

Tooting Common

Playground Refurbishment
Consultation
Toplines Feedback
December 2023



Lead: Enable Parks Development



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Consultation details:

Phase 1 consultation was an online consultation which started on 19th September and closed on 14th November 2023 (8 weeks).

Two drop in sessions were held on 19th October (after school into the early evening) and 28th October (daytime)

We asked questions about how you use the current playground, what you like and don't like about it now and the types of improvements you would like to see. There was also the space to tell us any other comments including any concerns you may have about our intention to improve this area.

In total 465 people responded, and 98% of them lived locally to Tooting Common.

96% of people who visited did so with their children, grandchildren or with children of friends.

Of those that responded 72% had children under 5 years old, 35% had children aged between 5 and 7, 22% had children 8 to 11 years old and 11% had children aged 12+

“We'd like it to be pink and purple with pink and purple stripes” said L aged 3



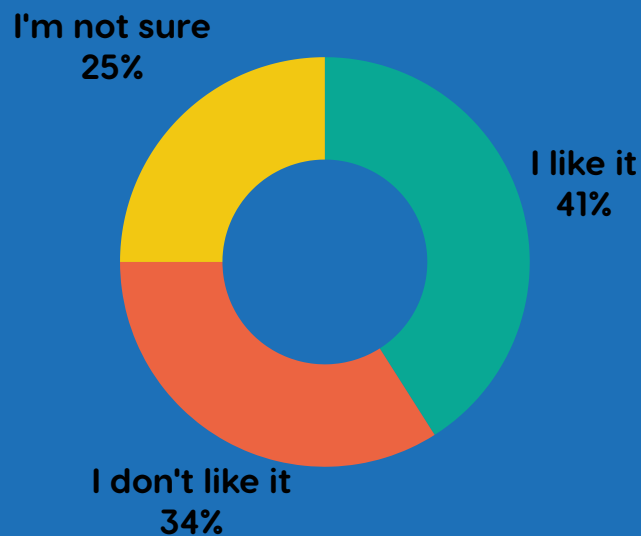
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Key findings: shape and size

Size and shape: 53% of people said that the playground now is about the right size but people were divided about the current shape of the playground



We explained our plans to change the fence line to **exclude the tennis kiosk** and most people that commented supported this idea.

We would like a zip line and a mud kitchen please.
Best wishes from Emma and Alice (8 & 6)

Key findings: play

We asked you which **type** of play your children take part in. This will inform the layout of the new playground and the type of play items we include.



Key findings: accessibility

Accessibility: is important to you. 43 people responded that their children have physical requirements we should try to accommodate, 31 people have children with social or learning requirements we should try to accommodate and 26% of the adults that responded have needs we should bear in mind.

We have heard from families with children that use wheelchairs, children with sensory issues, autistic children (several of whom like to spin), children with core instability and children with deafness or hearing loss. Good playground fencing and gates were mentioned by families who have children with no awareness of what might be dangerous. Better signage was mentioned by parents of children with allergies. Many of you mentioned the need for supportive seating on play items along with child sized benches.

You also wanted shaded seating that can support and accommodate people who are pregnant and breastfeeding, older carers and picnicking families.

Many people mentioned the difficulty of opening the current gates, especially when also trying to manoeuvre a baby buggy. Whilst we want to keep children safe, we will explore if there are changes we can make so it's easier to get into the playground.

We will implement the principles of "Make Space for Girls" when we design the layout of the new playground.



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Key findings: about our visitors

Travel: 82% of you travel to the playground on foot and 8% of you travel by bike. We will consider including bike (and scooter) parking in or near the playground.

When: 92% of you visit at weekends, 56% in school holidays and 45% on weekdays. We will therefore choose items that can allow lots of children to play alongside each other or together at the same time. This will reduce how long you have to wait to take your turn.



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Key findings: play types

We asked how important it would be for children in your care to have the chance to do the following things in a new playground. This is the breakdown of what you told us was **very important** to you.



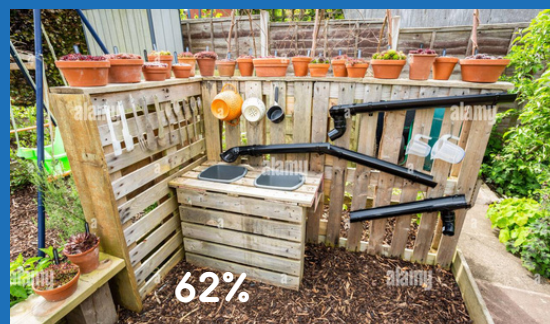
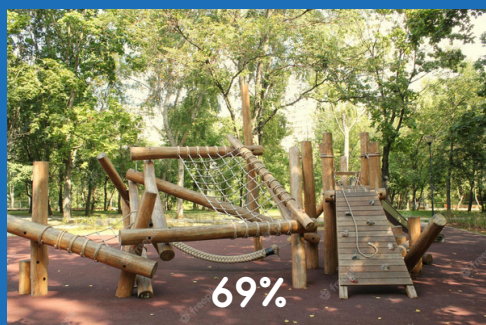
Key findings: play equipment

We asked you to tell us which **materials** you prefer and **how** your children like to play. These are the images that we showed you with the % of you that indicated a preference :



Key findings: natural play

We asked you to tell us which **types of natural play** your children would prefer. These are the images we shared with the % of you that indicated a preference:



Key findings: natural play 2

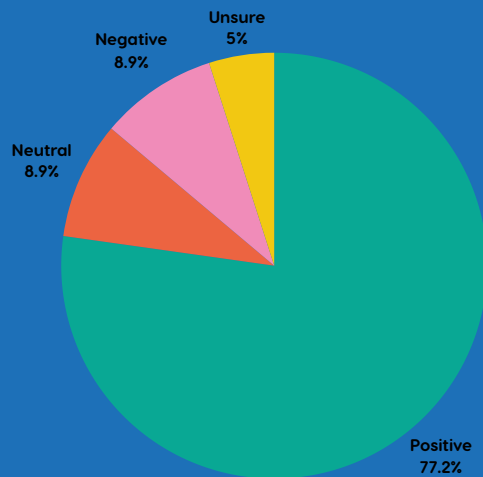
We asked you to tell us which **types of natural play** your children would prefer. These are the images we shared with the % of you that indicated a preference:



Key findings: nature

265 people told us what they **value** about the natural play area and 198 people shared **concerns** with us about this area. We are reading through all of these comments to better understand both sets of views.

We asked you how you feel about including the woodland within the play ground:



It is clear that most people want us to keep the woodland within the playground. We are reading all the comments to understand what changes are needed so that you feel safe to let your children play and learn here.

Around the common

261 people made comments, suggestions or raised concerns about the playground refurbishment. Some of these comments also mention other issues on Tooting Common.

We are reading all of your comments and will provide a further report including our response to the most commonly raised issues.

Here are a few answers that we can give you now:

Drinking water: the nearest drinking water bottle refill station is just over 100m to the north of the playground immediately opposite the cafe. There is also a drinking water fountain 250m south of the playground just opposite the toilets.

Toilets: there is one toilet at the cafe 100m north of the playground. There are male, and female toilets which include baby changing and separate disabled access toilets 250m south of the playground near to the car park on Dr Johnson Avenue.

Lakeside footpaths: we are submitting a funding bid that would fund improvements to the permeable path that surrounds the lake. If we are successful we will put up signs on site to explain more.

Adult exercise equipment: several people mentioned that this would also be a welcome addition. We will explore if there are appropriate locations for this and work to secure funding and the necessary approvals that would allow us to provide this.



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Next steps:

261 people took the time to give us detailed comments.

We are reading through all of these comments and will provide a further report in early 2024 which will include our response to the most commonly raised issues.

The results of the consultation are now guiding our project team in the next steps of this playground refurbishment. The information will inform the type of playground equipment provider(s) we seek to work with, the type and style of the play equipment we commission and how we improve the wooded area so that your children can have better play opportunities.

We expect to bring 3 different designs to you in summer 2024 so that you can chose the one you prefer. We will advertise this via on site signage, our website and social media.

if you have any questions about this project in the meantime please email: parks@enablelc.org



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