

# Coronation Gardens

Playground Refurbishment  
Consultation Feedback  
July 2023



Lead: Enable Parks Development



In partnership with

**enable.**

For happy, healthier communities.  
Not for profit.

# Consultation details:

Phase 2 consultation (design choice) was an online consultation which started on 19th April 2023 and closed on 17th May 2023 (4 weeks).

Two drop in sessions were held on 27th April (daytime) and 11th May (after school into evening).

Three different playground designs were illustrated with people asked to choose their preferred scheme and to provide any further general comments including any negative impacts which people felt the designs may have.

In total 204 people responded, and 99% of them lived locally to Coronation Gardens.

88% of people who responded had children, and of those 68% had children under 5 years old.



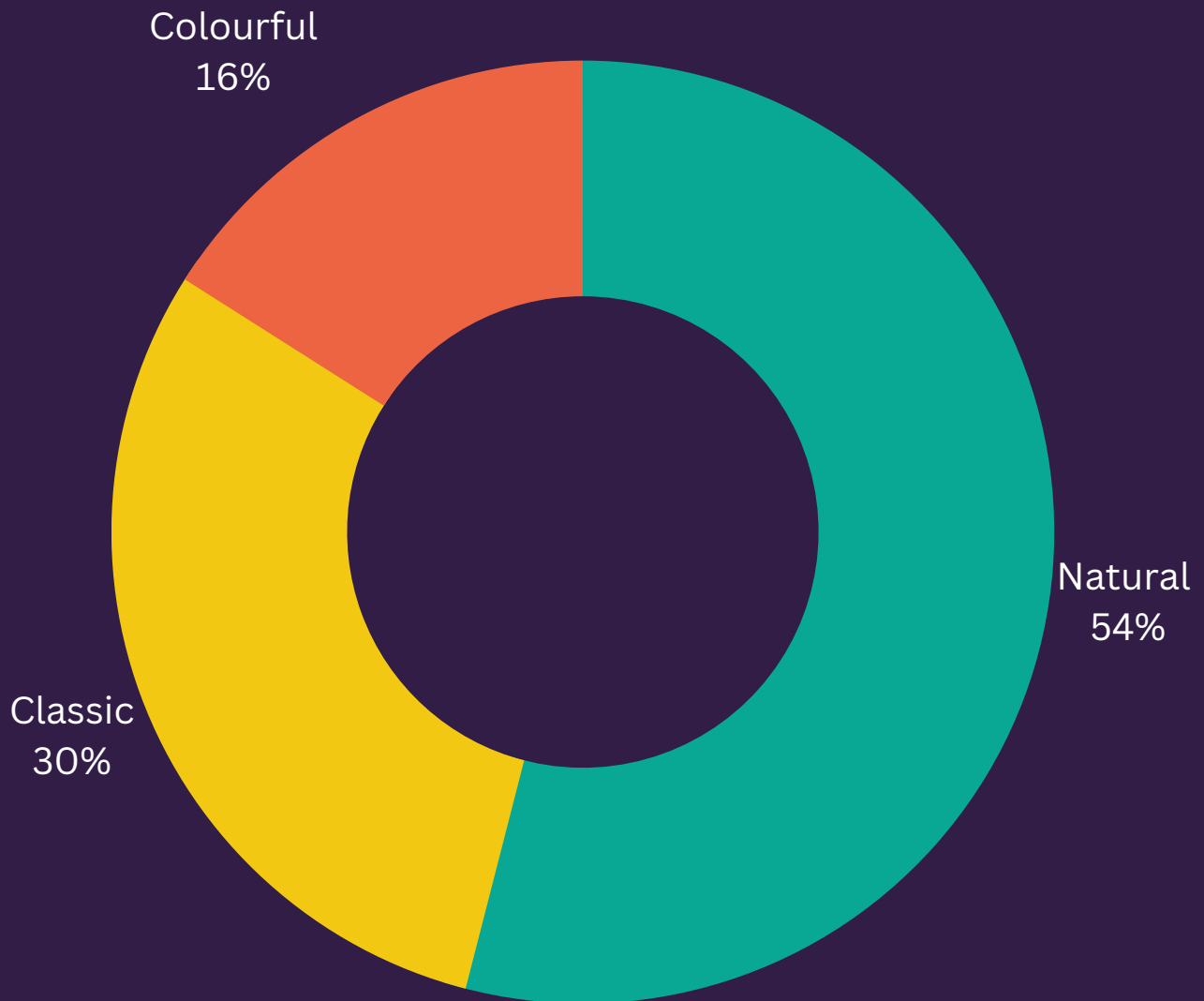
In partnership with

**enable.**

For happy, healthier communities.  
Not for profit.

# Design choice:

The preferred option was the "natural" design.



In partnership with

**enable.**

For happy, healthier communities.  
Not for profit.

# Key findings: play

You asked us to see if we can include: a **wider slide** so children can play together, **musical play** and more options to **climb**.

**Swings:** You asked us to consider adding more swings for toddlers.

**Seating:** You asked for more seating for parents within and near the refurbished playground. You have asked that this seating is varied and can accommodate those with different needs.

**Surfaces:** You asked for more use of natural materials. You raised concerns about areas that may erode quickly or become unusable in wet weather.

**Items for older children / young adults:** There were requests for items suitable for an older age group (12+). Whilst we can't provide these at the moment within Coronation Gardens, the Parks Development Team will be actively reviewing if these can be provided nearby.



In partnership with

**enable.**

For happy, healthier communities.  
Not for profit.

# Key findings: play

**Natural look and feel:** overall the comments show that which ever design was the most popular, you would prefer a more natural looking space without gaudy colours. You also told us that children with special educational needs find natural colours more soothing.

**Nature inclusion:** you told us that your children enjoy playing in and with natural materials and that you are keen for children to learn about nature and understand more about wildlife.

**Equality of access:** you asked for more items that can be used by children with physical and sensory disabilities. We will include a trampoline that can be used by children in wheelchairs or with adult support, a roundabout and a basket swing that can accommodate children with compromised core strength, a sensory trail, a wider slide so adults can accompany children that need help, and play panels for those who prefer solitary play.



In partnership with

**enable.**

For happy, healthier communities.  
Not for profit.

# Around the gardens:

**Planting:** the comments we received mainly referred to planting in the rest of Coronation Gardens. In response to these comments and to provide more opportunities for children to engage with nature, we will be creating a new wider ornamental border along the northern edge of the gardens, in autumn 2023. This will include habitat features for biodiversity such as stag beetle loggeries. This border will also include items such as magnifying posts and leaf rubbing posts to encourage children to learn about the wildlife that shares the gardens with us. The plants will be chosen specifically to encourage more biodiversity and they will be planted to provide a range of “layers” – this is important for wildlife and will mitigate the loss of the single species hedge currently enclosing the playground.

We will continue to work with the Friends of Coronation Gardens to improve the diversity of planting in the rest of the gardens to provide year round interest.



In partnership with

**enable.**  
For happy, healthier communities.  
Not for profit.

# Around the gardens:

In response to other concerns that you raised:

**Footpaths:** the wider gardens are risk assessed annually by the Parks Operations Team and repairs ordered on an “as needed” basis. Some resurfacing works are currently planned and more information will be provided when dates are confirmed (on site signage and on our social media).

**Café:** This is not something we can provide as part of this playground refurbishment. Several cafes are available in the streets immediately surrounding the gardens and we would encourage people to support the local economy and visit them. We will work with the Friends of Coronation Gardens to “spread the word” about local facilities.

**Drinking water fountain:** We are working with the Friends of Coronation Gardens on a separate project to provide access to free drinking water. We will update you with progress on this via on site signage and our social media accounts.

**Toilets:** Many people raised concerns about anti-social behaviour as a direct result of no public toilets being available on site. We will work with the Council to identify possible solutions and we will include this feedback in our annual review of the site management plan.



In partnership with

**enable.**

For happy, healthier communities.  
Not for profit.

# Safety and security:

**Dogs:** Whilst the new playground will remain dog free, several people raised concerns relating to dogs and poor dog ownership in the rest of the gardens. We will work with Parks Police to undertake more engagement work in the gardens such as our “paw patrol” pop up to seek to improve owner behaviour. We will review the number and locations of bins to make sure they are easy for dog owners to find and use.

**Anti-social behaviour:** Some people raised concerns about anti-social behaviour (ASB) and safety. We will work with Parks Police to undertake more patrols to discourage poor behaviour. We will continue to work with the Friends of Coronation Gardens to lock the Gardens between 9pm – 6am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1st April – to 30th October each year.

We strongly encourage anyone who witnesses ASB (including poor dog ownership) to report this to the **Parks Police patrolling mobile 07500 95 94 42** as soon as you can. All reported information helps us to build a picture of what is happening, when it happens and to get clear descriptions of those involved. This allows us to prioritize patrols and undertake specific targeted operations to tackle it.



In partnership with

**enable.**

For happy, healthier communities.  
Not for profit.



# Construction concerns:

You told us you are worried about **impacts on local roads, access to the nursery and the length of time the playground will be closed.**

- We are meeting with the nursery staff to prepare our approach to the playground construction period to make sure it does not restrict access to the nursery.
- We will minimize disturbance from noise and dust as much as possible.
- The access to the nursery will remain through the new playground after installation as there is no practical alternative way to the building. This has been carefully considered in the playground design and layout.
- We are working with our contractors (HAGS) to devise a method statement and risk assessment for the construction of this project.
- We are carefully planning the project delivery so that it can happen at a time when it might cause the least overall disruption and to make sure that the phasing is well thought through so that the overall timeframe is as short as possible.
- All construction vehicles will be expected to use the Pirbright Road entrance, to have a "banksman" at all times and to avoid traffic movements during key times when the nursery is being accessed.
- There will be a clear contact number displayed on site during construction so you can raise any concerns to us immediately.



In partnership with

**enable.**  
For happy, healthier communities.  
Not for profit.