



AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

**HORFIELD AND LOCKLEAZE
NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP**

03 March 2016

Report of: Nicola Hazell – Operations Manager, Groundwork South

Title: The Vench Adventure Playground Enhancement Project
Stage 2 Report & Stage 3 Update

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Recommendation/ Decision:

- Approve proposal for Stage 3, formally awarding Groundwork South the £100,000 'in principle' S106 funding.

Stage 2 Progress Report

Groundwork South was awarded £43,000 S106 funding on 7th October 2015 for Stage 2 of The Vench Adventure Playground enhancement project. Since the last Neighbourhood Partnership meeting we have:

- worked with SPLASH Projects to reinstate the existing zip wire, including installing rubber safety matting and padding on the MUGA fence and restored access (less than 4m high) to the drop slide and made the repairs identified in the ROSPA report, bringing both features back into service
- carried out extensive community consultation on the design of the enhancements to the APG.

Following a consultation exercise and a tender process, SPLASH Projects were commissioned to reinstate access to the drop slide, carry out repairs to it and rebuild and reinstate the zip wire. The structure built adjacent to the drop slide has not only reinstated access to this popular adventurous play feature, but is a play structure in its own right. In addition, SPLASH projects overhauled and reinstated the zip wire. As well as making safety improvements to the platforms, safety matting has been laid underneath the entire length of the zip wire, and padding has been fixed to the MUGA fencing. Safety harnesses have been ordered to ensure users safety. Selina O'Sullivan oversaw the project management of Stage 2 with support from Nicola Hazell.

Bristol City Council have been back on site to replace some elements of the air balloon structure so that it conforms to the original specification.

Approval was obtained by the Neighbourhood Partnership at the December 2015 meeting for us to roll over the underspend of this grant to Stage 3, to ensure that funds are spent on a well thought out design as part of the larger final stage of the enhancement project. A breakdown of the Stage 2 expenditure to date is below:

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| INCOME | £ |
| BCC S106 | £43,000 |

| | |
|---|----------------|
| EXPENDITURE | |
| SPLASH Projects | £33,000 |
| | £1,500 |
| Bristol Wood Recycling Project – removal of rotten wood | £270 |
| GWS Project Management (Inc community consultation - Selina O’Sullivan) | £2,025 |
| Repairs to floodlights | £1,200 |
| Total Expenditure | £37,995 |
| Balance to rollover to Stage 3 | £5,005 |

The third element of Stage 2 was for Groundwork South to carry out an extensive community consultation for Stage 3 of the Enhancement Project.

Stage 3 Community Consultation

Groundwork commissioned an initial design for stage 3 of the enhancement project with suggested photos of each of the proposed areas from SPLASH Projects. This design was based on feedback from The Vench’s Steering Group and from the children and young people who SPLASH had consulted with on a session in early October – this was then used at sessions to talk to people about what they might like and what any new or redesigned structures would look like.

From October to January, Groundwork talked to local children, young people and families at sessions delivered at Goblin Combe (LPW visit), The Wordsworth Centre, The Hub and of course The Vench.

An online survey was run over three weeks during January – this was promoted on Groundwork’s website, on social media, through local schools and partner organisations, on community noticeboards, local businesses and residents and at various sessions.

Whilst the survey was aimed at 8-19 year olds, for whom there was an incentive of a £25 Love2Shop voucher, it also captured the views of local adults – staff and parents alike. There were 59 respondents in total to the survey.

A copy of the full consultation report can be found at Appendix 1. Findings from the consultation will be used to inform the next stage of the design process.

An 'in principle' procurement process is underway for the Stage 3 design and build, a verbal progress update on this will be given at the meeting.

If this request is approved, we will work to the following delivery timescale:

| March | April | May | June | July |
|--|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Formally award contract to preferred provider | Order materials | Contractor commences work on site | Physical construction continues | Completion ahead of school holidays |
| Finalise design with Steering Group and users. | Plan and publicise opportunities for community and corporate involvement with physical build. | Opportunities for corporate and community involvement in the build. | Opportunities for corporate and community involvement in the build. | Celebratory opening event |
| Apply for planning permission (if applicable) | | | | |

We request that the Neighbourhood Partnership formally awards the 'in principle' £100,000 of S106 funding to Groundwork South to enable contractors to be appointed and Stage 3 of the enhancement project to be completed.

GROUNDWORK

Appendix 1

Lockleaze Youth & Play Space Adventure Playground Enhancement Project Consultation Summary Report January 2016

Introduction

At the meeting in October 2015, the Horfield and Lockleaze Neighbourhood Partnership allocated S106 funding to Groundwork South to consult with local children and young people about further improvements to the adventure playground.

Sessions

From October to January, Groundwork talked to local children, young people and families at sessions delivered at Goblin Combe (LPW visit), The Wordsworth Centre, The Langley Centre, The Hub and of course The Vench.

Groundwork commissioned an initial design for the site with suggested photos of each of the proposed areas from Splash Projects. This site layout design was based on feedback from The Vench's Steering Group and from the children and young people who they had consulted with on a session in early October – this was then used at sessions to talk to people about what they might like any new or redesigned structures to look like.

Three daytime drop in sessions for local people were held on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the three weeks of the survey, one at The Hub and two at The Vench.

Children, young people and adults alike were keen on the idea of having a new more welcoming entrance to the site and were evenly split between the two suggested images – one a bright, colourful arched gateway, the other a modern, futuristic entrance way.

There were two particular images of a multi storey play structure that were the most popular with the children – both were large scale wooden structures with towers, rope walkways, ramps and different levels. The most popular was a large structure with a walkway between two towers and with rubber matting underneath.

The other most popular type of structure was an outdoor covered seating area with the most popular image by far being a modern wooden outside seating area with cushions that had circular openings on two sides – this particularly appealed to the older young people. They also liked the modern covered pods.

Of the remaining images, the most popular was the den building image which featured a central platform area with small runways off in different directions along with a pod/shed to store materials. Den building was one of the activities that the 15 children from The Vench particularly enjoyed on a trip to Goblin Combe with a number of them saying that they'd like to do this as an activity more often.

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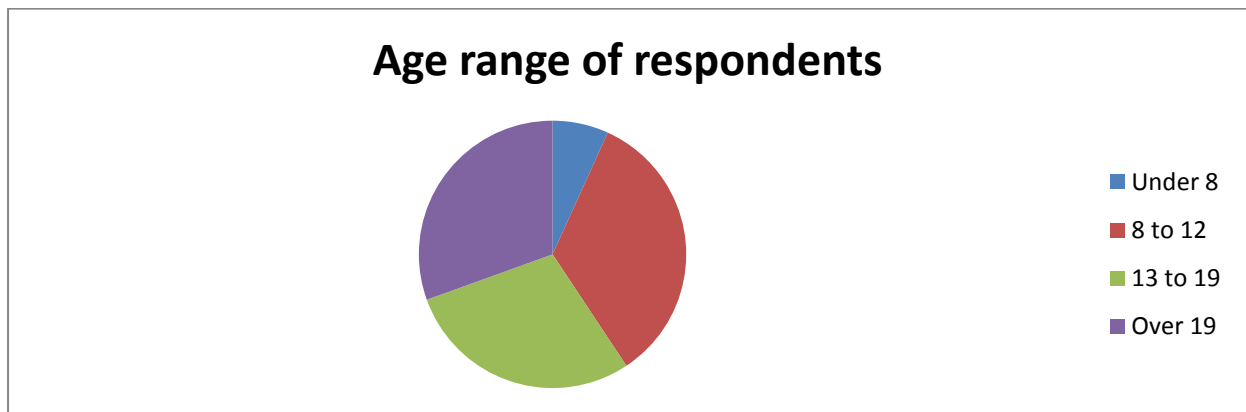
Survey

An online survey was run over three weeks during January – this was promoted on Groundwork South’s website, on social media, through local schools and partner organisations, on community noticeboards, local businesses and residents and at various sessions both on site and at local venues.

The survey whilst aimed at 8-19 year olds, for whom there was an incentive of a £25 Love2Shop voucher also captured the views of local adults – staff and parents alike. There were 59 respondents in total to the survey.

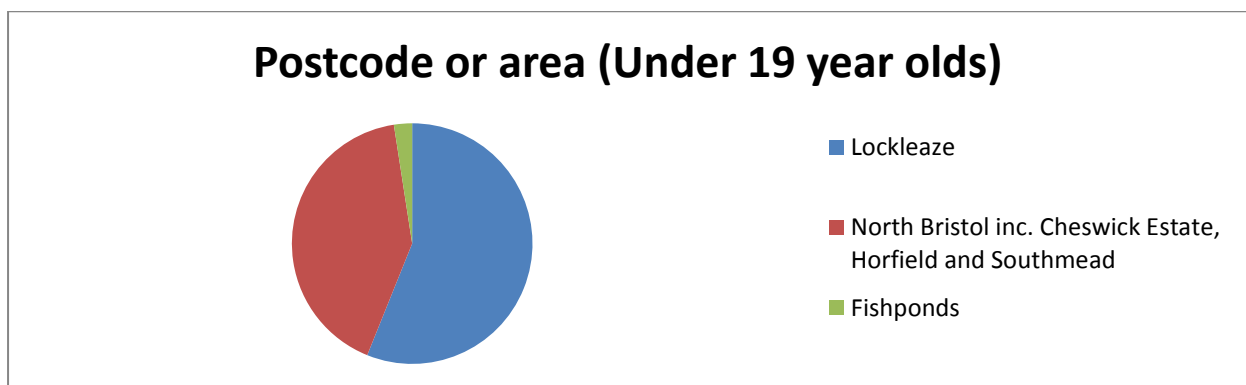
Age:

37 or 63% were in the target age range of 8 to 19 and 70% being the total number of children and young people who completed the survey



Postcode or area:

23 of the 40 children and young people who answered this question live in Lockleaze and 16 of the remaining 17 live in North Bristol -Cheswick Estate, Horfield and Southmead. Only 1 person lives further out.

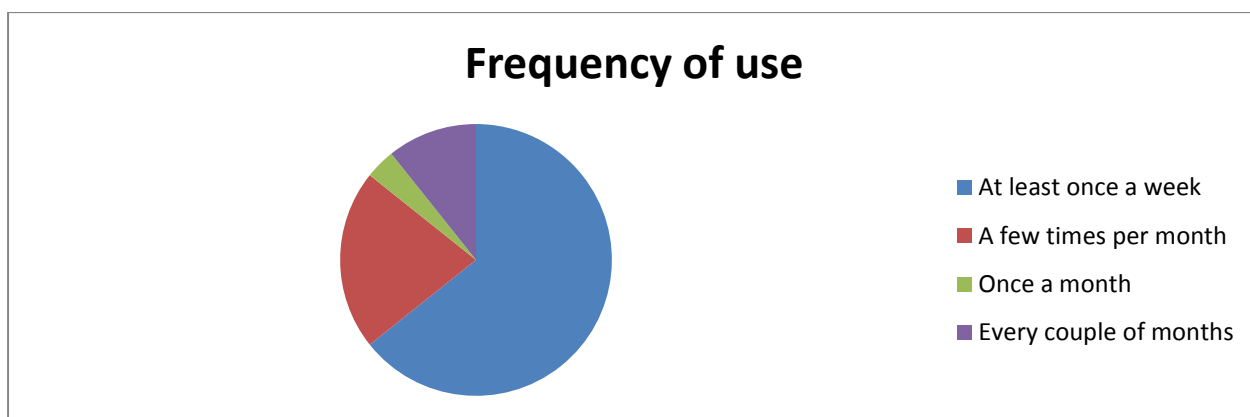
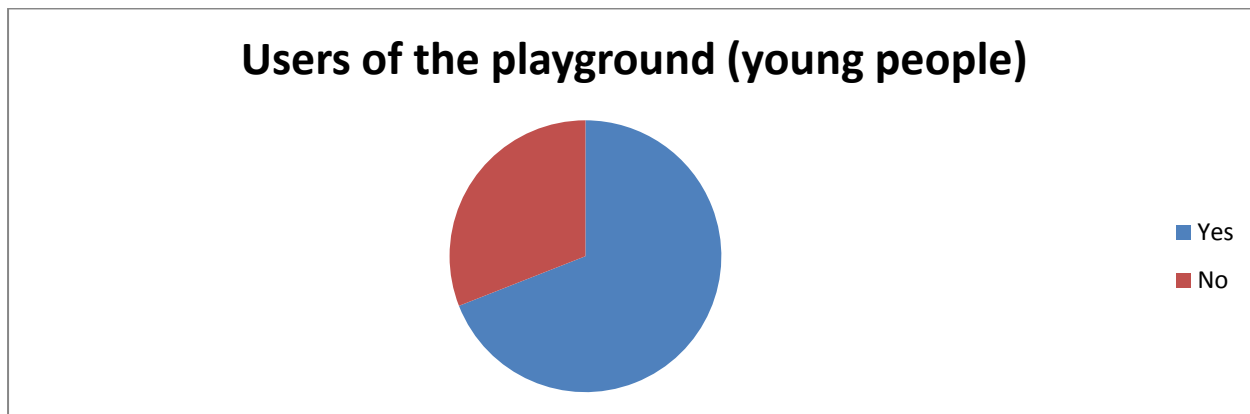


School:

The highest number of young people (8 or 20%) go to Orchard School with Stoke Park Primary second with 7 or 18%

Users of the playground:

29 or 71% of the children and young people stated that they use the playground and 18 or 62% attend at least once a week.

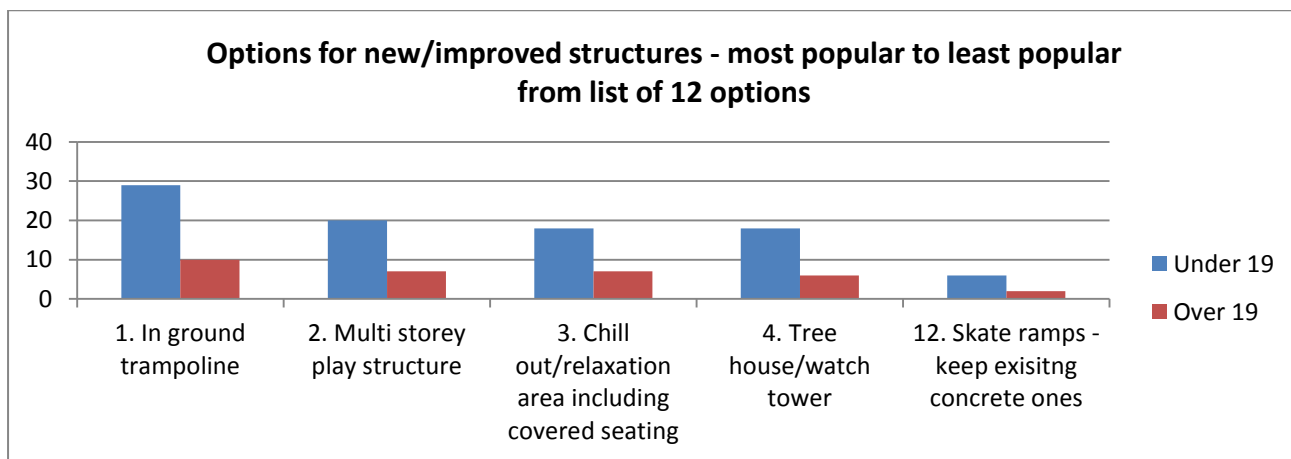


Of the 13 respondents who stated that they didn't attend the playground, 5 gave "other" as their reason with one of these saying that it was their third time of attendance, one saying that they "used to but no one will come with me" and one saying that they're only 4 and have a 2.5 year old sister. Four respondents stated that there was no reason why they don't attend.

Suggested new structures – respondents picked 4 options from a list of 12:

The most popular new structure for children and young people (41 respondents) was an in ground trampoline with 29 votes, followed by multi storey play structure with 20 votes, then a "chill out/relaxation area including covered seating" and tree house/watch tower with 18 votes each.

The least popular suggestion amongst children and young people was to keep the existing skate ramps with only 6 votes.



Amongst the replies received in answer to the question about suggestions for how the adventure playground could be improved were a swimming pool, floodlights, more trips (rock climbing and more), a recording studio.

The votes amongst the 18 respondents aged over 19 reflected the children and young people’s with the in-ground trampoline being the most popular and the retention of the skate ramps being the least popular.

Other suggestions for improvement from the adults were for a more welcoming entrance, a BBQ area, creative workshops, to update the hut with more craft options, replace structure and astro-turf the pitch and more funding.

Conclusion

From previous consultation, we were aware that children and young people would like to see a trampoline and particularly for the older ones, a “chill out” area. Both of these were included in the Stage 1 design for the playground but later had to be excluded from the final design on the grounds of cost as the only tender that was received was £20K over budget.

The popularity of both of these “structures” was borne out by findings at both the sessions and in the responses to the survey amongst all ages of respondents.

The least popular option was keeping the skate ramps. The children and young people who talked about the skate ramps stated that they didn’t use them for skating but rather for playing on or for hanging out – this could be due to their elevated position at the furthest edge of the site. There is of course, a large skate park outside Horfield Leisure Centre.

A couple of respondents suggested more for the under 5’s which is not in the existing Council contract’s age range. There is a range of suitable structures for this younger age range in Gainsborough Square which is less than two minutes walk away.

The prize draw for the Love2Shop voucher will be carried out on Thursday 4 February to allow for any late respondents.

Selina O’Sullivan
Project Manager
February 2016



The Vench adventure playground improvements

Your views

Page 1 / 1 100% of survey complete.

Introduction: Groundwork South run Lockleaze Youth and Play Space, known as The Vench. We are planning to make some improvements to the adventure playground during 2016 (subject to funding) and need your help to decide what to do.

1. Age - how old are you?

2. Where do you live? Please enter your postcode or area

3. Which school (if any) do you attend?

- Fairfield High School
- Filton Avenue Nursery School and Children's Centre
- Filton Avenue Primary School
- Glenfrome Primary School
- Orchard School
- Stoke Park Primary School
- Upper Horfield Community School & Children's Centre
- Wallscourt Farm Academy
- Other (please say)

4. Do you use the adventure playground?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable as over 19

5. If you answered yes, how often do you come to the adventure playground?

- Every couple of months
- Once a month

- A few times per month
- At least once a week
- Not applicable as over 19

6. If you answered no, is there a reason why?

- No reason
- Nothing on adventure playground that I enjoy
- Don't know anybody there
- Don't know enough about it
- Attend youth sessions and don't use outside space
- Not applicable - over 19
- Other (please specify)

7. The adventure playground already has a tarmac games court, drop slide, zip wire, small basket swing, small slide and climbing wall. What other new structure/equipment would you most like to see? Please choose 4 of the following options

- American Swing
- Astroturf court and floodlights
- Beach/ sand/ water play area
- Chill out/relaxation area including covered seating
- Den building area
- In ground trampoline
- Multi-storey play structure
- Multi use covered stage with amphitheatre style seating
- Sensory garden area including edible garden, sensory trail, insect homes etc
- Skate ramps - keep existing concrete ones
- Swings
- Tree house/watch tower

Other (please make your own suggestion)

8. Do you have any other suggestions for how the adventure playground could be improved?**9. Would you like to be involved in the build project at the adventure playground? If yes, please leave contact details below:**

Full name:

Email Address:

Telephone no:

Organisation (if applicable):

10. If you would like to be kept informed about developments at the adventure playground, please leave contact details below. Alternatively, contact Selina O'Sullivan at Groundwork South, Lockleaze Youth and Play Space, Romney Avenue, Lockleaze, Bristol, BS7 9TD. Tel: 0117 910 3930 Email: selina.osullivan@groundwork.org.uk

Full name:

Email Address:

Telephone no:

Organisation (if applicable):

11. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

If you are aged between 8 and 19, we would like to enter you into a prize draw for a £25 Love 2 Shop voucher which can be used in shops including New Look, Argos, Toys R Us, Superdrug, Pizza Express, Oasis, Debenhams, Peacocks, Boots, TK Maxx, Waterstones and many more. If you would like to be included, please add your name, age, a contact telephone number and an email address.

Full name:

Age:

Telephone number:

Email address:

Done - thanks!

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