

Park and Open Spaces Consultation: April 2014

Frequently Asked Questions

Were the consultation events well attended?

Across the three public events we spoke with over 100 people and received 56 questionnaires. Over 2500 flyers were distributed to homes across Barton and Northway.

What did you learn from the event?

The key messages from the public consultation events, questionnaires and sessions with Thrive and Bayards Hill School were:

- Provide a range of active play equipment for children to play and in particular climb on;
- Maintaining clean open spaces that are well managed with particular regard to dog control;
- Provide spaces that can be used for relaxing and create opportunities for being near a cleaner Bayswater Brook and the ponds; and
- The park should be easily accessible by all including those with push-chairs and wheelchair users.

What did the questionnaire responses tell you?

Visitors to the three public consultation events were encouraged to complete questionnaires. Questionnaires were also provided where posters were on display, at the community hall at Cheney School and at Barton Leisure centre. In addition to this, an online facility for submitting responses was available on the Barton Park website. The top responses to the questions posed by the questionnaire can be summarised as follows.

Question 1 – What will be the main reason why you'll be visiting the park?

- To play
- For relaxation
- To exercise



Question 2 – What do you think is important to include in these spaces?

- Play equipment for children
- Keeping the park and open spaces clean and well managed.
- Support the creation of paths both cycle and pedestrian routes within the park and links to both Barton and Northway.

Question 3 – How can the park and open spaces be made inviting so that you want to use them?

- Keeping the park and open spaces clean and well managed.
- Somewhere that is accessible for all and well signed.
- Providing play areas for children.
- Linkages between the community garden and the main park through the greenways both in terms of physical routes and possibility for nature trails linking areas where there may be more wildlife (such as western end of the park).

Responses to question 4 - Do you have any other comments? The responses referred in equal measure to:

- Playing;
- A garden for everyone to use;
- Well managed spaces;
- Dog control;
- Good quality and sized play equipment; and,
- Tennis courts.

Did the consultation help in giving direction to what might go in the park and open spaces?

Visitors to the public consultation events and the Bayards Hill School council were encouraged to place green stickers against those images they particularly liked and red against those which they favoured less.

Overall, active play with opportunities to climb and explore were very popular. Being able to enjoy wildlife and water also received good support, especially fishing and allowing park users to get close to the ponds and Bayswater Brook. The idea of using of chunky, wooden material for play equipment was also well received.



In terms of the images that were most popular, these were:

- Sports pitches;
- Being close to water;
- Climbing; and
- Outdoor gym.

What other groups have you engaged with and what did they want to see in the park?

Alongside the consultation events we visited two groups of young people where we gained useful feedback. Both events are described below.

Bayards Hill School Council

Representatives from the consultant team met with the School Council comprising of 14 children. The discussions centred on parks in Oxford they enjoyed using and why, and what they would like to see in the new park.

The central topic of discussion was what the children like to play on with a range of features and equipment being mentioned. Active play including playing football, ramps for bikes (BMX in particular) and being able to use scooters was a common theme. The most popular pieces of equipment mentioned by the children were:

- Slides;
- A variety of equipment to climb on; and,
- Swings.

Thrive

At Thrive the ages engaged ranged from 9 to 23 years. Discussions with this youth group identified active play as being very popular. In addition to this, being able to explore woodlands and nature was a key theme, and also floodlit 3G pitches so that games could continue after dark during the Winter. Key preferences from the discussions were:

- Climbing;
- Cycle tracks including those that could also provide for BMX bikes;
- A long zip wire;
- Being able to explore wooded areas to look at wildlife and insects; and,
- Artificial football pitch with floodlighting.



What are the next stages in the development of this scheme?

Spring/Summer 2014 – We are currently working towards the submission of a reserved matters planning application to Oxford City Council that will detail the Park and Open spaces together with the key infrastructure elements of the Barton Park scheme including the main street joining with Fettiplace Road and the A40.

Subject to planning it is hoped that we can start site preparation activities including earth moving during Autumn 2014.

