

LOSTWITHIEL PLAYGROUND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ...THE RESULTS



"Lost In Play" is a community group that has recently formed to work with the Town Council in order to raise enough funds to significantly improve Lostwithiel's playgrounds, in particular the King George V reserve and Coulson Park. It was decided that the best way to consult the community and ascertain their requirements and ideas for any play area improvements was by way of a questionnaire. We had a fantastic response to the survey; with a total of 86 respondents, representing 17.68% of the distribution, **so thank you very much for your support!**



Of the 86 respondents 15% said they were happy with the current play area provision in the town, while 85% said they were not happy with it. However all of the respondents aged 6 and under also indicated via their responses to the rest of the questionnaire that significant improvements were needed.

Relevant comments included:

Too little equipment	56%
Vandalism/glass	33%
Flooding/muddy	27%
Equipment not suitable for all ages	23%
Safety of equipment	22%
Dog Mess	1%



When asked which park should be given priority for improvement, 32% said KGV, 18% said Coulson while the remaining 50% said both are in equally poor state/don't know.



When asked what people should be able to do, responses were as follows:

KING GEORGE V	%	COULSON	%
Running	88	Running	70
Jumping	90	Jumping	74
Climbing	98	Climbing	87
Swinging	96	Swinging	84.5
Imaginative/Free Play	75	Imaginative/Free Play	80
Exploring Nature	71	Exploring Nature	80
Team Play	84.5	Team Play	64
Noisy Play	83	Noisy Play	69
Quiet Play	64	Quiet Play	64
Chatting	76	Chatting	73
Other	3	Other (gym/spinning)	



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When asked how the parks should look, responses were as follows:

KING GEORGE V	%	COULSON	%
Bright & Colourful	86	Bright & Colourful	49
Innovative	54	Innovative	32
Landscaped/contoured	38	Landscaped/contoured	43
Level	43	Level	33
Metallic	25	Metallic	18
Natural	43	Natural	56
Themed	26	Themed	14
Traditional	33	Traditional	32
Unusual	36	Unusual	26
Urban	23	Urban	9
Wooden	30	Wooden	55



When asked what equipment should be in the parks, responses were as follows:

KING GEORGE V	%	COULSON	%
Assault Course	73	Assault Course	49
Benches	86	Benches	69
Climbing Frame	92	Climbing Frame	58
Climbing Rocks	61	Climbing Rocks	46
Fireman's Pole	76	Fireman's Pole	36
Grass Mounds	36	Grass Mounds	56
House or Hut	64	House or Hut	62
Logs	39	Logs	58
Monkey Bars	84	Monkey Bars	46
Rope Climbers	69	Rope Climbers	51
Roundabout	77	Roundabout	50
See-saw	82	See-saw	54
Shade/Shelter	70	Shade/Shelter	55
Slide	90	Slide	61
Stepping Stones	56	Stepping Stones	59
Swings older children	92	Swings older children	64
Swings young children	90	Swings young children	71
Trees	45	Trees	58
Tree stumps	39	Tree stumps	56
Tunnels	69	Tunnels	54
Zip Wire	79	Zip Wire	37



When asked what surfacing should be in the parks, responses were as follows:

KING GEORGE V	%	COULSON	%
Wet Pour	56	Wet Pour	43
Grass Matting	30	Grass Matting	27
Bark Chips	21	Bark Chips	32
Grass	23	Grass	30
Other (Astro)	2	Other (Astro)	2



When asked which other playgrounds were used in Cornwall, responses were as follows:

St Austell/Poltair	49%
Wadebridge	33%
Lanhydrock & Cardinham	18%
Bodmin	12%
Others –	38%
Roche/Newquay/Penwithick/Treverbryn/St Blazey/Tregrehan/Looe/Padstow/Lanivet/St Neot/Bude/Bugle/Penryn/Fowey	
None	9.5%



Reasons given for using other parks in Cornwall were as follows:

Good equipment	23%
Variety of equipment	25%
Suitability for all ages	21%
Bins/Lack of Vandalism/No Dogs	18%
Picnic/Seating areas	18%
Gated/fenced toddler area	16%
Well Maintained/Clean	8%



When asked what else should be considered when planning any changes to Lostwithiel's playgrounds, responses were as follows:

- Wheelchair accessible
- Digging Area/Sandpit
- Enlarge both play areas
- Climbing towers/use of height
- Spinning/exercise equipment for adults
- Tennis Court
- Hide and Seek areas
- Sound tunnels
- Round net swing
- Water play/fountain
- Ball sports
- Ban Dogs

CONCLUSION

Lostwithiel is a vibrant community, which caters well for its older members with various clubs and activities. However, as the results of this questionnaire show, play facilities which should cater for the large number of young families and their children are sorely lacking.

The importance of play in child development has long been recognised. With improved facilities not only will the children benefit, but also the community as a whole. Well appointed playgrounds provide a vital social arena where families and friends can congregate while children learn through play in a safe and appropriate environment.

The Town Council acknowledges that Lostwithiel's current play facilities are unsatisfactory and has duly set aside funds to contribute to their improvement. Lost In Play, the community group organizing this venture have used the findings of this questionnaire to draw up plans for the two playgrounds. They are now actively working towards raising the remaining funds needed to make the plans a reality.



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