

BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL
Special Environment Committee
23 February 2023
Decision Report 1

Results of the Consultation Exercise carried out regarding a new Play Park in the Hodgsons Road Estate

Recommendation

Committee consider the results and comments received from the Consultation Exercise and RESOLVE:

- **where the new park will be located**
- **the range of equipment to be provided as with/on the lines of recent Play Area installations.**

Ward

Cowpen

Risk Management

There is budget provision, in the Play Area programme, for this facility to be refurbished in 2023/24. A Consultation Exercise has been carried out to obtain views as to its preferred size and location. NCC have given authority for the new Play Area to be either extended in its current location or in the new location should the Council make such a decision.

Objectives

To promote the environmental, social, and economic wellbeing of the town and its community. One way this can be done is by the provision of Play/Sports Areas to create a facility for children/teenagers, up to mid-teens, to both learn and play within a secure environment.

Report

At a previous meeting of this Committee, it was brought to the attention of Members, that there were views from users/residents of the estate that a larger play area in a new location would be beneficial. Following Budget approval in January, Officers have conducted a consultation exercise, see Appendix A, asking for preferences/comments regarding:

- Option 1 - The play area to be refurbished as is. With no other changes.
- Option 2 - Increase the size of the Play Area in its current location to a similar size of other parks in the Town.
- Option 3 - Relocate the Play Area to the identified location on the grassed area to the rear of Chestnut Ave.

The Consultation document/questionnaire was issued to households on the Hodgsons Road Estate, placed on a notice board within the estate, attached to the fence of the Play Area, as well as on social media on the 24 January, with a closing date of 12 February 2023.

This exercise has seen some 17 responses received by the closing date, and the summary results from these are in favour of Option 2, which is to "Increase the size of the Play Area in its current location to a similar size of other parks in the Town". Shown below are the results from the Consultation. Also shown are the responses (13), which were hand delivered by one person, just after the closing date. The effect of these, if considered, would change the result of location to that of "the grassed area to the rear of Chestnut Ave".

Option	Number of responses received by the closing date	Number of responses received after the closing date
The play area to be refurbished as is. With no other changes.	0	0
Increase the size of the Play Area in its current location to a similar size of other parks in the Town.	9	2
Relocate the Play Area to the identified location on the grassed area to the rear of Chestnut Ave.	8	11
Total	17	13

There have been comments submitted prior to the closing date, and these are shown within Appendix B. Also shown are the responses which were received just after the closing date, and these comments are included on

Appendix C. These need to be considered both in the initial decision on Play Area location and items of equipment.

Indeed, some of these comments e.g., more baby swings and equipment to suit a range of ages, are within the current remit for facilities of this type and within our normal specification for equipment up to the age of 16 years, which we have budget approval for.

Malcolm Wilkinson

Deputy Town Clerk

16 February 2023