

St Mary's Road Play Area Consultation Results

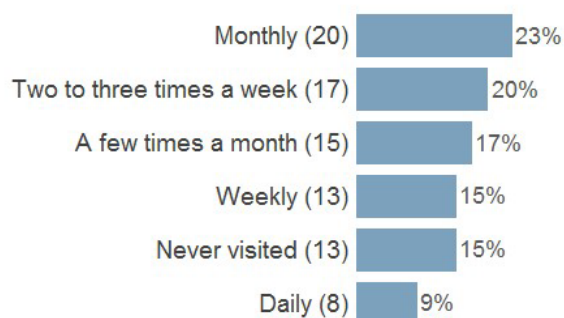
Surveys were distributed to residents by Colwich Parish Council along with their Newsletter and available online on Stafford Borough Council website from the end of January to 19 February 2024.

88 responses were received with detailed feedback from residents outlining the issues most important to them.

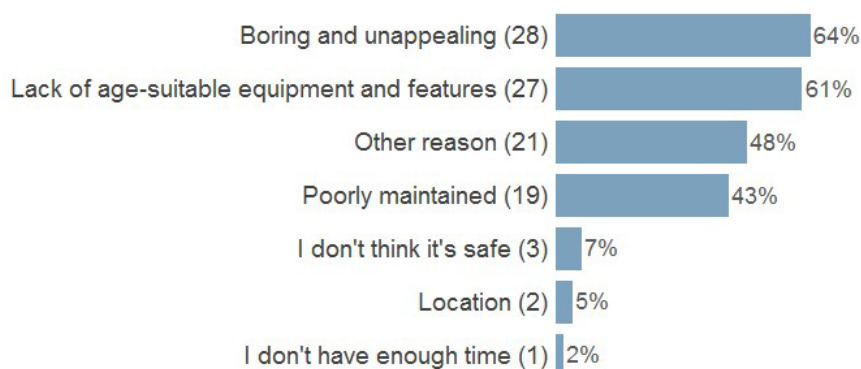
Based on these results plans will be drawn up for an improved play provision for a mix of toddler and juniors.

Results:

Q1 On average, how often do you visit St Mary's Road Play Area?



Q2 If never or infrequently, why not?

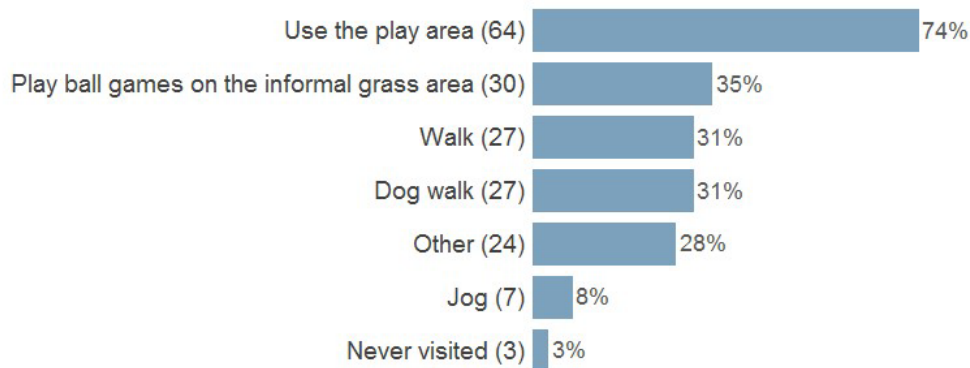


I have a disability that I don't think is catered for in the park (-)

Other reasons:

1. No children
2. No gates.
3. Don't have young children or a dog.
4. Lack of seating.

Q3 What do you do when you visit?



Other comments:

1. Play hide and seek in the trees.
2. Watching the birds and other wildlife.
3. Sitting in fine weather.
4. Bike ride.

Q4 What's most important to you?

Ranked in order of preference (1 being the most preferred) to enable us to establish what is most important for residents.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Toddler play only	28%	28%	6%
Junior Play Only	22%	24%	24%
Mixed Toddler and junior	66%	18%	2%
Informal areas for natural play	5%	36%	36%
Pathways	18%	7%	20%
Seating areas	6%	18%	26%
Other	16%	21%	16%

Other summary:

1. Sunken trampolines.
2. Wooden assault course play equipment.
3. Area for ball games.
4. Football goals.
5. Dog agility, raised plank to walk on.
6. Basketball area.

Q5 What types of play equipment would you like to see?

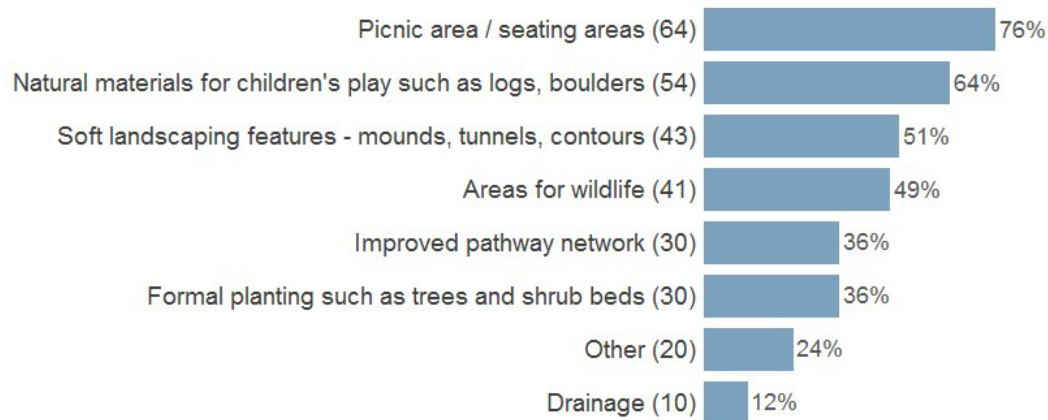
Ranked in order of popularity over top three scores.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Toddler swings	38%	22%	10%
Junior swings (flat seats)	17%	33%	13%
Zipwire	26%	9%	7%
Slides	7%	13%	20%
Group swing (tyre or nest seat)	10%	2%	25%
Climbing	3%	7%	19%
Social play	16%	7%	2%
Musical play	4%	11%	9%
Roundabout	-	10%	22%
Springies	2%	4%	4%
Seesaws	2%	3%	3%

Other comments:

1. Football goals
2. Basketball hoop
3. Painted ground, e.g. hopskotch, mirror moves.
4. Parent and child swing
5. Outdoor gym equipment
6. Fireman's pole
7. Monkey bars.
8. Sign language games.
9. Climbing wall.
10. Natural play, logs, balance beams
11. Water slide,
12. BMX track,

Q6 Are there any other things you would like to see improved or enhanced in the area?



Other reasons:

1. Somewhere to park bikes/scooters when children are playing in the park.
2. Gates on park to prevent dog access.
3. Bins (closed top ones) as rubbish blows out of the ones there at the moment.
4. Dogs on leads only!
5. Space for football.
6. Shelter from rain.
7. Dog agility equipment.
8. A separate fenced area for dogs
9. Basketball net to practice.
10. Logs suitable for pre school and school age up to 11 yrs.
11. Outside gym.
12. An area set aside to naturalise near to the remaining native hedge
13. Dog free.

All other comments provided in responses:

Q1 Other comments:

1. I occasionally bring the Rainbows to the park, but it's currently lacking play equipment. Otherwise, we don't have children in the household that would use the play area.
2. No children so don't use play area just walk through on path.
3. No gates.
4. I would go lots more if there was more to do.
5. Visit very occasionally with my grandchildren.
6. Needs more equipment for all ages including football area/goals.
7. It was an acceptable play area for young ones until the slide was removed.
8. No gates to keep out dogs or their mess.
9. The grandchildren are older now, live at a distance and play lots of sports. I've emailed in the past when they were small and couldn't climb the ropes or handholds to get onto the slide, and then it got taken away! There needed to be steps or a ladder.
10. The park is very old and dated, the slide has been broken and reported to be replaced for months last year and wasn't replaced.
11. Using the park with grandchildren, but it is very unappealing at the moment.
12. Slide never replaced since damaged, so little range of equipment.
13. Few times a month on way back home from school.
14. Mainly have grandchildren during the spring/summer months.
15. Don't have young children or a dog.
16. Not very good play area equipment, not maintained. Area not kept very well. Lack of seating.
17. I don't live on St Mary's Estate and only walk through if engaged in some walking errands.
18. Don't have children.
19. Lack of slide.
20. No longer have a child of age to use the park. Used it frequently when she was of an age to go there.
21. Grass not cut often enough to play football, park slide removed years ago and not replaced.
22. Not a lot to go on, my girls love a park so we travel to others.

Q3 Other comments

1. We used to use it for the play area - and would still - if it wasn't in such disrepair
2. Both the Holiday Club and Rainbows groups occasionally use the park for: large grass space, play area, collect nature items for craft.
3. Play hide and seek in the trees.
4. For a short time with a 14 month old as not much for him to do (great grandson).
5. Play football.

6. Play games and relax with friends.
7. Play games and relax with friends.
8. Grandchildren play ball games.
9. Swing.
10. In summer older children loiter there and there have been issues with drugs in the past. We bring our grandchildren and worry about the amount of dog poo on the grass too.
11. When the slide was present.
12. At present it is a dog walker's paradise. The poo bins smell some distance away and not all walkers clean up. Dogs should be banned from area.
13. Although we visit weekly, it has always been poorly maintained.
14. My grandchildren mainly use the grass area as the play area is unsafe for them. I have 4 under the age of 4 and we live in the villages.
15. Usually just walk through.
16. My grandson plays ball games and my granddaughter likes the play area but that is limited now the play equipment is broken.
17. Mainly just use the grass area with my 2 sons as the play area is quite unsafe for my 3 and 1 year old sons.
18. I look over the park many times a day, watching the birds and other wildlife.
19. Would possibly walk and enjoy sitting in fine weather.
20. Not visited frequently due to lack of slide and small climbing area.
21. Take grandchildren to the park once or twice a week too.
22. Ball games and play area used when with my granddaughter.
23. Bike ride.
24. Just use swing, no slide working.

Q4 Other comments:

1. Proper equipment like slides and swings not just posts and shapes in the ground. Sunken trampolines.
2. Wooden assault course play equipment.
3. Area for ball games.
4. Get it fixed it's been over 4 years and there is nothing for children.
5. The area is maintained on a more regular basis. The grass, for example, over the past few years has been maintained less frequently and become an eyesore. If new facilities are to be installed, they should be looked after routinely and not randomly, as before.
6. Better play equipment for all children. 2. Informal areas for natural play. 3.
7. Importance of encouraging natural play as well as play equipment too. Benefits to environment and nature.
8. Football goals.
9. Place for football. No vaping. Climbing areas.
10. Place for football. No vaping. Climbing areas.
11. Couple of picnic tables. Dog agility, raised plank to walk on.
12. Needs to be mixed play area so have discounted the other possibilities.
13. Football area, basketball area.
14. Green space to enjoy nature (trees, bulbs etc.)

15. The access to the park from St. Mary's road is not good at allowing to the fact there is no path from the road. Only directly you have to walk across the grass, which is soggy, muddy, uneven, and generally full of dog mess. Very difficult with a child and pushchair.
16. Regular cutting of grass and taking away cuttings.
17. A slide that has steps to climb up to the platform. 2/3 year olds can't negotiate a rope construction or footholds, which means elderly carers, or pregnant mums have to help them up, so that they can have the pleasure of sliding back down.
18. The grass is so long so children can't play football and the dog walkers struggle to find dog poo in the grass. It needs cutting more regularly in the spring / summer. There are plenty of areas to let grass grow for nature around the edges and by the trees.
19. Mixed play area for toddlers and junior play with fixed equipment. Gates to stop dogs entering area for children.
20. My grandson likes to meet his friends and play ball games. My granddaughter likes to look at the flowers in the grass area. It is nice to walk through and take a minute in the seating area.
21. Need a good play area with equipment, but also grass area for play and seating for adults to enjoy.
22. It's really up to parents to identify the formal fixed play equipment they think their children would use. 2. I wonder about 4 arched benches (3 people wide) set in a circle to facilitate informal conversation and meetings. 3. To help children engage with nature, an area for natural play would be good.
23. Football area / goals.
24. Fence area so it is secure for both dogs and children running into the road.
25. A well built and maintained play area.
26. More working equipment for a 4 and 6 year old. Not much for them now.

Q5 Other comments:

1. Football goals
2. Slide
3. A good variety for all ages.
4. Zipwire - in the space available, wouldn't be very good. Springies - technical terms lead to inaccurate survey findings. Social play - what is this? Musical play - maintenance. Would like to see: - Basketball hoop - Painted ground, e.g. hopscotch, mirror moves. Disappointed not to have more info on what social play equipment is.
5. Parent and child swing
6. No opinion.
7. Outdoor gym equipment, fireman's pole
8. Monkey bars.
9. Basketball hoop?
10. Football goals 2. Monkey bars
11. Monkey bars. Sign language games. Big climbing frame. Climbing wall.
12. Monkey bars. Sign language games. Big climbing frame. Climbing wall.

13. Football goals, basketball area - separate.
14. Have no specific interest in play equipment.
15. Safety ground flooring.
16. Seats for parents/grandparents to sit on while children play. Also litter bins with lids on.
17. Natural play, logs, balance beams around the nature areas at the sides of the park.
18. Small football pitch with goal posts.
19. Water slide, BMX track, adults outdoor gym.
20. As a non-parent, not for me to say. I question though the wisdom of a zipwire on grounds of 'is there enough room without compromising other activities?' and of safety if unsupervised.
21. Monkey bars
22. Football goals
23. Adult keep fit equipment e.g. static bike, cross trainer etc.
24. Anything more than what exists. Very poor facilities for my grandchildren. Have to go Jubilee instead of a walk to St Mary's.

Q6 Other comments

1. The large, overgrown trees that border the park and St Mary's Road need to be aggressively pruned to a much lower height/volume to ensure a safe environment for all users of the park. The trees as they are have caused the grassed areas to become muddy and scruffy, and potentially dangerous should they drop branches or fall over.
2. Somewhere to park bikes/scooters when children are playing in the park. Gates on park to prevent dog access. Bins (closed top ones) as rubbish blows out of the ones there at the moment.
3. Dogs on leads only!
4. As for the natural materials these would probably get thrown about by older children.
5. Improved gates.
6. Space for football. Shelter from rain.
7. Space for football. Shelter from rain.
8. Dog agility equipment.
9. Dogs should not be allowed in a children's play area, they are unhygienic, worry others and are dangerous. A separate fenced area should be provided.
10. More bins. A shoot out area with goal if two goals is not possible. Basketball net to practice.
11. If the soft landscaping area tunnels etc. is to be safe it has to be fenced off with a signpost that dogs are not permitted in the area, at the moment the whole grass area is used as a dog toilet. Not good to mix with children playing.
12. Logs suitable for pre school and school age up to 11 yrs.
13. Outside gym.

14. Would be nice to have a slide for children and maybe another toddler swing.
We use the park often since we moved here in November 2023. The kids are 2 and 4, love it but miss a slide.
15. I have lived adjoining and overlooking the public open space in the heart of St Mary's Estate for over 35 years. I first arrived with my family containing 2 small children and the play opportunities were incredibly important as they grew up. It may just be my opinion, but I think children 'played out' much more in those days. Barely a day passed without a visit to the area to meet friends and many happy memories were made. Sadly we also experienced some trouble from older children / teenagers being very loud overnight and causing anti-social behaviour, such as setting the bin alight or throwing bottles. Now my children are grown and have moved on to other places but this open space still plays an important role in my enjoyment of my home. Most days I start the day with a cup of tea, in bed overlooking the trees watching the changes of the seasons - bliss. I enjoy watching the birds who make the parkland their home and also the occasional visitors, such as redwings, woodpeckers, siskins and just recently a red kite. We are all aware of how important it is to encourage biodiversity, especially pollinators into our environment. Therefore, I would suggest an area set aside to naturalise or perhaps near to the remaining native hedge (on St. Mary's Rd side). I understand 're-wilding' is not just neglecting an area, that it needs to be managed in some way and that budgets may not allow for this. I would also like to see wooden play equipment that blends in with the environment. Whatever the council decides, it would be lovely to look out over a well kept parkland where children can happily play alongside the natural environment which can be enjoyed by all.
16. The area needs to be for all ages. We don't have an area where people in the village can sit when meeting. It is at present mainly a dog walking area. This is not good for children playing on the grass. Not all people pick up after their dogs as we have seen around the village. Let's have at least one area in the village dog free. There are plenty of walks and other villages have no dog parks.
17. Although it would be nice to see trees and shrubs, I think because of the amount of dog walkers and children using the site, they might get trampled before they have time to establish.
18. Disagree, there is space to provide at least one football goal / multi-sport area in the open grass area.
19. My children would love to see more fun play equipment at the park, as it is lacking this at the moment.
20. Really we just want a nice park to visit. Nothing there at the moment. Needs to be maintained.