

Stroud District Council Play Area Consultation Report



Leisure-net
Solutions Ltd

Stroud District Council Play Area Consultation Report

Contents

01	Project Background.....	3
02	Key Findings.....	4
03	The Survey in Numbers.....	6
04	Question Breakdown.....	7
05	Appendix 1 – Open Text Responses.....	16
06	Appendix 2 – Community Consultations.....	41



01

Project Background

Project: Stroud District Council – Play Area Consultation Report

Date of Research: June/July 2022

Project Background

Stroud District Council is undertaking a review of the 32 council-owned play parks across the district, and it has engaged Leisure-net as its consultants to support this project. Play areas and green space are vital for the health and wellbeing of young children and their families. The funding will be used to improve some of the key areas across the district, updating them with equipment which is fun and fit for purpose. This consultation, together with public health data, will be used to identify the communities which are in greatest need.

One of the council's three main priorities is Community Resilience and Wellbeing, and stakeholder engagement forms part of a wider consultation including a community consultation survey, focus groups and door-to-door consultations where play areas surround residential dwellings.

Leisure-net

Leisure-net Solutions, the industry leader for Customer Insight and Market Intelligence in the active leisure industry, is delighted to present this report of research, carried out on behalf of Stroud District Council.

Research Methods

The data within this report was gathered using an online survey, complemented by stakeholder interviews and focus groups. The survey was completed in June 2022 and was an online self-selection survey, so while the sample size is 483, it is skewed heavily towards females, as might be expected bearing in mind the subject. In our experience it is also likely to be completed by residents with a stronger view on local provision/service, who are also likely to be more active and/or involved or have an interest in local provision, the results should therefore be analysed in this context.

The survey was advertised to local residents through a variety of means, including the council's website and social media channels.

02

Key Findings – survey

- Stratford Park Junior Play Area was the most popular with 23% saying they used this the most.
- 39% of the sample used the play area more than once a week. 8% rarely used it.
- Over half of the sample (51%) take children aged 4-8 years old to the play area
- The main reasons for using the chosen play areas was to enjoy the fresh air/greens spaces and for their child to be physically active whilst having fun, both at 22%.
- Swings and a slide were chosen as the most popular equipment to make a good play area with 12% choosing swings and 11% a slide. This was closely followed by 10% choosing a climbing apparatus.
- Nearly three quarters of the sample (74%) felt that themselves and their children were safe in their chosen play area.
- 17% of the sample said that Stratford Park Junior Play Area was the other play area they used, this was closely followed by Stratford Park at 16%.
- When asked if they would like the listed play areas to be something else instead, over half of the sample (58%) said they would like to keep them as play areas.



Key Findings – interviews and focus groups

One to one interviews or group sessions were carried out with the following individuals/organisations;

- Inspection and Maintenance Contractor
- World Jungle
- Housing Manager
- Community Centre Manager
- All Sort Gloucester
- District Council Members
- Town Council Members/Clerks

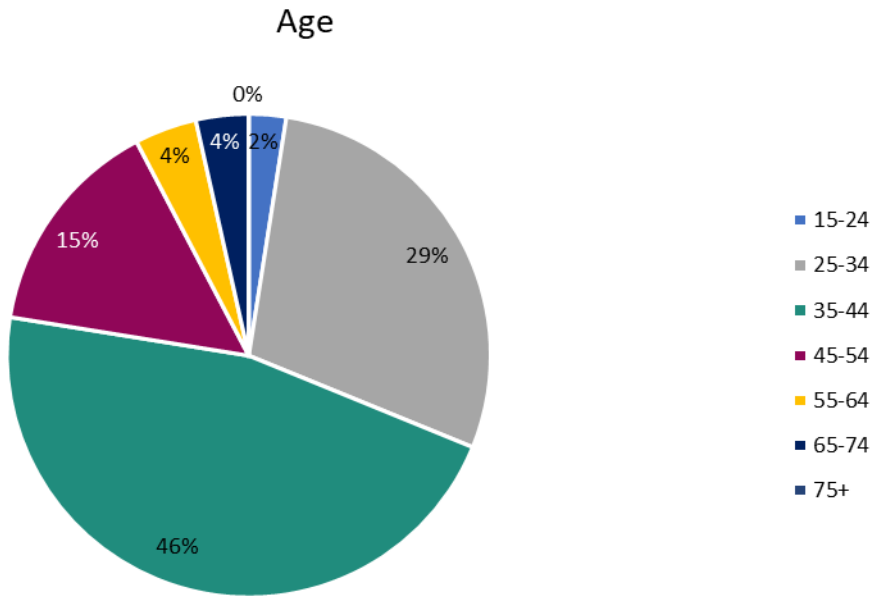
Key themes

- More joined up thinking required between different councils and voluntary groups/organisations
- Strategic approach to play provision is essential, regardless of who actually provides and runs provision
- Must be led by the community and current/potential user groups
- Important to think “out of the box” and not just provide the “standard play areas” – users – both carers and children expect more
- Environmental concerns need to be taken into account, both in design but also in how usage affects other user groups of open spaces
- Need to recognise impact of global warming and environmental changes for example by providing good shade and use of natural products
- Needs to provide for all age groups – older children often get missed out
- The balance between segregating different user groups and integrating them really needs to be thought out thoroughly
- Nature/landscaping and the use of natural materials needs to be considered
- The balance between providing a safe environment and one in which children can learn by taking risks is critical
- Investment would be better concentrated into a few key developments rather than spreading it too thinly
- The investment needs to focus clearly on areas and communities that have the most “need”



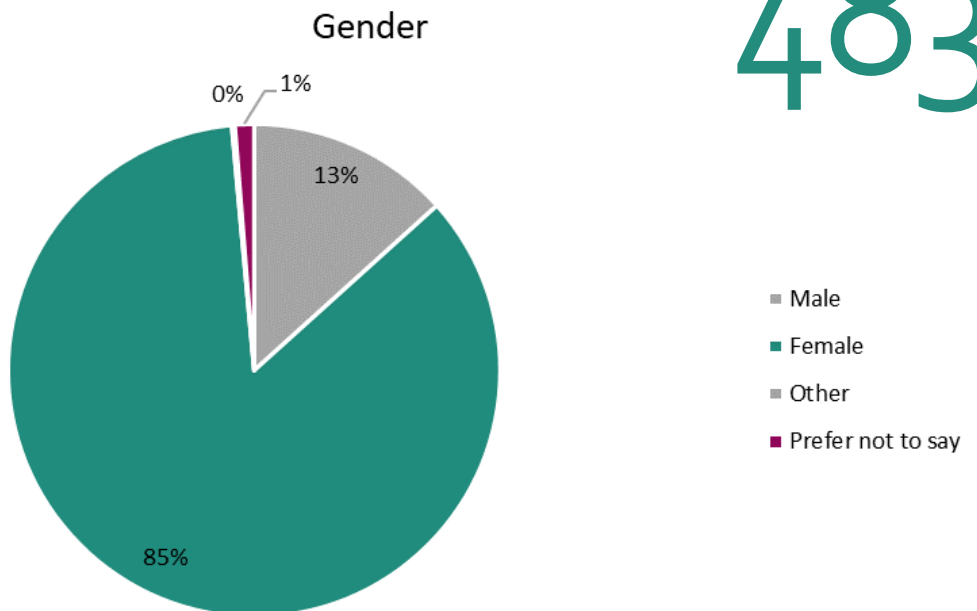
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The Survey in numbers



SAMPLE

483



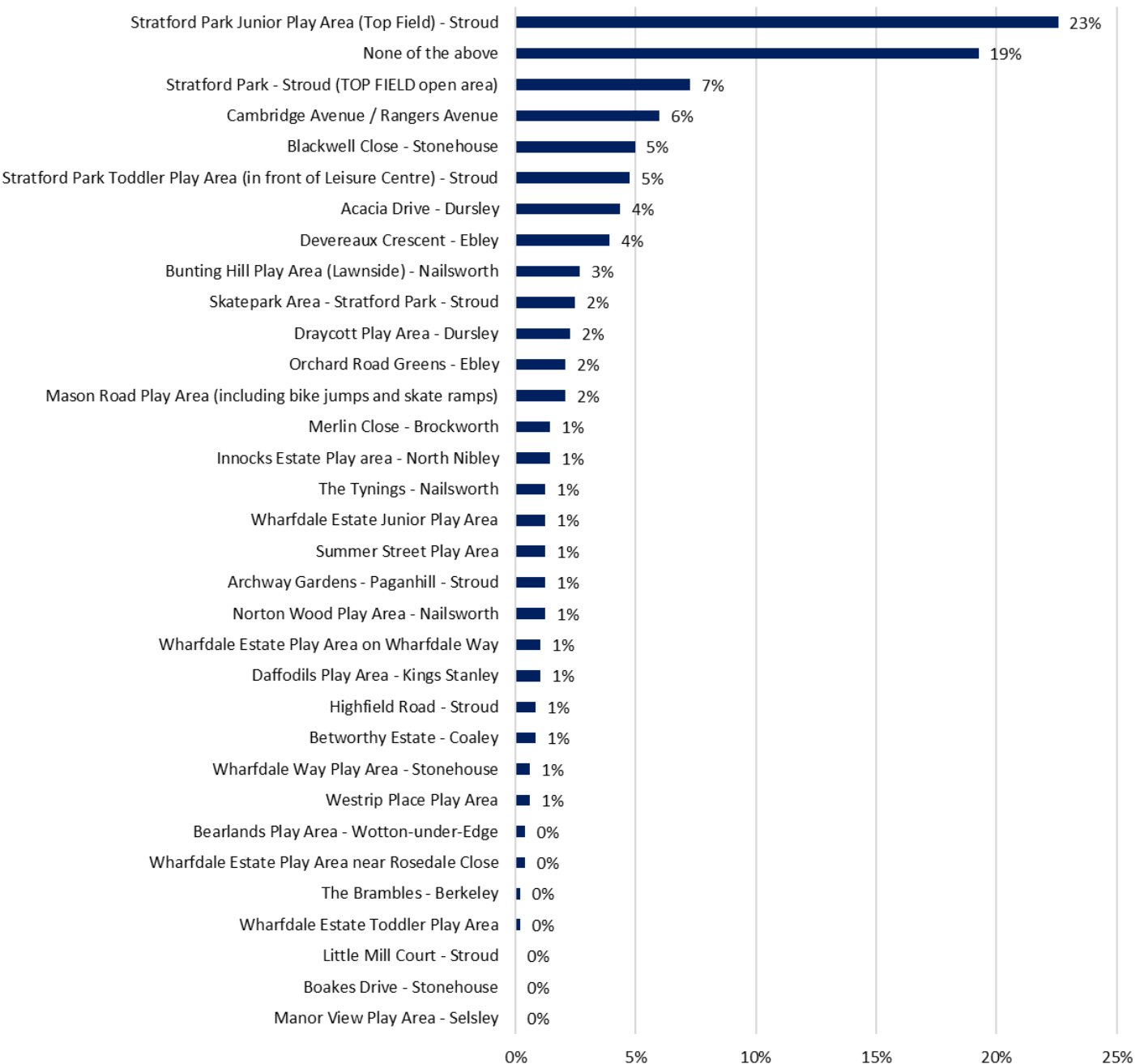
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Which of the following play areas do you use the most?
Select one answer

Stratford Park Junior Play Area was the most popular with 23% saying they used this the most.

The play areas used the most



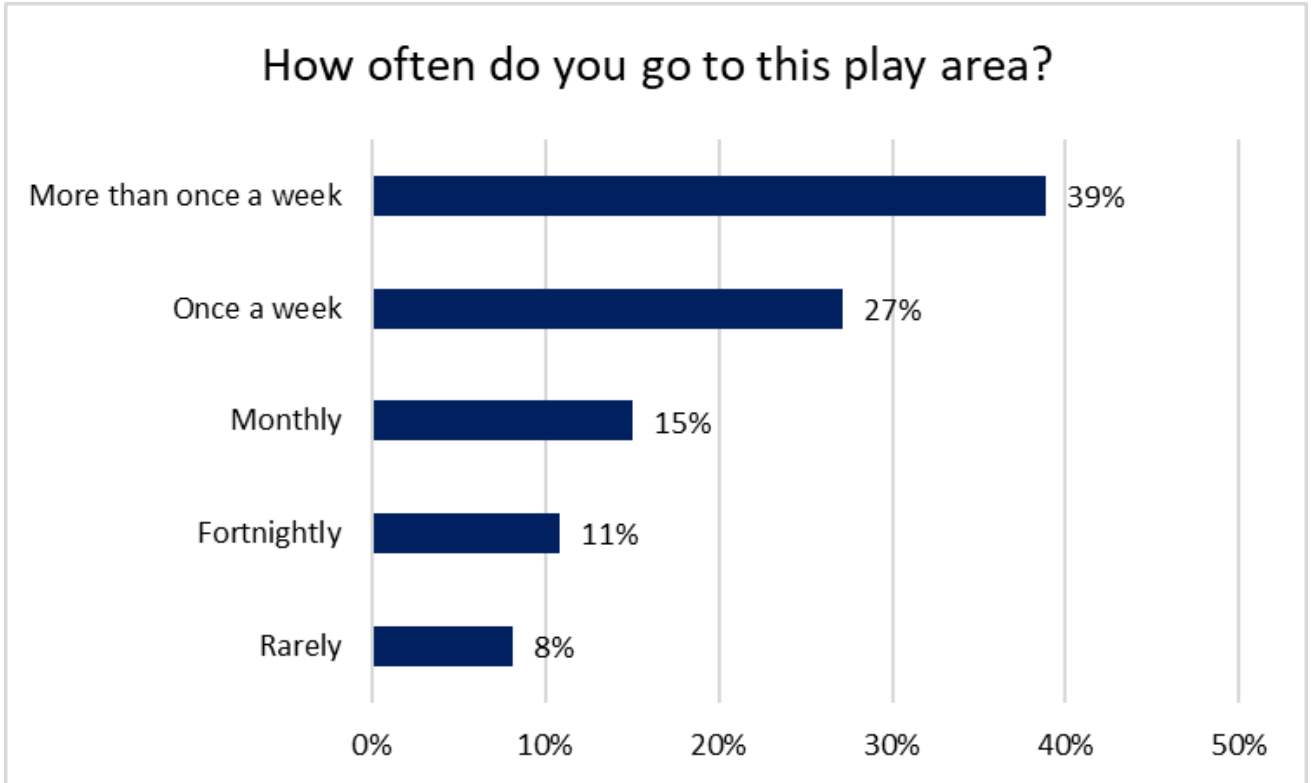
Which of the following play areas do you use the most? Select one answer

Which of the following play areas do you use the most? Select one answer	
Stratford Park Junior Play Area (Top Field) - Stroud	23%
None of the above	19%
Stratford Park - Stroud (TOP FIELD open area)	7%
Cambridge Avenue / Rangers Avenue	6%
Blackwell Close - Stonehouse	5%
Stratford Park Toddler Play Area (in front of Leisure Centre) - Stroud	5%
Acacia Drive - Dursley	4%
Devereaux Crescent - Ebley	4%
Bunting Hill Play Area (Lawnside) - Nailsworth	3%
Skatepark Area - Stratford Park - Stroud	2%
Draycott Play Area - Dursley	2%
Mason Road Play Area (including bike jumps and skate ramps)	2%
Orchard Road Greens - Ebley	2%
Innocks Estate Play area - North Nibley	1%
Merlin Close - Brockworth	1%
Norton Wood Play Area - Nailsworth	1%
Archway Gardens - Paganhill - Stroud	1%
Summer Street Play Area	1%
Wharfdale Estate Junior Play Area	1%
The Tynings - Nailsworth	1%
Daffodils Play Area - Kings Stanley	1%
Wharfdale Estate Play Area on Wharfdale Way	1%
Betworthy Estate - Coaley	1%
Highfield Road - Stroud	1%
Westrip Place Play Area	1%
Wharfdale Way Play Area - Stonehouse	1%
Wharfdale Estate Play Area near Rosedale Close	0%
Bearlands Play Area - Wotton-under-Edge	0%
Wharfdale Estate Toddler Play Area	0%
The Brambles - Berkeley	0%
Manor View Play Area - Selsley	0%
Boakes Drive - Stonehouse	0%
Little Mill Court - Stroud	0%



How often do you go to this play area?

39% of the sample used the play area more than once a week. 8% rarely used it.



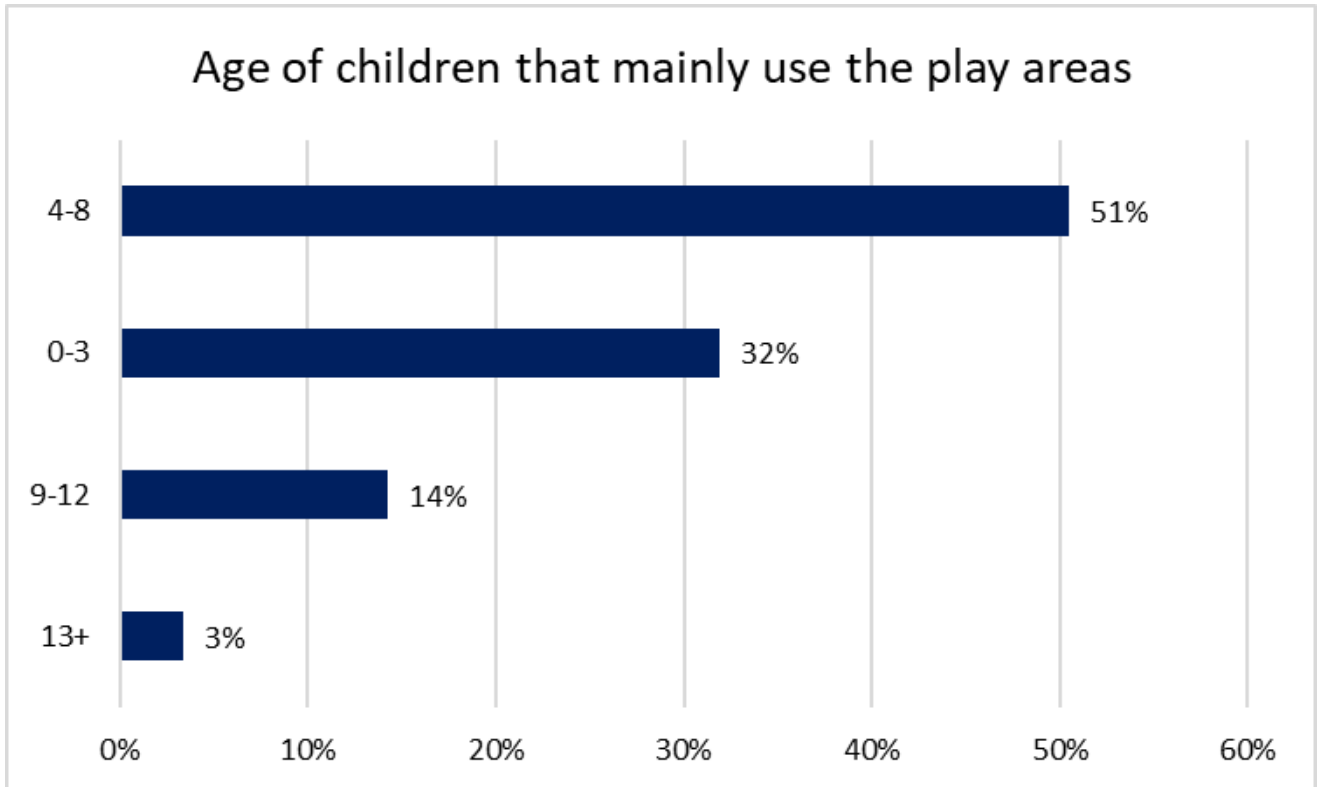
How often do you go to this play area?

More than once a week	39%
Once a week	27%
Monthly	15%
Fortnightly	11%
Rarely	8%



Age of children that you mainly visit the play areas with:

Over half of the sample (51%) take children aged 4-8 years old to the play area



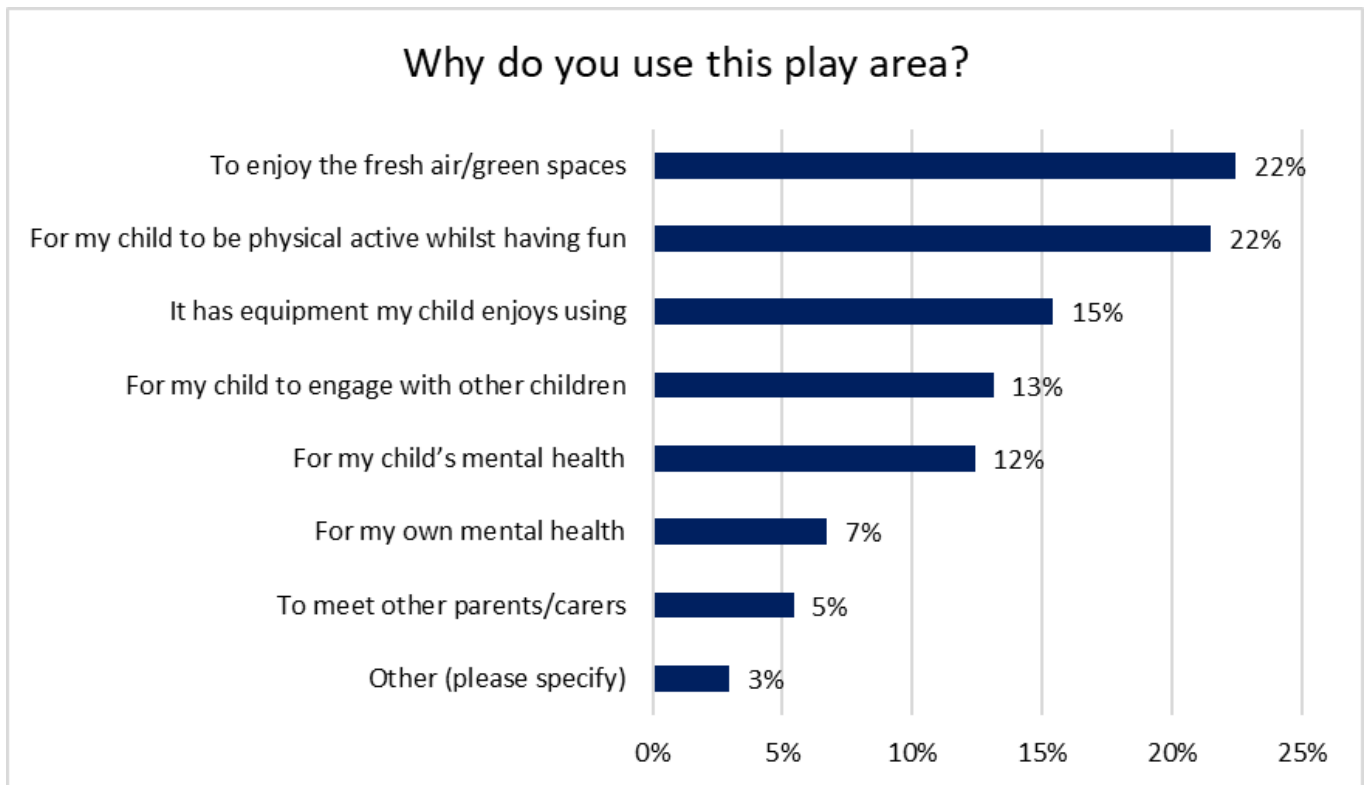
Age of children that you mainly visit the play areas with:

4-8	51%
0-3	32%
9-12	14%
13+	3%



**Why do you use this play area?
Select all that apply**

The main reasons for using the chosen play areas was to enjoy the fresh air/greens spaces and for their child to be physically active whilst having fun, both at 22%.



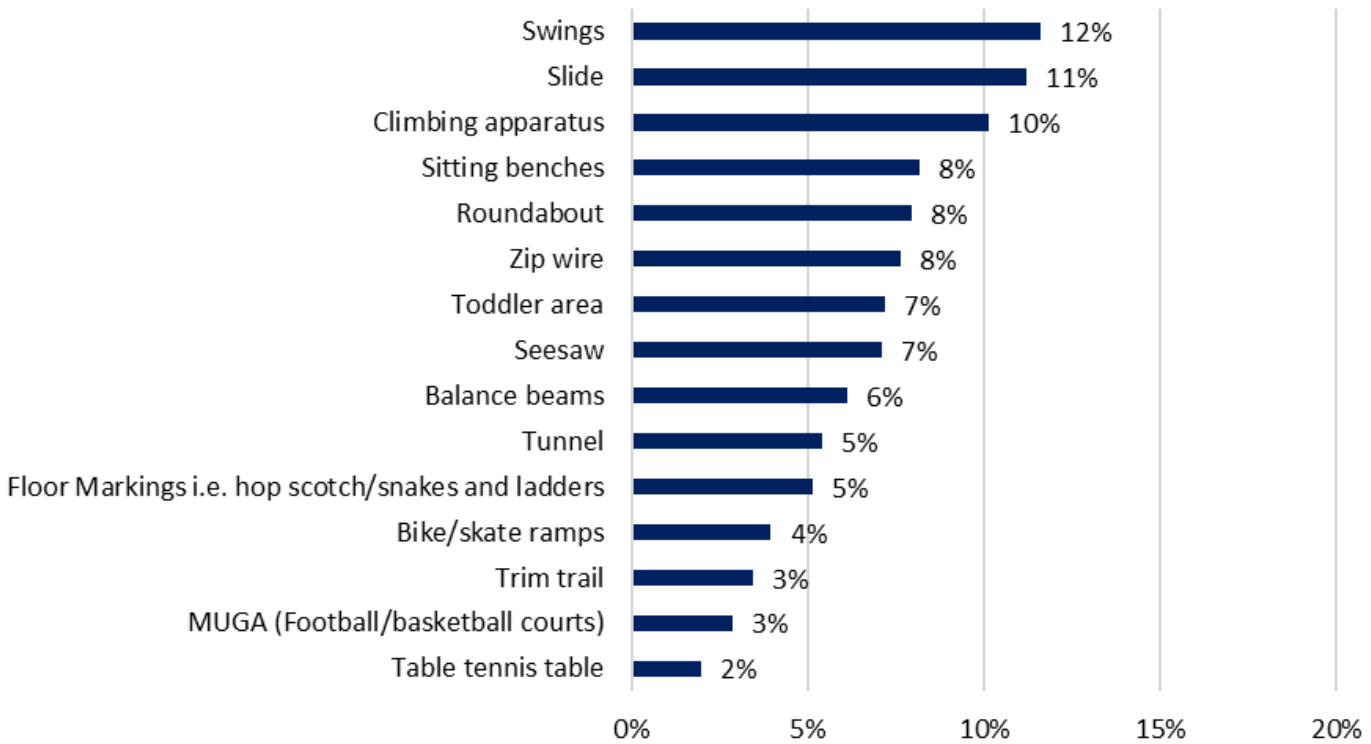
Why do you use this play area? Select all that apply	
To enjoy the fresh air/green spaces	22%
For my child to be physical active whilst having fun	22%
It has equipment my child enjoys using	15%
For my child to engage with other children	13%
For my child's mental health	12%
For my own mental health	7%
To meet other parents/carers	5%
Other (please specify)	3%



What equipment do you feel makes a good play area? Select all that apply

Swings and a slide were chosen as the most popular equipment to make a good play area with 12% choosing swings and 11% a slide. This was closely followed by 10% choosing a climbing apparatus.

Equipment that makes a good play area



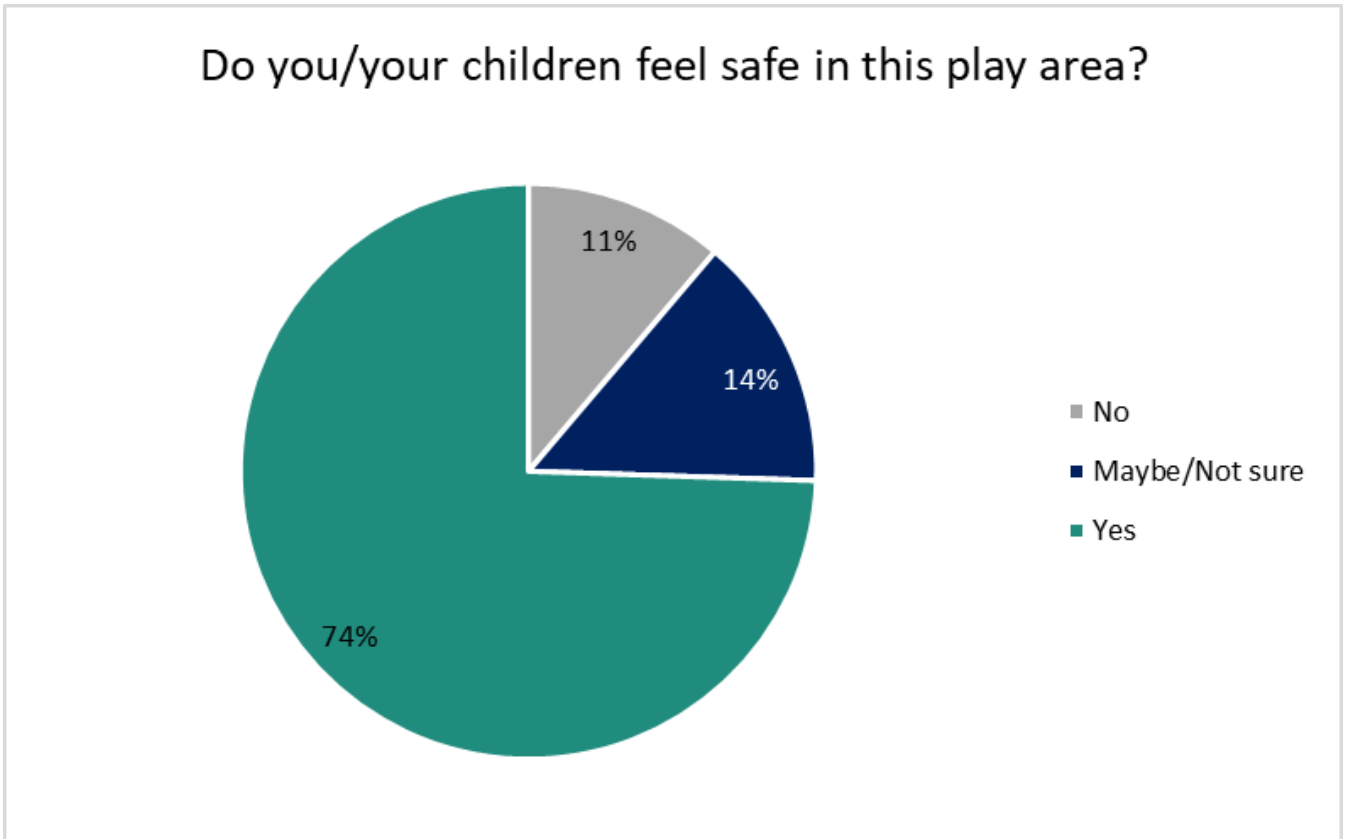
What equipment do you feel makes a good play area? Select all that apply

Swings	12%
Slide	11%
Climbing apparatus	10%
Sitting benches	8%
Roundabout	8%
Zip wire	8%
Toddler area	7%
Seesaw	7%
Balance beams	6%
Tunnel	5%
Floor Markings i.e. hop scotch/snakes and ladders	5%
Bike/skate ramps	4%
Trim trail	3%
MUGA (Football/basketball courts)	3%
Table tennis table	2%



Do you/your children feel safe in this play area?

Nearly three quarters of the sample (74%) felt that themselves and their children were safe in their chosen play area.



Do you/your children feel safe in this play area?

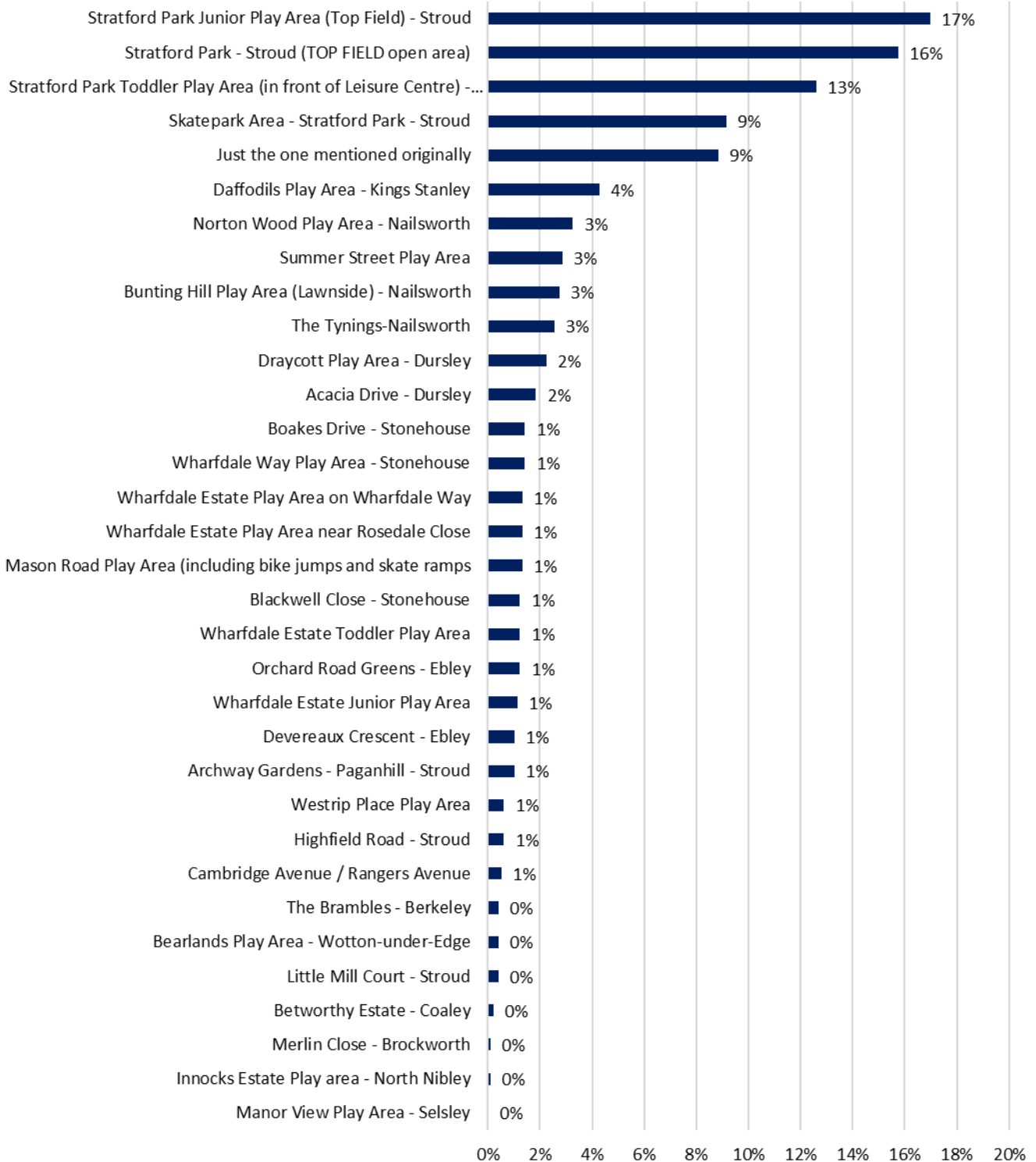
Yes	74%
Maybe/Not sure	14%
No	11%



Do you use any of the other play areas listed in question 1? if so, select all that apply

17% of the sample said that Stratford Park Junior Play Area was the other play area they used, this was closely followed by Stratford Park at 16%.

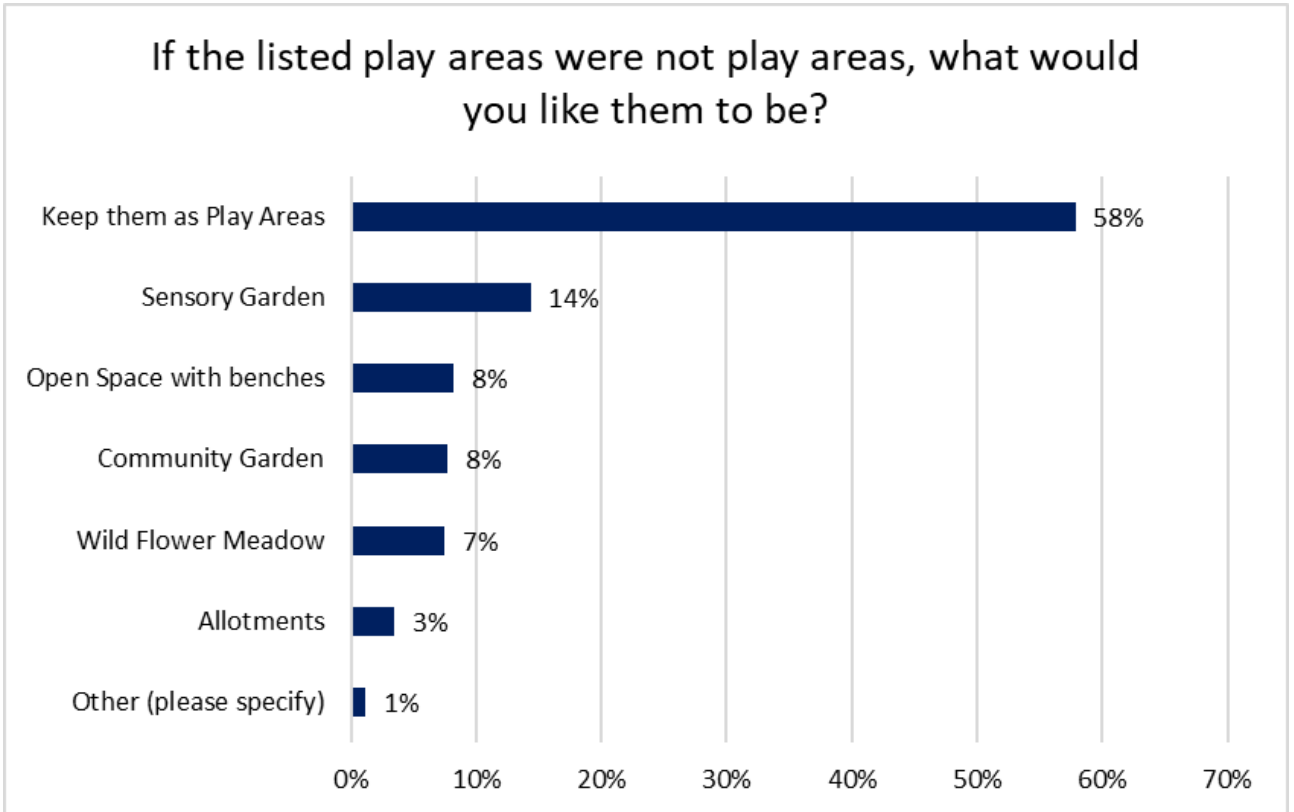
Other play areas used asides from the main ones





If the listed play areas were not play areas, what would you like them to be instead?

When asked if they would like the listed play areas to be something else instead, over half of the sample (58%) said they would like to keep them as play areas.



If the listed play areas were not play areas, what would you like them to be instead?

Keep them as Play Areas	58%
Sensory Garden	14%
Open Space with benches	8%
Community Garden	8%
Wild Flower Meadow	7%
Allotments	3%
Other (please specify)	1%

(If No or Maybe/Not sure to not feeling safe) Please explain

(If No or Maybe/Not sure) Please explain why

Although it is gated maiming dogs roam unleashed. My children have stepped in dog poo on multiple occasions. One of the children who is autistic has poor co-ordination and so the fear of falling into dog foal is a constant one. Some of the play equipment hasn't changed since I played on it (over 20 years ago) and is simply unsafe. Not much is available for those with poor mobility

Always lots of teenagers in there, rubbish left everywhere because its so run down

Anti social behaviour. Dog mess

Archway Gardens is our nearest play space. We visit it frequently (and walk past it on a daily basis), but not often for very long as some of the equipment is broken, and its a very small space. We feel safe in some respects, but its not a welcoming space and despite it having excellent potential, it is outdated, broken and limited in scope.

Because the gates dont shut properly so danger of kids getting out on the road and some of the equipment is abit old

Because they are used as dogs loos....especially bank gardens....and babies are crawling on the grass.

Bussage park - dog running freely around my toddler.Bisley - windyridge - not toddler friendlyBisley - van der breen street - very dated and in poor condition

Chipping paint and uneven surfaces

Close to the road.

Concrete can be dangerous

Could do with improved equipment and made safer

Depending on other children and their parents and if they are aggressive or not

Depends on upkeep of equipment, cleanliness, security with fencing

Dirty and old

Dogs are allowed in and may attack childrenOlder children (big teenagers) were usually seen using play area/equipment meant for toddlers.

Dogs off leads, & area not fenced offEquipment is really dated

Don't use any which apply

Equipment is dated and others broken

Equipment is very old and outdated, swings need replacing & climbing equipment with slide too, flaky paint and way too small for 4-8 yr olds

Equipment old, rusty and dangerous. No fencing to prevent children running out onto roads of playing on grass.

Equipment sometimes in need of repair

Equipment usually in poor order Not a large enough gated area. Bin never emptied

Feel equipment is old

Feel more of area needs fencing as close to busy road. Take grandchildren there and too slow to catch them if they dash off

Highfields play area in Dursley- the gate doesn't close properly and there are always lots of dog poos and rubbish including broken glass around the park

I dont think my children are safe when they are in that park because it is like the is designed for older children rather than youngsters who are actually supposed to be in the park.

I would use this park pratically every day if i could. Its an unsafe area for myself and my children to be around. The equipment is broken and there isnt enough equipment for the children that are there. Its the only park thats accessible for children of all ages apart from toddlers so would love for it to be improved and make it more accessible for all ages.

In the evenings the area can be used by teenagers, can be anti-social behaviour.

Is a very under used space and often misused by teenagers with few people passing through, the park is often badly littered which we often clear up, often has broken glass and lots of dog poo

It can feel a bit neglected and forgotten about - as noted by it not even being mentioned in your survey.

Continued..(If No or Maybe/Not sure to not feeling safe) Please explain

It has been ruined by teens

It is a bit run down and dirty. Often need to clean equipment before they play.

It is very dated and in need to renovation. It is in a good location but not accessible with a pram or wheelchair as no path over grass.

It really needs updating. The equipment is very old and the rocking equipment is coming out of the ground. The swings are not suitable for young children so I have to hold my baby on my lap so she can play.

It's falling apart, ground is uneven, grass not cut enough, needs more to entertain children

It's looks tacky and horrible none of the equipment feels safe.

Its close to a main road

Its very small, not got enough equipment and not looked after as well as it could be.

Lot of dog poo in this park and the children like rolling down the hill. Sometimes there are broken bit of things lying around that people have littered and broken on purpose.

Lots of youths hang around in it and sit on equipment designed for young children, meaning they cannot get on it.

My child is disabled and some of the equipment isn't friendly for him.

My Child/young adult has special needs and is often looked at with suspicion for accessing play areas

Need access to toilets - if we visit we stay for approx an hour with picnic so need of toilet facilities would be great

Needs updating

Never cleaned and very old. Hasn't been updated in 30 years. Not much there. Gate does not close so kids could run out. Floor is coming up so easy to trip. Wood is splinter risk. Floor also could be choke hazard as it's flaking off and a toddler park

No provision for safe play for children with disabilities.

Not cut properly so can't always spot poo in grass til too late!

Not disabled friendly

Not sure

Old rundown don't trust most of the equipment there.. I go to get the kiddies out but I am super worried when they're on the equipment

Older children

Older children play with hard footballs in the play area. They really need their own space away from little ones and cars. Teens and adults also regularly smoke cannabis and drink alcohol in the park. Sometimes there is litter such as sharp cans and glass on the floor. I worry about my childs safety around drugs both now and as they grow older/ could get involved their self. We live near the park and it is difficult to avoid using it.

Older kids to mess around. And also the road at the bottom can be a bit worrying if your out with 2 or more younger children they could run off down there.

Older teens smoking weed and smashing glass - oldends lane

On a slope, they fall over. It gets very muddy. The equipment is mostly metal and slippery, can only visit in the dry weather. Only some of it is fenced.

Only go day time not evening because teens drinking etc

other unsupervised childrens behaviour

Pedos at Chalford bottom park. Water risk as no fencing between park and river.

Picnic tables broken a young lad cut his leg really badly. The ground is very uneven.

Play area not always very clean, splintered wood on equipment

Play equipment in the woodmancote play area in dursley isn't safe in the wet, the slides steps are extremely dangerous for children still learning to climb properly.

Play equipment is worn Older people drop cigarette ends etc Unsociable behaviour

Play equipment old

Quite often broken glass around, used needles, damaged flooring in the play area

Skate park located next to Oldends park (Stonehouse) attracts youths that litter and cause disturbance to younger children. The equipment is a bit tired and often vandalized

Some of it is fenced, but some isnt

Continued..(If No or Maybe/Not sure to not feeling safe) Please explain

It depends who's there, some people can make the place feel unsafe

Some of the equipment is old and needs replacing. In particular the 'witches hat'. The ropes are very worn and have already been taped together. Also the equipment on the far right hand side that has a slide/monkey bars. The steps are very worn there.

Some of the equipment is out dated and could be better developed to be safer for all

Some of the equipment is very worn out now. Also with some of the equipment outside of the fenced area it can be hard to keep watch on more than one child.

Some of the equipment needs changing/updating

Some of the local play areas are immersed with older children, straight after school hours, even with signs stating that they are over the age limit to use equipment

Sometimes teenagers use the equipment or are close by swearing loudly and sometimes adults have their dogs off their leads too close to the parks entrance, including a rottweiler. This is all rare but can be a concern. In the evenings, teenagers are too noisy around 9pm and their swearing can be heard from my children's bedroom which is not ideal.

Sometimes there antisocial behaviour could be observed

That the two swings are not toddler ones and therefore not suited for the safety of toddlers.

The archway gardens play area is old and unsafe, no baby swing and a dangerous spring in the ground where something has been removed. Stratford park play equipment as well is looking very old and tatty and there is an old spring sticking out of the ground as well.

The area has very little in it, one bench and no trees to sit under, so its very run down. Always glass everywhere and the other children like to think they own the park and therefore bully anyone thats not part of their group.

The equipment has been there for around 30 years and needs some real updating! This is a popular park and not being used to its advantage

The equipment is dated and broken

The equipment is not safe and very dated we only have baby swings and a bing slide

The equipment is so small (suitable for ages 4 and under) it encourages older children to make their own entertainment by using it inappropriately which will inevitably result in an accident. There are lots of children in the smaller villages or North Nibley, Stinchcombe etc that have NO facilities for their age range. Stinchcombe has an empty field which is registered as a recreational area yet has NOTHING for children and with 40 plus under age 10 in the village it's very disappointing that no investment has been given.

The equipment is too hard and complicated for preschool children to use.

The equipment is very old (some has been there since I was a child and I'm nearly 30!). Feel like the slides need to be easier to access for children who are not as confident with climbing. This is a really lovely area, just feel like the park needs some much needed investment as it is a very busy place!!

The equipment is very old and worn. It often has broken parts and due to the lack of care people now often leave litter etc.

The equipment is very run down

The equipment is worn out and doesn't make me feel safe.

The floor has been damaged and a trip hazard

The gravel of the basketball court and skate ramps is very old and rough, the skate ramps are not fit for purpose and need renewing to keep the older teens engaged.

The Painswick playground isn't fenced and so has dog poo around. My toddler has fallen in some.

The park in lawnside is not really safe as things have got broken and unfair for the little ones who goes around there, needs better gates so they can be locked when little ones are playing and a better fence could be put up

The play area isn't safe for under 4 year olds because a lot of the equipment is high and not easy for them to access. As a parent it can be quite stressful letting your child play, as there are quit w a few hazards!

The playground in archway gardens has had no care in years. The equipment is broken and dangerous. My children always beg to go and I used to take them but now I feel there's nothing there for them to use. The swing has been broken for months. It also attracts anti social behaviour. This park either needs completely redoing or getting rid of completely.

Continued..(If No or Maybe/Not sure to not feeling safe) Please explain

There are no fences to keep out dogs - a large out of control dog bounded up to my child there once, scaring her a great deal. There is also dog poo often on the grass and glass too.

There are often big kids hanging around the park because of its proximity to the college

There is no lock on the gate on the playground we use (Elizabeth II field play) babies can run away. Also the victory park has nice playground we use but toddler area is made of metal, that is not very toddler friendly. I find wooden playgrounds more suitable for them

There is literally nothing in this playground so I can't really mark the equipment that makes it good My partner has lived in Dursley all his life and this playground hasn't changed in at least 33 years. Please can we get it sorted for the next generation!

There is often trouble

There isn't much in the park and it's a very dark area

There's a lot of "open" space in the play area, it's not framed in completely, and there is easy access to the carpark meaning the younger of the two cannot be left to play without us right by their side.

This comment is regarding the Children's Play Area in Park Gardens, Stroud (not included on your list?!!) - please place much larger no dogs allowed signs on the play area gates because parents/guardians keep taking dogs in there when they are visiting with their children. Unfortunately some parents don't realise the risk from dog defecation. I am a responsible dog walker who uses the general park every day, and I don't have children, but I thought you should know that there is an issue with use in the children's play area.

This is for Cashes Green park which you haven't mentioned on your list!!

Too many bullies

Too many druggies in Stroud

Too open and near the disabled entrance

Too many groups of youths; foul language, drugs

Very dated equipment

We use Woodmancote park in Dursley. The gate is heavy and could trap fingers, baby swing has been removed, safety matting is cracked and is a trip hazard, dented slide with narrow, slippery, metal steps and loose bolts.

Woodmancote Park is in desperate need of upgrading and safer play equipment for all local Children especially under 3 years.

Would be better if all play area was enclosed and dog free

The whole park is falling apart and dangerous sometimes. Also grass is sometimes long and not cut often enough.

Ground conditions are terrible with a huge ditch under the swings.

There are a couple of the equipment that are either not working or don't feel 100%

There are exposed screws on the climbing frame and underneath, the wood is coming apart at the bottom and it needs a lot of TLC.



Do you have any comments about any of these play areas you use, if so, please comment here and state the name/s of the play area you are referring to?

A good example of a good park is Nailsworths King George playing field or Daisy Bank park. There is plenty for all ages to do and plenty of seating areas for parents to sit and watch their children play.

A good play area is well maintained, huge bonus if there are toilets close. For inspiration for play areas that are always busy with people travelling to visit look at areas such as Snakey Park Eastington.

A lot of the play equipment in Stratford Park, such as the old climbing frames with slides, is seriously dated and difficult to use. My daughter has sensory issues so will only use the equipment sometimes as other times she can't as she is too scared. A few good, easy to access slides and more swings would be great. Our usual playground is Bowl Hill in Kingscourt, Stroud and that could really do with a refresh. It's full of children most afternoons and there is just one bad slide and 2 swings to go on.

Acacia Drive. My kids love popping over the road to play at the park but the equipment is very old and could do with being updated. There is also room for maybe another set of swings or a roundabout.

All are lacking in natural play areas and more adventurous opportunities, except Kings Stanley. Would love to see more sand, mud kitchens, nature-inspired structures (like Saul Play Area and Snakey Park)

All areas of Stratford Park seem to be relatively well designed and fairly well appointed. I think some sort of hanging/brachiation bars (suitable for all ages) are all that's missing from the Stratford Park Junior Play Area. We appreciate the range of options at Stratford Park for our family (two adults, one 15 yr old, one 11 yr old), and the areas are all adequately maintained.

All of the Wharfdale Estate play areas are in need of updating. We have a large community of families and the parks (particularly the junior and toddler parks) are well used but deteriorating. It would be great for the community to have a refreshed central play area on the green to encourage more community interaction for both parents and children post Covid.

All Stratford park play areas need serious investment, most equipment needs replacement with better and bigger climbing frames, slides, swings and the toddler area needs work too.

All the equipment is old and tired. Stratford Park desperately needs a revamp as Stroud's main play area. We often go to playground at Pitville Park on Cheltenham as this has much better facilities than Stroud.

All very old and run down now I used to travel to let the kids run off and play but there isn't really anything there they can use or play on now

Also use the Kings Hill park and the Memorial park in Dursley. There is room to play on scooters and bike. Also more things to play with.

Are you guys not responsible for Martyn Close Park and Adams Lane Park as well?

Bank gardens . Sadly a health hazard..

Blackwell Close is looking old There's only 3 things on there for a child to sit on. Surely they could be renewed now

Blackwell Close needs a better swing for kids older than 2 . . maybe one of those big round ones

Blackwell Close needs some attention. The grass is tufty and the it is very uneven, making it difficult to walk on. The equipment needs painting. A trampoline set in the ground would be good.

Blackwell Close often left too long between grass cutting/strimming. Then all the long grass is left to rot which does not make the play area very appealing.

Broken and run down equipment.

Broken equipment in both play area.

Bunting Hill play area - it has been completely destroyed by the children using the equipment, foul language and bullying has also occurred at this park which has resulted in further altercations between parents which has led to serious issues within the area . It is an unsafe area for smaller children to play, with the risk of other ruining it for themselves.

Busy!

? Continued.. Do you have any comments

Cambridge ave/rangers ave Dursley- no equipment for older children & the equipment for younger children is out dated and in disrepair.

Cambridge Avenue woodmancote Dursley is the only park that we can access locally but, it needs to be revamped with new equipment, more equipment and to be made bigger and access for all abilities to use. It is very boring with what is there at the moment so money needs to be spent for our children in the area and all the families. It would encourage more families to use it if it was changed, which is good for mental health for parents and Carers to meet up with other adults. Please think of our children 🙏 and put the money where needed. Thank you

Cambridge Avenue/ Rangers Avenue - The baby swing has been removed making the playground less suitable for little ones. It would be great to see one baby swing and one child swing.

Cambridge Avenue/Rangers Avenue in Dursley is a well used, much loved space but it needs investment. The floor has holes from removed equipment which the kids trip over, the slide has sharp metal bolts that need fixing. The baby swing has been replaced with a big swing which means that toddler/baby can no longer swing safely here. It would be great to fix/make safe and add another toddler item or two here (especially with council plans to replace Cambridge House bungalows looking out onto the park with a row of terrace housing in the near future)

Cambridge/rangers Avenue park is woefully poor. Not enough equipment or use of the space available. Needs a massive overhaul. This is an area with lots of families and very few useable open space options for children to play. It has been neglected for a number of years

Chalford play Park, we use this regularly, the stream is a huge selling point as the children love to paddle. However the play area is very old/outdated and could do with some improvement. The Kings Stanley daffodil play area is very restricted with equipment and whilst we could easily walk there my children are completely uninterested in the equipment.

Cleanliness could be improved, bottle tops and glass in some areas near bins.

Could do with a refresh/upgrade as it's starting to look tired

Could use some TLC

Devereaux play area - is used by a lot of older teenagers which can be intimidating to younger children. At Stratford park: Some more creative play spaces would be nice. We love Saul park has a mud kitchen, story telling chair boat etc. Some little wooden tepees would be nice. Also having a hangout space for parents - a little covered area with seating and ideally a little cafe would be so nice at Stratford park big field park. Like at Cheltenham pittville park

Devereaux. .Play park is showing its age needs TLC.A swing is missing and has not been replaced.Roundabout is broken

Draycott needs serious updating

Draycott play area has a rat problem. They run all across the area aimed at younger children. It has been reported to the town council numerous times to no avail. Both areas offer more than North Nibley but involve driving our 4 children to the park which defeats the object of being in the outdoors.

Dursley Recreational Ground - it would be fantastic if the path which leads onto the field could be extended all the way to the park and around the field. Giving parents a safe place to allow children to ride a bike or scooter around the field and back to the park as Dursley is very hilly and lots of roads close to traffic and not safe. This path would benefit a lot of other users too.

Eastcombe playing field needs more and better equipment as very lacking.Bussage Park needs a flying fox and more for older children

Ebley there are many young children in this area and it is well used but in need of repair and updating. Its also used by plus 13 it would be good for them to have an area to play football and games.

Generally very good and well kept, although the zip wire at Stratford Park doesn't work very well. A visitor from abroad recently mentioned how lovely it is that we have so many play areas available - we use many that aren't mentioned here. I do find that many are targeted at very young children and some bigger climbing areas in particular would be welcome.

Good! Just need a bit more maintenance and picnic benches.

Great equipment in Stratford park for toddler ages.

? Continued.. Do you have any comments

Half the equipment at Stratford park being OUTSIDE the fencing is annoying. Dogs and poop around. Equipment is often broken. All parks should consider accessibility and use by those with disabilities. Able bodied children can use inclusive equipment just as well! Be nice to have more benches/picnic tables for parents to base from inside fenced park areas. Pitville in Cheltenham is excellent... be nice to have similar range of equipment at a large park locally. Sand, trampolines, huge climbing frames, ships, water play, zip wire that works, accessibility swings and roundabouts,

Hard to find a play area that has equipment suitable for both my 3yo and 6yo - Stratford Park has all of that in different areas hence why come into Stratford Park. My children particularly like the curly tunnel slide and a fort/more climbing options would make a good addition.

Highfield Road is massively out of date, and has small amount of equipment - this is actually our nearest park, and is probably the worst. Summer Street Play Area is great, but is in need of more benches, and smaller toddler sized climbing frame and slide.

I also use the Daisy bank play area although it feels very run down at dirty at present - the sand is not a good option for toddlers.

I also use the two playgrounds in Rodborough. To be honest the playground at Stratford and in Rodborough aren't great. All outdated and no thought in the community spaces. Stratford is too exposed. We need a set up like pitfill park in Cheltenham. It's great for children and parents to hang out. At the moment we don't have a space like that in Stroud

I am a childminder and it is very hard to find a safe local play area that is suitable to use. I need to make sure that the play area is secure, the area and equipment are clean and that the equipment is not broken. I tend to use Snakey Park now in Eastington, but that area is now being used by older children throughout the day and is not safe for us to use. We tend to use Victory Park in Cainscross, as that park is secure - this was not on your list. We also use the play area in Stonehouse by the community centre, but I have to make sure that its safe as sometimes there is broken glass in there on the floor. It is very difficult to find somewhere that is kept clean, safe, and that has appropriate play equipment. I tend to have to drive out of the area to find somewhere suitable.

I don't use any of them. I'm not aware of any of them being inclusive of children with disabilities.

I feel real investment is needed in Stratford park play areas. They are tired. A good park attracts people from far and wide. The whole grounds are lovely so investment here would bring it up to a standard to that fits the area. I shouldn't feel I need to travel to Pitville when I live so close to Stratford but I do. The investment in Pitville play area was well worth it and it is never empty.

I feel that the play equipment is only really suitable for children of toddler age, and there's not really much for those of primary school age. I know it is a small area but I do think that the equipment could be improved. It's also looking a bit worn.

I have a comments about play area next to Dursley Academy ,it will be very nice to utilize this place more for kids from local area. Thank you.

I have used many of the play areas mentioned above. I think Cashes Green, Westrip needs some serious investment and to be increased in size. The football field is often used by dog owners who do not pick up after their dogs and even if they do its not safe for children. The park is one of the main geographic areas for many estates and not fit to serve the volume of people currently and their needs.I would like there:- A dedicated area where dogs can be separate. - The play park increased in size and better equipment for a range of ages. There are many older children in the area and the park does not provide the right equipment which leads to anti-social behaviour and young people not having anywhere to socialise and experience the mental health benefits of outside spaces.- A play trail around the outside of the field made out of balance beams etc.- Outdoor exercise equipment. Cashes Green is a deprived social-economic area where people cannot always pay to access gyms etc. There is associated obesity and people would benefit from these opportunities.- Benches - There are no opportunities for people to enjoy the outside areas whilst being with there children.

I really feel an upgrade is needed for the park near Cambridge avenue. There is so much green space there that could be used more for the children and needs to accessible to all. It hasn't had a revamp in such a long time and would be good to use for my 3 yr old twins and my 6 yr old if more was there.

? Continued.. Do you have any comments

I refer in general to all the parks mentioned. The play equipment should be disability friendly, so that all children can enjoy the parks.

I think the one at the leisure centre needs more in it, the slide is tiny. Blackwell Close needs repainting and a normal child's swing as well as the baby swing

I think there needs to be a big park such as Pittvillie park or Oldbury Court Estate in Bristol. Somewhere with a decent cafe right next to the cafe, decent toilets (not like the ones at Stratford) somewhere safe to tie the dog where I can see them when in the play area with kids. It feels that Stratford park is missing some potential, there is such lovely grounds round the back which could have good pathing and a marked walk through the woods and round the pond. We go to King Stanley and Eastington a lot, which we love as the play equipment is good and there is a big field at each, and the kids love that it is natural but in the winter the parks are water logged, so still need to find a way to keep them feeling natural but also with flooring.

I think they all need to be gated or fenced off to dogs. Bussage park is a lovely area but last time I went a dog got in the face of my toddler and on the same day my toddler ran through some dog poop. Bisley ones need to be safe and toddler friendly. Also I think most of them need a good clean every now and then.

I use Stratford Top Field and the toddler facilities occasionally. The toddler area had a broken piece of equipment for a substantial period of time so we stopped using it as it was still accessible despite being obviously broken and dangerous. The top Field is pretty good but there's not a huge amount for younger ones so it's tricky going as a family with mixed ages. Having an enclosed toddler bit up there would really help.

I use the Rec at Dursley, Snakey Park in Eastington, our favourite is Saul Park with sand pit, mud kitchen large open space, zip wire for eldest, climbing equipment. I have twins who are nearly two and a six year old Snakey Park in Eastington is perfect as enclosed by large fence and activities for all ages, mine love the swings too and with three little ones there are never enough. You need the kids enclosed so they get some freedom but are safe

I'd like to see the play equipment meet the needs of children at all stages/ages. So they can play together but on equipment suitable for their own stages

If the Kings Stanley play area is called Daffodils, its the first I've heard of it. Most people refer to it as Marling Field. I also don't understand why Snakey Park in Eastington isn't mentioned? Its excellent

I'm so disappointed that the baby swin was removed, I emailed the council and was passed between a lot of people and then just ignored. Why was it replaced with an adult swing when the park features a small slide aimed atyoubget children. Now I have to walk further with my two children

Improve cashes green play area eg put back swings include slide for juniors skate park zip wire, large climbing net

In need of a drastic upgrade. Would be nice to see them really thought through from a child centered approach with play at the centre of the design.

In need of an overhaul, very uneven ground, doesn't appear cared for as grass often a mess uncut, apparatus now looking old.

In the Norton wood play area there are missing see saws that have been gone for years! Would be lovely to have a wooden play area/lots more climbing equipment.

It is good to use the woods to have a walk too.

It is very small and only three pieces of equipment. It would be great if it could be made a hit bigger as wen there are a few children there they have to wait around .anything would be an improvement ☺

It would be absolutely lovely to have a slide and some baby swings available also I feel more people would definitely use it

It would be beneficial to upgrade one or two parks rather than a sticking plaster on each one that will be money wasted

It would be better if there was more equipment for children 8+, they've outgrown the equipment way before they have outgrown playing in playgrounds. A big central playground at Stratford park would be great.

? Continued.. Do you have any comments

It often appears that the manufacturers of equipment don't actually have children. Many are designed to accommodate different ages e.g walking across a rope bridge to get to a small slide (the slide is perfect for a toddler but cant be accessed by them) then activity / climbing towers are perfect for little ones, but often have open sides for fireman poles which is dangerous for younger children. Trying to accommodate too many different ages in one piece of equipment is dangerous for little ones and frustrating for older ones, who want to run around. I really wish the council would gather focus groups of parents and ask them to help in purchasing or upgrading new equipment. Id also like to see more accessible equipment for disabled children. Ive been researching this for my local pariah council and found some great pieces - again please speak to parents of disabled children. Id like all play areas to be actually accessible, gates large enough to fit wheelchairs and buggies through easily and ramps, not steps into the area. There should be covered and seated areas, where young children can be kept safely out of the sun. Any parks in large open spaces, without obvious boundaries should be fenced to stop dogs from running onto the play equipment. Thus keeping children safe and feeling safe and discouraging dogs fr being brought into these areas.

Its in desperate need of updating especially with the amount of local children that use this space

Jubilee Park. Is a large area that is in need of more equipment for toddlers and ages 3-7

Junior play area Wharfdale estate Hardwicke Needs upgrading, swings for older children would be good as toddler age upwards don't have any swings to use. Climbing frame could do with being changed to something more interactive or balance beams etc

Kings Stanley is a fantastic play area with everything you need for all ages.Stratford park top area is OK - the climbing frame and obstacle course are good. The roundabout is too squeaky and the zip wire is often damaged.The toddler area at Stratford park is also OK but would benefit from having another swing.

Kingscourt Park could do with more to play on even exercise equipment maybe!?

Lawnside feels unsafe Wharfdale Way has had lots removed but nothing has been replaced They are all too basic and simple even for very young children

Lawnside Park urgently needs updating, the swings are broke, the roundabout is broke, everything else is old and worn, I have 6 children, my 3 younger boys aged 9 and 11 love going round to play with there friends I also have a grandchild on the way and would love to take her round there but at the moment I cant its awful, they have the cage for football which is great but when the older ones are in there then there needs to be something for the younger kids to do other wise they will go and find something else to do that might get them in to trouble Mainly go to queen Elizabeth 2 playing fields toddler area by Sainsburys and victory park . The qe2 could do with some toddler swings and a bigger slide or climbing frame for older kida. Victory park is a good mix. Its nice when all ages can be in the same play area on different equipment.

Mason Rd is very sparse in terms of play equipment and interest. Stratford Park is excellent but too often has out of order equipment for long periods of time. The Skatepark can be very overcrowded and seems like it needs to be bigger or at least have a larger flat skating area with small ramps for those who want to practice simpler and easier techniques - this would help keep the learners out of the way of the fast paced skaters.

Mason Road play area is our nearest but the equipment is extremely poor, slide tiny, only baby swings, nothing appealing for primary school age kids.

Mason Road play area is too young for my age children. There are only toddler swings and not enough inviting equipment once they reach past toddler age really. It all needs updating and more equipment put in for older than toddler age. There is a lot of room in the field for things like bigger climbing equipment, bigger slide, swings that aren't for toddlers, zip wire, tunnels etc. Looking at Stonehouse Park as an example. We spend a good number of hours at other parks such as Stonehouse, Stratford Park, Saul, Eastington etc because they have more and better play equipment for my age children and older whereas Mason Road play area is more aimed at toddlers and doesnt have enough there to spend more than an hour really.

mason Road playing field, needs to be updated and more equipment added for the children. plenty of space for more things.

Merlin close is often affected by graffiti and anti social behaviour towards the play equipment. Mostly due to bored teenagers .Stratford park is lovely but bit tired in places

Minchamton play area by the balwarks is in need of new and updated park

? Continued.. Do you have any comments

Missing Parliament street playground by Cotswold play house (unless that is Summer street in which case missing Sladebank woods play area)Also King Stanley play area

More covered areas needed for when it rains, (all) play equipment needs updating (Stratford park), broken items slow to be repaired (Stratford Park)

more disabled equipment e.g. Swings and roundabouts.

More equipment for the children to play on so we can enjoy the park for longer keeping the children entertained
More picnic benches needed plus swings

More seating required for out of breath grandparents who have struggled up the hill!

most of the play areas in dursley are very helpful and useful to support children physically, mentally and emotionally. It provides them the best opportunity to engage and connect with all other children of similar age group with the support of their parents and family members. Its an outdoor space that they can explore and expand their best ability while having fun with other children.

Most play things in Stratford park feel quite dated... general updating needed. Stratford park REALLY needs a proper cafe near the play area so adults can enjoy too.

My local park is not actually mentioned, so my main park is on parliament street Stroud behind the playhouse

My son is disabled so not a lot he can go on around the stroud district area

My toddler is bored in a matter of seconds most of the equipment has been removed. Gates might as well not be there as they aren't bolted and toddlers can just push them open. Can I enquire what is the wooden closed sandpit for?

Need more equipment for disabled

Need more for younger children as very limited and don't have a lot there

Need updating due to constant usage

Need updating massively, especially play areas to cater for young children and older children, more green areas, skate parks, woodlands etc

Needs an update

Needs updating. Good space for playground alongside football.

Needs upgrading so the slightly older children can use it

No listing of Cashes Green playing field and queenie Elizabeth at cainscross near Sainsburus. Why?

North Nibley, the Innocks - flooring was recently fixed, however feel that more equipment could be added or it could be made bigger.

Norton wood has some kind of spring sticking out of the ground from a old piece of equipment which has been in situ for many years. Its actually quite dangerous and goes to show that they are not inspected regularly.

Norton wood Park is nice, but again, not much for the children to play on.

Norton wood park is small, I feel it is lacking things for the younger children who are only just walking or not walking as of yet.

Norton wood play area - Nailsworth Equipment doesn't get replaced once broken, so has lost a couple of things from there.

Nortonwood play area could do with some bigger child swings, the baby seats arent suitable for older children and are very high. This park could also benefit from some more benches. Bunting way park is great, cant fault it. Tynings would be good if it had swings suitable for older children. It would be really good to have access to a skate ramp in forest Green.

Not on any of these play areas but we mainly use the park on Kingscourt Lane as it is closest to where we live and school. So we can walk there. The equipment is tired and of poor quality, the flooring appears to be sinking in places and the variety of equipment for different ages is limited.

? Continued.. Do you have any comments

oakridge lynch not on the list

Oldends playing field.Could do with the youth club situated in so said playing field so we can use the toilets and buy drinks or snacks would be good. A lot of money was spent on building it and it's hardly ever opened, such a waste.

One in front of Stratford park needs completely re done. Great place for little kids. But totally unsafe at the moment. The one in minchinhampton is nice.

Only one I use is lawnside as dont drive and just around the corner from where I live

Orchard Road Greens - has been closed for months citing an upgrade. But nothing has happened. My children are very upset that they cant play here. This is a great local park used by the community and visiting friends and it would be useful to have an update on when the work will start. As we are keen to utilise this fantastic local ammenity on our doorstep.

Orchard Road greens is very rundown and doesnt seem to be used

Orchard road would benefit from a toddler swing and some ground markings, hop skotch etc.

Out of the 3 play areas I use regularly Mason Road has the highest need for refurb especially now even more families live here. There is space to make this really good!

Painswick rec fields needs more equipment for the older kids to encourage them to use and stay in a safe zone. Skate parks or bike pump tracks would give this space and also help with exercise at the same time.

Play areas should capture imagination and the best ones blend natural materials/structures, like hills for rolling, with more man made structures.Towers, lookouts, coloured flooring, story corners, educational aspects for the wider environment ate all great. Specific areas for toddlers are always welcome, but those mindful that some toddlers are more active or able than others.

Please improve the play park in Brimscombe above the railway. Woefully poor compared to others in the area. Please install swings suitable for different ages, normal and the caged type ones

Please make them all more accessible. Its disheartening as a parent and excludes my child.

Please Please make Stroud skate park better, it is a very poor skate park for the size of stroud and is always busy It is the least SDC can do after taking Rush awayThanks

Poor state of repair. Needs modernising. Equipment stays broken for months on end. Put some water play equipment in. Improve use by permitting a local business to set up a semi permanent cafe nearby.

Preschool age equipment is a must 0 to 4 year olds.

Rangers Avenue playground hasn't been updated for many years. It would highly benefit from an upgrade. Every other park has been changed/updated, so this would be a perfect opportunity to upgrade our local park. Really could do with being updated. Such a lovely area with lovely views. And amongst such a brilliant area with leisure centre and museum etc. the top park although my child loves, let's the area down with how rusty and outdated the play equipment is

Red more equipment for older children like bigger swings, zip wore, larger slide and roundabout

Rodborough walkley hill.

Second World war memorial recreation park - Dursley

See comment about Woodmancote Park, desperately needing upgrade and safer equipment.

Skate park and Stratford park is full of drug dealing teenagers and needs a better police presence as does cashes green park and victory park!!

Skatepark - too small and could do with area for less experienced kids

Some equipment old and tired at Stratford park

Some of the equipment is dated or broken

Some of the equipment is out dated and needs revamping

? Continued.. Do you have any comments

Some of the other play areas in Stroud are more geared towards toddlers, so we dont use them. E.g. Ebley. If they had more junior equipment we would use them more

Stone park to have gym equipment for pre teens,teens and adults/parents

Stratford park - it's important to keep the children's area dog free and to have some grass and tables for picnics within this area. Dogs too often get the bulk of the available space in parks making it unsuitable for families to play.

Stratford park (all 3 areas!) has a good range of equipment and is generally well looked after.

Stratford park could do with updating some of the play equipment in the big park. Things are often broken and cornered off.

Stratford Park has great play facilities but my favourite is the one at the end of summer street by the forest.

Stratford park I think should be massively improved. Its the biggest in the area and by far the most run down - it has such potential - large wooden climbing sets, etc.I think they can all be improved in some way if Im honest - the parks are where we can take our children to exercise, burn energy and have fun and explore outdoors. They should all have swings, slides, climbing for young children and older children, balance equipment and even the nature musical items you can get. A splash pad somewhere in the area would be amazing in the summer. It just seems you have to travel further afield to go to great free places (pittville park for example) and as someone who doesnt drive and low income - our local area becomes quite boring.

Stratford park is good as large open space and variety of play things for range of ages. Plenty of Free parking also makes it more accessible.

Stratford park is in desperate need of all play equipment updating. Please look at other areas such as pitville park, horsley park where it has been updated and apply to Stratford park. A lot of equipment not for for purpose and some even been there since I was a child almost 30 years ago. I love taking my kids to Stratford park and always say that the equipment unfortunately needs updating.

Stratford Park junior area could really do with some love. It's such a wonderful setting with lots of parking and open space and would be made even better with a refresh of some of the equipment

Stratford park junior area would benefit from:1) more seating for adults / more picnic benches2) swings for juniors are there are only swings for babies/toddlers available in the junior play area.

Stratford park junior play area isnt all enclosed within a perimeter fence. I believe there should be a fence around all of it as my 2 year old loves the multicoloured play apparatus area but this isnt in the enclosed area so I dont feel hes safe! Also the toddler play area in front of the leisure centre is soooo easy for toddlers to get out of, its quite dangerous. They also could fit a few more bits in that area. 1 swing seems a tad unfair for a toddler area where everyone is into swings.

Stratford Park junior play area looks very tired and desperately needs some new equipment. The zip wire is broken more often than not. Some more benches with shade would also be good. It's a lovely location but the park could be so much better.

Stratford park junior play area: - zip wire damaged frequently.- top roundabout can be difficult to spin round-large swing in frame has been damaged.- more seating within play area neededAll parks could do with more equipment suitable for older children with disabilities too, I.e. sensory equipment

Stratford park needs serious investment. The kit is old and outdated with sharp edges and non-natural materials. Additionally if this was a real draw (like parks at Leaf and Ground, Pitville park in Cheltenham, Horsley park etc) there would be a good revenue opportunity for the council. A small spend on outdoor food / drink facilities would pay back in spades. People do not want to walk to the leisure centre for this. This should be a centre piece for recreation in stroud, but is under funded and tired.

Stratford park play area isn't wheelchair accessible so I have to watch the children from afar and it's sad not to see them enjoying themselves

Stratford park play areas is very dated in general. It would be great to make it more like Pittville Park play area in Cheltenham

Stratford park toddler area would benefit from a bigger climbing apparatus so more than one/two children can go on it at a time because it's the main attraction in that park.

? Continued.. Do you have any comments

Stratford Park top field has more climbing frames than anything, it doesnt have much variety and does not flow very well. Some apparatuses is behind a fence and the other small climbing frames are dotted around. Im sure with a space as big as Stratford Park you could make it like pittville Park in Cheltenham. Mabe add some water sprinklers and make a water area. Something needs to be done its very boring over there and nothing really to keep you there .

Stratford Park. Junior play area. Small slide connected to red climbing frame. Difficult climbing bridge between slide and connecting apparatus. Therefore, children climbi up the slide instead of using bridge- by hand and feet to access the slide. Causes flow problems with children playing. Zip wire doesnt always work properly. More older children swings needed.

Stroud play areas have far more variety and more money has been invested. Cambridge avenue/rangers has been the same since I was a child 25+ years ago

The beginning on my questionnaire is based around victory park

The Cambridge avenue play area is a beautiful spot used by a range of aged children and parents. The equipment however is very tired and could be so much bigger. If the park was improved im sure this area would be used so much more.

The children thoroughly enjoy going to Stratford park play area. Lots to do there and big enough to have a good run around!The zip wire is back in action again but its very stiff and doesnt glide like it should.

The climbing frames are great, especially the toddler one, would be great to have a more challenging option there

The Daffodils play area needs udating majorly, there isnt any toddler friendly play equipment

The equipment in Stratford park is quite dated, I remember taking my sister there 20 years ago and much of the equipment has not changed although it is good to have a large range of equipment. The zip wire is currently not working well and could do with some TLC, like much of this area. Would be nice to see some items to challenge the older children, like an extension of the wooden obstacle course at the top of the field. The whole area needs some love, but the children love to be there. A lot of children play on the septic tank, could this be made safer/incorporated into the play zone. We absolutely love the skate park too. Would be great if the tarmacked area around the ramps was also smooth so that children can continue to skate/scoot around the area as it is currently quite bumpy and you get a lot of puddles. There is huge potential for an extension to this area but the current ramps are a perfect variety of levels for all ages including the teens/adults who use the area.

The equipment is outdated and repetitive. My child is much more engaged in other cities playgrounds where they have up to date and inventive playgrounds equipment. Pitville Park in Cheltenham is a good example of a mixture.of.equiptment that is engaging.

The equipment is very old and broken would benefit a lot of children if updated such a lovely park

The fenced areas are pointless. The climbing frames are very old, rusty, and not very engaging. Would be nice to have the whole park with wooden equipment and a bit more cohesive so if you have more than one child you dont risk having to separate them in the different areas. The lack of fence around the adventure playground area and zip wire is dangerous.

The flush to the ground roundabout at Stratford Park is a dangerous design, Ive not been there once with young children and not had them injured by getting dragged across the ground. At least with regular roundabouts if they fall off its just the fall that hurts.Otherwise, we love it so much!

The gate does not shut properly at lawnside park which makes it tricky with young babies/children. I also feel there needs to be more younger children things for those that are just learning to walk etc.

The Mason Road play area needs totally updating. Expanding to suit older children. The skate park can't really be called a skate park. The grass areas behind the play area could be made into well designed ramps. The play area could be a lot more an adventure playground. There are so many children in the area and it could be an amazing place if it was designed better.

The on wharfdale way could potentially be bigger. Maybe include a set of swings for older children

The one at the recreation ground dursley. Nice but again early evening and Saturday too much bad language from teens, football supporters

? Continued.. Do you have any comments

The park at Devereux crescent is OK the kids seem to use the basket swing and climbing frame the most unfortunately the ground is very uneven and had a broken picnic bench that last year someone badly hurt there leg on had to go to hospital so bench was removed this was great but left the ground even more uneven I've tripped myself several times and now nowhere to sit and have a picnic. A replacement bench would be brilliant this park is used everyday by at least 10 children its very popular the older children are always playing football on the grassed area next to it but unfortunately the ball hits cars and often comes into the park a fence or cage area would be brilliant and greatly used by all as I said the park is a very popular busy park used everyday

The park at Tynings needs better access to slide - my 4 year old can't easily get to the slide because the climbing wall bit is too high and steep for him to get onto and the way up the tunnel bars is too dangerous - the bars get slippery and children can easily fall through the gaps!

The park in Paganhill is diabolical. Half of it seems to be missing. Needs funding urgently and made bigger

The park on innocks estate is well used but doesn't have a great deal of equipment to keep children entertained.

The play area I was referring to in question 1 is The Street, Leonard Stanley, Stonehouse, GL10 3NT which wasn't listed. We also use the one at Marling close king Stanley too but wasn't sure if this was the same as the daffodils king Stanley. And the one Nr The George @ Frocester, Frocester. Our issue with our parks is a lack of stuff for babies. We have a 9 year old a 5 year old and a 9 month old who isn't crawling yet so not close to walking so the equipment she can use is very limited while the other two have vast amounts to play on. I think a baby area within or next to the toddler area would be a great addition to all family parks as the whole family can then join in and have fun together while growing and learning together which I feel is hugely important!

The play area we mainly use is Laburnum walk, Stonehouse or Oldens lane playground, Stonehouse. If you could do one thing for children, it would be to BAN all dogs from all green spaces attached to playgrounds. So many young people are scared of dogs, so few owners have control and I cannot have a picnic in any play area because why should I have to put a picnic rug down on a place a dog has done it's business, even if it has been picked up? It's disgusting. I would LOVE to know that I could go somewhere that had NO dogs at all so we could truly enjoy a full day in the green spaces. Please please. Thanks so much for taking the time to read my response.

The play areas are tired and old fashioned. The Stratford park main play area is often broken and cordoned off. The play equipment in Wharfdale is old and tired. Compared to Stonehouse it's very inferior. Not very exciting for the children. It needs updating

The play equipment is old and needs updating

The play equipment is quite old and tired. It is not very inclusive for children with disabilities. It would be nice for there to be some things for younger and older children in the same space so that when I take my 5 year old my 2 year old can also play safely.

The playgrounds in Arrowsmith Drive are the ones which my grandchildren use when they come to visit. However, neither of them have equipment suitable for a toddler - i.e. a baby swing, a small (not high) slide or equipment which would benefit a toddler - one of the areas only has bouncy animal seats which are not very exciting at all.

The skatepark at Stratford Park is also really popular with my children (age 9+12) due to the lower height of the ramps, easy for beginners and for a variety of equipment. Bunting Hill play area seems a bit neglected and we haven't used it much recently.

The Skatepark at Stratford Park is excellent - all age skaters/bikers/scooters feel welcome here, and its the best designed skatepark we have visited. Bunting Hill is looking quite tired, and could do with toddler sized slide.

The Stratford play area is not appealing, with old/out of order equipment. This is a shame as the rest of the park is so lovely.

The summer street play area appears to be being upgraded but has been closed and unfinished for a month.. when is it being opened ? Hopefully before winter ???

The toddler play area at Stratford park is very well used but becoming poorly maintained with the sand pit and see saw having been removed from use and now being dead space. It would be great to see some new equipment being installed to replace them. The play house and climbing apparatus are great and do not need to be replaced.

? Continued.. Do you have any comments 😊

The tynings doesn't cater for mixed ages

The Tynings- doesn't have a lot for smaller kids or feels safe for them

The tynings, Nailsworth, need better equipment for younger children, the slide is too difficult for my 3 year old to access and also very steep, I think the play area would benefit from having a smaller climbing frame and also a couple of football goals as the area is huge and has a lot of potential to be a great outdoor space!

The Wharfdale way play area needs more things- tunnels through the hill, a decent climbing frame and baby swings. The play area in victory park/ Ebley could do with a toilet and a little café. The boat park play area on the canal in Ebley could do with ALOT more things - climbing frame, toilets : the kids end up weeding in the bushes. A cafe again would be fab too.

There are 2 swings and a basket swing, but no baby swing. Its very run down and not very inviting. Perhaps you could roll this questionnaire to the local school children and ask them their views 😊??

There is plenty of green space , maybe a couple of goal posts as my grandsons love to play football , could this be fenced off too from the dog exercise bit so no dogs foul the pitch ? It only needs to be a small area and this has plenty of green space for both . Also the slide area is not very safe for 5 year old , need some steps up to it rather than the climbing frame they have to go through to get to it at Tynings Nailsworth

They all need modern updates. Kings Stanley has a variety of new apparatus to climb on, as well as older pieces like the slide that work well together. Stratford park has a few newer apparatus but on the whole it is very run down, old, unexciting and as a result feels so neglected because the families using the space don't respect it either.

They are very tired play areas and I find that there is always one item not in use due to it being old/vandalized/ also dont feel there is enough items for under 4 year olds

They arent the best for 0 to 3 year old all too high and tricky

They could all do with updating but especially Stratford Park as it's so large and draws a lot of people.

They could all use a revamp. We use the Dudbridge park most of all which really needs more equipment added.

They need more wooden sustainable resources, maybe some gym equipment to encourage teens

This from was with regards to Victory Park playarea

Tired and some not fit for purpose

Toddler area next to the leisure centre needs Renewing, more swings, seesaw, climbing frame

Too much dog mess in the open field area in Stratford Park

Use the Sellars Bridge park as founded/maintained by the residents. Would the council extend to offer the expansion of this area given its within the area of Stroud DC and provides the same as the other parks that are SDC owned.

Used to use Mason Road play area as it is our closest, however there is not a lot for a 5 year old to do, he has outgrown the toddler climbing frame and swings, the larger climbing frame and basket swing are too limited choice. Wed rather go further to The Leazes or Daisy Bank play areas (both Town Council) where there the equipment is better. Stratford park visits are most often tied-in with swimming trips. The Zip-wire at Stratford park was out of action for a long time (from last summer until just after Easter), it was finally repaired but is still not at usable at the latest attempt, it just doesn't run well enough. This just causes immense frustration for young kids, and is a wasted opportunity. Please get it sorted ASAP. The large 3D swing is also out of action and one rocker has been missing for ages.

Very bad state broken u safe parts

Very tatty and outdated, good range of things but needs updating and a face lift

? Continued.. Do you have any comments

Victory Park in Cashes Green hasn't had a re-vamp in a very long time. Perfect big gated area that could be made very good with some attention.

Victory park is also a park we use a lot - my children enjoy roundabouts a lot which seem few and far between at parks

Victory park is not mentioned and I'm not sure why. It's good there was a net put in the basketball hoop recently, keeping that up is a good thing in all the hoops around Stroud. More teens are needing places to play basketball and to skate, if you invested in one really good court and one really good skate park they would all travel and gather and socialise there. Planting more trees might be a good thing, and if so, fruit trees are a good idea as they have multiple purposes. I think it could be good to have a tween/teen growing project in the area - teaching teen volunteers to grow veg and they get the knowledge and to harvest some of what they grow and share it with others - it would be a great way to keep some teens occupied and learning new things from young adults who are good role models.

Victory park not listed??

Victory park playground in Cashes Green. Very dated. Excellent space but much needed renovation

Victory park. A great example of a park that provides areas for all ages.

Victory Park. Very popular as it's the main park for Cashes Green. Lots of room for extra equipment
We also use bank gardens in Stroud

We also use other play areas around the county. It would be great if all play areas had access to a toilet and drinking water and shade as this is what stops us staying for long periods of time.

We also use the recreational field up Kingshill too. The one by Cambridge Avenue in Durslet could do with more things there as it's only a small area

We enjoy these 3 areas a lot.

We enjoy using the park in Coopers Edge near De Havilland Gardens (can't remember the name) and the sunken trampoline is a huge hit with the children

We go to the big playground in Stonehouse which has great equipment but is pretty bleak. More planting, parent seating and cafes/toilets also help community feel.

We live on Spider Ln, backing directly onto Highfield play area. We previously had serious problems until the MUGA was removed - constant crashing noise, balls crashing into our property, disruption from lads retrieving their balls, having our garden broken into & damaged numerous times, shouting & swearing from older lads etc (happy to discuss if needs be) so would be hugely against anything that would repeat this experience e.g. ball-related, skate park. There is an idea of creating an orchard in one corner which sounds like a great idea - why not enhance the space & grow some food for everyone? Some of the equipment could do with updating as most of it is for toddlers, so catering for a slightly broader age-range would benefit more local residents. Hope that helps! Thanks again for your help with the MUGA issues, so very much appreciated.

We live right by the park (orchard road) so would love to get more use but we have started to go over to the park in the estate next to us. It seems cleaner and safer. There isn't enough things in there and older children have now ruined it

We mainly use Rodborough play areas - not sure why these aren't listed?

We mostly use the play area at Rodborough Community Centre. I can't see it listed here. My comments about it are that I think it should have more equipment and it would be much better if the play area were level.

We need more outdoor skateparks. We use King George V park in Nailsworth, not listed. The skateboard ramps are a good size. We need a concrete bowl too for it.

We really like Stratford Park but would like to see some decent sized swings, more seats for parents, the roundabout working more smoothly, a bigger piece of climbing equipment like a net or climbing wall and a sandpit for smaller kids.

? Continued.. Do you have any comments

We regularly use the one on Hardwicke playing village but as there are a number of smaller ones in the Hardwicke that we use when we are out walking the dog. They could all do with a bit of an update on and a tidy up to be honest, and I feel that the main Wharfdale park could be made bigger for the junior children.

We regularly visit the play area/Park at the Owen Harries memorial ground in Eastington. This is an ideal space because there are football goals, basketball court, skate ramps and a play area for a breadth of ages. It is also in good condition away from the main road.

We use Kingswood Wotton-Under-Edge as it's nearest our home. Good facilities but could do with more for older children that hang out here and nothing provided for those with additional needs/disability. I'd echo same thoughts for all the facilities near us (wotton and Stroud Stratford Park

We use oldends lane play area. We feel that there needs to be a separate area away from the kids play area for teenagers to hangout, perhaps with vandal proof seating and a shelter, with a bin in the centre

We use the play area in Butterow West and the one in Walkley hill in Rodborough, which havent been mentioned

We use the play area in sharpness.

We use the Recreation Ground by Rednock school in Dursley. Also, King's Stanley and Snakey Park

We use Uplands play area. There aren't many toddler facilities and there is no swing for toddlers.

We visit the Rec in Dursley most often

We visit Victory Park, Ebley the most due to locality, (although not on the list provided). This park needs attention to provide children in this large catchment area, an enjoyable park. The play time here is very limited due to limited play equipment.

Westrip play area needs to be looked at not much there for the children to do Coaley need more for the younger children

WHITESHILL PARK! WE USE THIS ALOT. SHAME ITS NOT ON HERE.

Why is our local playground (Kingscourt Lane, Rodborough) not on the list? It could do with play equipment for older children.

Why not Victory Park?

Woodfield in Dursley REC Memorial Playpark in Dursley

Woodfields Dursley all parks needs CCTV so the ones drinking and taking drugs and vandalising the play area's can be stopped this will save the council money on repairs in the long run

Woodmancote park is the only park within a short walking distance of our house. It's a very small park in desperate need of some modernisation and is used by a lot of locals with very small children who don't really have any alternatives now it's fallen into such disrepair.

Would be great to have swings in the Wharfdale Estate parks that were suitable for over 3yr olds.

Would benefit from being fenced off completely. I'd love to see more seating for families. Snack bar? Splash park!

Would like seating area at Wharfdale play area.

Yes sometimes there is tap around broken areas. It's nice to have the fixed as I have remind the kids it's not safe. A larger netted swing would be good and a roundabout. I use this for contact in the community as I'm a carer and I feel safe with lots of people around as it's popular

Zip wire at Stratford Park has been broken for some time. Recently replaced but does not work properly as it doesn't run the full length if the wire or at any speed.



Do you have any other comments about the play provisions in the Stroud area?

A big central play area at Stratford park, encompassing all ages would be amazing

A lot of the play areas in the local area have much better facilities than the ones listed

Adding wild flowers or sensory gardens to play areas with benches would be lovely and might make more inclusive

All feels dated

All need to be cleaned more.

All Stroud's play areas are old and run down. With the exception of Horsley, Snakey Park and Whiteshill. These are 3 examples of good quality play areas.

As above. None of the parks I have visited are inclusive.

As I said above it is really not good equipment. It is also all metal so dangerous/unusable in winter or wet weather. In Stratford Park the fenced off area makes no sense as the bigger slide is in it and a smaller kids equipt both in and out.

Caninscross has no toilets. Walking to and from the park is hard for senior citizens and children, has anyone thought of this?

Compared to London, there are surprisingly few play areas and some have quite limited equipment. Kings Stanley and Stratford Park areas are both very good.

Could do with some more things as named previously

Could there be one built near the new Lidl where the new housing is going to be built? There isn't much in that area.

Disability friendly with inclusive play equipment needs to be taken into account.

Do you have any other comments about the play provisions in the Stroud area?

Feel it needs much more equipment at Cambridge avenue, bigger fenced area, something for older children. Benches and garden would be lovely. Would still leave dog walking and football area

Firstly more stuff for risky play including higher climbing frames. I love monkey bars and other things for building upper body strength - great for us grown ups too when we spend so long huddled over phones! Would also love more play areas for all ages including adults. Also love benches to be there because my mobility isn't good. Much prefer old school metal play equipment to wooden stuff that gets damaged more easily.

Generally poor.

Generally the play areas don't have equipment for older children & aren't very imaginative by design - compared to some we've experienced in Bristol (greville-smythe & Blaise Castle) & Wales (Dolgellau).

Having lived in different areas around Stroud I notice some levelling up is needed! For example I think problems with equipment are fixed far quicker at somewhere like Daisy Bank than somewhere like Archway Gardens. It has now been fixed which is great, but the fence had been broken for a very long time there. Also I think one swing is still missing at Archway. There may be more vandalism in some areas more than others but that is more an indication of need than a reason not to bother. There are also some community signs around Stroud with nothing on them - it's not clear if the community themselves are allowed to put things up on these or if they are for official council notices. For example - DER community noticeboard - has been empty for over 9 months at least. Having an empty community sign seems worse than no sign at all to me.

Highfields Play Area in Dursley is not properly maintained. The gate is broken and there is always lots of rubbish and dog poo around the park. The toddler swing has been removed and not replaced for some reason. Horsley Park is lovely, as is Slimbridge and France Lynch.



Continued.. Do you have any other comments

I feel there is very limited play provision in Stroud. Other areas have splash parks and sandpits with mud kitchens etc. Plus toilets and parking. Saul park is probably the best provision available but considering the level of poverty in Stroud, the opportunities available to our children are extremely poor.

I feel we are lucky there are lots to choose from, some a bit tatty from vandalism and old age.

I have used many of the play areas mentioned above. I think Cashes Green, Westrip needs some serious investment and to be increased in size. The football field is often used by dog owners who do not pick up after their dogs and even if they do its not safe for children. The park is one of the main geographic areas for many estates and not fit to serve the volume of people currently and their needs. I would like there:- A dedicated area where dogs can be separate. - The play park increased in size and better equipment for a range of ages. There are many older children in the area and the park does not provide the right equipment which leads to anti-social behaviour and young people not having anywhere to socialise and experience the mental health benefits of outside spaces.- A play trail around the outside of the field made out of balance beams etc.- Outdoor exercise equipment. Cashes Green is a deprived social-economic area where people cannot always pay to access gyms etc. There is associated obesity and people would benefit from these opportunities.- Benches - There are no opportunities for people to enjoy the outside areas whilst being with there children.

I take my grandson out once a week or sometimes twice a week and some of the play equipment is disappointing. We like the area at Stratford park where the putting green used to be although this is not as such a play area with swings etc. My grandson loves the tunnels made out of willow.

I tend to travel to Pitville and snakey park. A good play park int Stratford is needed and a nice coffee shack in the little building near leisure centre would be popular.

I think it's quite obvious that more money is spent on affluent areas of Stroud - the regeneration project at Mathews Way has been incredible but the play park in Archway Gardens let's this down and it's embarrassing. I think more skate parks with lighting would be really good for the winter.

I think play areas are very important for people of all ages. I believe there are many open green spaces where other initiatives like community gardens and wild flower meadows (both of which I love) could be installed, without having to remove play spaces. I would like to see play spaces that include equipment or installations that can be used by people of different ages, and fewer play spaces that are zoned according to age. Hanging/brachiation bars are vitally important to our health yet are a rarity in Stroud play spaces. Hanging and swinging supports our immune and respiratory systems, and its reported to be a "biological imperative" (ie we dont truly flourish without it). It can help to prevent osteoarthritis in wrists and ribs, can help prevent breast cancer, and help people recover from it. More hanging/monkey bars (of varying heights) please! And more play spaces that encourage inter-generational play!

I think the balance between open spaces, spaces for dog walking, wildflowers and wildlife and play is generally very good in the area I live (uplands). It is good to see the football goals at Uplands again - a space that is really well used by all these groups. Perhaps some more seating around the play area would be helpful.

I think you should also be asking if there are any other green spaces that need play equipment - and there certainly are! The funds should be used for creating more play spaces for families along routes that are frequented. We live on the canal by Bowbridge Lock - and there is a wonderful space between here and the Waitrose crossing - it would be ideal to have a few swings, and a slide and climbing frame there, instead of that very dangerous "monument/statue" made of sharp metal angles... it looks like a climbing frame to children, but is actually lethal and dangerous, and should be removed and replaced with something useable to the families that walk that path. It is also worth noting that there is no park close by (other than the shabby Highfield Road) that families living on Bowbridge lock can use. I have 4 children ages 2; 6; 7 and 9 - so it is important to me to have parks that can cater for all of them.

I would like the play areas in Rodborough to be better developed. Having stimulating play areas in the local community would reduce the need for people to travel and reduce congestion.

I would like the Summer Street play area to have a few more items suitable for toddlers.



Continued.. Do you have any other comments

I would love some small trampolines like at pitville park in Cheltenham. Swings are a favourite, the park in saul is lovely. And maybe a loo with a toddler sized loo in it.

I'd like to see more things like Discovery Timber

If possible, the equipment should be added to or changed to provide variety.

In general, the standard of play equipment is old, poorly maintained and in need of urgent upgrading.

In Hardwicke near the Hardwicke parochial school by the field opposite the Hardwicke village Hall (other side of field) the climbing rope frame needs fixing as many rope parts are snapped off and I have to supervise closely as Im worried the loose rope will be around a body part such as a leg or worse scenario neck or nowhere flowing down to land if a misstep happens then there is no short distance to land on a rope that would act as a step. Its quite scary

In need of modernisation and safety updates

In reference again to Park Gardens, its such a great place to meet people it being near to the town centre, library, etc. But I do feel it lacks equipment. A huge slide running down the slope inside the gated area would be fun. Some tunnels, swings and or roundabout would make it a little bit more of a great trip out.

Inadequate, one big area with parking and toilets and good access by public transport would be hugely beneficial to stroud and would be widely used A well thought out plan with lots of public input is needed

Is there any logic as to why some play areas are SDC, whereas others are run by town/parish councils and seemingly much better maintained e.g. Horsley, Dursley, Snakey park. Comments on social media suggest many users don't understand the different arrangements. Perhaps there could be some explanation?

It is important to provide a variety of equipment to help stimulate children to be active and enjoy the outdoors, places for parents and carers to sit, and a range of equipment that covers different age groups in the same area, not always separated. More provision of Special needs facilities and opportunities would be an improvement as well. Children don't tend to judge it is parents and older people who do. A recognition that many older children with special needs (teens and young adults) still need play facilities to aid their development, meet mental health needs and so on

It would be great if there were more play areas. We would spend longer at play areas if they had toilets, shaded areas and drinking water available. Having a range of good equipment is important to my children

It would be great to see the Stratford park play area improved and updated.

It would be lovely to have community and sensory gardens especially in small villages like the Stanleys, selsley and frocester. As these can be enjoyed by all ages and can help young to learn about important things like nature.

It would be lovely to see some investment in the playgrounds for the slightly older primary school aged kids, age 8-12 Id say. They don't really have a great deal to play on and are often forgotten when playgrounds are done up.

It would be nice to see outdoor exercise equipment, which I'm sure older children and adults alike could enjoy.

Lack of equipment/space for disabled

Lack of provision for disabled children to access fun and okay outside locally.

Lawnside needs this play area and needs it urgently there is a lot of children on this estate

Leazes playing field(Stroud) has just been updated but the new play equipment is not like-for-like and has far less features, they also have not fenced off the area which means the long standing dog poo issue remains. Play areas in Stroud generally could do with far more imaginative and role play equipment like play boats or castles. Covered areas for when you're caught in a rain shower or for shade would be so welcome in all parks, as would decent bike parking.

Lots need to be updated



Continued.. Do you have any other comments

- More benches/tables would be appropriate for the summer Times when families meet up for picnics etc
- More creative thinking needs to go into the play areas to elevate the play space for children. More outdoor gym provisions would be amazing! Positive risk taking is important for children's development so having some high up climbing equipment is cool.
- More equipment suitable for use by disabled children as well as able-bodied children would be very welcome
More needed. Maintain them well.
- More okay areas and facilities needed near box Road in Dursley. There are so many houses being built and although some plans for parks- the plans aren't good enough.
- More police presence required
More required and better quality. the park on slad road has a large catchment but again is tired. this i think is town council run.
- More updated equipment please, maintenance to the old stuff too.
- More variety.
Most need modernising
- Mostly they are OK but I feel that safe outdoor areas are needed for older children. The park we use most often is Victory park but sadly older children flock there and they use bad language. They need seating so they can congregate safely but away from small children. Parks that stand out above the rest are: Leonard Stanley Snakey park Saul park
- Mostly updating and a cafes!
- My children and I love coming here. We enjoy meeting up with friends. We always have a positive time. An area for improvement: We would appreciate having more than one toilet open please. There have been long queues to use the toilet when we visited (during covid restrictions and after they were lifted). We all felt that being restricted to one toilet was increasing the risk of spreading germs whilst queuing and as we were all having to use the same toilet.
- Need a proper bike jump park. A tarmac track in Stratford park would be so popular. A good focus for the over 8s. Much needed.
- Need more for pre teens and teens
- need more open space for people to enjoy, better equipment for all ages
- Need to be maintained. Need to try to prevent damage.
- Need to be more equipment for older children wooden climbing frames, bridges, taller slides, zip wires etc. We always liked a trip to Saul Park or pittville park
- Need to upgrade drainage in Stratford park area- very very wet in the wintertime- like a bog around some of the equipment and tables
- Needs regular maintenance and updating.
- Needs to be easily viewable but enclosed to stop dog mess in play areas and discourage casual drug use by teens/adults
- Needs updating
no disabled facilities
- No not really
- No where for young people to go that doesn't cost a lot of money
- Not enough for older children
- Not enough for toddlers in the Berkeley area.
- Not enough parks in Chalford. Parks are too far away from Belvedere Mews. Long walk or car journey required.
- Not enough provision for older children



Continued.. Do you have any other comments

Not sure why Meadow Rd, Laburnum Park and Oldends Lane are not included - we use these most of all. The main thing that would make them better is a wider range of equipment types - natural things/open-ended play opportunities (as mentioned above) but also more appealing modern structures (e.g. Kompani). They are all very much of a muchness!

Only 1 of my children is able to access the play equipment. My son is wheelchair dependent and is unable to access any of the equipment. More accessible play areas/sensory gardens would be of great benefit and is very much needed.

Only what Ive mentioned in question 10.

Overall there are quite a few places I can take my child which I am grateful for and they all are clean and well kept Painswick needs better play equipment for older children like skate parks and pump tracks. So much space is wasted and could be used better.

Painswick Recreation Ground play area.Is not on list. Only play area in painkswick.Needs funding for better play equipment and zipwire to work better. Better maintenance for existing play equipment.Should be fenced off from dogs.

Park road in Nailsworth is a great play area because it has a range of equipment for different ages and a secure fence all the way around the outside. I have children ranged from 2-7years old and its important that there's equipment that will keep them all entertained safely.

Pitville park in Cheltenham and Snakey Park in Eastington are amazing spaces for children . Stroud needs to make the playgrounds much more exciting and modern like these

Please consider the needs of girls especially in the 9 to 14 age group. Check out ' Make Space for Girls' and use paint markings creatively (Superkillen is a park in Copenhagen that does this brilliantly)Play Gloucestershire would like to be involved in Mason Road developments if you invest here, please do, area of high social need and playground that has reached end of life now

Please have more inclusive play equipment. My daughter is 2 and has additional needs. She walks with a walker, so open space with rubber flooring is ideal. A swing I can sit on with her would be great. And there's nothing around for kids in wheelchairs? Chalford park is great for sensory play - the chimes and the cogs etc. Please make more of this available. Parks are not inclusive enough at all.

Please see earlier comments

Pretty good- good variety. I think that climbing areas are always under used but bars to swing on or gymnastic equipment within the area is always great.The play spaces are always well maintained and updated regularly and we are really grateful for that.

Public house

Replace all adult outdoor "gym" equipment with provisions for children - they are a waste of money. I'm also disgusted that Rush hasn't been re-honed and yet we have another supermarket! Every community in Stroud should have a skatepark or pump track as a minimum including Rodborough

Rodborough Church Park and Rodborough Community Centre Park both need updating. The church park equipment can be dangerous for younger children. I have seen sever nasty accidents as the under 5s try to use the bigger equipment. Wooden equipment like Horsley Park would be fantastic.

Rodbourgh community hall play area

SDC do not provide much provision in Dursley at all for the size of the town. The play area at Highfiwlds is highly used yet very under invested. I feel it would benefit from support fromSDC

Seriously youre considering removing play areas??? Do you know how vital they are to development and outdoor time.

Shocking

Should have toilets and somewhere to buy drinks etc. More picnic tables. If the children and adults wants a drink (and you've run out) or need the toilet, they got to go all the way home and 9 times out of 10 don't go back. If there were suitable facilities we could say longer. Which makes more sense.



Continued.. Do you have any other comments

Small play areas near housing is important. Decent larger play area with good range of equipment like pitville would be fab at Stratford.

Smaller parks in dursley need more investment. A water/sand play area would be amazing. Dursley Town Council and Cam Parish Council have invested in our play areas yet Stroud District have not, yet again it feels like dursley is lost

Some brilliant parks with wooden equipment that are worth travelling to (Snakey Park/Horsley park/Kings Stanley) but it would be lovely if the town parks were as good so you didn't need to use a car. I'm thinking of Stonehouse in particular.

Some great provision but very unequal in terms of area and status of area . Town council area and more deprived areas in most need have less good quality provision compared to parish councils.

Some of the play parks are great - but many are poorly looked after and maintained - it is brilliant for young kids to be able to play outside - to be physical, burn off energy, meet with their friends and have something to do other than TV but when the equipment is poorly maintained it is disappointing! Lots of the climbing frames are aimed at young children (such as Stratford park and Kingscourt Lane parks) yet have steps that are too high for young children or elements that they can't get down because the steps are too far apart etc.

Some of them have no fence around them so dog poop becomes an issue.

Some parks are better than others, Nailsworth main park is pretty good, as is Bussage and Horsley. Many of the others need updates. The park on Albert rd in Brimscombe is our local one and needs some investment.

Some parks only cater for 1 age range i.e younger kids vs older kids rather than combining equipment for all ages

Some water play, role play area or play house would be amazing alot of the parks need updating

Stratford park dogs not allowed to go through park keep them down in the grassy area because some run through park which isn't good for children they get knocked or scared and parents are worried

Stratford park is a brilliant park. think some of the equipment is old though and kids love pitville in cheltenham which we do sometimes as day out. maybe get some inspiration from them the trampoline in built are great Strouds outdoor valleys, hills, woods and open spaces could lead to such potential to make playful communities. A more focused approach on active travel could improve the health and wellbeing of more young people.

Teach the kids not to kick and throw things at the equipment and rip stuff off it at do not replace the bench as they will only rip it up and brake it again at deveaux crescent

Teenagers hanging around them put younger children off using them

The "football " green in orchard Road is mainly being used by grown ups, there is no adequate fencing on the road edge, causing hefty balls hitting our vehicles. Either a higher fence or proper high netted goalposts

The 3 parks in the Dursley littlecombe estate are great, made of wood and are always well cared for. This makes them easy and fun to attend with young children. Something similar for the Cambridge avenue park would be a much better use of the space.

The best parks I have found are in stonehouse as this is catered for toddlers due to the small frames and also for pre school to..

The grass needs raking once it's cut instead of being left as it becomes a danger risk to kids. Updating or changing the climbing frame to make it safer for younger kids to use or the addition of a toddler frame

The more the better (as long as there is the range of coverage for all ages). Children need options to get them out of the house.

The okay areas are really important, please keep them and improve on them

The one at the top of the high street is a nice idea but would be better with swings and more apparatus

Stratford park needs repair work urgently Bank gardens needs swings

The ones I use in coopers edge are good and well maintained. It would be good to update them more/put more equipment in to keep it fresh. The trampoline is great - install more!

The parks in the district are great - my only issue is lack of toilet facilities. Even just a portaloos would be better ok.



Continued.. Do you have any other comments

The play areas are terrible there should be more made with natural materials

The play provision is very uneven. Some of the best playgrounds in the area (Horsley, Snakey Park and Whiteshill are not mentioned). Minchinhampton and Woodchester have no / very poor playground facilities.

The play provisions are great here for a small town. More equipment and fencing off for dogs should be considered. Daisy Bank works so well because of the community there, if more community events happened at the other smaller parks this would make them better used and hopefully more well loved.

The two play areas in renard rise are in serious need of a revamp, who do I contact about that?

The use of more natural materials would be nice and more assault course type activities.

There are a few great parks but others like Pagenhill are awful. I felt disgusted by it when I happened to take my son there. It's not our local but felt really sad for the kids in the estate.

There are a few really good preschool play facilities but not many therefore they get very busy and over crowded during the day.

There are two we use that are not listed her at all King George V - Nailsworth Miles Marling Field - Nailsworth Both are good, but equipment needs more regular maintenance.

There aren't enough play areas for older children in Stroud, from 7+ onwards, for example interesting climbing frames and equipment.

There could be more wildflowers and Mason Road really needs some shade, please plant an oak tree somewhere by the play park as in the summer, the park is unusable in the sun- far too hot and no shade at all.

Thanks

There is a lack of allotments in SDC. Hardwicke stand to loose theirs to a new provision given by Redrow. This will most likely be less than on offer and the price will rocket.

There is loads in Coopers Edge, perhaps too much.

There is some very rundown parks and play areas. Take a look at the likes of Saul junction, pitville, Tuffley (Gloucester). These are all great facilities and Stroud needs something like these.

There isn't enough for children in the Stroud area, with the cost of living going up people can't afford big days out on weekends and therefore being able to use free facilities like these in our immediate area is going to become ever more important. This combined with the pandemic and lockdowns exasperated the need to utilise our outdoor spaces more than ever.

There needs to be more accessible parks near Dursley and cam area. As we have a huge increase in children who have sen needs and would be nice to provide more of a sensory experience

There needs to be more toddle stuff. And COFFEE and snacks

Theres not enough in the area i feel. The ones we do have are great but need more choice for a range of ages

They are much needed as its not safe for children to play outside un supervised in this day and age. My grand daughter had her Birthday party in the ebley play area at her request as she wanted all her friends to attend. I was quite shocked at the state of the seating area for parents.

They are often catered for toddlers or older children, there is very often not a good mix of both, which is difficult when you have siblings in different age groups. Eastington play Park and Saul seem to have a great mix of both.

They are situated very near traffic

They arent great or very ambitious. Need more adventure playground equipment and places for parents to sit and chat too. Even a mobile coffee shack would be better than nothing.

Theyre mostly disappointing with a few exceptions. Victory Park is another that we visit and the equipment there is very old and not in good condition. The park in elizabeth playing fields near sainsburys is too small and basic. Its in a good location along the canal and the pirate ship is lovely, but only really suitable for toddlers. I would like to see the main central parks having more wooden equipment, things like sandpits, tunnels, water play areas. And definitely integrating plants, flowers, sensory gardens with the playgrounds would be brilliant. Toddler climbing frames should be suitable for little ones not open areas for child to fall off. So climbing frame in Blackwell close is classic example huge hole between bars and no steps.

Trees, or other means of shade and shelter, need to be considered.



Continued.. Do you have any other comments

Upgrading needed skate park needed better than one at Stratford park

Very few of the play areas are sufficiently big and challenging enough for older children.

Very outdated

Victory park would be nice if modernised

We are lucky to live in such a lovely spot with access to outdoor spaces. Thank you for the work that you do.

We are so lucky to be surrounded by a wealth of free open spaces in the district for all to benefit from and enjoy. Children need their play space as a safe space to escape. It would be an awful decision to replace these with the above listed alternatives.

We generally use the car to visit play areas as the mason road play area isnt very engaging. Out of the area Pitville and Upton on Severn are a class above ours.

We have a good selection of parks in the Nailsworth area.

We like Stratford park playground for the wide range of equipment that can be used by many ages, great for meeting friends. Other playgrounds should be more like that!

We like to visit lots of play areas in the district as well as our local ones, I find that most are free from damage and engaging for my son, we are very lucky to have so many!

We mainly use play areas provided by others in the area eg by Hardwicke PC

We mostly use the two playgrounds in Rodborough, which are not listed here. Both Rodborough playgrounds could do with some upgrading.

We need more areas created in the smaller communities. No point investing more in playgrounds already offering extensive facilities. ALL children in the district should be able to WALK to play equipment or a safe outdoor community space at least.

We need more in the Dursley area and money poured into the Cambridge avenue play area desperately!

We need more play areas with clean and safe equipment for younger children to use and more green spaces that include nature areas with ponds so we can educate our child about wildlife

We need more play facilities for older children such as skateboard ramps to help physical and mental health

We need more!

We need the swings where parent and child can sit and swing facing eachother there are none of these around. Such a special thing to share with your child and both looking st eachother.

We would really appreciate more equipment and variety at Cambridge Avenue.

Were lacking some really good playgrounds that cater for all ages 0-11

Why are some play areas managed by parish councils and others by Stroud district?

With the cost of living rising free play spaces are going to be utilised alot more as free fresh air

Would be great to see a better variety of equipment, especially for climbing frames. Some recessed trampolines would be very much enjoyed. Some kids bike trails and water play areas would also be brilliant.

Would be nice to have a bigger variety of play equipment that would cover my 2 girls ages and stepson. None of it is suitable for my 8 month old.

Would love Rodborough play park by church to have revamp and become more natural (eg. underfoot)

Would love to see wild flowers at the play areas and signage to help children identify the things they spot.

Maybe community garden with herbs people are permitted to pick to use. Also seating area at wharfdale play area, by the canal.

You have suggestions above for sensory and wildflowers. Encorporate these ideas into play areas, maybe living roofs, raised borders, Hazel wigwams etc.

You need to assess the range of play equipment in all the parks. Get decent climbing frames, opened ended climbing apparatuses for all ages to access. Fit at least one swing for wheelchair uses in each park to make it more inclusive. Toilets installed too- we chose where to play based on which has a loo.

Management Contractor – street cleaning and grounds maintenance - 07.07.22

Question	Response
<p>Why is access to play areas important to your organisations/users?</p>	<p>External contractor manage the contract for inspection and maintain – 16 years in role.</p> <p>Very limited budget, job is to manage risk with a small benefit – did have play builder funding – refurbished 6 play areas.</p> <p>Learning to play is vital for all children, great fun, social interaction for kids and parents, child’s first experience of taking risk, challenging self, learning about spatial awareness, understanding of speed and movement. Interaction with other carers and parents, meet new people I similar situations. Very good for your people with learning and physical disabilities.</p>
<p>What makes a play area a “good” play area for your users? i.e, equipment, toilets, accessibility, signage</p>	<p>Variety of activity, has to be challenging, targeted at an age range. Some are too small – bigger play areas at Stratford Park within green space is a good example after refurb. Have worked in Scotland working in large country parks. Cafes can assist to draw people to larger play areas. Toilets not always required, not necessarily for local play areas, needed for destination parks.</p> <p>Sand and water play needs to be done properly, can be expensive though, good for destination play areas. Play equipment needs to be accessible where possible.</p>

Question	Response
<p>Do you currently use any of the 32 listed play areas for delivery of your work?</p>	<p>Client management function.</p>
<p>Are there any of the 32 play areas you think we should be considering for investment and why?</p>	<p>Highfields has not had work for a while, all decisions need to be made on future need of population predictions.</p> <p>Survey of potential users to understand need. Bunting Hill top of Nailsworth could be looked. The Daffodils in King Stanley surrounded by lots of retired people – could this be re defined.</p> <p>Green infrastructure and Playing Pitch Strategy should be considered. Identifies under provision in Parishes.</p> <p>Play is important, areas that can be walked to are vital when considering location of any new sites.</p>

World Jungle – 08.07.22

“We manage a social enterprise called World Jungle using play and art to bring communities together. We use parks and open spaces to really get into the community, we have a real belief in the power of green spaces”

Question	Response
Why is access to play areas important to your organisations/users?	<p>Free play opportunities are really important for children and adults. Parks are managed resources which take up budget, so we need to make more use of them. I don't think they are used enough, the benefits to the community are massive.</p> <p>Some the major challenges we are facing today, such as obesity and the mental health can all be helped by parks, open spaces and play areas.</p> <p>Important for both children and adults alike.</p>
What makes a play area a “good” play area for your users? i.e, equipment, toilets, accessibility, signage	<p>Sometimes play areas are tucked away in “out of the way” areas where developers have left over ground, they need to be central and a focus of the community. Children need to feel safe, and carers need to feel safe as well.</p> <p>Location needs to be thought about and not discouraged by vocal minorities.</p> <p>Sometimes planning is influenced by one or two powerful voices, in terms of location.</p> <p>Frist and foremost they should be beautiful places, not just about sticking kit in a park, the space should fit in the surrounding environment. 50% of a play areas sometimes go on fencing and safety survey, which does nothing to attract children. Let's look to the continent to see what can be done with imagination.</p> <p>The health and safety culture has impacted on the “play experience”, in fact it's fairly low risk, but this has impacted on design making some play areas “boring”.</p>

Question	Response
<p>What makes a play area a “good” play area for your users? i.e, equipment, toilets, accessibility, signage (continued)</p>	<p>There is the need for challenging and explores their limit.</p> <p>Older children to teenagers are sometimes left out because of “perceived dangers” of creating spaces for them, but really this older age group is important to provide for. Different spaces are required for different ages.</p> <p>More thought needs to be put into landscaping areas, with hills and tunnels, rather than just going for what the equipment suppliers come up with.</p> <p>Fencing is not always required, open access is preferable if possible, so children can “roam”, into more informal “play journeys” bringing in surrounding space.</p> <p>Perceived dangers are not always the main danger, but in fact its mainly traffic issues which are the main concern, so road crossings</p>
<p>Do you currently use any of the 32 listed play areas for delivery of your work?</p>	<p>Get confused between the town and parish owned ones, but we use lots of parks and play areas in our work. When we set up, we try to locate ourselves near any “kit” in the park so that it becomes part of the event. Quite often the play areas are located quite deep into the park, so that sometimes makes it difficult to use it as we are concerned about accessibility for wheelchair users etc.</p>
<p>Are there any of the 32 play areas you think we should be considering for investment and why?</p>	<p>Highfields Park is a good example of somewhere that needs investment. A Youth Shelter which was taken out after we worked on putting it in.</p> <p>The main Rec at Dursley needs some youth/team facilities put in.</p> <p>Cam Jubilee field and the park behind Kings Hill House – the estate park really needs some work.</p> <p>Generally, more thought needs to be given to catering for the older children for example spaces/shelters with blue tooth and wifi, so they can play music etc.</p>

Question	Response
<p>Any other comments</p>	<p>It would be good to think outside the box in terms of what can be in the open space around it. What is the route to the play area? For example, veg patches and family allotments. Towns and city public space tends to be adult focused, not child focused. Any play area review needs to be child/family focused, so that the whole experience and area becomes child friendly.</p> <p>Because a lot of play areas are devolved to town and parish council, so if funds are going into developing play areas, then let's consult with the children and the communities and involve them in the design. For example, a company called Touchwood involves young people in the design and building of shelters/spaces for their own community.</p> <p>Could we have boxes where some kit like balls and bats are kept, ok you may lose them but its low value, how can we make spaces "playful" without spending a lot of money on the traditional kit.</p> <p>Finally can we mobilise local parents more and get them involved in the creation of these play areas, so that management of the areas is really community orientated.</p>

Housing Manager –08.07.22

Question	Response
<p>Why is access to play areas important to your organisations/users?</p>	<p>Parks are paid for housing revenue budget, really important to the health and wellbeing agenda for children and adults – housing plays a big part in health, connected communities, kids love going to the park. Lifts mood, tires you out, physical and mental wellbeing, very little programming or promotion of play parks currently.</p>
<p>What makes a play area a “good” play area for your users? i.e, equipment, toilets, accessibility, signage</p>	<p>Have done some work with residents group, to create a new park, reading chairs, stepping stones, give kids a chance to be creative. Not sure what demand is for water and sand play – difficultly it will attract ant social behaviour. Stratford park great destination park. Local parks just need to be local with play equipment and benches.</p>
<p>Do you currently use any of the 32 listed play areas for delivery of your work?</p>	<p>Manages the team that manages parks.</p>
<p>Are there any of the 32 play areas you think we should be considering for investment and why?</p>	<p>Have not really invested in past 7 years, have paid to maintain. Reviewing a rationalised offer.</p> <p>Strategy – consult with users for good and bad experiences, need to consider demographics of the local areas and future population changes. Pandemic has made people much more aware of value of local park.</p> <p>Location needs to be walking distance from home.</p> <p>Could look at education opportunities about flora and fauna.</p> <p>Is there an opportunity for local business to sponsor local play park?</p>

District Councillor (Slade Ward) and Manager of Community Centre – 12.07.22

Question	Response
<p>Why is access to play areas important to your organisations/users?</p>	<p>Lack of things for young people to do that leads to anti-social behaviour. Play spaces are great meeting place, make friends with those that live near them, creates a community. The play space at the community centre is really small, Play Gloucestershire do some outreach sessions from it as it is a useful meeting space. 0 – 5 year olds only. Play parks would be more valued if they were invested in. Really local is as important as a destination park.</p>
<p>What makes a play area a “good” play area for your users? i.e, equipment, toilets, accessibility, signage</p>	<p>Local park – variety of play equipment, places to sit, large open space, use the land that is available, 0 to 12/13. Products that last over time, not seen outdoor gyms work, equipment should not be too noisy. Fill time, spark imagination and be sympathetic to landscape. Parks at top of town has basketball and skate park – kids need engagement and education to use. Shaded and sheltered areas from extremes of weather.</p>
<p>Do you currently use any of the 32 listed play areas for delivery of your work?</p>	<p>Used park during jubilee celebrations, son is 7 and equipment not suitable. Important to the users of the community.</p>
<p>Are there any of the 32 play areas you think we should be considering for investment and why?</p>	<p>Pagan Hill needs attention, Town Council now own a few and are investing. Daisy Banks has been funded by parents raising funds – tends to happen in more affluent areas. Council could support the more affluent areas to fund raise and support the local council owed estates to improve play parks.</p>

All Sorts Gloucester – 19.07.22

“We work with children with, and families of children with, disabilities. Three main areas of focus – sport, toy library with sensory room etc, finally we have some youth clubs and young adults – age range 0 to 25”.

Question	Response
<p>Why is access to play areas important to your organisations/users?</p>	<p>We would normally do consultation ourselves on this, ie speak to our parents first about this sort of thing.</p> <p>However, a school called Paternoster in Cirencester put a lot of play equipment into the school, and we worked with them to develop a play area that was suitable for all sorts of disabilities.</p>
<p>What makes a play area a “good” play area for your users? i.e, equipment, toilets, accessibility, signage</p>	<p>Disabled access to the area itself and then to key bits of kit such as wheelchair access to roundabouts etc.</p> <p>Needs to be contained so that clients don’t run off.</p> <p>The perfect environment is something that is dedicated to children and families with disabilities, when they go to an area sometimes, one or two bits of equipment have been adapted, which is difficult.</p> <p>Ancillary facilities such as toilets and changing rooms are really important, so perhaps better to have one or two play areas in the area that are dedicated rather than adapt a few bits of equipment.</p> <p>But I think it would be ok for these sites to be used by everyone if possible.</p>
<p>Do you currently use any of the 32 listed play areas for delivery of your work?</p>	<p>We don’t at the moment, but I must admit I haven’t gone and looked at them. We do hire a range of facilities, such as Paternoster school for specific activities.</p> <p>Sometimes we take in kit with us but that’s not ideal.</p>
<p>Are there any of the 32 play areas you think we should be considering for investment and why?</p>	<p>When we have meet with Hannah in the past, Stratford Park has been mentioned. This would be quite central, and well served by public transport.</p>
<p>Any other comments</p>	<p>Our frustration is that in all environments that there is adequate pathways for wheelchair users. When you cant even enter a play space to watch your siblings play that is very disappointing.</p>

District Council Members Focus Group – 19.07.22 - 6pm

Question	Response
<p>Why is access to play areas important to your organisations/users?</p>	<p>Play areas are run down but used a lot by the community (Nailsworth example of community led events and holiday activities taking place in these areas)</p> <p>They create a sense of place /community and inclusion.</p> <p>Investment is important to demonstrate that these areas are valued and the importance of them to their local community is recognised.</p> <p>Play areas are ‘people places’ and should promote accessibility and inclusion for all of society.</p>
<p>What makes a play area a “good” play area for your users? i.e, equipment, toilets, accessibility, signage</p>	<p>Ensure it is a natural biodiverse, ecological and sustainable space – not a concrete jungle.</p> <p>It should be a welcoming space for adults not just little ones as parks are vital for parents to meet and socialise with others – equally it should be a space which enables grandparents and older generations to attend. Generational inclusivity was mentioned several times.</p> <p>Equipment should allow for the adventurous and less adventurous children with an element of sensory play. “Let them play and get dirty” – emphasis for a natural play environment.</p> <p>“Make space for Girls” campaign should be considered.</p> <p>Ensure the play area allows for varying age ranges (not just young children) and gender should also be considered.</p> <p>Safety is vital – the area should not be secluded and always visible.</p> <p>Enhances the whole community and can help with people feeling isolated and lonely – a place ‘to be’ but with safeguarding considerations and anti-social measures in place.</p>

<p>What makes a play area a “good” play area for your users? i.e, equipment, toilets, accessibility, signage (continued)</p>	<p>Benches for older people – should feel pleasant to spend time in.</p> <p>Truly accessible – not just a token piece of equipment – accessible from car park through to and including play area.</p> <p>Good mix of kit that enables physical and create play – multiple use from same piece of kit would be ideal.</p> <p>365 use of park accounting for changing seasons – shade is of particular importance.</p> <p>Be adventurous with play kit – e.g. install a ‘pillow’ / dedicated adult gym.</p>
<p>Are there any of the 32 play areas you think we should be considering for investment and why?</p>	<p>Good geographical spread – move focus away from central Stroud.</p> <p>Focus on a few – do it well and re-energise the community with the development – make a bigger difference with a few rather than adding a little to more and having minimal impact.</p> <p>Target those that need it most – show them ‘some love’</p> <p>Create a template/blue print on the success of the few developments.</p> <p>To assess which play areas are most in need a systematic approach is required which is fair and transparent. This objective prioritisation tool ought to consider a number of factors including key demographic data for each area. The outcome of this process and subsequent development could then lead to the creation of a ‘best practice’ guide to share with those who do not receive any funding.</p> <p>The prioritisation tool could also identify quick wins as well as the longer-term strategic focus.</p>

Any other comments

Strong emphasis on ensuring the process is as important as the outcome.

Visibility on communication of consultancy process – how was survey sent and who completed it.

It is vital to empower parents and local community in shaping their play areas.

Community involvement is required in creating the criteria for the prioritisation tool.

Community involvement is likely to increase the sense of community ownership and care.

Consider possible partnerships / possibility of match funding.

Could parents help run the play areas as a co-operative with potential of a future budget.

Question	Response
<p>Why is access to play areas important to your organisations/users?</p>	<p>Very valuable for communities, particularly those that have children and the parents that meet there, friendships are made, problems are solved, exercise happens and physical learning is an important part of a child's future health.</p> <p>Socialism opportunities the children get from meeting other children other than their school friends.</p> <p>Good places to become close to nature and good for mental health and wellbeing as well as the health of the nature itself.</p> <p>They are hubs for the whole community.</p> <p>Encouragement to be outside.</p> <p>Its not just the equipment but the other stuff around it that encourages families to want to come and stay. Happy adults = children staying longer.</p>
<p>What makes a play area a “good” play area for your users? i.e, equipment, toilets, accessibility, signage</p>	<p>Having a variety of different play areas to access with interesting things to entertain children and keep them active.</p> <p>Outdoor gyms are good as accessible for children and adults (if in the correct areas as not commonly used).</p> <p>Seating areas for adults.</p> <p>Something for all age groups.</p> <p>Equipment that is accessible to all and designed so it can be used by people with all physical abilities, not add-ons for specific abilities that are so much more expensive.</p> <p>It's more than just the equipment, it places for social activities – picnic benches, things for older children, elderly people, larger people, dogs.</p> <p>Disability access.</p> <p>Access to toilets.</p>

What makes a play area a “good” play area for your users? i.e, equipment, toilets, accessibility, signage (continued)

Natural play – wooden equipment, a lot more can be done for a lot less money than concrete and steel. Or use recyclable plastic, not as aesthetically natural but longer lasting. Could be sourced locally to save the carbon footprint.

Risk! Kids enjoy risk, things that are fun, high up, things that push their physical boundaries, testing what is possible. It encourages growth, it looks exciting, new and innovative.

They should be different and unique.

Places for getting dirty, muddy puddles and sand pits. Creative and fun.

Are there any of the 32 play areas you think we should be considering for investment and why?

Demographics with not much money. Because of cost-of-living crisis, low earner areas cannot afford to travel to good play areas. They need free entertainment areas to go to.

Go where the need is – where people are currently going and make it better.

Forest Green area – Families stay close and are not keen to go out of the area. The current play areas are tired and old fashioned. They need space to have more fun. Having a good play area in troubled areas raises people's pride, standards and cohesion. It's the glue that keeps communities together.

Any other comments

Integrate mapping play areas, share information on evaluation of each play area on an app. Also promote tourism trails.

Frustrating that new housing developers put play areas in, they leave them and any problems end up with the parish.

Community involvement and local people feel passionate about green spaces.

Funding would be welcome as parishes take on facilities in towns.