

Tooting Commons Lakeside Playground

Phase 2 Consultation Feedback Report
January 2025



Lead: Enable Parks Development



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Consultation details:

The consultation went live, online, on Monday 18th November 2024 and closed on Monday 16th December 2024.

One on-site drop in session was held on:
Saturday 7th December 12noon - 2pm (weekend, daytime).

£384,000 has been granted by Wandsworth Council to refurbish the playground at Tooting Commons Lakeside. These funds are specifically allocated for play, as part of Wandsworth Council's Year of Play 2025, and have not diverted resources from other social investments.

During the first round of consultation, held between September and November 2023 for 8 weeks, feedback was gathered on what local residents and playground users think of the current playground, if and how the currently facility is being used and how it can be improved. Based on this feedback, three exciting playground designs were developed by the appointed playground contractor, HAGS, for this second phase of consultation.

All three of the proposed playground designs included realigned fencing to the south of the existing playground fenceline to exclude the tennis kiosk.

In total, 456 people responded, with 98% of respondents living in the local area to Tooting Commons.



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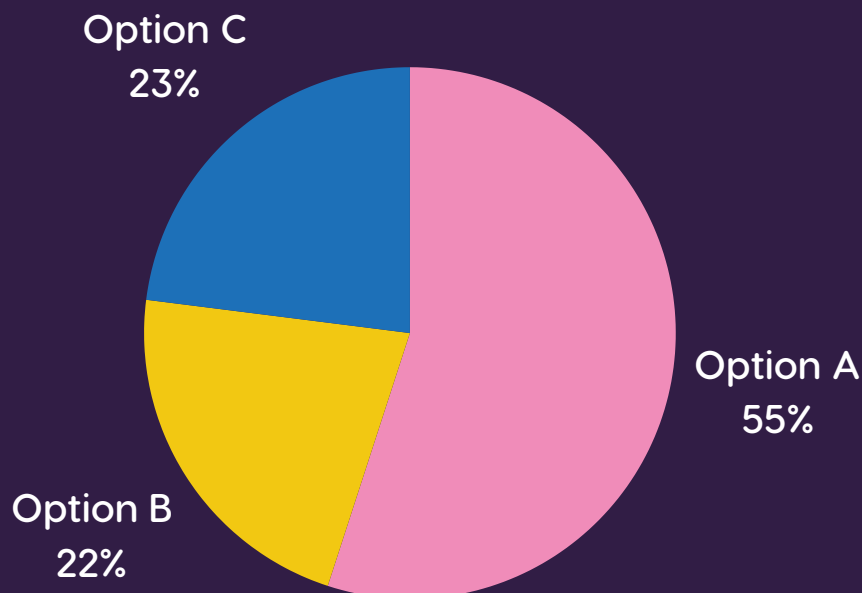
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Design choice:

People were asked to rank three playground designs:



Option A was the overall preferred option, with 55% of people indicating this as their preferred playground design.



Why you chose Option A

You said you preferred option A because:

- The design was inspired by local wildlife and themed around nature.
- The zipline will be a very popular play item.
- Climbing is important and the climbing frame has cover incorporated for rest and for shelter.
- The monkey bars are challenging.
- Children will enjoy the slide.
- There is a woodland storytelling area where children can role play.
- There are interpretation panels for children to learn.
- The design includes a musical area.
- The playground has an element of risk to be exciting and challenging for older children.
- It includes buggy and scooter parking.
- The design includes seating for adults in the middle of the playground, so that parents/carers can have a view of both sides of the playground.
- There is covered seating.
- There are areas of shade on the play equipment.
- The design has clear sightlines throughout the playground for parents/carers.
- The design is fun and colourful and the layout makes good use of the space.
- The design takes into account both biodiversity and inclusivity.
- The play equipment is made from natural looking materials.
- The design provides a variety of equipment and a good mixture of features.
- The design has the best balance of activities for all age groups.



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Concerns raised:

Queueing and crowding: You raised concerns about how overcrowded the playground gets, especially in warmer weather. We have ensured that the design includes more capacity, meaning that more children can play at the same time, reducing queues and crowding for popular play items.

Sightline: We understand that it is important for parents/carers with children of different ages to have good sightlines throughout the playground. We will work with our biodiversity team to ensure that the bushes within the playground can be managed to improve sightlines into and access through this area.

Slides with ridges: You said that slides with plastic ridges are painful to ride for both adults and children. We will ensure HAGS are aware of this issue and provide a pain-free slide.

Wider Tooting Commons findings

Flooded paths and drainage: We are aware that some of the paths on the Commons flood and become very muddy during the winter. We are aware of the drainage issue, and it is currently being investigated on Tooting Commons. If there are any works that will be undertaken, on-site signage will be put up to notify you.

Water refill stations: We will include signage to the nearest water refill stations and drinking fountains.

Toilets: Addition of toilets is beyond the scope of this current playground project. However, we will ensure that the nearest toilets are sign posted on the gates and that clear information is provided about how close these facilities are.

Lake clean: We manage the lake for biodiversity as a priority and ensure our maintenance regimes maintain the lake's health. This includes regularly taking water samples to monitor water quality and undertaking fish health surveys.

Sports facilities: You asked for a range of sports facilities to be added to the Commons. We will discuss this with colleagues and the council to see what, if any, can be made possible.

Football pitch: We are aware that the football fields become waterlogged and muddy during the winter. We are investigating funding for the football pitch to be restored.



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Next steps:

HAGS, the appointed playground contractor, will review Option A and explore how they can incorporate the key findings about play.



HAGS will place the order for the play items from Option A to be manufactured.



The timetable for delivery of the playground will be finalised. Signs on-site will go up informing you when the playground will be closed for the refurbishment.



HAGS will start the refurbishment and deliver Option A playground design.



Once the playground refurbishment is completed, safety inspections will be carried out.



The playground will re-open after passing post-installation safety inspections.