**Mortlake Green New Playground Consultation**

**Summary of Results**

**1. Background**

The Parks and Open Spaces Team carried out a consultation to upgrade the play provision within the existing play area at Mortlake Green. The proposal was to install a new springer, play train and bespoke station, activity panels and activity and play markings on the existing safety surface. The consultation ran from Monday 10th October to Monday 31st October 2016.

**2. Summary of Results**

There were 91 responses submitted online to this consultation. The Parks and Open Spaces Team received no paper responses and no phone calls, emails or letters were received in response to the consultation.

**2.1. Proposal of playground**

The majority of respondents were in favour of the proposal, however, the margin between respondents being in favour and against was very close. 51.65% either agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal, whereas 43.96% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the project. 4.4% were neither for nor against. The full results are displayed in the below graph:

**2.2. Comments supporting ‘disagree’ and ‘strongly disagree’**

The majority of comments that were in disagreement with the project were concerned that the current proposal did not accommodate children between the ages of 7 and 11 and that this should be addressed. This was a recurring theme with 37 of the 40 respondents suggesting that more play items for 7-11 year olds should be provided. In addition over half (21) of the respondents voiced concerns about the proposal lacking segregation between the two age groups and that without addressing this issue, accidents and or injury could be caused to users. The comments continued to recommend that the Council should invest in either expanding the current play facility or dividing the playground into areas where play items for older children could be installed.

Examples of additional equipment that were recommended by respondents were:

* BMX track or skate ramp
* A new slide
* Expanding the playground onto the green to include a zip wire or natural play items

14 of the respondents who stated that they either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposal were actually quite positive with their comments. They stated that they were supportive of the idea to upgrade the playground, however voiced concerns about the provision of play for 8-11 year olds and therefore elected to vote that they either disagreed or strongly disagreed.

**2.3. Comments supporting the proposal**

21 of the 47 respondents that votes in favour of the proposal mentioned that they also would like to see more play provision for older children as part of the upgrade. 14 out of 47 respondents recommended that there should be suitable segregation between the two age groups in order to avoid accidents. Other notes of interest were that some respondents suggested alternative play items to be included in the upgrade, such as:

* Play panels that feature music
* A play house instead of train or as an additional extra
* Ladder onto the train carriage so that children can ‘ride the train’
* Basketball court to be refurbished / additional hoop and backboard
* A climbing frame instead of a play train

**3. Next steps**

The Parks and Open Spaces Team plan to:

* Revise the types of play items that would be installed as part of the upgrade. This is to accommodate the request for additional play equipment for older children.
* The Council are now proposing to install the following items in addition to those that were mentioned in the initial consultation.
  + New individual outdoor fitness equipment will be installed in place of the existing basketball hoop and court which will be removed and recycled on another site, providing facilities for users of all ages.
  + Natural play items such as balance logs/logs seats to be installed outside of the play area in appropriate locations.
  + A basket swing to be installed in the area immediately to the left of the playground, amongst the trees and installed on grass matting safety surface.
  + A new 4.2m space net and safety surface to be within the existing play area
  + Existing spinning dish to be replaced by a new spring rocker for younger users.
  + Review the provision of benches and litter bins on Mortlake Green.
* The Council will be displaying new posters on site and engaging with park users and the local school to make them aware of the amended proposal and ask that they submit any comments within a two week window. The date for the further consultation is yet to be agreed.
* Following the second period of consultation and providing that there is sufficient support for the project the Council will begin to devise a project specification and tender document and will invite suppliers to tender proposals.
* Share this report with local councillors and the Strategic Cabinet Member for Environment, Business and Community to discuss next steps regarding this proposal.
* Publish a brief report and summary of next steps on the Council’s consultation finder website