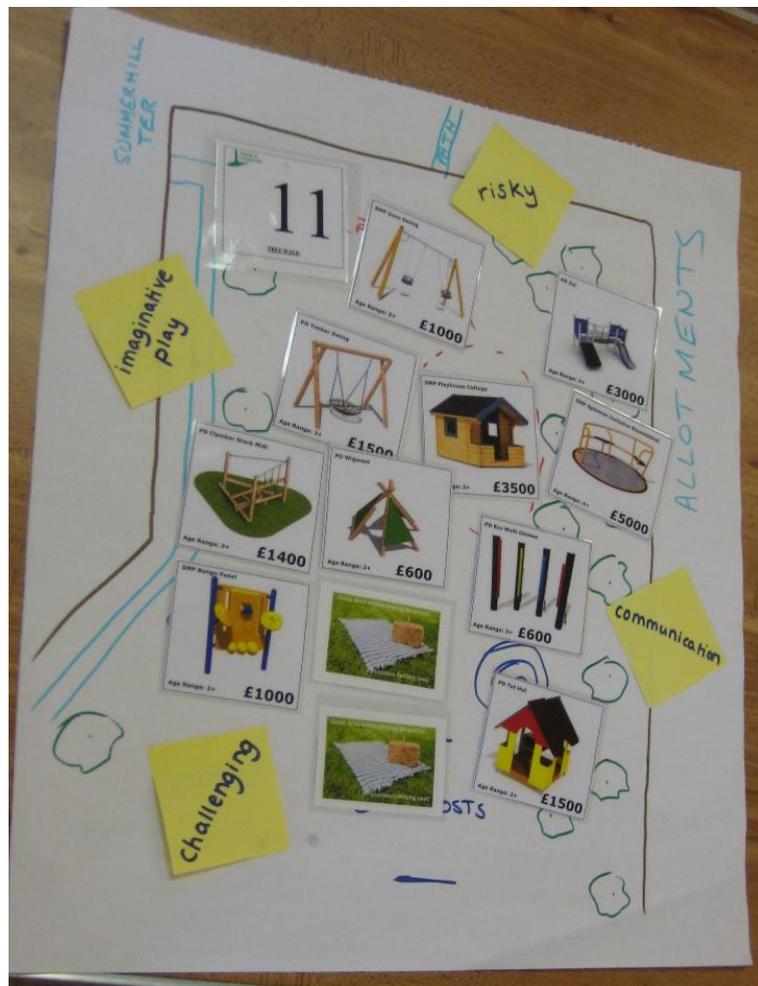


Results of the Troopers Hill Field Play Design Consultation on Sunday 5th July 2015

A design consultation was held after the distribution a questionnaire to which nearly 500 people replied, with 95% saying they were in favour of a play area. The majority of people wanted a fenced play area for children under 5s and more open play for children aged from 5-11.

1. Method



At the consultation session displays showed where the play area would go, with a proposed path line.

A budget was given for the under 5's play equipment and another for play equipment suitable for 6-11 year old children. A set of cards were supplied with pictures of play items, showing approximate costs. People were asked to put their choice of play equipment of a map of Troopers Hill Field.

Each "design" was numbered and photographed.

There was also a display of questions for people to use "sticky dots" to show their answers. Questions included "Does the red slide stay?" with the choices "keep" and "remove" plus the explanation that the slide was safe and it would cost about £1,800 to remove.

After the consultation the details of each photo were recorded in a spreadsheet and counts taken to show how many people wanted each kind of play equipment.

2. Results

The choices of play equipment are shown overleaf. The answers to the direct questions were:

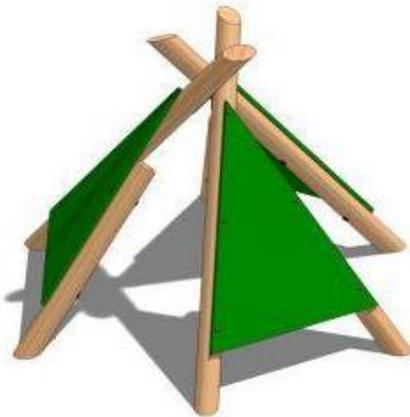
Question	Answer
Does the red slide stay?	Keep
What should the play equipment be made of?	Timber and steel
Do you want seating inside the fenced play area or outside or no seating at all?	Even split between inside and outside the play area. N.B. Please read Appendix B question 4 in http://tinyurl.com/fothplay for details of how seating will be addressed. It will NOT be installed using grant funding.
Should any signs/interpretation boards go the fence, in the play area or outside the play area?	Outside

Wanted for under 5s:

SWINGS - large basket for sharing and small individual swings



IMAGINATIVE PLAY - such as a wigwam structure or playhouse or tunnel perhaps under an earth mound



INCLUSIVE SPINNING - both these examples are suitable for children with disabilities - the first is wheelchair accessible



ROCKING



CLAMBERING



MUSIC/NOISE MAKING (we're asking for advice from Bristol City Council and if they say this is OK we will talk to local residents and try out samples with them)



PICNIC SPACE on the grass inside the fence (more space = higher cost because of more fencing)

A MULTI-PURPOSE UNIT such as



SEESAW



People were very clear that they wanted an area of ground for picnics or just sitting on the grass within the fenced area.

Wanted For 5-11 year olds

an **ACTIVITY TRAIL**



nearly 40% of people also asked for **SWINGS** and a **SPINNING** item



Please continue reading overleaf for more results of the consultation.

The location of the footpath was discussed. This was the original proposal:

Possible route of a path to the proposed new play area

**SUMMERHILL
TERRACE ENTRANCE**



**Approximate location for
proposed new play area**

People living nearby would prefer the path to follow the boundary wall from Summerhill to the path that comes from the milestone on Summerhill Rd to the stone stile/tree stump. They would then like the path to turn right and continue directly to the play area.

We were lucky enough to have a play professional attend the consultation; this is a summary of what she said to one of the parents, a childminder, helping to run the consultation:

"Anna had lots of ideas about what makes the difference between a good playground and a not-so-good one. She talked about how some playgrounds inspire children to play for hours, whereas others are exhausted very quickly. She talked about the best playgrounds having structures that invite challenge and are open-ended, as in, there are multiple different ways of getting onto the structure (ramp, ladder, climbing wall, rope) so children of different abilities can find challenge.

We talked about playgrounds that invite children to play imaginatively, cooperatively, and encourage them to develop their personal social and emotional skills, through social spaces, dens, enclosed areas. We talked about how, in St George's Park, children sometimes get the richest play time from being in the bushes where they tick more boxes in terms of learning areas than just climbing, swinging etc. We commented that working with children we both get to see children playing and interacting in a variety of play areas and that there are clear differences in terms of play value. Anna said her children really enjoy Brook Street Park. She said it's a nice, colourful playground with challenging and fun equipment for children of different ages. Anna thought that it would be better to have seating outside the under 5s area, so as not to encourage adults without children into the enclosed play area."

3. Next Steps

Using the information from the design consultation, parents, working with Friends of Troopers Hill, will produce a design brief for quotations from play equipment suppliers approved by Bristol City Council. The design brief will be reviewed by Bristol Parks Play Officer before it is used.

Letters of support, needed for grant applications, have been received from our local MP, Bristol City Council and Avon and Somerset Police. Other necessary documents will be gathered and a tree inspection carried out to ensure the trees near the proposed play area are safe.

Friends of Troopers Hill, working closely, with Bristol City Council will apply for grant funding for the play area. If they are successful Bristol City Council will then manage the tender process to select play equipment and jointly, with Friends of Troopers Hill and the leading group of parents, oversee the expenditure of the grant and installation of the play area.

We are delighted to say that Chris Deane, the parent who has been most active in campaigning for a play area, has now joined the committee of Friends of Troopers Hill.

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