



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

**School Lane, Arkwright Play Area Consultation
SUMMARY REPORT
October 2024**

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October 2024

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Distribution

Recipient	Issue	Date
Cate Harris	Final Report	07/10/24
Darren Mitchell	Final Report	07/10/24
Joy Redfern	Final Report	07/10/24
Kath Drury	Final Report	07/10/24

Background

North East Derbyshire District Council are considering the upgrading of the play and recreation facilities at School Lane, Arkwright.

Prior to making any decisions, views of local residents were sought via a public consultation, to gauge what improvements they would like to see at the site in the future.

Survey Methodology

The surveys were made available either online or via paper copy, with promotion within the local community through advertising posters and general community engagement, with additional social media promotion via the NEDDC Communications Team. The survey ran for 3 weeks, closing on Sunday 25th August.

Sample Size and Response Rate

The survey attracted a total of **32 responses**, all of which were completed online.

No demographic information was recorded for this consultation.

The percentages throughout the report may not always add exactly to 100% due to rounding.

A Snap standard report containing comments added by respondents has also been forwarded to the stakeholder distribution list.

Executive Summary

School Lane, Arkwright, Play Area Consultation

- 84.4% of respondents stated that they would prefer to see play area improvements made to play equipment, with 12.5% preferring to see improvements made to all surrounds (i.e., shrub bed etc.).
- The main reasons cited by respondents who preferred making improvements to play equipment were 'current equipment is outdated or in poor condition', 'currently there is a lack of play equipment / more needed' and 'more play equipment needed for younger children'.
- When asked to consider play area priorities, 81.3% of respondents selected 'equipment which encourages active play', with 65.6% selecting 'sensory activities (i.e., movement, balance, touch etc.)' 62.5% 'improving physical access to the play area', 59.4% 'equipment which encourages imaginative play' and 56.3% 'inclusive activities for disabled and non-disabled children to play together'.
- In respect of pieces of equipment respondents would like to see introduced, the most mentions were for more climbing equipment, a slide, a zipline, a roundabout, swings, a seesaw and more equipment for younger children (general).
- 68.8% of respondents to the consultation stated that they have children aged 14 or under and a further 20.0% stated that they have grandchildren aged 14 or under.
- In regard to the age groups of respondent's children / grandchildren / children within their care, 60.0% care for children under 5 years old, 60.0% care for children between 5-8 years old, 50.0% care for children between 9-12 years old and 13.3% care for children 13-14 years old.
- 93.5% of respondents care for children who use the School Lane, Arkwright play area.
- In terms of how often the children use the play area, the most popular response was 1-3 times a week at 34.5%, followed by at least once a month at 31.0%, and 4-6 times a week at 13.8%.

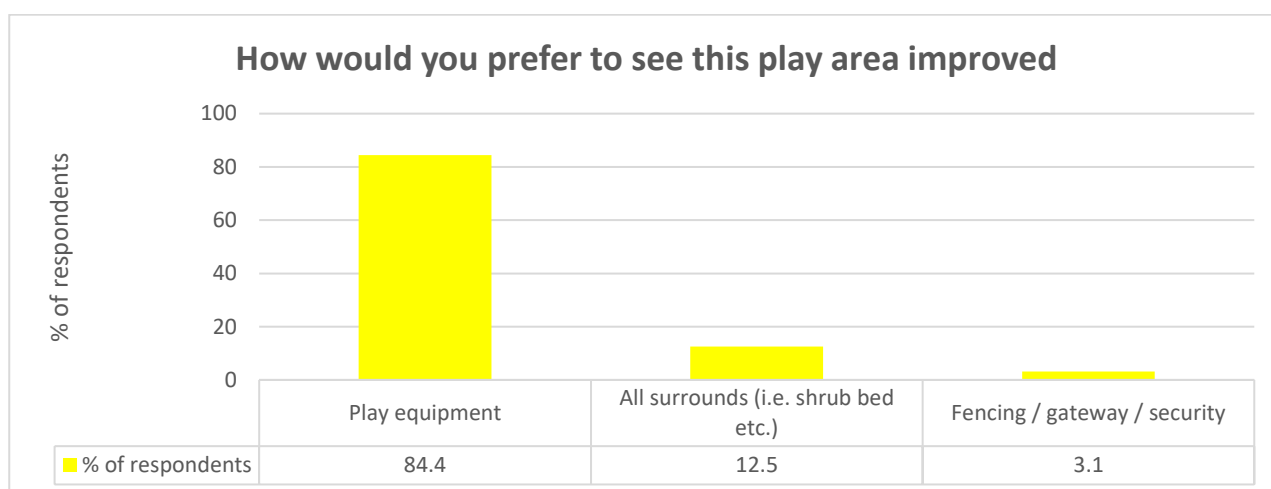
School Lane, Arkwright, Play Area Consultation - Survey Results

Overview

North East Derbyshire District Council are considering the upgrading of the play and recreation facilities at School Lane, Arkwright. The survey was designed to ascertain views of local residents to give an indication of what improvements they would like to see at the site in the future.

Detail

The respondents were asked to consider how they would prefer to see the play area improved, with 27 people (84.4%) selecting improvements to play equipment and 4 people (12.5%) selecting improvements to all surrounds (i.e., shrub bed etc.).



The consultation asked the respondents why they selected the above option, responses split into the following categories with 'Current play equipment is outdated or in poor condition', 'Currently a lack of play equipment', and 'More play equipment needed for younger children' being the most frequently cited: -

Consultation response category	No. of comments
Current play equipment is outdated or in poor condition / needs modernising	15
Currently a lack of play equipment / more equipment needed	9
More play equipment needed for younger children	7
Improvements needed (general comments)	5
More variety / current play equipment lacks excitement / does not challenge or stimulate	4
New / safe flooring needed within the park	4
Updated fencing / gateway / security needed	2
More play equipment needed for older children	2
Play area has high usage / very busy	1
Add seating / benches / picnic area	1
Play area needs cleaning / tidying	1
More equipment required for disabled children	1

See Appendix 1 for comment details.

The consultation asked what changes the respondents would like to see made at the play area, 'Increase / add new play equipment', 'Variety of play equipment for all child age ranges', 'New / safe flooring within the park' and 'Add climbing equipment' were the most frequently cited. See below for the full list of response categories: -

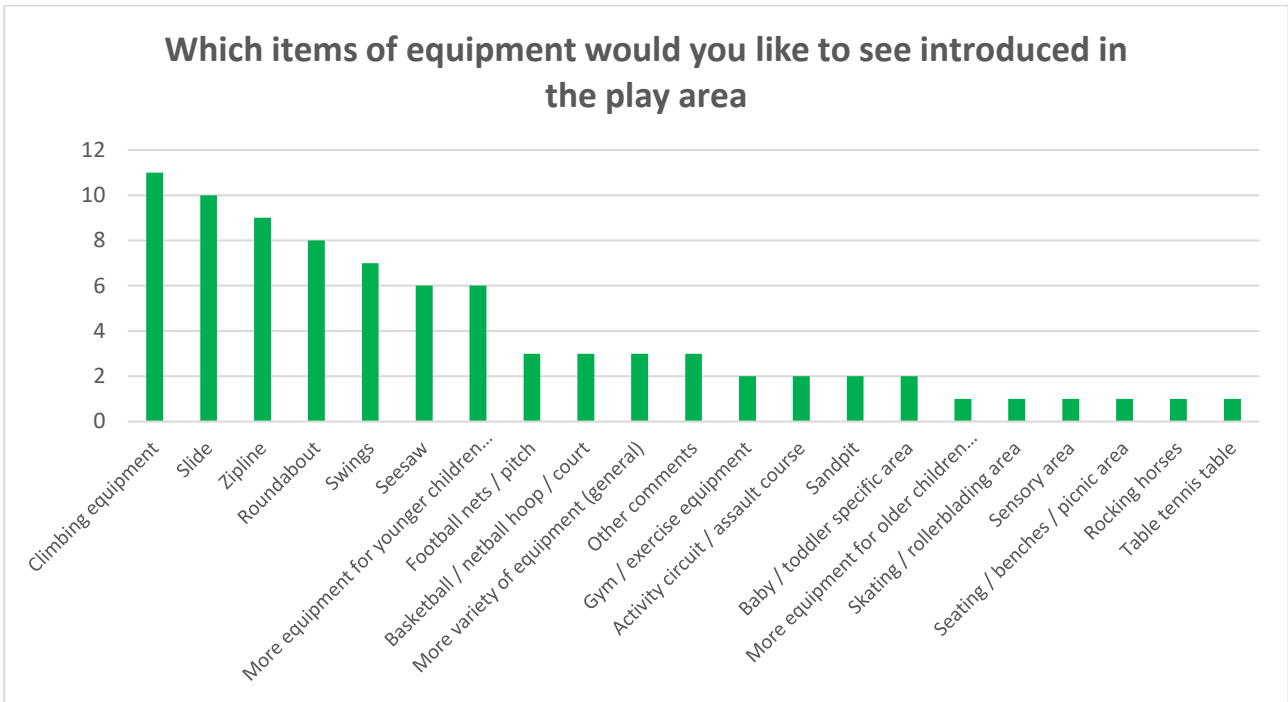
Consultation response category	No. of comments
Increase / add new play equipment	14
Variety of play equipment for all child age ranges	8
New / safe flooring within the park	7
Add climbing equipment	6
Add swings	5
Improvements required (general comments)	5
Extend the play area / more space available	4
Improve surrounding area / green spaces / landscaping	3
Add zipline	2
Add slides	2
Add roundabout	2
Add gym / fitness equipment	2
Add seating / benches / picnic area	1
More equipment / improved accessibility for disabled children	1
Add football nets / pitch	1
Add basketball / netball hoop / court	1
Fencing / gateway / security improvements	1
Baby / toddler specific area	1
Add sensory equipment	1

See Appendix 2 for comment details.

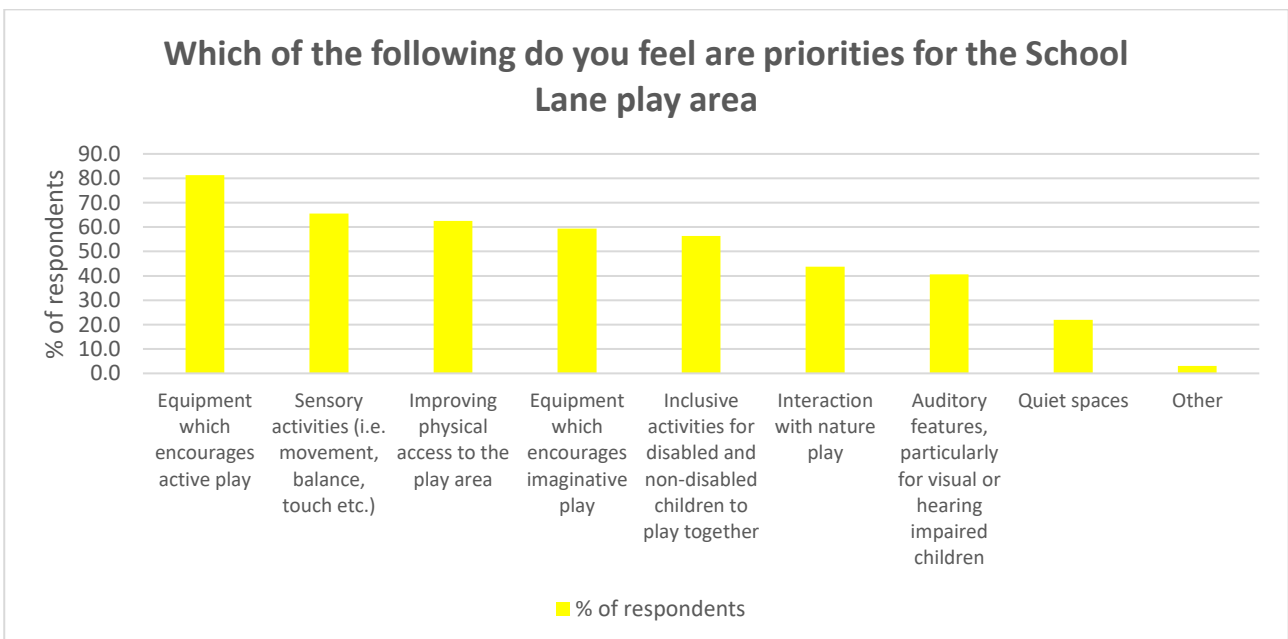
The consultation asked respondents to suggest which pieces of play equipment they would like to see introduced into the play area. See below for the full list of response categories, but the most frequently listed within replies were climbing equipment, a slide, a zipline, a roundabout, swings, a seesaw and more equipment for younger children (general).

Equipment	No. of mentions within comments
Climbing equipment	11
Slide	10
Zipline	9
Roundabout	8
Swings	7
Seesaw	6
More equipment for younger children (general)	6
Football nets / pitch	3
Basketball / netball hoop / court	3
More variety of equipment (general)	3
Other comments	3
Gym / exercise equipment	2
Activity circuit / assault course	2
Sandpit	2

Baby / toddler specific area	2
More equipment for older children (general)	1
Skating / rollerblading area	1
Sensory area	1
Seating / benches / picnic area	1
Rocking horses	1
Table tennis table	1

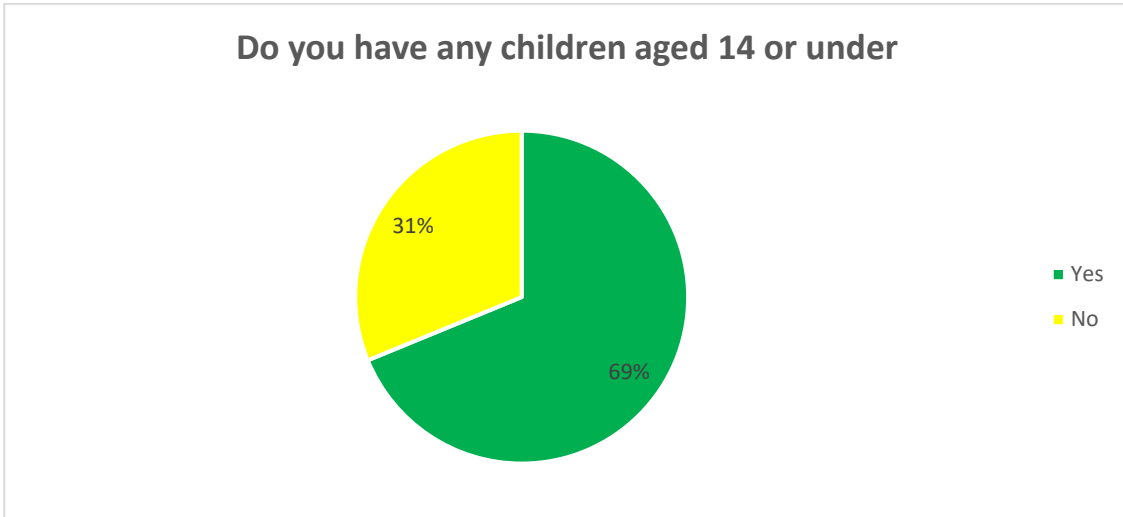


When asked to consider play area priorities, 81.3% of respondents selected ‘equipment which encourages active play’, with 65.6% selecting ‘sensory activities (i.e., movement, balance, touch etc.)’ 62.5% ‘improving physical access to the play area’, 59.4% ‘equipment which encourages imaginative play’ and 56.3% ‘inclusive activities for disabled and non-disabled children to play together’.

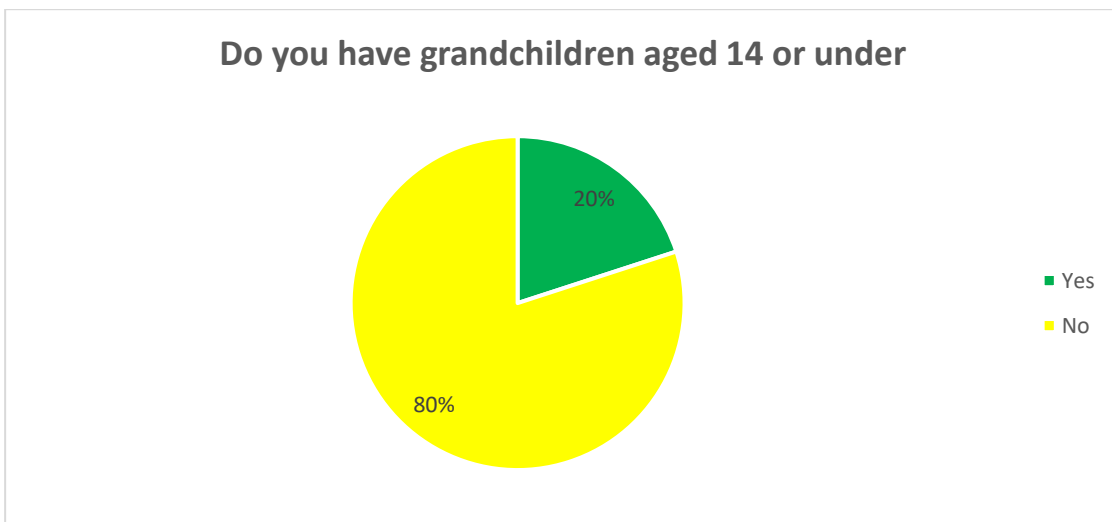


Respondents selecting 'Other' referenced the need to increase seating areas, and the need for a separate ball game area.

The consultation asked respondents whether they have any children aged 14 or under, 68.8% of people who completed the survey said they did.

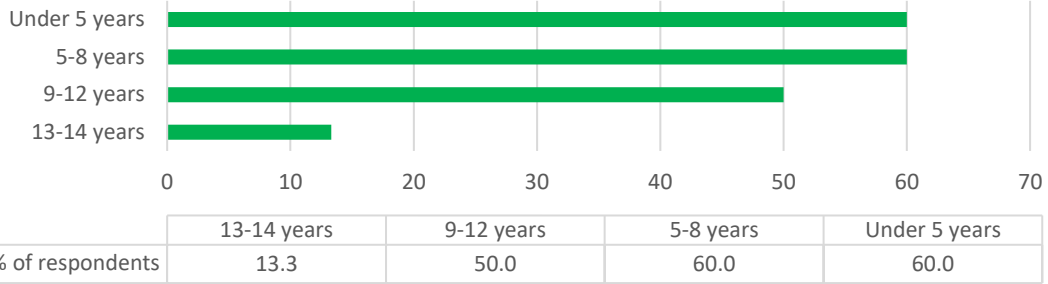


In a similar vein, respondents were asked if they have any grandchildren aged 14 or under, 20.0% of people who completed the survey said they did.



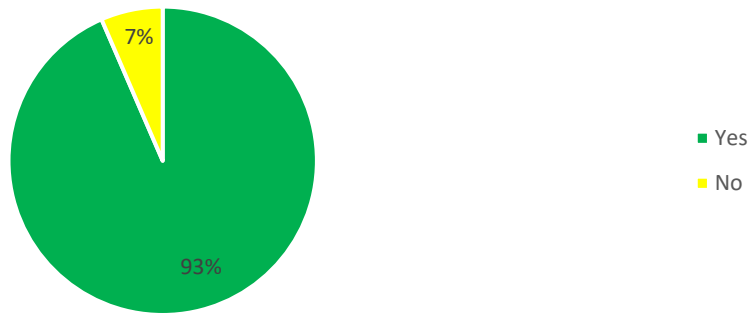
In regard to the age groups of respondent's children, grandchildren, or children within their care, 60.0% care for children under 5 years old, 60.0% care for children between 5-8 years old, 50.0% care for children between 9-12 years old and 13.3% care for children 13-14 years old.

If you answered 'Yes' to the above, which age groups do the children fall into



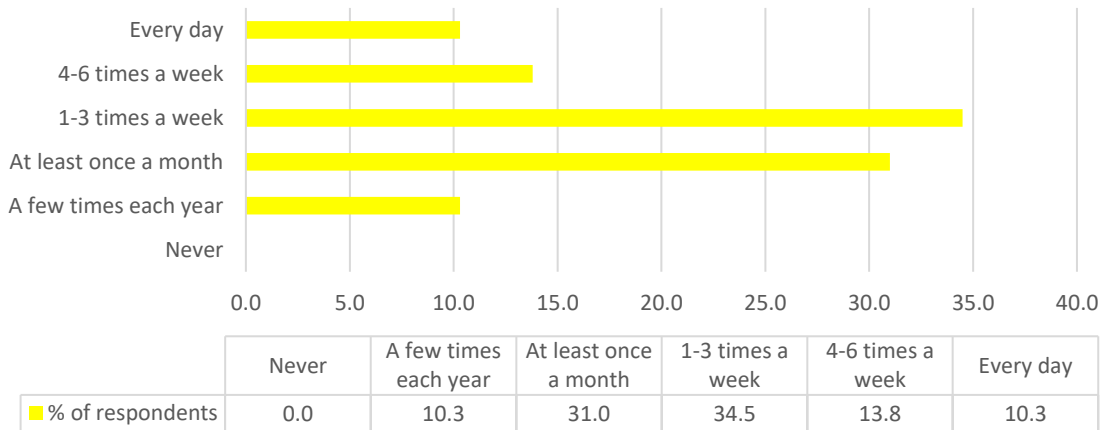
In terms of usage of the School Lane play area, 93.5% of respondents care for children who currently use the facilities.

Do any of these children use this play area



Respondents who answered that their children use the play area were then asked how often they use it, the most popular response was 1-3 times a week at 34.5%, followed by at least once a month at 31.0%, and 4-6 times a week at 13.8%.

If 'Yes', please tell us how often the children use the play area



The consultation asked the respondents for any additional comments, 'General comments suggesting improvement is required', 'Adding equipment to engage children', and 'General maintenance of the facilities e.g. grass cutting, bins etc.' were the most cited. See below for the full list of response categories: -

Consultation response category	No. of comments
General comments suggesting improvement is required	8
Add engaging equipment	2
General maintenance (grass cutting, bins etc.)	2
Other comments	2
Security / safety improvements	1
Currently a lack of play equipment	1
More play equipment needed for younger children	1
Extend the play area / make bigger	1
Add seating / benches / picnic area	1
Issues with anti-social behaviour	1

See Appendix 3 for comment details.

Appendices

Please note: - it is not practical to include every comment within the report appendices, however, the comments below reflect the general feeling of the respondents with positive and negative responses (where applicable) for balance and focus on the more popular response categories (top 6 from each question). A full list of comments has been sent to the stakeholder group and should be read in association with this summary report.

Appendix 1 – How would you prefer to see the play area improved and the reason.

Current play equipment is outdated / in poor condition / needs modernising.

Play equipment could be updated and expanded.

The equipment at the park is very old.

The play equipment is dated.

The equipment is old, and rusty.

It's very old equipment and it's broken.

The play equipment is tired.

Play equipment isn't the best.

The play equipment is not very good anymore and there needs to be more to play on.

Currently a lack of play equipment / more equipment needed.

Play equipment could be expanded, there wasn't a great deal to keep the grandchildren occupied.

More equipment for kids.

There isn't enough equipment to keep the children entertained, like other parks around the area.

Would just love to see more things for the kids to do. Feels a bit limited, the more equipment the better the park would be in my opinion.

More options for equipment.

More play equipment needed for younger children.

Not suitable for all ages, climbing frame is ages for 10+, small children struggle to even get onto the slide.

Too big for the small children.

There's not a lot for younger children.

Not a lot of choice or equipment for younger children.

I've got two young children, and I don't think that the equipment is accessible for all ages, my youngest (3) can't even get up the slide.

Improvements needed (general comments).

The park is inadequate.

Not much to do and it's looking tired.

Upgrades would make it look nicer.

Needs a completely new park, like the one in Calow.

More variety / current play equipment lacks excitement / does not challenge or stimulate.

Wasn't a great deal to keep the kids occupied or entertained.

Need more variety of equipment, better slides, roundabouts, rocking horses, zip line etc. Its need to be more inviting for children to play in, equipment for a variety of ages. It needs to be engaging for children to develop their social and communication skills. It needs to be fun!

New / safe flooring needed within the park.

The flooring should also be replaced with bark chippings maybe.

The flooring in particular is dangerous.

The floor is uneven and not safe.

Appendix 2 – What changes would you like to see made at the play area.

Increase / add new play equipment.

Better, new equipment not seen on the park before.

Updating of old and damaged equipment.

I would like equipment to be improved.

More equipment.

Better equipment.

Upgrade of equipment.

More play equipment.

Variety of play equipment for all child age ranges.

More variety of equipment for all ages.

More up to date equipment which caters for all ages.

More variation for children of all ages and abilities.

Have equipment accessible for all ages and more equipment that they are able to play with other children on.

New / safe flooring within the park.

The rubber flooring needs updating as it looks a mess.

Flooring fixed properly.

The flooring needs improvements as it is easily breakable and has many trip hazards.

Soft flooring

Maybe something to like rubber tiles all over the park so the children can still play after it's rained.

Add climbing equipment.

Better climbing frame.

Better play frame and separate slide.

Improved climbing frame with small and large slide.

More varied size climbing frames and balancing frames.

Add swings.

Better swings.

More swings.

Stabilization of swings.

Improvements required (general comments)

New paint on equipment.

Total face lift.

Cleaned and tidied up.

Appendix 3 – Do you have any other comments about the children's play area.

General comments suggesting improvement is required.

It would need to be kept clean and any repairs carried out promptly.

It is ready for a face lift.

We would use it more if it were nice.

It's nice and quiet but needs to be cleaned and looked after.

Would be lovely for the community and children of Arkwright to have a new play area.

Currently very underused and feel a new play area would encourage more visitors. Be a great place to go after school.

It's broken.

Add engaging equipment.

It's boring

It isn't very fun.

General maintenance.

The grass is never cut properly.

Improve bins.

Safety / security improvements (flooring).

The flooring is coming up in chunks making it quite dangerous.

Extend the play area / make bigger.

Could it be made bigger to use some of the surrounding space.

Add seating / benches / picnic area.

Seating area needs improvement.