 'hang out' or should the focus be on providing indoor venues?
- Funding Opportunities
 - There may be opportunities to match BIG Lottery grant with other funding such as S106 developer contributions. Should the Play Strategy be influenced by this?
- Inclusion
 - There is a clear need to provide better opportunities for play for children with varying degrees of impairment. Should the Play Strategy focus on providing a 'destination' playground specifically designed to meet their needs?
- Rural/Urban
 - Children & young people in rural areas have less access to play provision. Should priority be given to meeting their needs rather than children living in the urban areas of Ilkeston and Long Eaton?

Key priorities and actions

1. Work with the Erewash Community Safety Partnership to implement the objective in the Community Safety Strategy 2005-08 relating to, 'Young People as victims and offenders'.
2. Liaise with the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator for the Partnership to identify appropriate measures to address the concern of children and young people about incidents of anti-social behaviour.
3. Review the locations of designated spaces for play and 'hanging out' to determine whether they feel safe for children and young people and where necessary seek to re-locate to safer positions.
4. Work in partnership with the relevant departments responsible for implementing the Green Space Strategy to protect and enhance the provision of spaces and opportunities for children and young people to engage in play and 'hanging out'.
5. Focus on meeting the needs of older young people and teenagers.
6. Support Parish Councils in their efforts to find suitable land and premises to provide opportunities for play and 'hanging out'.
7. Consider the provision of more mobile play facilities to address the needs of children and young people of all ages who live in rural areas.
8. Work in partnership with Derbyshire County Council Youth Service to expand opportunities for indoor youth provision.
9. Address the needs of older children by providing more shelter and seating in safe locations.
10. Expand the existing equipped play areas in West Park to incorporate adventure and modular playground equipment such as swings and roundabouts for children with impairments to create a destination playground where children with disabilities can play and engage equally with others.
11. Consider the development of 'something different' that would appeal to older young children such as an outdoor movie screen similar to facilities provided elsewhere in Europe.
12. Review the recommendations of the youth sports facility strategy and consider attaching greater priority to the provision of a MUGA in both Petersham Green and Sawley Park.
13. Provide better lighting to local hangout spots and lighting to MUGAs that is available over the weekend.

14. Examine opportunities to expand facilities for bikes including ramps and jumps.
15. Create a safer environment for the relatively large proportion of children and young people who play and 'hang out' in the street particularly in areas of higher deprivation through the development of home zones and the creation of safe routes to play areas.
16. Work with Planning and Neighbourhood Services to co-ordinate the allocation of S106 funds to projects identified in the Play Strategy.

These comments and responses have been incorporated into the Action Plan which supports the Play Strategy.