

Raleigh Road Recreation Ground

Play Provision Enhancements and Sensory Trail Installation Consultation

Summary of Results

1. Background

The Parks and Open Spaces Team carried out a consultation which proposed a number of enhancements to Raleigh Road Recreation Ground. The Parks team proposed to upgrade the play equipment at Raleigh Road Recreation Ground by providing equipment and stimulation for children with disabilities and special education needs (SEND), as well as new equipment for able-bodied users.

The proposals would make the play space integrated, enabling disabled and able-bodied children to play together through:

- The installation of a wheelchair swing and additional seating that has at least one side with easy access for those with additional mobility needs or buggies
- Improvement of the current walkways to make it easier for buggies and wheelchairs to move across the ground
- The addition of a sensory pathway with textured flooring and a variety of colours and shapes at eye level to offer stimulation and interest for all children

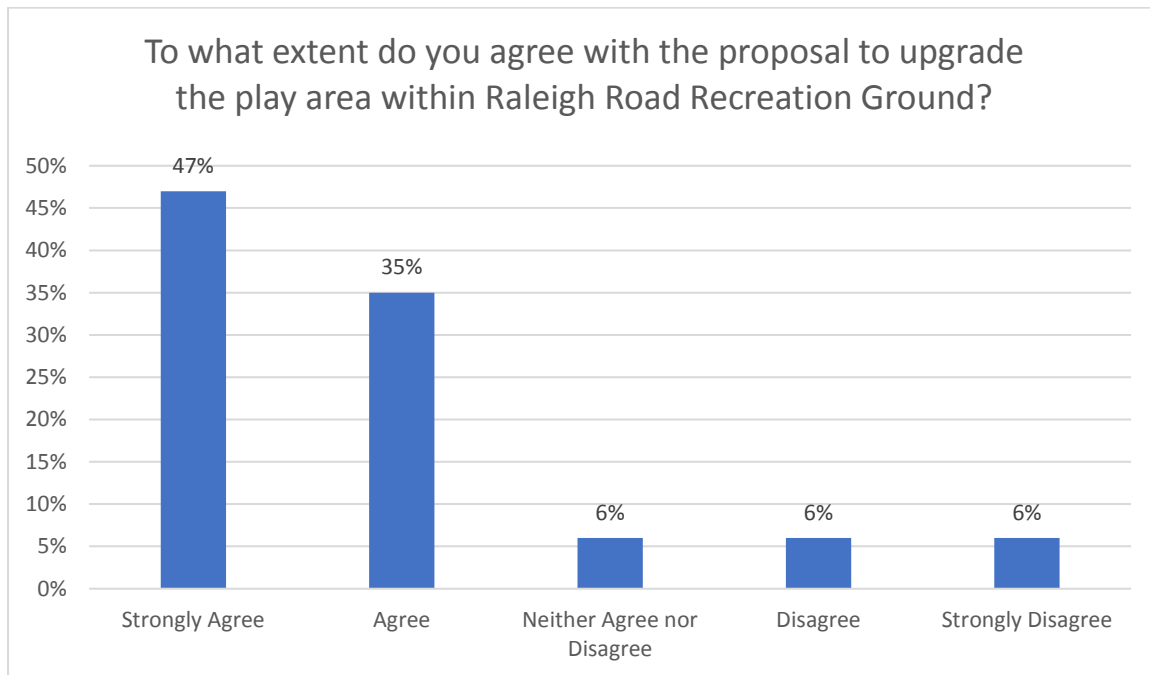
This would entail the installation of the following inclusive equipment / features to the existing park:

- Wheelchair accessible swing
- Sensory walkway
- Activity trail and spinner
- Accessible seating / benches
- Pathway suitable for wheelchair users and buggies
- Upgrade of existing parks furniture
- Provision of new tree and bulb planting in the autumn

This consultation took place between Monday 16th September and Friday 18th October 2019.

2. Summary of Results

17 people responded to this consultation, all of whom took part online. Of the people who responded, 14 (82%) either agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal. Two respondents (12%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposal and one respondent (6%) neither agreed nor disagreed.



3. Comments about the proposals

Of the 17 people that took part in the consultation nine provided additional comments about the proposals. Five of the comments were supportive of the project, including the planting of more fauna and accessible picnic tables. A suggestion was made that the proposal would be further enhanced if the play equipment was aimed at older children.

There were two comments against the proposals, including concerns about increased noise and disturbance for local residents and whether units aimed at disabled users would discourage able-bodied children from playing in the playground.

Other respondents raised queries about the existing trees within the recreation ground and the perimeter fencing.

4. Creating a Friends Group

Respondents were asked if they were interested in providing their contact details so that the South West London Environment Network (SWLEN) could contact them about creating a Friends Group. Five respondents provided their email addresses and these details will be passed on to SWLEN to arrange an initial group meeting.

5. Budget

The Parks Team have approved funding for this project from Capital Cyclical play improvement fund.

6. Next steps

A decision on next steps will be made by Ward Councillors and the Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Services Committee. If a decision is made to go ahead with the proposals, the Parks team would plan to:

- Inform visitors to Raleigh Road Recreation Ground of the outcome of the consultation.
- Arrange for delivery and installation and inform users and Ward Councillors prior to the works taking place.
- Work with our grounds maintenance contractor on creating a sensory garden, similar to the one that was installed at Heathfield Recreation Ground.
- Liaise with our tree team and grounds maintenance contractor on additional trees.
- Inform SWLEN of the five respondents who would like to create a new Friends Group and offer to support SWLEN where required.

The Council would aim to install the new play equipment in the New Year (January/February 2020), with the sensory garden to follow in the spring, along with tree planting.