



# Grimwood Road Recreation Ground

## Proposed Changes to Playground Consultation

### Summary of Results

#### 1. Background

As part of Richmond Council's continued commitment to improve our parks and open spaces, the Parks Team are seeking the views of residents about a proposed upgrade to the play equipment at Grimwood Road Recreation Ground.

This consultation took place between Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

#### 2. Summary of Results

46 people responded to this consultation, all took part online. Out of the people who responded, all 46 people (100%) agreed with the proposal of upgrading the play equipment.

##### 2.1. Type of equipment

For this playground, we are proposing to replace three or four of the existing springers with a number of new pieces of equipment. These include:

A ground trampoline

A spinning carousel

A seesaw

A play jeep

##### 2.2. Joining the Friends Group

Respondents were asked if they were interested in forming a *Friends of Grimwood Road Group* and to provide contact details if so. 12 respondents showed an interest in forming a group and their details will be passed to the South West London Environment Network (SWLEN), who have been tasked with liaising with the respondents to set up the group.

For more information contact SWLEN on [hello@swlen.org.uk](mailto:hello@swlen.org.uk) or visit <https://swlen.org.uk/>

### 2.3. Other comments

29 (72%) respondents provided “final comments” with regards to the consultation.

Other comments included:	
Great idea/Support idea/Welcome upgrade 11 (38%)	
Comments about proposed equipment 10 (34%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rail around the trampoline maybe useful for some children</li> <li>• Carousal looks a bit small</li> <li>• Hope it is sourced from makers that can supply spare parts quickly</li> <li>• Nice to have more variety</li> <li>• Maybe not the seesaw</li> <li>• Keep the general layout of park and don't remove raised beds and plants</li> </ul>
Requests to retain springer 2 people (7%)	
Requests for other equipment 7 (24%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sand pit/water play</li> <li>• Additional slides or climbing frames</li> <li>• Monkey bars, hopscotch or 4 square and improvements to the bike track with road markings to get kids to practice</li> <li>• More painted games (hopscotch, mr wolf, duck duck goose) and letters and numbers for early years</li> <li>• Natural play equipment</li> </ul>
Comments about wanting equipment for older children/all ages of children 4 (14%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section with goal posts and net for older children to play ball games</li> <li>• More playground equipment for 5 plus, 9-12 yr olds</li> </ul>
Concerns about safety 3 (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hook at front of jeep looks dangerous</li> <li>• Is trampoline safe</li> <li>• Seat on see-saw looks narrow and uncomfortable with handles very close together so easy to fall off</li> <li>• Large raised beds and trees may screen off children from their parents</li> <li>• Create a safer crossing, dropped curb from opposite park entrance to park gate as not suitable for wheelchairs and buggies at the moment</li> <li>• Child has picked up needles more than once</li> </ul>

<p>Concerns about protecting the equipment/park (against anti-social behaviour) 8 (28%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patrols to stop youths smoking and stop ASB</li> <li>• Restrict local college youths using park as they leave packaging and food waste on ground and tables, and damage the play equipment</li> <li>• Concerned about vandalism to trampoline by youths and maybe destroyed by animals so consider an alternative</li> <li>• Reduce the number of picnic tables and benches especially behind raised beds as it attracts ASB</li> </ul>
<p>Comments about green spaces/planting 4 (14%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep green space and planting to keep natural</li> <li>• Sad to see all shrubs were cleared and left muddy mess. The shrubs were great for nature and hide and seek</li> <li>• More trees and shrubs priority</li> <li>• Parks accessible areas are hard-standing – change to grassed area</li> <li>• Consider using parts of the park as micro-allotments for local residents</li> </ul>

**N.B. the numbers indicate the number of different issues or themes raised by the 29 respondents and are not per person.**

From considering the above comments, the Council would provide the following feedback. The Council has no plans to remove any of the existing vegetation and has arranged for our grounds maintenance contractor to upgrade the raised beds with new plantings. This work is outside of the consultation and is part of the ground maintenance contract winter works.

Concerns about ASB will be reported to our enforcement contractor who will visit the site as part of their patrols to monitor any unwanted behaviour. Currently we would not look to install equipment for older users as this site is designed for younger children. There are alternative playgrounds at Craneford Way and Moormead and Bandy Recreation Ground that are more designed for older children. The Council will however make a provision to include the installation of play and activity graphics as part of these improvements.

### 3. Next steps

The Parks and Open Spaces Team plan to:

- Task the South West London Environment Network (SWLEN) to engage with the 12 respondents who asked to be contacted about forming a new Friends Group for Grimwood Road Recreation Ground. SWLEN would update the Council on how the new Friends' group is developing.
- Work with our play contractor to order the new units and confirm installation dates.
- Publicise the result of this consultation on site and inform users when works to upgrade the playground are to take place.