

parks service information



Furzedown Recreation Ground consultation report summary

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the Furzedown Rec consultation carried out last summer. There were 218 responses to the online survey, with over 99% of survey respondents living in the local area. Below are some of the findings of the consultation and how we plan to follow up on your suggestions!

You said

- Furzedown Rec is greatly valued and offers a wide range of benefits for the local community
- Suggestions for activities people would like to see going on in the refurbished pavilion include youth club, renting out for birthday parties, fitness classes, community projects and baby/toddler groups
- Would be good to have some refreshment provision within the park
- The large area of grass and trees is the most used and well-liked part of the park, along with the playgrounds. The wildflower meadow is also one of the most well-liked areas of the park
- Some of the most popular suggestions for improvements include improving and/or increasing seating provision, providing more shaded areas and general planting and creating more natural habitats
- The toddler and junior playgrounds are both in need of improvements and the junior playground is lacking in more challenging equipment
- The skate park is very limited and is mostly used by toddlers and young children with scooters
- Refurbishing the existing mound slide is the most favored option. Many people had a close connection with the slide, highlighting the developmental opportunities it affords children due to its unique features.
- There are some concerns about different user groups occasionally getting on top of each other

Our plans

- The pavilion refurbishment is due to be completed in June 2019. The pavilion will then be available to rent by individuals and local groups
- A drinking fountain is being installed on the outside of the pavilion as part of the refurbishment providing free drinking water for park users
- The former bowling green is being incorporated into the wider park and will be accessible to all park users
- Options for creating more wildlife habitat are currently being explored
- Proposals looking at removing internal fencing that disrupts movement through the park and serves no safety purpose and repositioning some planter beds to improve access to different areas and create more space for park users to enjoy are being prepared. These will form part of a second round of consultation along with other proposals once funding has been secured
- Funding bid for refurbishments to the junior and toddler playgrounds including play equipment, surfacing and remodeling of the mound slide are currently being put together. We intend to hold a second round of public consultation to ask the public which playground design they would like to see go forward for development once funding has been secured
- We are currently looking for further funding to be able to install an adult outdoor gym/ trim trail located outside the Furzedown Recreation Centre. We intend to consult local residents and park users about the proposals once funding is secured