

Latchmere Recreation Ground

Phase 2 Consultation Feedback

Playground and Landscape Refurbishment



Lead: Enable Parks Development
August 2025



managed on behalf of Wandsworth Council by
enable.
For happy, healthier communities.
Not for profit.

Contents

Project Overview	2
Consultation Details	3
Design Choice	4
Community Priorities	5
Community Considerations	7
Beyond the Scope	8



managed on behalf of Wandsworth Council by
enable.
For happy, healthier communities.
Not for profit.

Project Overview

Wandsworth Council has allocated funds to refurbish the playground at Latchmere Recreation Ground and create a new east–west pathway beside the playground, as part of the Council’s Year of Play 2025. This funding is dedicated to play and landscape improvements and does not divert resources from other social priorities.

The refurbishment is needed as some equipment is nearing the end of its life and could be decommissioned within a few years if not replaced. The new playground will cater for children aged 0–12, with more capacity, inclusive equipment for children with disabilities, and space for everyone to play together. The playground boundary will be adjusted to fit the new pathway north of the site, improving access and comfort for visitors, pedestrians, and dog walkers.



Consultation Details

Phase 1 ran from 11 October to 6 December 2024 and included an on-site drop-in session on Saturday 26 October. We asked local residents about their current use of the playground, suggestions for improvements, and views on the proposed new pathway.

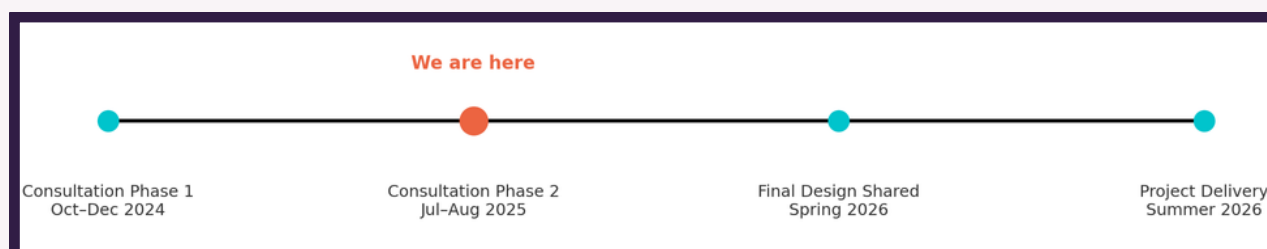
The Phase 1 Report can be found [here](#).



Phase 2 took place between 3rd July and 4th August 2025. Three design options, shaped by Phase 1 feedback, were presented for public comment via an online survey and two drop in sessions at the playground held on Tuesday 15th July between 2:30pm – 5pm and Thursday 31st July between 1pm – 4pm.

We promoted the consultation through playground and park signage, Wandsworth Council leaflets to nearby homes, local organisation networks, social media, and the Council website.

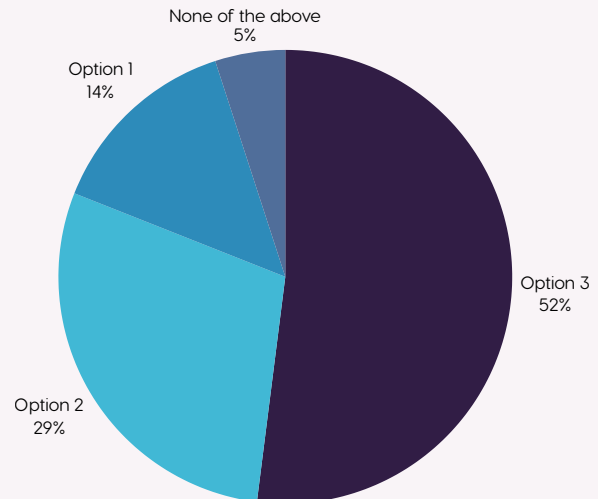
56 people responded to the survey. 94.6% of whom live locally and the majority of which were parents.



managed on behalf of Wandsworth Council by
enable.
For happy, healthier communities.
Not for profit.

Design Choice

Option 3 was the most popular design, chosen by 52% of respondents.



Community Priorities

Across all responses, three priorities stood out:

- All Ages: Respondents emphasized the importance of the playground offering opportunities for children of all ages. Challenging features for older children should be included, with many viewing the large slide as a good example. Respondents also highlighted the desire of seating, ideally with shade, to better accommodate parents and carers.
- Challenging Equipment: Play that involves climbing, sliding, and balancing was mentioned frequently and seen as especially important. The play mound with grips, bespoke tunnel, overhead ladder, and climbing frame and slide were highlighted as strong examples of this kind of challenging play.
- Natural Features: Respondents valued the inclusion of greenery and natural materials, favouring “quieter” colours that reflect the area’s history. They also highlighted the importance of open space to support imaginative play.



Option 3 Features that Stood Out:

- Most inclusive play options and the widest variety across ages
- Strongest use of greenery and nature-based elements, valued for children's wellbeing, with comments highlighting that children need nature-based enrichment
- The play mound with grips and the bespoke tunnel were highly valued amongst respondents, regardless of option preferred

Features from other designs that Option 3 supporters wanted included:

- Retaining and refurbishing the climbing frame and slide (41%) with respondents mentioning its unique value to the playground as well as providing a feature for older children.
- The social climbing – butterfly structure (41%) was seen as a valuable addition to increase challenge and social interaction.
- The double car (41%)



The final design will be based on Option 3. We will work with the designer to assess whether these additional features can be incorporated into the preferred design, considering required safety standards and the project budget.

Community Considerations

While feedback was largely positive, respondents raised a few issues that echoed Phase 1 feedback. These points will be considered during the development of the final design, in consultation with the designer.

- Playground footprint and maintaining green space
- Retaining sightlines
- Number and type of gates
- Heritage compatibility

Further details on how these matters are being addressed can be found in the [Phase 1 Report](#).

Additional Phase 2 issues raised:

- Surface materials: Some respondents were curious about the use of rubber and resin-bound gravel in relation to biodiversity and heritage compatibility. Pathway surfacing will be considered and discussed with the designer to prioritize accessibility and consistency with existing materials. Rubber surfacing remains necessary in the playground for safety reasons and is the most practical and affordable option for the site.
- Maintenance: A clean, safe park is a shared priority. Bins are cleared and the park is swept regularly. Recent improvements, such as edging to reduce erosion and repainting of gates, have been carried out to help maintain the site.



managed on behalf of Wandsworth Council by
enable.
For happy, healthier communities.
Not for profit.

Beyond the Scope of the Project

Some feedback related to the wider Recreation Ground or local area and falls outside the current playground refurbishment project:

- Open space for adults and families: Respondents emphasised the importance of green space for all ages. These areas will remain in the park, and only the playground footprint will be adjusted to accommodate the new pathway.
- Dog-free zones: Some respondents requested a dog-free zone in the park. While the playground will continue to be dog-free, the wider park area will remain open to dog walkers. We will improve signage and continue working with Parks Police to encourage responsible behaviour. Additional details on dog management are included in the Phase 1 Report.
- Appropriate mix of amenities: A few respondents noted a lack of facilities for older children locally. We will continue to explore with the council how future opportunities might address needs across all age groups.



managed on behalf of Wandsworth Council by
enable.
For happy, healthier communities.
Not for profit.

Thank you!

For more information: parks@enablelc.org.

Stay updated:

- Facebook: [Enable Parks Wandsworth](#)
- Instagram: [enableparks](#)
- X: [@EnableParks](#)



managed on behalf of Wandsworth Council by
enable.
For happy, healthier communities.
Not for profit.