

The Recreation Ground Upgrade Survey – Your Response.

Over 130 residents sent their views to us in response to the Recreation Ground Upgrade Survey. A big thank you to all those who responded. We will now take the development process forward, using the findings of the survey and other considerations, to specify costed design schemes for the Recreation Ground Upgrade. In particular we will share the priorities and interests our residents have identified with Milton Keynes Council and use their expertise to detail schemes that make the best use of the site for our residents. Here are the key findings.

The top choice for **Play Equipment** the survey identified was a **Multiplay Climbing Frame** preferably with a **Natural Forest, Woodland** or **Wildlife** theme. The second choice was a **Zip Wire**, followed by a **MUGA (Multi Use Games Area)** and an **Accessible Roundabout** or **Basket Swing**.

The **Environment** preferences were for more **Seating, Trees, and Landscaping**, closely followed by a desire for a new **Circular Walk** – with a vast majority of respondents indicating that this was important to them.

In terms of **Additional Equipment** – the most requested item was for all types of **Swings** that would be suitable for all ages: babies, young and older children, adults, and accessible swings. Equipment such as a **Climbing Wall** or a **Ground Trampoline** were also requested by some respondents.

The **Sporting Activity** that most respondents to the survey would like to use the new Recreation Ground for was for **Football** with small wheeled activities - **BMX, scooter, roller skates, skateboards** also receiving several mentions, as did **Basketball** and **Netball**.

As far as the **Adult Fitness** area was concerned, although exercise machines such as **Rowing Machines, Pull-up Bars** and **Cross trainers** were mentioned, about a third of all respondents either questioned the need for the adult fitness area in the Recreation Ground or had no suggestions regarding its use.

One of the most significant findings was the willingness of respondents to offer **Other Suggestions** for the development of the Recreation Ground. Noteworthy amongst these, and in no particular order of preference, for the **Environment** and **Landscaping** there were suggestions for better **Signage** with **Information Boards** perhaps showing the History of Woburn Sands. Other suggestions were for more **Bins** and better **Lighting** (for both security and accessibility) and more **User-friendly Footpaths**. The landscaping suggestions were for more **Wildlife** with more **Native Trees** and a **Pond**, a woodland feel for people with **wood sculptures** with a **sundial** or a **Musical Trail**. One request was for **BBQ stones** set in to provide a community social space, with **Picnic Tables** and a **Baby Area**. Heavy duty landscaping suggestions included new **Mounds** or **Hills**, possibly with a **Tunnel** through, and for a raised **Flat Stage Area** for performances.

Other Equipment that people suggested were **Balance Beams**, a **Cricket Net**, **Hopscotch** markings, **Slides** or a **See-Saw**, a **Table Tennis table** or a **Tennis Court**, a **Spider Web Climbing Net**, a large **Swing Boat** for children, a **Children's Obstacle Course** around the perimeter, a **Mini Maze** or a **Running Track** and a **Pump Track** for bikes.

And lastly in terms of an overall theme for the Recreation ground, people suggested a **Castle** theme, a **Harry Potter** theme, a **Winnie the Pooh** theme, a **Transport** theme of **Railways, Trains, Cars, Planes, Fire Engines** or an **International Space Station**, an **Animal** theme of

Dinosaurs, Dragons, Unicorns or Elephants and even Pixies, Fairies & Mushroom Houses.

WSTC now has the responsibility of achieving a scheme for the development of the recreation ground which can support a better balance of activities and consequent wellbeing opportunities for all ages, taking every opportunity to create a natural and nature centred feel across the site where possible. Finally, the WSTC will be looking at any other ways that we could deliver on the suggestions made by our residents where it is deemed not possible to provide them as part of the recreation ground development. For instance, some items may form a better fit within the South East Milton Keynes (SEMK) area development and the potential for a green buffer zone/country park which is under discussion, or in other parts of our town.