

Constantine Way Play Area Consultation

Summary of Results

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council undertook a public consultation to inform the proposed redesign of the Constantine Way Play Area as part of the Council's wider Play Refurbishment Programme. The consultation aimed to gather feedback from local residents, families, and play area users to help shape a new, modern play space that better meets the needs of the local community.

As part of our Play Refurbishment Programme, we are looking at how the existing play area can be redesigned to benefit the site and local community, and we welcomed your views on how the play area could be improved.

This consultation was a great opportunity for local people, particularly parents/carers and children themselves, to identify potential improvements and help shape the future of the play area for children and young people.

Due to the nature of the site, please note that sand and water play will not be possible. The existing play area is not fenced, so we will look to provide fencing around the perimeter of the new scheme.

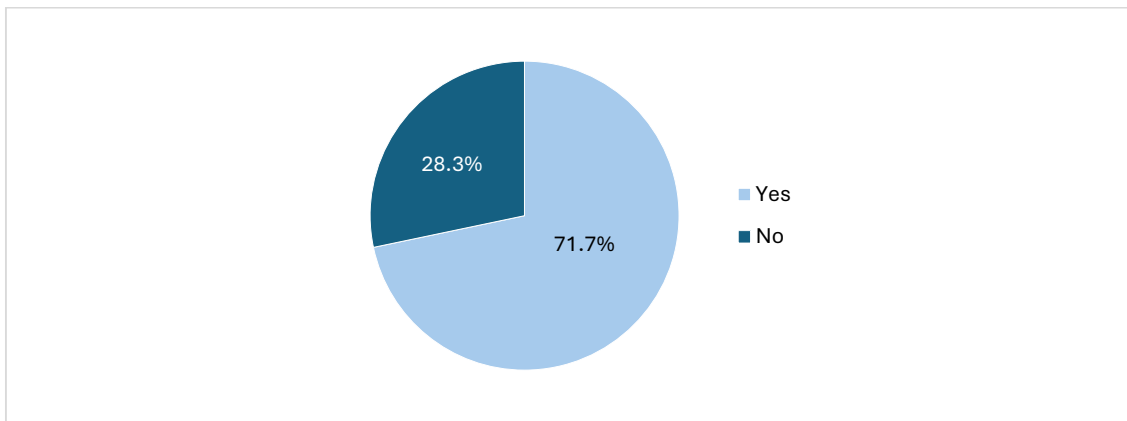
Current Usage Levels (Question 1 to 3)

When asked, 71.7% of respondents reported that they or their family currently use the play area at Constantine Way, with 28.3% of respondents reporting that they currently do not use the play area.

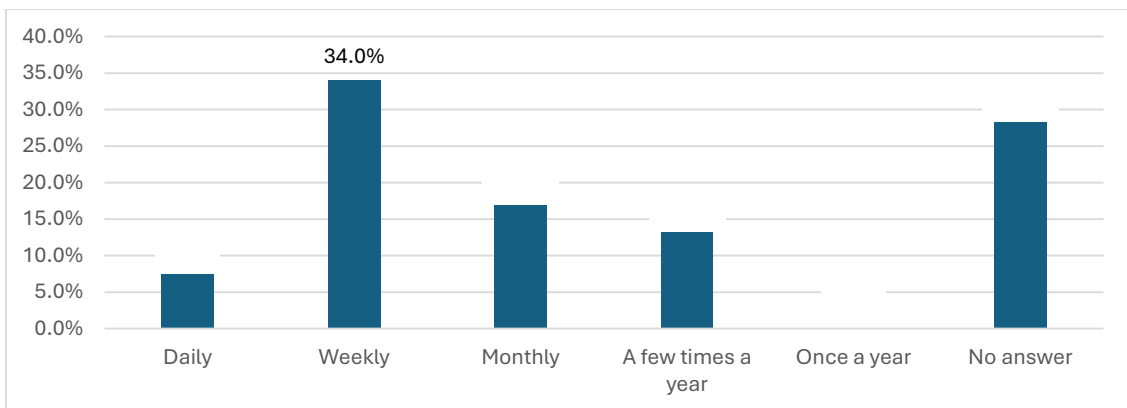
Among the respondents, 34% said that they visit the play area weekly, 17.0% visit monthly and 7.5% of respondents visit daily. This indicates that the play area is a regularly used local asset for many.

Respondents reported usage of Constantine Way play area across a broad range of times. Most respondents reported they visit the play area during weekends (73.7% of respondents) and afternoons (73.7% of respondents). School holidays are also a popular time to visit, according to 55.3% of respondents. The least popular time to visit the play area is during the evenings (26.3% of respondents).

Q1. Do you and your family use the play area at Constantine Way?

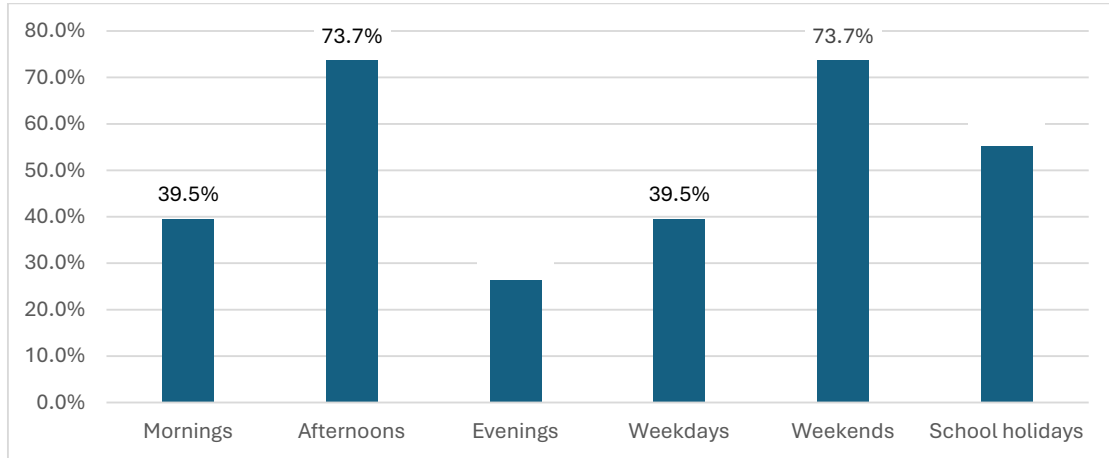


Q2. How often do you and your family use the play area?





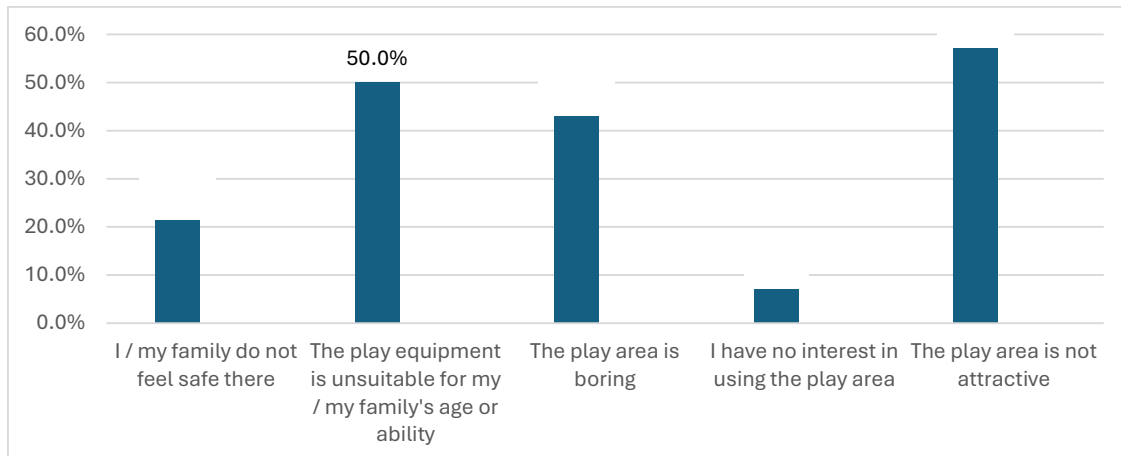
Q3. At what times do you typically visit the play area? (select as many as apply)



Barriers to Use (Question 4)

Most respondents who reported not using the play area put this down to the play area not being attractive (57.1% of respondents). The second most voted reason for not using the play area was because the equipment is unsuitable for their family's age or ability (50% of respondents). The least common response (7.10% of respondents) was that the respondent has no interest in using the play area. 21.4% of respondents voted that they / their families do not feel safe at the play area. We will be looking to lower the height of the immediate surrounding shrubbery (excluding trees) to enhance visibility within the play area and give an improved sense of safety.

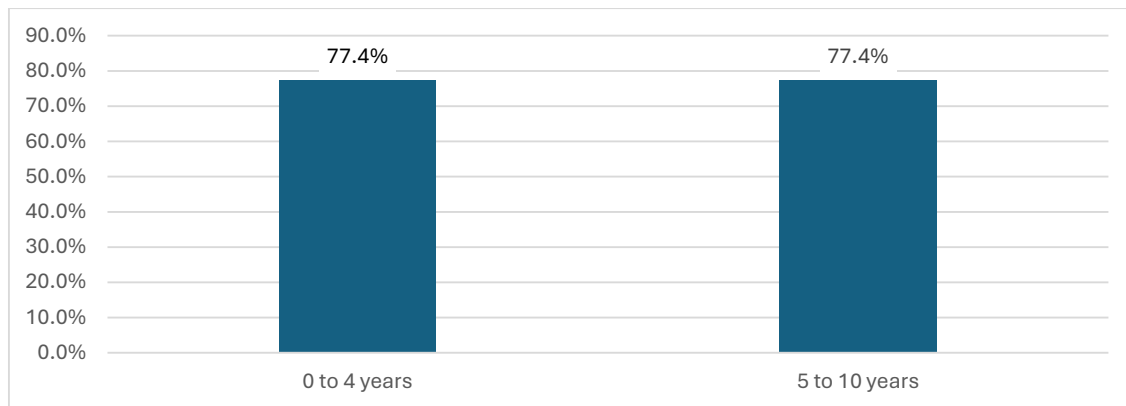
Q4. If you do not use the play area, please tell us why (select as many as possible)



Preferred Age Ranges for Provision (Question 5)

Respondents were asked which age groups Constantine Way play area should cater for following refurbishment. Respondents were able to select both options if they felt this was appropriate. The results show equal support (77.4%) for both provisions for 0 to 4 years and for 5 to 10 years.

Q5. As a local play area, what are ranges should it provide for? (select as many as apply)



Appearance Style Preferences (Question 6 to 7)

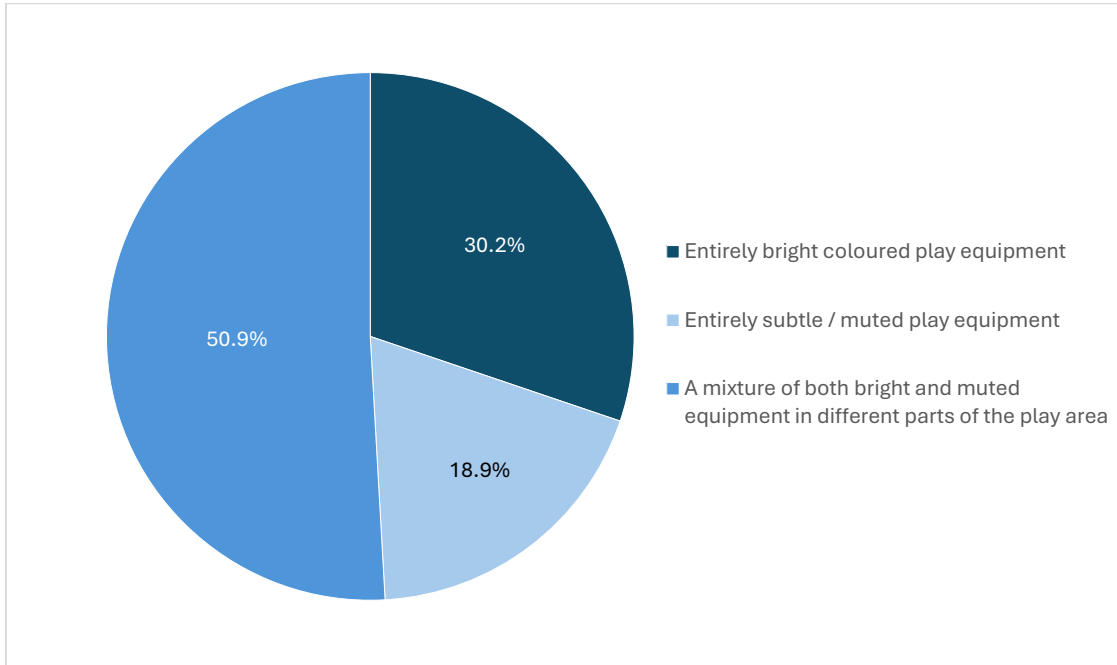
Feedback on the preferred appearance style of a refurbished Constantine Way play area shows a strong preference for a balanced. Just over half of respondents (50.9%) said they would prefer a mix of bright and muted play equipment across different parts of the site. This could suggest that respondents value both visual interest for children and a design that fits well within the surrounding area. A further 30.2% of respondents favoured entirely brightly coloured equipment, while 18.9% of respondents preferred entirely subtle or muted play equipment.

Views on the new rubber safety surfacing closely reflected these findings, with 56.6% of respondents again preferring a mix of bright and muted colours, followed by 24.5% of respondents voting for entirely muted tones and 18.9% of respondents favouring entirely bright surfacing throughout.

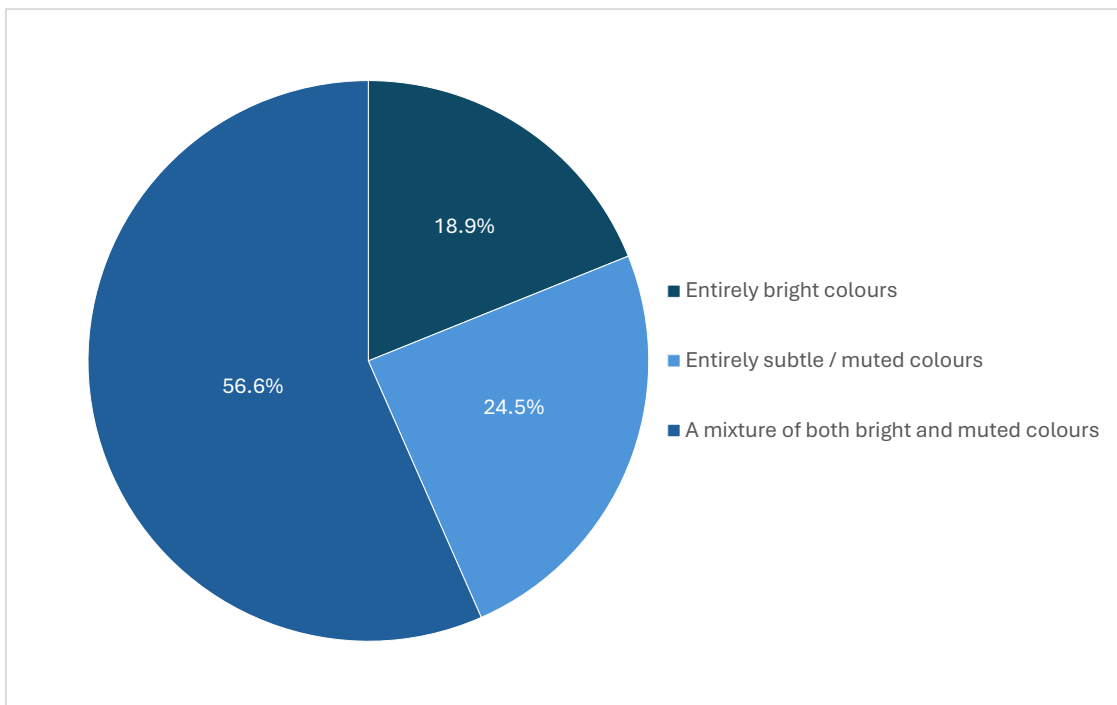
Overall, responses suggest that most people would like a play area that feels attractive to children, without being overly bold.



Q6. What appearance style would you prefer the new play equipment to have?



Q7. What appearance style would you prefer the rubber safety surfaces have?



Play Area Themes (Question 8)

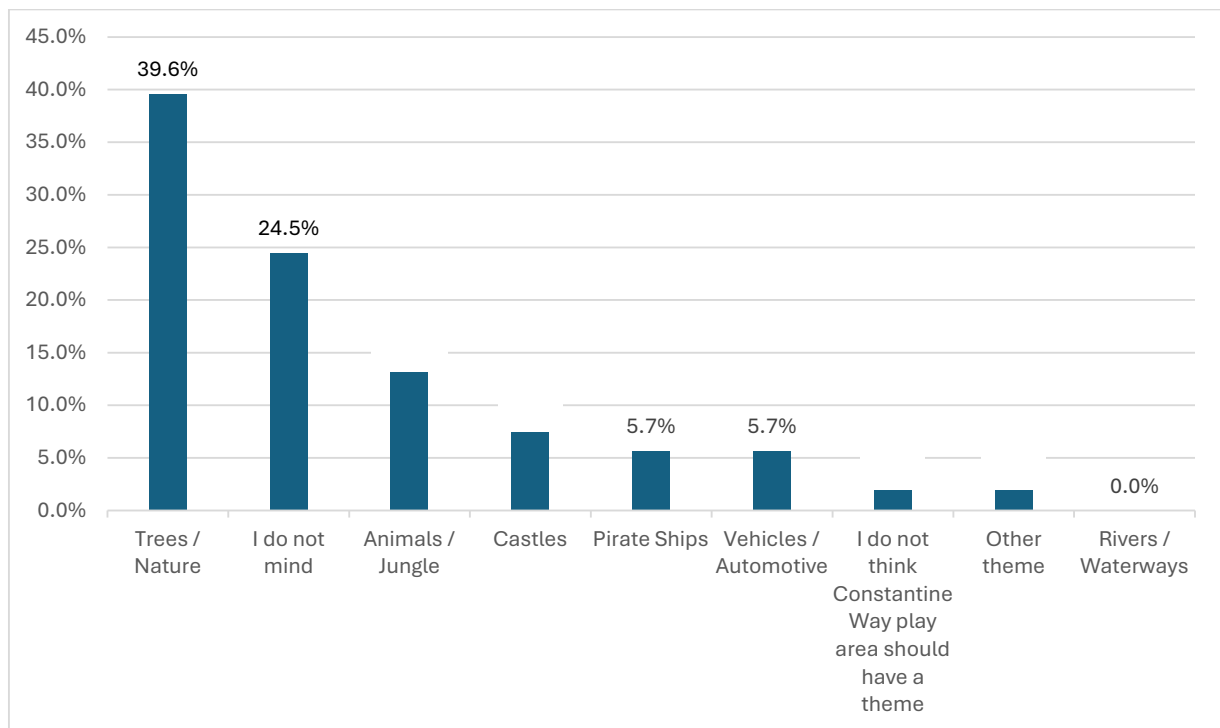
Views on whether the play area should include a theme were very strong, with 73.6% of respondents selecting a theme, suggesting that theming is supported by the majority of those who responded. 24.5% of respondents voted to say they didn't mind what theme Constantine Way play area were to have, while 1.9% of respondents felt that the play area shouldn't have a theme.

The most popular theme options were 'Trees / Nature' (39.6% of respondents) and 'Animals / Jungle' (13.2% of respondents), suggesting a general preference for more natural or wildlife-inspired play environments. This is likely due to the naturalistic character of the site, and respondents wanting that to be reflected within theming choices.

Other themes such as 'Castles' (voted for by 7.5% of respondents), 'Pirate Ships' (voted for by 5.7% of respondents) and 'Vehicles / Automotive' (voted for by 5.7% of respondents) received minimal levels of support in comparison. The 'Rivers / Waterways' theme did not receive any votes.

The 'other theme' option was used by one respondent, who suggested 'dinosaurs' as a theme.

Q8. We are considering adding a theme to the new play area to help stimulate the imagination of children. Which of the following themes do you think the play area should have? If you answered 'Other theme' please specify.



Play Activity Preferences (Question 9 to 10)

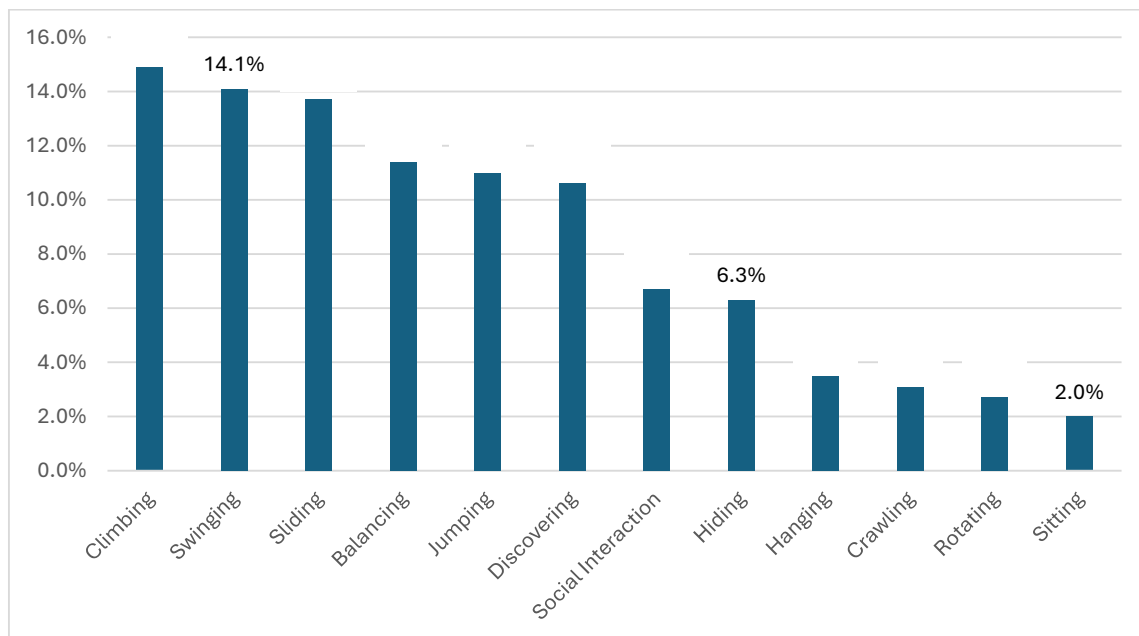
Respondents were asked which activity types they would most like to see catered for within the new play area to support both toddler and junior aged children, with respondents able to select up to five options for each age group.

For the toddler age range, the highest levels of support were for climbing (14.9%), swinging (14.1%) and sliding (13.7%), closely followed by balancing (11.4%), jumping (11%) and discovering (10.6%), indicating clear demand for play opportunities that support early movement, coordination and exploration. Lower levels of support were shown for activities such as hanging (3.5%), crawling (3.1%), rotating (2.7%) and sitting (2.0%).

For the junior age range, respondents expressed high levels of support for similar activities. Climbing (18.8%), swinging (15.4%), jumping (12.7%), hanging (11.1%) and sliding (10.0%) again receiving the highest levels of support. The lowest levels of support were for hiding (1.9%), sitting (1.6%) and crawling (0.4%).

Overall, the results highlight consistent support for play provision that encourages physical activity and skill development, with increasing levels of challenge for older children.

Q9. Please select the 5 activity types you would most like to see catered for in the new toddler area of the play space.





Q10. Please select the 5 activity types you would most like to see catered for in the new junior area of the play space.

