



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Town Meadow playground

Further to Amenities minute 22/24, a 6-week consultation was carried out with Town Meadow users, with the following results:

1. Predominant age of users 4-6 & 7-11
2. With the exception of 2 swings, there is no equipment for toddlers (0-3)
3. The aesthetic preference was that the equipment should be different to the existing
4. Of the existing equipment, the swings were the clear favourite, followed by climbing and sliding
5. Swinging & sliding had the highest wait to use, albeit a short one, and this was in the 0-3 age range (see 2 above)
6. Additional needs questions – whilst there were a small number of users with additional needs it was agreed that the playground should have an accessible swing, and some balancing equipment should also be offered
7. The group dealt with the comments/requests for a pump track. This space has already been considered by a pump track promoter back in 2021 and deemed cost prohibitive. In any event, Town Meadow is an unsuitable location for this kind of facility. It is the only open green space for recreation in the Town Centre.
8. The summary of open text comments were grouped together, put in order of frequency and these are listed below:
 - Play equipment needs improvement - Many respondents noted that the current play equipment is outdated, dirty, and not engaging for children. Suggestions include replacing old equipment with modern, safe, and interactive options.
 - Diverse age range and accessibility - There is a call for play facilities that cater to a wider range of ages, particularly equipment suitable for toddlers and older children, as well as accessible options for children with disabilities.
 - Natural and sustainable materials - Several comments emphasized the desire for natural play structures made from sustainable materials rather than metal, to create a more aesthetically pleasing and safer environment.
9. The working group met on site with the benefit of the consultation results and to look at the existing offering and space available.
10. The existing play area has two different ground levels and two distinct surfaces (Wetpour and wood chip). The wood chip is not user friendly for prams, pushchairs or wheelchairs.

11. Extending the playground will continue the issue of distinctive areas instead of creating a cohesive whole.



12. The working group asked that a guideline quote be obtained in advance of this meeting to remove the existing play equipment and surfacing, and to install an expanded playground.

13. If the Council revised the Neighbourhood CIL contribution to £130,000 it should more than achieve this aim. It has already committed £50,000.

Recommendation: An additional sum of £80,000 of Neighbourhood CIL be committed to this project with the aim of removing the existing play equipment and surfacing, and installing a new expanded playground.