

Carlisle Park

Relocation of Small Play Area and Proposed Outdoor Gym Consultation

Summary of Results

1. Background

As part of the Council's continued commitment to improve our parks and open spaces. The Council and Friends of Carlisle Park are proposing to relocate the existing play equipment that is in the toddler playground and to install it in the main play area. It is then proposed that the former toddler play area will be used as an outdoor fitness space, with new equipment installed.

The re-location of the toddler equipment into the main play area will be strategic so that they are installed close to existing pieces of equipment which are aimed at users of a similar age. As part of the improvements, we will look to replace one of the cradle swings with a cradle swing suitable for children with disabilities.

The equipment which is to be relocated to the larger play area is as follows:

- 4 cradle swings
- Small slide
- Spinning bowl
- 2 springer units
- Play panel
- 2 green metal benches

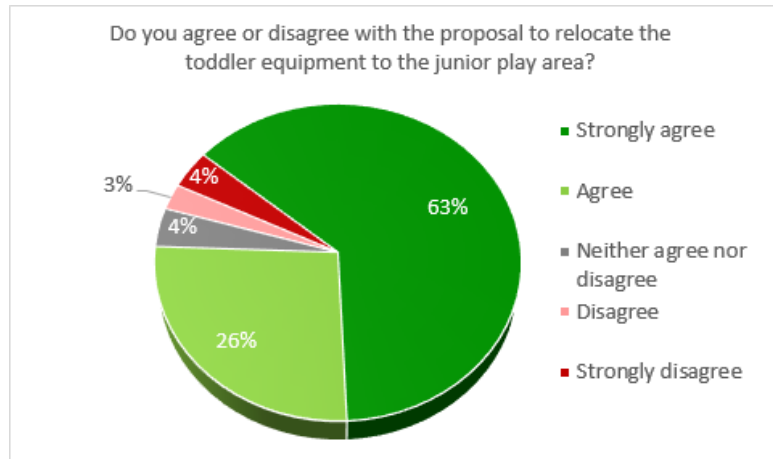
With the proposed new outdoor gym area, to be created in the former toddler play space, the Council and Friends Group would propose to install a number of outdoor gym equipment that is suitable for both those that suffer from mobility issues and able-bodied users.

This consultation took place between 2nd March and 29th March 2020.

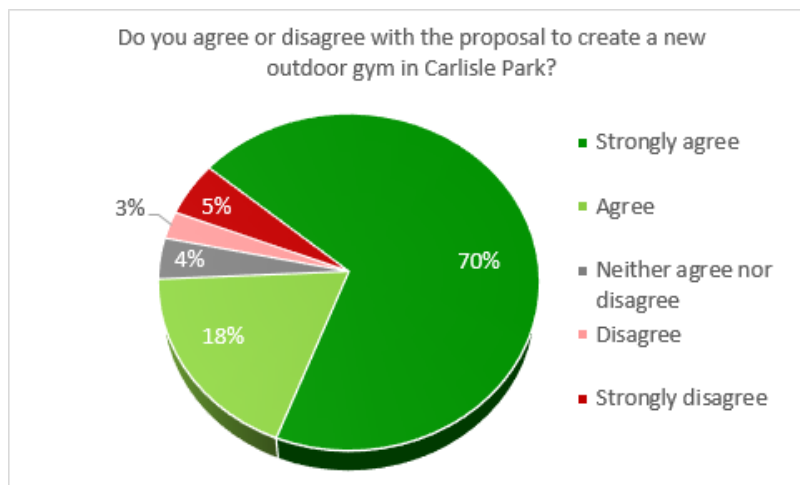
2. Summary of Results

76 people responded to this consultation.

To the question of relocating the toddler equipment to the junior play area, 68 people (89%) agreed (63% strongly agreed) with the proposed relocation. Around one third of those commenting on the proposals (36%, 16 people) cited that it will be easier for parents to supervise different aged children. 3 people (4%) neither agreed nor disagreed, and 5 people (7%) strongly disagreed or disagreed with the relocation. 2 people disagreed because of safety concerns for toddlers needing their own space. A minority (3 people) of those in favour of the relocation commented on safety concerns about different age children in the same area and one suggested a fenced off toddler area.



To the question of creating a new outdoor gym, 67 people (88%) strongly agreed or agreed with the proposal. Amongst those commenting on the proposals, 40% (18 people) thought the gym was a good idea, some commenting that a gym is an inclusive, community resource and encourages exercise. 3 people (4%) neither agreed nor disagreed. 6 people (8%) strongly disagreed or disagreed, having concerns about noise or anti-social behaviour/vandalism, or stating no demand for a gym.



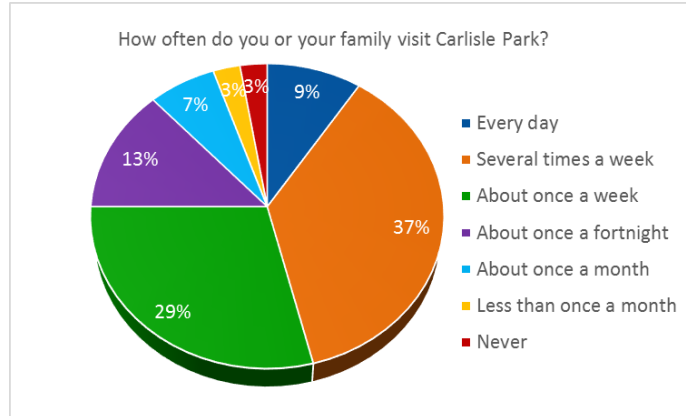
2.1. Type of equipment

The Council provided examples of types of equipment that the Parks Team were proposing to install. The items included: a balance spring, chest press, pull up bars, shoulder wheels, work out bench, work out bench with pedals, air walker and a step and calf unit.

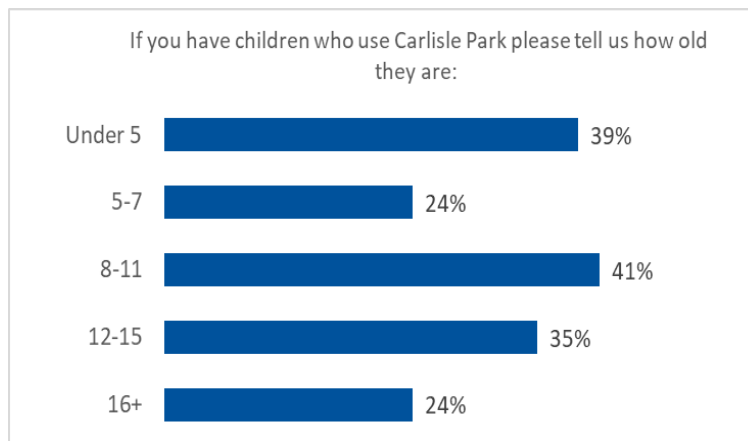
7 of the 45 people who commented on the proposal requested specific equipment, e.g. dip and pull up bars, for some, to facilitate the younger visitors too. One suggested that the equipment looked ‘tame’ for young adults. A senior person suggested including a Lat Pull as it would help improve upper body strength. One person suggested more equipment for senior visitors.

2.2. User information

The majority of respondents were frequent visitors to Carlisle Park - 35 people (46%) visited the park every day or several times a week, and 22 people (29%) visited the park once a week. 17 people (22%) visited the park less often.



Two thirds of respondents (51 people) had children of various ages, the majority of them (71%) having children aged 11 years or under.



We then asked if they consider any of their children to have a disability. 57 people responded. Of these, 5 people (9%) had children with a disability and one preferred not to say.

3. Next steps

The Parks and Open Spaces Team plan to:

- Share the report with the Friends of Carlisle Park and ward Councillor's and contact play companies to quote for relocating the play equipment into the main play area, including the additional swing items that have been requested.
- Work with the Friends group to develop a project specification for supply and install the new gym equipment, taking into consideration the suggestions made by the public in this report.
- Source suitable funding streams to apply for to provide for the project, whether this is full funding or match funding is to be confirmed.
- Subject to funding being sourced, arrange for installation with the chosen supplier through a procurement process and aim to open the new play area, within three months, subject to funding and the ability to deliver during the coronavirus restrictions.