

## Community consultation for Improvements at Mayflower Road Play Area

St Stephen Parish Council plans to update Mayflower Road Field Play Area in 2025. The Council has reviewed the current provision and found that overall the play area is underutilised. We aim to provide a broad range of play opportunities across the Parish, avoiding repetition and fostering unique experiences at each location.

As part of the plan, the Council recently held a community consultation at Mayflower Road play area. The goal was to understand residents' needs and preferences for the space and to ensure we make the best use of available resources. Our aim is to create a revitalized and inclusive play area that offers engaging and enriching play opportunities for children.

### Consultation Process

The consultation process was an opportunity to promote Mayflower Road as a greenspace for the local community to enjoy, increase community engagement in the project and to allow residents to have their say. The consultation was in two parts:

- **Consultation Survey:** An on-line survey was available throughout October, receiving 139 responses that provided an overview of community priorities.
- **Consultation Workshop:** From 1pm to 4pm on October 30, we held a workshop at the play area to allow the community to engage directly, view design options and share ideas. Councillors Pryce and Berriman were on hand to talk to members of the community, receive feedback and answer questions. We collected 23 responses at the workshop.

### Findings

The main themes of the consultation we identified were:

#### **Safety and Security:**

- Concerns about early and late access
- The current use of the mixed space
- Better waste management, especially dog owners not picking up after their dogs
- Improved fencing
- Children's safety in the mixed play area
- Dog owners accessing the mixed space via the children's play area

#### **Facilities and amenities:**

- Additional seating, picnic benches

- Shelter
- Water fountain
- Toilets

## **Play equipment:**

- Swings, climbing frames, skate park
- New equipment for under 6s and over 6s

## **Accessibility and infrastructure:**

- Introducing paved pathways to improve accessibility during the winter

## **Appeal and setting:**

- Improve use and attract more families by updating equipment and brightening the space

The overall response from the community to making improvements and updating the space was positive. We have noted the need for providing new play equipment for younger and older children in the space. There were a lot of suggestions about the mixed space area and how to improve it. Based on this feedback, we are considering relocating the existing goal end into the play area and expanding that space to accommodate it. This adjustment would create a larger play area while designating a smaller section for mixed-use activities, better aligning with the community's preferences.

## **Key Community Suggestions for Improvements**

- **Inclusive play equipment:** Equipment suitable for younger children, under 6 and options for older children over 6.
- **Additional seating:** Many respondents suggested more seating to make the park more family-friendly
- **Reorganising the space:** Maintain separate play area and mixed use spaces while expanding the play area to incorporate the relocated goal end.
- **Quiet, open atmosphere:** Maintaining the calm, quiet atmosphere and the openness of the site in particular for children with additional needs.

## **Suggestions We Cannot Include and Why:**

- **Upgrading Mayflower Flower to match Woodbury Field:** Woodbury Field's play area was upgraded with S106 funds from developments at Hanstead Park and the BRE site. S106 funds are restricted to play areas within a 10 minute walk of the contributing development. While there will potentially be some S106 money for

Mayflower Road it will not contribute the majority of the cost of updating the space.

- **Toilets facilities/water:** The cost of installing infrastructure, constructing buildings and ongoing maintenance exceeds the current budget. Greenwood Park, a short drive/walk away will continue to serve as the designated site for these amenities.
- **Sandbox/pit:** The site and maintenance requirements make adding a sandbox impractical for this location.
- **Path ways:** Drainage on the site is fairly good, as it is a field, it will be muddier in the winter months. The intention is to ensure the field remains as much greenspace as possible.
- **Locking the park at night:** Open access will continue as there has not been an increase in antisocial behaviour since the decision was taken to no longer lock the park at night.

## Equipment Preferences from the Workshop:

Equipment	Multi goal	Rhombus Twister	Jumper
Preferences	5	0	5

Equipment	Triple Tower	Boogie spinner	Cocowave
Preferences	2	3	2

Equipment	Cliff rider	Metal frame	Explorer dome	Sensory dome	Wooden frame
Preferences	4	7	10	1	7

## Workshop Comments

We received helpful comments at the workshop:

- A suggestion for a shelter for use in bad weather.
- A reminder that catering to a range of ages, from toddlers to teens, would make the space more inclusive.

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- Concern about dog/mixed space etiquette and ways to ensure a positive experience for families with children using or passing through the mixed space area.

We appreciate all the feedback and will share project updates as we progress. Thank you to all who took the time to complete the survey or who came along to the workshop and for helping to make Mayflower Road Play Area a better space for everyone!

Thank you for your time and involvement.