

# Consultation on proposed changes to Clapham Common playground

**Consultation Report  
October 2019**

## **Contents**

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Background
- 1.2 Our proposals

### 2 The consultation

- 2.1 Consultation objectives
- 2.2 Who we consulted
- 2.3 When we consulted
- 2.4 How we consulted
  - 2.4.1 Press activity
  - 2.4.2 Digital activity
  - 2.4.3 Print activity
  - 2.4.4 Event activity

### 3 Responses from members of the public

- 3.1 Summary of results
- 3.2 Summary of post code analysis and demographics
- 3.3 Additional comments

### 4 What happens next

## Appendix

Consultation communications

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

The playground on Windmill Drive is in need of refurbishment and an amount of money has been allocated for this purpose. As well as upgrading the equipment, the intention is to come up with proposals that enable us to provide Lambeth's first fully inclusive playground. With currently 1 in 20 children in the UK under the age of sixteen living with a disability, the need is clearly there to create play areas that are inclusive for all.

## 1.2 Our proposals

Our proposals are to install play equipment to cater for a range of ages to stimulate imaginative play as well as provide challenges for children from toddler to pre-teens. The aim is to provide a facility that is attractive, inclusive and safe for parents and children to enjoy quality leisure time.

# 2. The consultation

## 2.1 Consultation objectives

Our consultation objectives were to engage with a wide range of local stakeholders in order to get their views on our proposals.

## 2.2 Who we consulted

We consulted with:

- Parents, carers and children who currently use the existing playground
- Children at local schools
- Ward councillors
- Local amenity groups including parks Friends groups

## 2.3 When we consulted

The Project Manager produced a presentation that she used to engage with local schools before the end of the summer term. The online consultation ran between 10 September and 29 September 2019.

## 2.4 How we consulted

### 2.4.1 Press activity

There was no specific press activity

### 2.4.2 Digital activity

Participants were directed to the online consultation platform on Lambeth Council's website. Links to this were shared with local groups who promoted it to their networks. This activity was also supported by Twitter and Facebook posts.

### 2.4.3 Print activity

There was no specific print activity

#### 2.4.4 Event activity

The project manager attended primary school assemblies and a drop in session in the park to gather the views of children and carers.

### 3. Responses from members of the public

384 responses were received to the online survey

#### 3.1 Summary of results

Participants were asked to what extent they would like to see the following pieces of equipment in the refurbished playground:

- Nest swing
- Combination climb/slide
- Combination climb/roundabout
- Group see-saw
- Cableway
- Inclusive roundabout
- Individual swings
- Group swing

The ratings for the pieces of equipment are as follows, shown in order from the most popular to the least popular (out of a maximum of 5 points):

- Combination climb/slide (4.8)
- Individual swings (4.4)
- Nest swing (4.2)
- Cableway (4.1)
- Inclusive roundabout (3.8)
- Group swing (3.8)
- Combination climb/roundabout (3.5)
- Group see-saw (3.5)

#### 3.2 Summary of post code analysis and demographics

Just under 95% of respondents identified themselves as the parent or carer of children who currently use the playgrounds on Clapham Common. Just under 65% identified themselves as White British. The largest single age group of respondents was those aged 35-44. 78% of respondents were female, 22% male. Respondents were drawn fairly evenly from SW4, SW11 and SW12 postcodes, with a significant number also from SW9 and SW16. The location of the playground near the borough boundary with Wandsworth makes it likely that there will be a number of responses from non-Lambeth residents.

#### 3.3 Additional comments

The final question asked participants for additional suggestions or comments. 218 responses were received to this question. Suggestions and comments included:

‘fountain or sprinkler for summer months only’

‘Please keep Mud Club and their garden next to the playground as children love it’

‘Please keep climbing features such as monkey bars and include climbing walls and apparatus that goes beyond pre school ambitions The current kit is probably 30 years old but some is still very good fun for most ages - swings, monkey bars etc it will however need to be looked after as in recent years as soon as there’s a problem it has just been removed.’

‘Rather than a strictly flat surface, it is lovely and inspiring for children to have some sloped and hilled play surfaces to roll cars and balls down, to sit and lean whilst reading. It is an easy addition in transitional areas between play equipment, and slows down those fast running older children who can make the playground a fast and intimidating space on weekend and holiday breaks’

‘Many children with autism find a lot of pleasure/ comfort in spinning equipment such as spinning wheels (the inclined type on which children stand and walk) and roundabouts. It helps them regulate their emotions. The ones that accommodate wheelchairs are unfortunately generally quite slow and don’t meet this need. So to be inclusive of both groups we need both.’

‘being fully “inclusive” isn’t just about addressing the needs of someone with a physical disability you would have to factor in sensory needs & anxiety triggers of a young child/person with a hidden disability eg; Autism Spectrum Condition. Oasis Play in Stockwell display very good practice in this area when developing their 3 sites’

‘Keep the train, it’s really good!’

‘Plenty of benches, working loos, as much grass/ soft surface as possible and to keep the sandpit. The playground at Brockwell Park is a good example’

‘Areas for children to climb and some sort of in ground trampoline would be great’

‘When allocating funding, please reserve some for ongoing maintenance, to avoid situations where a large investment is made, but the equipment is not maintained.’

## 4. What happens next

The next steps in delivering the project will be:

1. Review the results of the online survey and responses from children in schools and the playground
2. Steering group to put together a brief/specification that will incorporate the findings from the survey, in light of budget, health and safety and maintenance considerations.
3. Carry out procurement for the installation of the new playground
4. Evaluate tender submissions and award the contract
5. Deliver the new playground by summer 2020.

## Appendix

### Consultation communications

See attached Powerpoint presentation

