

# Garratt Green

Inclusive Playground Refurbishment  
Consultation Feedback  
March 2025



Lead: Enable Parks Development



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# Project Overview

£420,469 has been granted by Wandsworth Council to refurbish the playground at Garratt Green with a focus on inclusive and accessible play. These funds have been specifically allocated for play, as part of Wandsworth Council's Year of Play 2025, and have not diverted resources from other social investments.

The playground refurbishment is required as some play items are starting to show signs of wear and tear and may need to be decommissioned in the next few years if we don't act soon. The refurbished playground will have an increased capacity and improved layout, allowing more children to play together at the same time. It will provide inclusive play equipment, allowing for children with disabilities to play alongside their friends and family. It will welcome teenage girls with specific features that address their needs and the ball wall outside of the playground will also be replaced.

The project will see a completely new playground for children aged 0-14.



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# Consultation details:

This first phase of the consultation opened on Monday 16th December 2024 and closed on Monday 24th February 2025.

Ahead of the consultation going live, an online consultation forum was held with stakeholders from organisations including Burntwood School, Garratt Park School, Googly Cricket and Thrive to gain their knowledge on how to make the space as inclusive as possible.

Two drop-in sessions were held, on-site, at the playground on:

- Saturday 18th January 1pm - 4pm (weekend, daytime)
- Saturday 8th February 12pm - 3pm (weekend, daytime)

One additional outreach session was held with Year 9 students from Burntwood School.

This first round of consultation provided background information on the project, including asking local residents what they think of the current playground, how and if they use the facility, and their suggestions for improvements. We also asked respondents to choose which option, out of four, they preferred, to replace the existing damaged ball wall. Additionally, we were keen to include questions on how to make Garratt Green a more welcoming place for girls ([Make Space for Girls](#)).

In total, 141 people responded to the consultation, with 96% of respondents living locally to Garratt Green. 2% of respondents work/study in the local area, 1% commute through the local area and 1% were responding on behalf of a local group or organisation.



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# About the users:

We found that most respondents visit Garratt Green every week, and travel to the greenspace by foot.

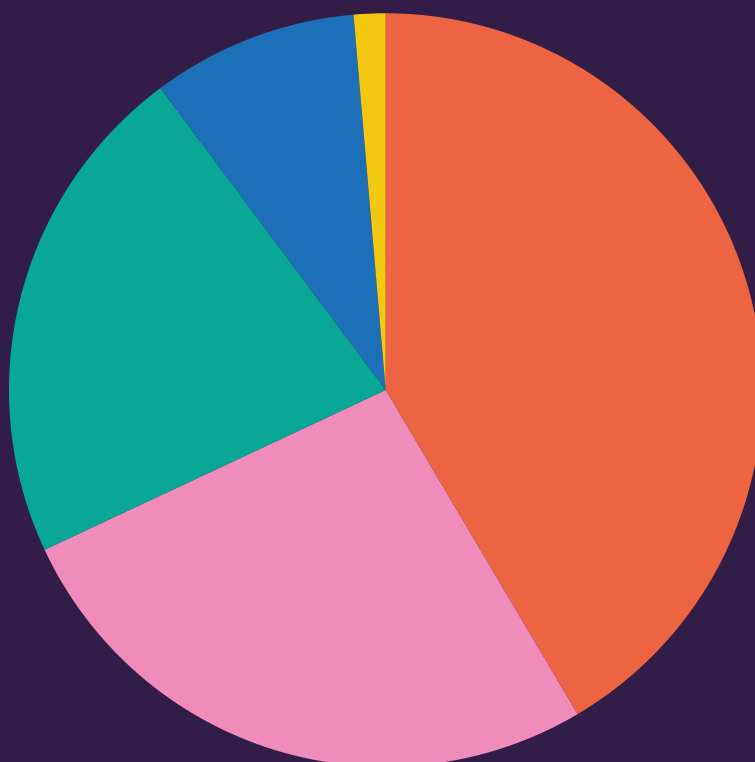
80% of respondents visit Garratt Green to go to the playground. The most popular time to visit the playground is weekends. 82% of respondents who visit the playground visit with their children.

The most common ages of children using the playground is 0 - 4 year olds.

● 0 - 4      ● 5 - 7      ● 8 - 12

● 13+

● Adults with disabilities





# Key findings about play:

You told us that play behaviours: observing, independent, parallel and collaborative play are all “very important.” Onlooker play is “quite important.”

## Play equipment:

- **Balance:** Balance beams are important, and you want them incorporated. The brick wall is often used as a balance beam/walk.
- **Climbing:** You like the big climbing frame because climbing is important. You would like a new climbing frame that is tall enough for older children to enjoy and be challenged. You also asked for the climbing structure to connect to something else, rather than just climbing up and then back down.
- **Slides:** You would like a slide option, and requested double slides so parents/carers can slide with their children. You also don't want bars at the top.
- **Spinning:** Spinning is important, and you want equipment such as a roundabout or spinner; items such as Spica are popular with neurodiverse children.
- **Swings:** You would like a basket swing, wheelchair accessible swings, swings in a group setting and more swings in general.
- **Zip wire:** You asked if a zip wire can be included, with wheelchair access.
- **Sensory:** A sensory circuit with integrated activities, a sensory pathway and musical items that are durable, at wheelchair level, and not easily broken.
- **Monkey bars:** You asked for monkey bars that can be used by both younger and older children.
- **Trampoline:** You would like a ground-level trampoline.
- **Space:** Space for children to run around, for cycling, skateboarding and scootering.
- **Circuit accessible for wheelchair users:** with undulations, passing places, and interactive play along the way. The circuit should also be wide enough for speed around corners.
- **Ramps and access:** You asked for ramps and a fully wheelchair accessible multi-play structure, with options to get on and off, pass and turn around on it.
- **Treehouse:** You like the treehouse at Garratt Park and requested a similar feature at floor level.
- **Seesaw:** You would like a seesaw that is wheelchair accessible.
- **Shade:** You requested shade on the play structures.
- **Parent Accessibility:** You asked for equipment that parents don't need to assist their children with.
- **Pathways:** You requested that no woodchip paths be included, as they are not accessible.

# Key findings about play continued:

We asked how important it was for your children to be able to do the following:

- **Balance** - "very important"
- **Bounce** - "very important"
- **Climb** - "very important"
- **Slide** - "very important"
- **Spin/rotate** - "very important"
- **Swing/sway** - "very important"
- **Imaginative play** - "very important"
- **Sensory play** - "very important"
- **Play using surface markings** - "quite important"
- **Play panels** - "quite important"
- **Creative play** - "quite important"
- **Sit and socialise** - "very important"

## Playground facilities:

- **Seating:** You asked for benches with backrests and arms, as well as space for wheelchair users on the benches. You also emphasised the need for seating areas with shade, located near the play structures for good visibility.
- **Accessibility:** You asked for wide access gate for wheelchairs and prams.
- **Parking:** You asked for pram, buggy, scooter and bike parking.

## Playground material:

The most popular choice of play material chosen was "**Conventional wooden.**"



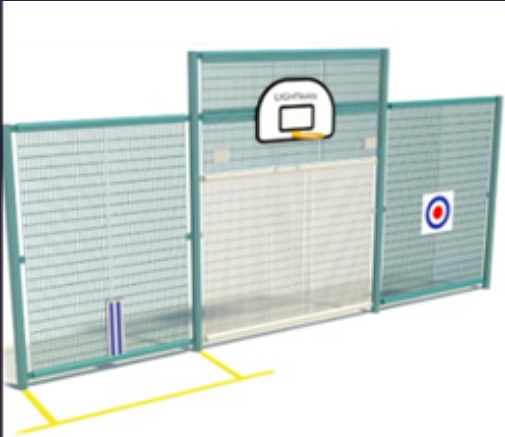
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# Ball wall:

We asked you to rank four options to replace the ball wall. The most preferred option was the “**Mesh wall.**”



- You asked for the ball wall to have holes to practice kicking and passing skills.
- You want the ball wall to be quieter than the existing ball wall.

# Make Space For Girls:

We asked what facilities would make this a more **welcoming space for girls** and worked with Year 9 students from Burntwood School to incorporate their views into the project:

- Seating within the fenced areas.
- Picnic benches, hammocks, and swinging seats are all popular.
- Group seating with shade.
- Swings in a group setting, with wheelchair accessible swings integrated.
- A larger slide for older children.
- Space to play football.
- In-ground trampoline large enough for more than one person to use at a time.
- A roundabout at ground level or a group spin activity.
- A gymnastics bar or monkey bars.
- A seesaw with capacity for more than one person.
- A rock climbing wall.

# Safety and security:

Gates: You want the access gates to the playground to be secure. We will ensure that the playground gates will be wide enough and accessible for all users while maintaining security.

Anti-social behaviour: Concerns were raised that the sheltered seating will attract anti-social behaviour and noise. We understand that the playground may be used by older teenagers during the evenings and after school. While the play equipment will remain primarily designed for younger children, we will include options that welcome older children as well. If reports of anti-social behaviour arise, we will work with Parks Police to address the issues and engage with young people to understand their needs.

Lighting: No additional lighting will be installed as part of this project. The existing street lighting from Aboyne Road and Barnfield Close will provide “borrowed” lighting.

Litter and dog mess: Concerns were raised about litter and dog mess not only within the playground but throughout the surrounding greenspace. We will work with the grounds maintenance contractor, Krinkels, to ensure that litter does not build up in this greenspace.

Safety on crossing Aboyne road: Concerns were raised about crossing Aboyne Road to access the playground, as the chicane traffic control measure often causes traffic build-up, and there have been reports of aggressive driving. We will engage with Wandsworth Council’s Highways Team to look into this issue.



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# Additional queries:

Gate on the corner of Aboyne Road: Both adults and children asked if an access gate could be installed at the corner of Garratt Green where Aboyne Road meets Burntwood Lane (B229). This request is due to people often jumping the fence here as a shortcut to get in and out of Garratt Green. We will understand what the site constraints are and if it is possible, we will install an additional access gate at this location.

Path around perimeter of the green: You asked if a path could be created around the edge of Garratt Green for dog walkers, joggers and general park users. We will investigate if this can be done without compromising the safety of sports pitch users. If it is possible we will need to seek funds to do this.

Build time: You asked if the playground, or part of it, can remain open during the refurbishment. For safety reasons, the entire playground will be closed for an estimated 8-10 weeks, depending on weather and any other unforeseen circumstances. We will ensure that the refurbishment takes place outside of the summer and school holidays. We will ensure clear signage directs you to the next nearest available play areas and we will give you as much advanced notice of the build as we can.

Refurbishment timeline: You asked when the refurbishment will be completed; the aim is to complete the project by spring 2026.



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# Next steps:

We will create a project specification based on the feedback from this consultation.



We will go out to tender using the project specification and will work with consultants to produce three different designs of the playground that best fit your requirements.



We will undertake the second phase of consultation, asking you which design you prefer out of the three options.



The most popular design will then be delivered, with the aim to complete the project by spring 2026. On-site signage will inform you when the playground will need to close for refurbishment.