

Mundy Playing Fields Play Area- Consultation Report

April 2018



Report prepared by

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Project Background

Thornbury Town Council decided to completely refurbish the play area at the Mundy Playing Fields, investing £85,000 in a new play area. In the summer of 2017 the Council held consultation at the Thornbury Carnival on key items that the public would like to see in a new play area. These votes were used to design a tender specification for the play area which was issued in January 2017.

Following tender assessment and interviews the preferred contractor was named as Proludic. Their design incorporated all the elements from the consultation that was carried out at last year's Carnival. This involved replacing the majority of the old equipment, whilst retaining and incorporating the splash pad, zip wire, embankment slides, accessible roundabout, four seater roundabout, climbing frame and balance bars. Improvements to safety surfacing will also be included as part of these works.

The Council then decided to further involve the community in the design by seeking feedback on the chosen design and allowing some of the uncommitted budget for the project to be influenced by a community vote. Views were also sought on the colour scheme of the design and again put to a public vote.

The purpose of this Spring Consultation is to enable the Council to share the chosen design with the public and seek feedback on the design so we can see if any changes or improvements should be made before we place the final order for the equipment.

Consultation methodology

This consultation was managed and run by Thornbury Town Council and was open from 14 March 2018 until 4 April 2018.

Information about the consultation, copies of the plans, consultation document and survey were available on the Town Council website and was promoted through social media. Plans, consultation documents and surveys were also available to view throughout the consultation period at the Town Hall during normal opening hours. Interested parties wishing to comment were also provided with an email address, postal details and contact phone number or could respond in person at one of the consultation events or the Town Hall.

The consultation provided a number of opportunities for people to find out more and give their views in person, including 2 Shopping Centre consultations on 22nd March (9am-12pm) and 24th March (10am -1pm) giving the general public the opportunity to see the plans, find out more and comment. A further opportunity was available at a Thornbury Welcomes event at Manor Brook School on 24th March (3pm- 5pm).

The consultation was promoted through a press release to local media outlets and via articles in local newsletters, which resulted in a good coverage and awareness of the consultation within Thornbury and the surrounding area.

Consultation Response

The consultation received 66 survey responses on line, 8 paper surveys completed, 207 “sticker” responses at events and 11 comments from Youth Voice. Full copies of the online survey are attached in appendix A.

The public drop in consultation held in the shopping centre was well attended with over 100 people stopping by to view the plans and ask questions.

Three articles promoting the consultation on social media were shared and reached by over 3000 people, resulting in comments, tags and mentions and clicks through to the consultation information hosted on the town council’s website.

General caveats

The results of this consultation are not statistically representative of the views of local residents or users of the existing play area due to the nature of the consultation methodology used. The level of response, information gathered and views obtained provide a useful indicator of wider opinion and any important issues that will need to be considered.

Due to the software used and the different response options open to respondents, it was possible for people to submit more than one response. This has been monitored during the consultation period and analysis and it does not appear to have been abused or be a significant issue affecting the response.

Any obvious duplicate comments, personal information and comments that can identify individuals, have been removed from the comments analysis.

Percentages used in this report have been rounded and may not add up to exactly 100%.

Comments regarding this consultation that have been made online and via social media and that are publically available have been incorporated into this report, where we are aware of them and therefore may not be the complete record.

Key findings

Q1. Do you think we are providing the right range of play facilities in our designs and what could we do to improve the range of play opportunities within the play area?

Main Themes

Yes, good range of equipment proposed.

More accessible equipment needed/lacking in inclusive facilities/need a swing that a wheelchair can go on.

Would like more going on in the splash pad area/good that it is being kept and improved/needs improving/return to having a pool.

Need more facilities/equipment for teenagers/more “risky” equipment/more adventurous.

Toddler area smaller/limited/more toddler equipment needed.

Other Common Themes

The plans are a definite improvement and a good range.

There should be distinct play equipment for different ages.

Interactive boards in toddler area would be good.

Good that the adult equipment is being moved away.

More imaginative equipment needed.

Designs are poor/uninspiring/generic/no reference to Thornbury.

More wood and less metal/wood may get burnt.

Needs to be safe from dogs.

Larger climbing frames/larger structures.

Toilets more accessible/visible.

More seating needed/cafe facilities.

Make more of the brook/bridges/water runs.

Q2. As part of our plans we have included play equipment to the value of £80,000. We have an additional £5000 of our budget to spend on play equipment and would like your views as to which one of these we should include.

“Sticker” votes from the consultation roadshows: -

<i>Option (in order of preference)</i>	<i>Votes/“Stickers”</i>
Option 1: Tema Multiplay Unit J4050/Toddler Play Tower	38
Option 2: Table Tennis Table	32
Option 5: Play Panels in the Splash Park	30
Option 4: Additional Pod Swing J441/Basket Swing	25
Option 3: Seating and Pathway /Play Picnic Tables	18

Responses from the online survey: -

Answer Choices	Responses %	Responses No.
Table Tennis Table	8.53%	7
Play Picnic Tables	12.19%	10
Toddler Play Tower and Climbing Wall	17.08%	14
Additional Basket Swing	10.98%	9
Play Panels to Improve Range of Features Within the Splash Pad	17.08%	14
Other (Please Specify)	34.14%	28
TOTAL	100.00%	82

“Other (please specify)”:-

Teen shelter/teen hut – lots of support for this option
 Covered area for rainy weather
 Larger climbing frame
 Bigger slide/helter-skelter
 Accessible equipment/wheelchair accessible roundabout
 Musical equipment

Combined overall scores:

<i>Option (in order of preference)</i>	Responses %	<i>Votes/“Stickers”</i>
Option 1: Tema Multiplay Unit J4050/Toddler Play Tower	23.1	52
Option 5: Play Panels in the Splash Park	19.6	44
Option 2: Table Tennis Table	17.3	39
Option 4: Additional Pod Swing J441/Basket Swing	15.1	34
Option 3: Seating and Pathway /Play Picnic Tables	12.4	28
Other	12.4	28
	100.0%	225

“Sticker” votes from consultation roadshows on colour of Multiplay Unit: -

Junior Multiplay Unit – Green/Blue/Yellow Option	47
Junior Multiplay Unit – Green/Orange/Yellow Option	17

Q3. Please use this space to make any other comments and suggestions about the proposed design or facilities for the Mundy Playing Fields that you think are relevant.

The main themes are very similar to main themes in Q1 above with some additions as follows

Ask the developers to contribute.

Shaded/covered picnic areas.

Cafe for drinks/snacks.

Clean/open toilets.

Pretty standard designs – look at other parks for inspiration.

Hard surface paths around the edge of the field for running, walks, wheelchair accessible, etc.

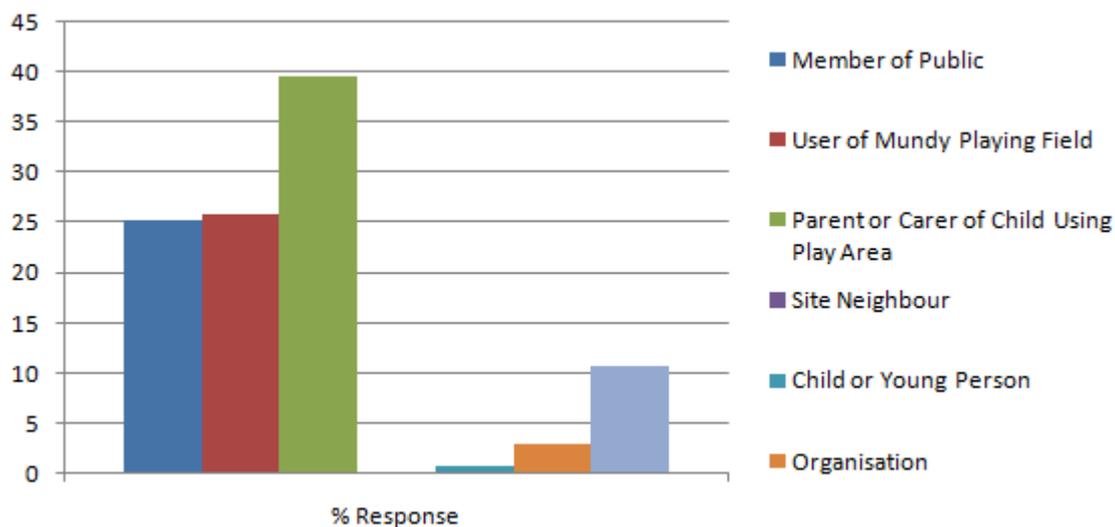
Water fountain/drinking water.

Large adventure play.

Fencing off the play area/keep dogs and dog mess out.

More benches around splash pad area.

Q4. Are you responding to this consultation as?



Q5. Please tell us your full postcode.

Post Code	Number
BS35	68
BS32	1
BS34	1
GL12	2
NP20	1

Response to the consultation

It is recommended that the Town Council respond to the consultation by carrying out the following actions:

1. Colour scheme

The colour scheme has clearly been voted on with a preference of the Green/Blue/Yellow option with 73% of voters choosing that option as opposed to Green/ Orange/ Yellow option which received only 27% of the vote.

It is therefore recommended that the Council chooses Green/ Blue/ Yellow for the colour scheme.

2. Additional Items

The votes for additional items have a fairly even spread. However the lead item is for the Toddler Play Tower to be added which would help to answer some of the additional comments about the lack of change/ items in the toddler area. There is also a high response for the play panels in the splash pad which would again answer many of the comments in the other sections of the survey for something more tactile and of interest in the splash pad area.

It is recommended that the Council agrees to the addition of the Toddler Play Tower to the design (picture below) and also to the addition of around 10 new interactive play panels around the splash pad (subject to the funds being available).



As the response was evenly spread it is recommended that the Council consider the other additional items for inclusion in any future phases of improvement.

3. Responses to other comments/ themes

a) Inclusion/ Accessibility for Wheelchair users/ Special Swings

This issue was mentioned several times. The company designing the scheme believes that the scheme does have a strong offering of equipment catering for inclusivity including the trampoline (which will take a wheelchair), roundabout, swings etc. The Council asked the supplier about the possibility of a wheelchair swing and received the following response,

'Wheelchair accessible swings caused a few issues within the industry last year with some nasty accidents to younger children playing around them, They are fairly bulky and obviously by nature swing low to the ground so the wheelchair can get onto the unit. Unfortunately due to the serious nature of the incidents within the industry, we are recommending they are fenced this year.'



To fence the swing of would lead to exclusivity rather than inclusivity. We therefore consider it might be a better option to include a second roundabout due to the popularity of the existing accessible one. It is also suggested that pathways be included both to the new and existing roundabout off the main path to allow for easier access. In discussion with the designer we are also looking at moving the new trampoline to nearer the main path and consider the inclusion of a second trampoline due again to the popularity of these inclusive items.

It is recommended that the design includes a second inclusive roundabout within the scheme and that there are pathways built to access the two roundabouts. It is also recommended to move the location of the trampoline to near the main pathway and consider an additional trampoline either as part of this scheme or as a future phase.

It is also recommended that the wheelchair accessible swing is considered as an option for when other play areas are improved that may be more suitable for the item.

b) Fencing of the Play Area

Play areas are traditionally fenced off to prevent any issues with nearby traffic. This is not the case with the Mundy Playing Fields and indeed the nature of the park is that it is open and not enclosed. The costs to erect a fence around the play area is also unreasonable and would mean a large amount of the budget would be spent on fencing rather than on new equipment. The sloping nature of the area and the changes in levels would also make it extremely difficult to erect fencing around the area.

It is recommended to NOT fence the play area.

c) Bigger/ more exciting designs

The funding for the new play area is coming solely from the Town Council. The other parks that people have mentioned in the consultation have large amounts of finance attached to them indeed some are over 5 times the amount that we have available. The Council put the project out to tender with the budget advertised, we had a good response and a good range of designs but this design met more of the Community requests (from the Carnival consultation) than the others and offers a good range of equipment and value for money.

The Council can consider looking at opportunities to apply for funding from elsewhere and can also consider future phases of improvements in future years.

It is recommended that the Council consider options to access other funding for improvements and considers future phases of improvements.

d) Why move the adult gym equipment?

Outdoor gym is now subject to its own European Safety Standard - **EN 16630** which highlights the need for equipment to be sited away and differentiated from children's play equipment

- These types of repetitive motions are not recommended for young child who require a much broader activity range for overall body development.
- Young child will generally not have the focus to carry out repetitive motions as intended. If encouraged to interact with the products of this type they will likely experiment with unintended uses, i.e. play with them. Items provided for 'Play' should comply with EN 1176, which is not the intention of these products.
- Products of this type are generally scaled for mature users and ours are designed for over 11 year olds.
- If the products are used in an uncontrolled way there could be hazards associated with them, such as, impact from moving parts, stressing of muscle groups through over extension and entrapment.

<http://www.api-play.org/upload/public/documents/Publications/OutdoorAdultFitness-May16FINAL.pdf>

It is recommended to relocate the adult gym equipment away from the main play area so it is in it's own distinct area.

e) Teen Shelter

There were several requests for a 'Teen Shelter' to be added to the Play Area. While the Council can see that there could be a need for provision of this kind for teenagers it is suggested that the Play Area would not be the most suitable location. If the Shelter is to be used in the evening then the Play Area is secluded with no lighting. It is therefore suggested that as the Town Council is working with Krunch and Streetspace on the installation of a 'hub' at the Skatepark this location is also considered for a Teen Shelter alongside other possible alternative sites within the Town.

It is recommended not to locate a Teen Shelter in the Mundy Playing Fields Play Area but to consider other locations with relevant partners.

f) Picnic tables/ seating/ shade

There were several comments made about additional tables and seats and also requests for some shade. We did ask for these elements within the original specification however the returned tenders showed that these could not all be considered within the current budget available. We did add a table and chair area as part of the options for the remaining design and although fairly popular was not the top priority. It is therefore suggested that the Council consider these within any other available budgets and also as part of any future phased

improvements. The options for creating shade are limited. Man-made shelters are extremely costly so it is suggested that we consider some further tree planting to create natural shade in the future.

It is recommended that the Council consider any other available budgets for seating and tables and for any future phases of improvements. It is also recommended the Council consider tree planting to create shade areas for the future.

g) Investment in other Play Areas in Thornbury

Several people asked as part of the survey and in comments on line about investment in other play areas within Thornbury. The Town Council has a rolling plan over the next 5 years to upgrade other play areas. This includes works at Streamleaze this month and allowance in this year's budgets for preliminary consultation for improvements at Osprey Park.