



Westbridge Park

Phase 2 Public Consultation Report

August 2018

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1.0 Introduction

This report sets out the findings and results of public consultation carried out to gather feedback on Concept Design proposals for Westbridge Park, Stone. This report was produced by Red Kite Network Limited, a Shropshire-based landscape architecture, ecology and greenspace consultancy.

In February and March 2018, Phase 1 of the public consultation was carried out to determine local residents' and stakeholders' views on and priorities for Westbridge Park. We received over 1,500 responses to our survey. The Phase 1 Public Consultation Report sets out the methodology and findings of the initial public consultation, and is available online at: www.staffordbc.gov.uk/westbridgeparkconsultation. The consultation revealed that overall Play was the top priority, Events came second, Football came third, and Other came fourth.

These priorities and the ideas raised by local residents and stakeholders during the initial consultation informed the development of Concept Design proposals for Westbridge Park, which was produced by Red Kite Network, in collaboration with Stafford Borough Council. The aim of the Phase 2 Consultation, carried out in July-August 2018, was to collate input and feedback on the Concept Design. The results of the Phase 2 Consultation will inform the development of the final masterplan for Westbridge Park.

This report describes the methodology used for the Phase 2 Consultation, and provides a summary of the results, general analysis and recommendations for consideration by Stafford Borough Council and the Stone Leisure Strategy Board.



Westbridge Park Concept Design

2.0 Methodology

A range of consultation approaches and activities were carried out as part of the Phase 2 Public Consultation to ensure that we reached out to a wide an audience as possible. The Consultation was open for a five-week period (16th July- 20th August 2018) and was publicised via a variety of media channels prior to and during the consultation period.

- 1000 full colour flyers and 100 A3 full colour posters announcing the launch of the Consultation and providing information about how to get involved.
- Two press releases were issued to the media i) when consultation started and ii) a reminder a week before close. The releases were also placed as a main item on the homepage of the website. A news block was also created on the homepage to direct people to the consultation. Coverage included the *Newsletter* (across two pages) and a page lead story in *Express and Star*. It also had mentions on *BBC Radio Stoke News* bulletins.
- Stafford Borough Council and Red Kite Network also promoted the public consultation via social media.
- Stafford Borough Council hosted a webpage which provided information about the project and downloadable versions of the Consultation Plan, Phase 1 Consultation Report, Open Space Assessment, Concept Designs, and a link to the online survey.
- An email was sent to local groups and organisations in the area, providing details of the launch of the Phase 2 Consultation and how they can get involved.

2.1 Online Survey

An online survey was launched on 16th July 2018. The survey provided background to the project, and a set of questions asking for feedback and comments on the Concept Designs. The questions included in the survey were:

- Question 1: How would you rate our proposals overall? (Excellent, Good, Poor, Very Poor)
- Question 2: How would you rate the different areas of our proposals- Destination Play, Events Space, Habitat Areas, Canalside, Sunken Garden, Access and Signage, Seating Areas? (Excellent, Good, Poor, Very Poor)
- Question 3: How likely would these proposals encourage you to visit Westbridge Park more often? (Unlikely, Likely, Very Likely)
- Question 4: Is there anything you particularly like or dislike about the proposals?
- Question 5: Do you have any suggestions for how we could improve the proposals?
- Question 6: Any other comments?

A total of 126 responses were received during the five-week period. A summary of the results can be found in Section 3.0.

WESTBRIDGE PARK Your Park, Your Vision

Stafford Borough Council carried out public consultation to seek local residents' opinions about the future of Westbridge Park. We've drawn up concept designs based on your priorities, which can be viewed at www.staffordbc.gov.uk/westbridgeparkconsultation

Have your say at one of our drop-in sessions:
 Tuesday 24 July, 4-7pm, Westbridge Park
 Friday 17 August, 10-4pm, Stone High Street

Or complete our short online survey by Monday 20 August (link available on our website).

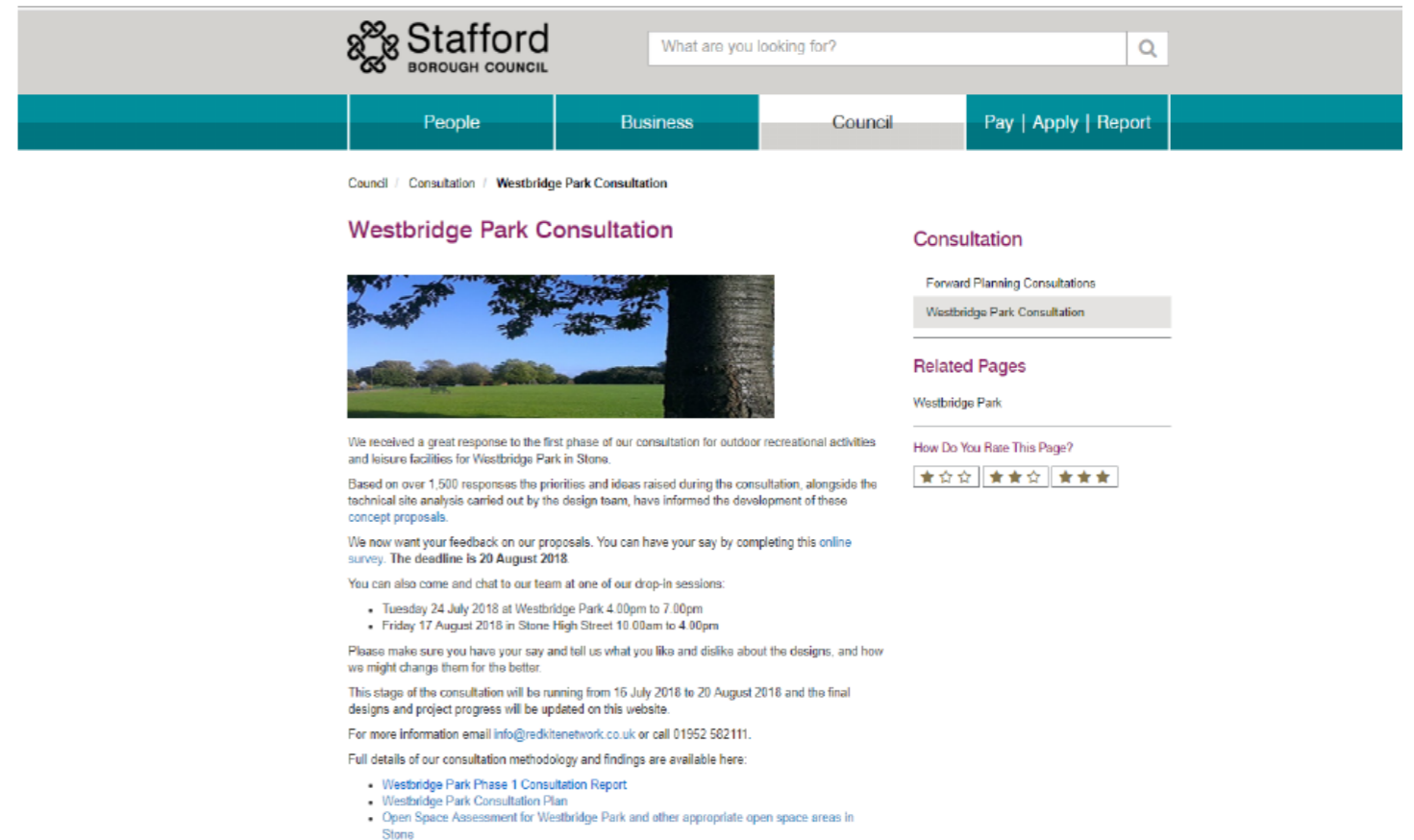
For more information, email info@redkitenetwork.co.uk or call 01952 582111.



Publicity poster



Publicity leaflet and feedback form, with Freepost return address



Webpage hosted by Stafford Borough Council: <https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/westbridgeparkconsultation>

2.2 Paper Survey

A leaflet was also published and distributed. The leaflet contained background information to the project, a Masterplan of the Concept Design, details about how to get involved with the Consultation, and the same set of questions as the ones contained in the online survey. The leaflet included a freepost address so respondents could return their responses free of charge. A total of 13 responses were received during the five-week period. A summary of the results can be found in Section 3.0.

The leaflet was distributed to local centres and facilities around Stone. The leaflet was also handed out at the drop-in sessions arranged by Red Kite Network and Stafford Borough Council.

2.3 Stakeholder Meetings

A selected list of stakeholders, decided on by the client team at Stafford Borough Council, were invited to attend a meeting with representatives from Red Kite Network and Stafford Borough Council. During the meetings, a brief presentation was delivered by the design team, outlining the Consultation process and the Concept Design proposals, before opening up the meeting to questions and discussion. Meetings with the following stakeholders were held:

- Stone Town Council
- Stafford Borough Council Local Ward Members
- Events stakeholders- Stone Food and Drink Festival, Stone Bonfire and Fireworks, and Stone Festival
- Canal and Rivers Trust

Minutes from each meeting were recorded, capturing the main issues and ideas raised. These are summarised in Section 4.0.

Representatives from other local stakeholder groups, including the Stafford and Stone Canoe Club, and Stone Scouts 1st Division, were able to attend one of the drop-in sessions, and Stone Canoe Club followed up with a formal written representation (included in Appendix 2).

In addition to the above, a meeting with Stafford Borough Council officers was also arranged prior to the launch of the Phase 2 Consultation. This was to discuss an early draft of the Concept Design, and focussed on the management and maintenance implications of the proposals.

2.4 Public Drop-In Sessions

Two public drop-in sessions were arranged: Tuesday 24th July, 4-7 at Westbridge Park; and Friday 17th August, 10-4 at Stone High Street as part of the Stone by the Sea Festival. The Concept Designs were presented and copies of the leaflet made available. Representatives from Stafford Borough Council and Red Kite Network were

available throughout the session to discuss the project with attendees, and answer any questions they had. Approximately 25 people attended the Westbridge Park drop-in session, and approximately 60 people attended the Stone High Street session.

2.5 School and Youth Club Sessions

Red Kite Network also held workshops with children from the following schools and youth clubs:

- Pirehill First School
- Christ Church Academy
- Stone Youth Club

During each workshop, the children were each given a play equipment catalogue and asked to cut out their favourite pieces and stick them on a large roll of paper to form a collage of their ideal playground. The outputs of the workshops can be found in Section 5.0.



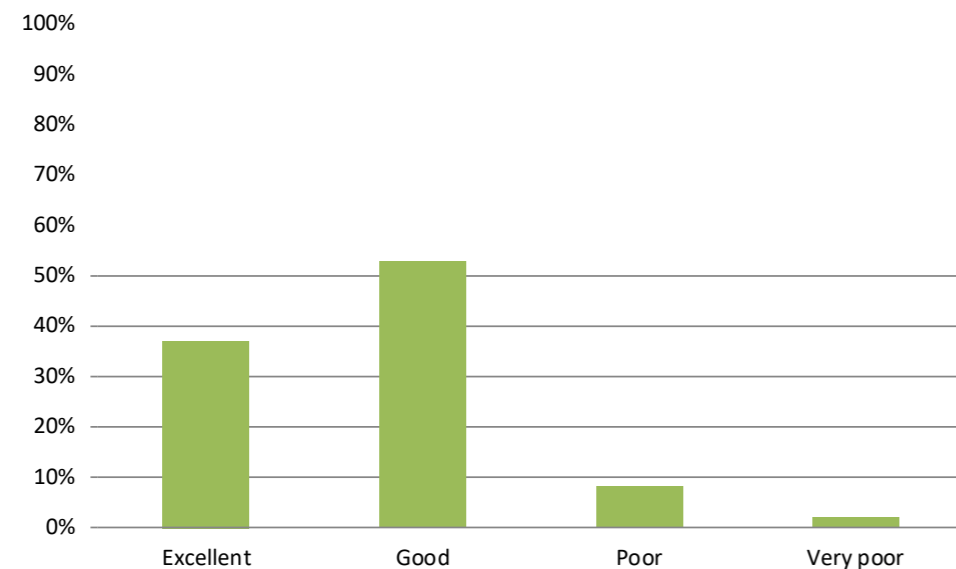
Public drop-in session at Westbridge Park

3.0 Survey Results

The results of the online and hard copies of the survey have been combined and are summarised below. A total of 139 responses were received. The comments provided in response to Questions 4, 5 and 6 are attached in Appendix 2.

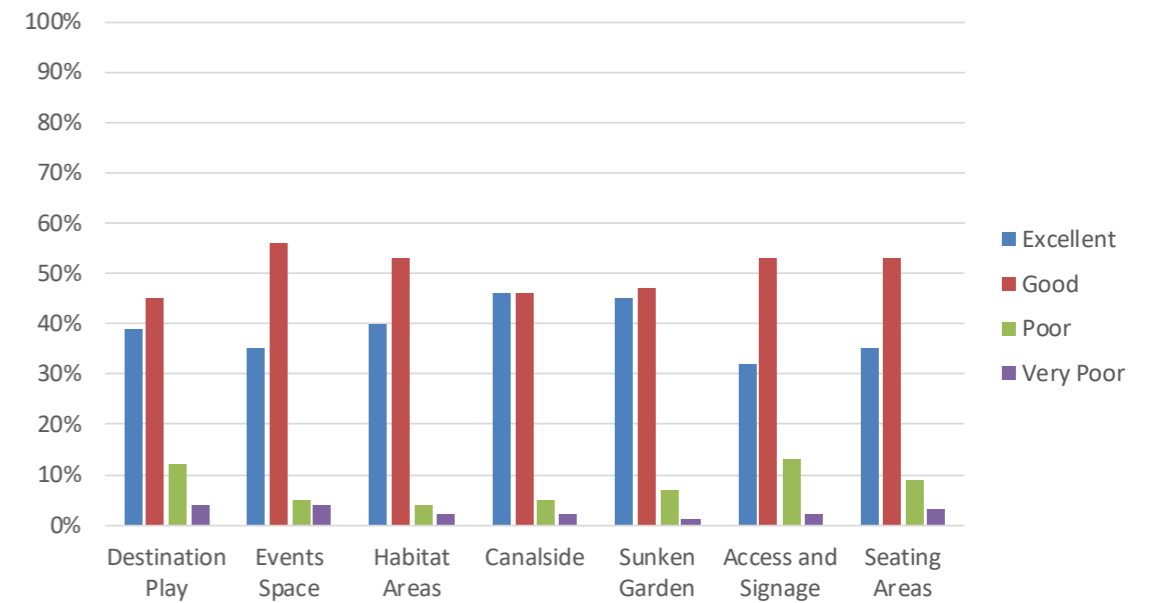
Question 1: How would you rate our proposals overall?

The majority of respondents (53%) rated the proposals as Good, and 37% gave an Excellent rating. 8% rated the proposals as Poor and 2% rated them as Very Poor.



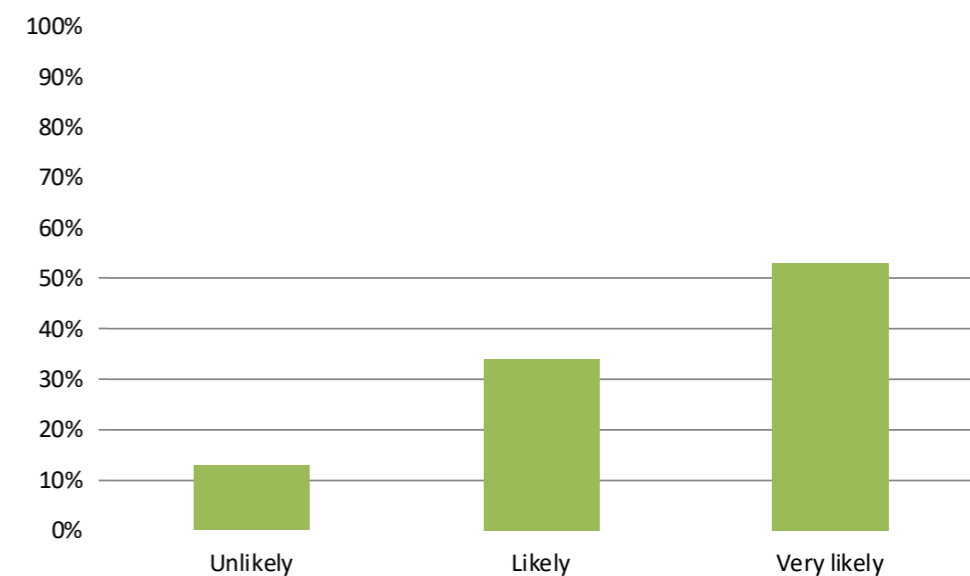
Question 2: How would you rate the different areas of our proposals?

All the zones of the proposals received a largely positive response, with the vast majority of respondents providing an Excellent or Good rating. The Canalside and the Sunken Garden received the most positive response, with 46% and 45% respectively providing an Excellent rating. Other popular areas of the proposals which received a high percentage of Excellent and Good scores combined were Habitat Areas (93%) and Events Space (89%). The three areas which received the highest number of Poor or Very Poor ratings were Seating Areas (12%), Access and Signage (15%), and Destination Play (16%).



Question 3: How likely would these proposals encourage you to visit Westbridge Park more often?

Based on the results from this question, the proposals will likely make Westbridge Park a more attractive place to visit and will result in a higher number of visitors to the park. 53% of respondents said it was Very Likely that they would visit Westbridge Park more once the proposals are built, and a further 34% said it was Likely. 13% of respondents said that there were unlikely to visit Westbridge Park more as a result of the proposed improvements.



Question 4: Is there anything you particularly like or dislike about the proposals?

There were some general positive comments regarding the overall scheme, including: 'A real credit to Stone'; 'I love everything about it, Stone is crying out for this'; 'Overall, I think the proposal is well thought out and very exciting'; 'Amazing! Brilliant ideas which I think the whole town would benefit from'.

Popular elements which attracted a number of positive responses include:

- The general layout and multifunctionality of the design;
- The provision for all ages;
- Wildlife areas;
- Seating and picnic areas;
- Play areas;
- The natural play trail;
- Sunken Garden;
- Paths;
- Bridge.

Elements which attracted a number of negative responses include:

- Lack of public toilets;
- Loss of green space in front of Scout Hut;
- Lack of water play (including splash pad);
- Safety and litter concerns about pond;
- Loss of football pitches;
- Lack of sand pit;
- Location of play space- lack of surveillance and supervision;
- Location of play space- proximity to road;
- Play area is too small;
- Insufficient riverside seating;
- Lack of detail to proposals.

Other negative comments included the amount of events space; parking provision; potential noise and disruption to neighbours; concerns about attracting anti social behaviour; lack of adult outdoor gym equipment; and the meadow areas.

Other comments, either ancillary to the proposals, or neither negative or positive, referred to:

- Questions about parking charges;
- Use of Walton Common and Tilling Drive;
- Children's swimming pool provision within the Leisure Centre;

- Type and style of play equipment;
- Cost and implementation;
- CCTV and security;
- Football provision within Stone in general
- Canal towpath improvements;
- Other bridge connections;
- Floodplain land;
- Retaining the 'natural feel' of the park.

The individual comments received in response to this question are provided in Appendix 2.

Question 5: Do you have any suggestions for how we could improve the proposals?

The most common suggestions for improvements were (in descending order):

- Public toilets and changing facilities;
- Water play;
- Adult gym equipment;
- Security and safety provision, including CCTV and lighting;
- Style and scale of play areas, including skate park;
- Circular walking route/trim trail;
- Sand play;
- Retain Scout Hut green space;
- Litter, dog waste and recycling bins;
- Suggestions for improvements to wildlife and habitat value;
- Retain football pitches;
- Connections with surrounding areas, including Cherryfields, Crown Meadows and Prior Road;
- Dog walking areas/fencing for dogs;
- Location of play space;
- Number and location of seating;
- Traffic management and access provision;
- Kiosk;
- Remove pond;
- Disabled parking;
- Ball sport courts;
- Bike racks;
- Interpretation and notice boards;
- Accessible play equipment;

- Stop events at the park;
- Provision of drinking water taps;
- Provision of sheltered space;
- Remove bridge;
- Riverside landscaping and habitat creation;
- BMX training track.

Other recurring themes from individual comments included:

- Implementation of the proposals, including timetable, maintenance and funding;
- Facilities at the Leisure Centre;
- Walton Common;
- Parking charges.

The individual comments received in response to this question are provided in Appendix 2.

Question 6: Any other comments?

A number of positive overall comments were received in response to this question, conveying excitement and support for the overall project, including:

- ‘I’m looking forward to what is created. This could be a fantastic opportunity for Stone, both to increase cultural capital, local business footfall, and positively influence the mental health of the people visiting the park.’;
- ‘Very excited to be having improved outdoor facilities in the town!’;
- ‘Very much looking forward to the completion of this as it will be a huge benefit to the people of Stone and make the park a real community area.’

The most common issues raised in response to this question were regarding funding, maintenance and management. Anti-social behaviour, site security and safety were also common themes.

Other ideas and issues raised included:

- Dog fouling;
- Fruit trees;
- Accessible play equipment and changing facilities;
- Water and sand play;
- River access;
- Community activities;
- Lighting;
- BMX track;
- Adult exercise;

- Bins;
- Enclosed play areas;
- Scout Hut improvements.

The individual comments received in response to this question are provided in Appendix 2.

4.0 Stakeholder Meetings

Meetings were held with the following stakeholder groups: Stone Town Council; Events (Stone Food and Drink Festival, Stone Festival, Stone Bonfire and Fireworks); Stafford Borough Council Local Ward Members; and Canal and Rivers Trust. A summary of the discussions are provided below. Stone Town Council and the Canal and Rivers Trust also provided a representation as a follow up to the meeting. These are attached in Appendix 1.0 of the report.

Other local stakeholders were invited via email to participate in the public consultation. Some local group representatives attended one of the public drop-in sessions, and others sent in letters of representation which are included in Appendix 1.0 of this report.

Stakeholder Group	Feedback
Events (Stone Food and Drink Festival, Stone Festival, Stone Bonfire and Fireworks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bonfire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface would need to be crushed stone. • The bonfire is large (30 x 20ft) and gets very hot – might impact surrounding play equipment etc. • Can't have bonfire next to the fireworks – the light would ruin the effect of the display. • The proposals will enhance the Food and Drink Festival offering. • Event access track <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grasscrete seems like a good solution • Could it run parallel to the canoe club, and the turning circle fit behind the building? This would be preferred, because we have a marquee in the front corner, and also because it would take up less of the event space. • We installed the secondary gate in the hedge for pedestrian access. We would have to have another pedestrian access solution. Concern about people queuing alongside road. • Will there be a boundary between the road and the rest of the park after you remove the hedge? • Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently use the water and electricity from the Canoe Club. (Food and Drink Festival also bring in generators). • Would like a three-phase supply unit, preferably near the Canoe Club. • Drainage for waste water from caterers? Ideally, around Canoe Club. Currently hire pumping company. • Provision for park ranger to address anti-social behaviour? • Future of agreement about maintenance and repair of grass following events? • Farmer's access track needs to be open at all times.
Canal and Rivers Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of design of setting of the Canal and the surrounding Conservation Area. • Importance of retaining woodland buffer between park and the canal. • Value of enhancing and providing additional canal-side public seating areas. • Importance of having consistent signage throughout the park. • Feasibility of having a footbridge over the canal- discussion of design considerations. • Stakeholder use and access, including the Canoe Club, Scouts and Guides.

Stafford Borough Council Local Ward Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing playground <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is popular, especially with families with younger children who want to play there for a short while before walking into town. • Could we incorporate play features within sunken garden? ‘Play garden’, ‘Sensory Garden’? • Destination Play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important to segregate younger and older children. • The teen play area is tucked in the corner, and will attract anti-social behaviour. • Will the MUGA and skatepark have lighting? • It will provide high entertainment value. • Improve the woodland habitats. • Bridge over the canal is a good idea. • Drainage solution to flooding? • Adult football not desirable at Westbridge Park in the long term. • Ease of access to picnic area – lack of road and nearby parking will prevent some from using it. Also, what about bin collection? • Pond will attract vandalism. • Number of car parking spaces? • Fantastic new resource for scouts and guides. • Opportunity to change the location of the bonfire? Could have it in centre of Venue?
Stone Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of having intergenerational play areas. • Support the idea of having a footbridge to connect with Cherryfields. • Several Members also expressed support for a footbridge over the canal to connect with the Priory Road estate. • Will there be sufficient toilets at the Leisure Centre? • Location of destination play space – will it allow enough natural surveillance? Could we shift it closer to the Leisure Centre? • CCTV and sensitive lighting to discourage anti social behaviour. • Public access 24/7. • Want to see project plan and timescales, as well as funding streams identified. • If the proposal is to remove football, you need a thorough mitigation strategy. • Could we facilitate community involvement in the design, e.g. skatepark or street furniture? • Would like to see MUGA delivered within the 10 years specified in covenant. • Ensure secure boundaries to deter travellers. • Retain and potentially renovate 1951 commemoration gates next to canal. • Cycle path through the Rough? • Coach parking is important.

5.0 Youth Club and Schools Workshops

The workshops with the children revealed the following trends and popular play equipment items:

- Trampoline
- Rocker
- Sand pit
- Themed play equipment
- Spider web
- Climbing net
- Play tower
- Basket swing and other swings
- Spinning machine
- Lighting- night time play
- Outdoor gym equipment
- Obstacle course/adventure trail
- Zip wire
- Climbing wall
- Shelter and seating
- Inclusive play
- MUGA
- Skatepark



Stone Youth Club: Playground Collage



Christ Church Academy: Playground Collage (1)



Christ Church Academy: Playground Collage (2)



Pirehill First School: Playground Collage

6.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

6.1 Summary Consultation Results

The results of the Phase 2 Consultation were largely positive. The majority of local residents who responded to the survey were supportive of the proposals, and expressed excitement about seeing them implemented. Some raised ideas or issues regarding the general layout and composition of the masterplan, which can be addressed by the design team in the finalisation of the masterplan (RIBA Stage 3), whilst other issues will need to be addressed at detailed design, construction and operation phase (RIBA Stage 4-7). Stakeholders also provided valuable input regarding the operational implications of the design proposals, which will be considered in the next stages of the project.

6.2 Recommendations

As a result of the Phase 2 Consultation for Westbridge Park, the concept design will be revised and masterplan finalised to reflect the preferences and comments raised by local residents and stakeholders. The following recommendations and comments are provided for the consideration of Stafford Borough Council Stone Leisure Strategy Board.

Masterplan

- Develop a funding and implementation strategy for the masterplan, including project management, potential phasing and procurement of necessary surveys to help inform budget planning.
- Carry out a feasibility study for the potential footbridges.
- Consider if the public toilets available at the new Leisure Centre will be sufficient to also cater for visitors to Westbridge Park.
- Ensure provision of outdoor green space for Scout Hut.
- Determine farmer's access arrangements.
- Determine suitable future location for the annual bonfire.
- Decide on the inclusion of water and sand play in the destination play space.
- Reach agreement with Canoe Club regarding access to land and associated liabilities.

Detailed design and procurement

- Prepare detailed design (RIBA Stage 4) to include all points below.
- Consult with statutory bodies, including the Canal and Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency.
- Develop CCTV, site security and lighting strategy.
- Develop a consistent signage and interpretation strategy across the park.
- Consider further opportunities for engagement with the local community and stakeholder groups, such as workshops for the design of the skatepark with local teenagers, and the commissioning of public art.

- Consider the inclusion of outdoor gym equipment.
- Consider the inclusion of water and sand play in the destination play space.
- Prepare and submit Planning Application.
- Take into consideration the preferences expressed by local children in the school workshop during the procurement of the play equipment.
- Specify accessible and inclusive play equipment during procurement.

Operation, management and maintenance

- Ensure suitable plans are in place for the ongoing maintenance and supervision of the park once the proposals are complete.
- Develop a site-wide car park access and charging strategy in consultation with on-site stakeholder groups.
- Implement appropriate recommendations of the Football Association's Local Football Facilities Plan.
- Consider opportunities for further engagement with the local community, including a launch event, regular activities, and volunteer Friends Group.

7.0 Appendix 1: Stakeholder Representations

The following written representations were received from stakeholders in response to the Phase 2 Consultation.

Canal and River Trust

Email received from Richard Alexander Banks, Architect/Urban Designer North Pensaer from the Canal and River Trust as a follow up to a site visit.

In principle, I would welcome the Westbridge Park proposals we discussed on the site visit and your ambitions for the contemporary parkland to become an engaged and connected space to the adjoining canal corridor.

As the design develops, you may wish to consider the following design considerations;

- The canal lies within a conservation area. The towpath is lined with moorings, buffered by a broad strip of mature woodland along the majority of its flank. Best design practice would be to retain areas of mature woodland as a naturalistic buffer for the moorings from more open public areas and retail units.
- The towpath is reasonably connected to the park through a number of existing footpaths. We welcome the retention of connectivity to the canal corridor within the design proposals.
- During the towpath walk we discussed various canal side groups such as the scouts and canoe club. A safe outdoor camping area within the woodland nearby the canal would be welcomed provided it not impact negatively upon any moorings or the visual setting of the canal corridor. We welcome further work in terms of investigating the feasibility of the canoe club's connectivity to the canal side and there clubs H.Q general location, parking area and walk to the waterside.
- We are not comfortable with was the proposal of a fenced football pitch in close proximity to the canal. This was placed aside of the red brick building within the sketch plan, close to the canal corridor. I think that this could bring some unwelcomed flood lighting and tall wired fencing. I would imagine this would degrade the canal side environment and comfort of moorings. I voiced my concern on the towpath walk.
- During the onsite meeting interest was raised in the idea of a pedestrian footbridge over the canal into the park, although there were concerns over feasibility and visual impact. The crossing would need to a fixed up and over of high quality, without an impactful mass of ramps or piers that would be detrimental to the canals setting and navigability.
- The trust would welcome further enhancement of the space aside of the MS café in terms of boating facilities and access for all. We would like to see further details of the sunken garden, but in principle, this reads as a positive canal side feature of the parkland proposals.
- Signage should be consistent and its visual appearance from the canals outward views should be considered within the design, location and orientation. Older signage that is no longer relevant or consistent should be removed.

Please note that this is from an urban design perspective, I reiterate that we undertake a more comprehensive pre-app consultation to establish the Trust's overall position (including our likely view as a statutory consultee in the planning application process).

Stafford and Stone Canoe Club

Email received from Dave Royle, Chair of Stafford and Stone Canoe Club.

Thank you for the discussion we had on Tuesday 25 July 2018. You asked me to provide a formal response by email to the proposals for the Canoe Club Car Park.

This car park is particularly sensitive for a number of reasons and I would say the status quo we have currently is not ideal but, we could also see that apparent improvements may not be for the better, from the Canoe Club perspective.

The current position is:

Stafford and Stone Canoe Club have a 99 year lease for the building and grounds surrounding it. Our lease states that we have "a right to use the car park and access road for all purposes associated with permitted use."

The car park is essential for our activities. It is used most evenings in the week by people training at the canoe club. It is also exclusively used around 7 weekends a year for the purposes of competitions where club members and competitors from other clubs use the car park. Competition is the "life-blood" of our sport and is essential to the future of Stafford and Stone Canoe Club.

Others use the car park too. Gym users park there to avoid the pay and display and dog walkers use it for the same reason. Dog walkers are generally poor at clearing up in this area. Use of the car park has increased dramatically since the closure of other carparks during the current development works.

Amazon have also been using the car park as a distribution hub too. This increases wear on the car park and the drivers are mostly young and drive too fast which has led to a number of near misses with our members. We have discouraged them off the car park and they now mostly use the dead end by the bridge at busy times.

Young people also use the car park in large numbers, often resulting in unsociable behaviour. They drive dangerously and too fast. They litter the whole area with glass bottles and other rubbish. They drink and use drugs. It is often used for distribution of drugs, too. They graffiti the clubhouse and endlessly kick footballs and throw stones at the club house walls and window shutters. They have recently removed slabs from the steps making them extremely dangerous for other users resulting in our members having to repair them for everyone's safety.

The Westbridge Park Development proposal is to "officialise" the car park which, presumably at minimum, means resurfacing with asphalt with access for disabled access from the lower level to the higher level.

This would bring the following benefits from our perspective:

It would be a much better environment for us to use for both training evenings and race weekends.

With this would also come disadvantages from our perspective:

Gym users, shoppers (M&S), footballers and dog walkers would also use it much more, preferring to use the canoe club car park than the Pay and Display alternatives. We could see situations in the evening where our members are driven away because they cannot park.

Unsociable behaviour would continue or may be worsen for all the same reasons. We recognise that these

people have to go somewhere but don't see why we have to bear the cost, particularly if it worsens due to changes made by others. Disabled ramps may also allow other vehicles on to the upper level, something that occurs from time to time but could become more frequent. Only this evening, I have noticed wheel tracks from someone trying to drive up the grass bank.

It may be that Pay and Display in keeping with that in other car parks could be a solution together with CCTV (We are already considering CCTV Options to protect our interests). It is important, though, that our club members aren't penalised by parking charges and we would want to negotiate an arrangement so that our members can use the car park and access road for all purposes associated with permitted use at no additional cost to them. It may be that by use of Pay and Display, a better balance can be found between the car parks available. I would expect that this proposal would attract a certain level of opposition from other users.

We have to arrangements can be made for exclusive use for competition weekends where we get many entrants from other clubs.

We are not sure why the proposal removes the existing disabled spaces which are on the portion of land leased by the Club.

The current access to the club is under a height barrier but we also have gated access to the side for high vehicles. This is necessary for taller vehicles which may have canoes on the. The farmer accessing the meadow also requires access and for this reason a combination lock is used.

The other subject of discussion is the proposal for a footpath on the East Bank of the river and the provision of a new bridge. As the proposal would pass across land belonging to Stafford and Stone Canoe Club, this would need further discussion around benefits and liabilities. We could discuss trading those benefits to the general public, for the benefits to our members for negotiated use of the car park.

In addition, it would be useful to have a discussion about the woods on the West bank? Could this be used for public amenity in a way that didn't encourage unsociable behaviour and didn't give rise to increased cost to the Canoe Club. If we could see a mutual benefit, we may be able to include this in the negotiations.

Actual layout for access and the car park design needs to be in consultation of Stafford and Stone Canoe Club. It is essential that a working arrangement is realised. In addition, there are many services under the car park and footpaths which are necessary for training and competitions. Specifically, ground loops for the ground source heat pump, power cable for the floodlighting and communications cable for timing and communications.

As you can see from this response, the car park is a critical part of the club's operation, the use of which we have assured in our lease and as such we feel that agreement on the final solution is essential.

Stone Town Council

Letter received from Les Trigg, Town Clerk at Stone Town Council, as a follow up to a meeting held with Stone Town Council Members.



Ms Daisy Haywood,
Red Kite Network Ltd.
The John Rose Building,
High Street,
Coalport,
Shropshire,
TF8 7HT

8 August 2018

Dear Ms. Haywood,

Please see below Stone Town Council's comments on the Westbridge Park Consultation Phase 2:

- Concerns were raised regarding the security & surveillance of the play areas and MUGA and in particular regarding the lighting. Members requested the addition of CCTV.
- Inadequate toilet facilities especially when events are being held in the park.
- Members raised concerns regarding road safety along the main entrance; there will be a lot of cars on the M & S Car Park and the young need safeguarding with the correct barriers.
- Assurance is sought regarding the future maintenance and cleaning of the play equipment.
- A firm phased timetable is essential along with detailed proposals of what is going where, to include mitigation for football pitches.
- Members would like to see a breakdown of funding and the sources of the funding.

Yours sincerely,

W L Trigg
Town Clerk

15 Station Road, Stone, Staffordshire ST15 8JP
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www.stonetowncouncil.gov.uk

Town Clerk

8.0 Appendix 2: Survey Comments

The comments received in response to Questions 4, 5 and 6 of the survey are provided below.

Question 4: Is there anything you particularly like or dislike about the proposals?

Relocation of the play area. The current site is close to the road and visible from the new M&S car park and café so there are always people around. You need to consider child protection and moving it takes it away from continuous observation. Also loss of the car parking on the old approach road, and whatever “formalised car park” by the canoe club means- I guess euphemism for introducing a parking charge there too. If you want to encourage people to visit the park and Stone town itself don’t make it impossible for them to stop. Paid parking isn’t the answer, just look at the number of towns nearby (eg Uttoxeter, Nantwich, Cheadle) that offer free parking after 3pm Saturdays to try to keep attendance up. In fact you can green up the approach to the park by planting on the verge by the entrance and the current hedge, and develop the parking there to create more spaces and a welcoming approach to the park and the town.

The road and access infrastructure does not appear to have been considered. The existing congestion will be exacerbated by encouraging extra traffic, with no mention of how this will be managed.

The plan as whole seems very well laid out and is much need. I really like proposed skatepark area. Gives people young and old that do those alternative sport such bmx a place to go and for kids to get into different sports too. I just hope it is done to the similar standard to the concrete skatepark over in Market Drayton.

Creative inviting spaces.

The huge amount of event space being taken up by food festival. We need space for football pitches, basket ball courts, gym equipment more than event space. As a town we should be using our park to encourage fitness and well being for all ages and abilities in the community. Seems too much emphasis on open areas for money making events, especially as we’ve already list space to m&s and car park.

Toddler play.

We NEED a destination park, not more boring design, we should be rivaling Stafford park bringing families to visit and spend in our beautiful town, these proposals are just lazy planning and should be binned!

Looks amazing if you can deliver it will be a real credit to Stone, its been so lacking in Westbridge for the 30 years we have lived here.

Children’s play area. Wildlife pond.

Walton common is meant to be a heath not a park and as such should be managed more for nature. Should not have another football pitch. It is not a park it is a common.

Like seating, wildlife areas and disabled ramp.

Like: the variety offered across the lifespan, great for all children, environmental and habitat focussed, nature play, pond; the new access bridge; the use of the space appears to flow; if there are signs for nature education about the natural habitat. Dislike: if the green space for venues has shrunk; if it is too similar to Stafford Park eg same old type/style of play equipment climbing frames etc.; Stone would benefit from attractive play areas.

Some water play or paddling pool would have been nice for the children.

Not in particular.

Really like how the greenery and environment is still being kept/improved.

Good seating areas and play for children.

100% I would visit more. We live in Stone and I’ve already visited more since M&S opened than the previous 7 years combined. Using the shop and cafe- walking there. It’s very unfortunate there was not a pleasure slide placed in the swimming pool design to entertain children, which would have attracted families from Stone, Stafford, Eccleshall and Barlaston. Correct me if I’m wrong. The destination play is the critical element for Stone and building the community. It will be fantastic. Will there be a splash area in the design for the summer months?

Would be good if the play area included a splash zone and sandpit to rival Stafford park- as that would still make me take my business to Stafford instead of Stone on a nice day.

Hopefully the play will benefit all ages, something similar to Victoria Park in Stafford would go down a treat it’s what is needed.

Toddler play area- like.

The selling of Tilling Drive land to achieve it.

No.

Pointless in adding a pond to an area that has access to a river on one side and a canal on the other side. Although it adds an increased risk to child water safety.

I like the destination play area but I would need it to have some accessible play equipment so my disabled son could use it.

The different areas and utilising all spaces.

Is there sufficient parking?

What’s happening about the green space that the beavers cubs and scouts use .. right outside their hut ? No thought has been given to the outside activities they do requiring green space such as practicing pitching a tent or cooking skills on a bbq? More thought should be given to them before the plans are given the go ahead.

I would like to see a larger skatepark area.

Cost as a rate layer for this area.

Love the childrens play area, need to ensure correct cctv and security to avoid gangs of teens congregating in the evenings.

I like that all ages are catered for.

I have concerns over the canoe club area car park. As a member of this club I am concerned about the plan to make it formalised. If you leave it free to use its popularity will increase making it difficult for club members to park and if you make it pay and display it will impact on club membership. Its use has increase recently with M&S staff parking there and “boy racers”.

Love the idea of a tranquil sunken garden BUT how to stop it being attractive at nights to people drinking and leaving rubbish/broken glass (as per the existing playground). Will parking be free?

There's a lot of seating areas. I'm not sure they'd be used well enough especially those at the back of Westbridge itself.

Love the plans for the new play area think it will give children of all ages something to do

Like.

The picnic areas are excellent.

I love everything about it, Stone is crying out for this with so many families having to travel to Longton/Stafford/Hanley for a decent play area, this development provides so much more!

The wild and natural element of the entire area should be retained. We do not want a "manicured" park. The area is a flood plain. Has this been a consideration in the proposals?

I like the overall integration, which will make the park a destination for all ages. It is a shame to lose the football pitch but I can see that this had to happen for the overall plan. But I hope this facility will be provided elsewhere within the town boundary. There is nothing to dislike in the plan.

The play area and the garden.

We like the seating areas, wildlife areas and improved paths.

No consideration of nearby residents when it comes to noise and disruption, no thought given to needs of local users, total disregard for the disruption caused and previous disregard for severe planning objections to the current development on the park.

It's just a concept and contains very little in the way of a concrete proposal. You have reduced the events area and seriously compromised the football pitches for what? Play areas containing, what, when and how much. All this time for this? It's nothing better than Beattie.

Something for everyone and accessible also. The new sports centre with pool will be very welcome.

Like how the whole site is being used. Concern that the play space is not very visible. Concern that there is no public toilets available.

The proposals look great, but Stone never gets the money spent on it that Stafford does. I suspect that most of this is "pie in the sky".

We like the fact that is something for everyone.

The destination play area is close to the access road and car park, this may increase potential accidents. It should be moved towards the river with a separate picnic area to maximise use of the canal and riverside setting.

Toilets should be provided with a quality proposal such as this. Reinstate football/rugby pitches. The pond, a great idea in principle, may get littered, so may need fencing and to protect children.

Dislike: The overflow car park eliminates a useful activity space around the scout hut leaving them nowhere to pitch tents, have campfires etc. Dislike: There is no obvious toilet or changing space accessible the destination

play area. This is a 'must have' with small children.

I love the informal play in the woodland areas, and the mix of habitats to explore. At the moment it very much feels like it has nothing to offer for my family and we go elsewhere for a day trip, it feels derelict and unloved and it is not welcoming. I'd like to see a long term commitment to keeping habitat areas in good condition and the woodland well managed. Overall, I think the proposal is well thought out and very exciting!

I would like to see the football pitches remain.

Need easy access for pushchairs and safe space for toddlers to run and play freely.

I very like the idea of different play zones for different ages & picnic tables are a really good idea.

As a leader at the cub and scout section that resides on Westbridge I am disappointed that so little consideration has been taken to provide this service. Myself and other members are amazed that the very little grass area we have will be used as a car park. Scouting is an outdoor movement, we encourage kids to get out and do. Which I believe is extremely important to their development especially in today's indoor gaming culture. We need that space to provide a varied and exciting program each term. This keeps kids in scouting, out of trouble and develops life skills. I would like to see this service given a little more credit and provided with adequate space.

Amazing! Brilliant ideas which I think the whole town would benefit from, thank you.

Larger play area- Water play similar to Victoria Park? Dislike loss of grass by scout hut for car park. Is the pond needed? Safety concerns.

Riverside seating and footbridge.

I dislike the fact that no consideration appears to have been given to toilet facilities. I would expect this to be a high priority if you are hoping to attract more users, of all ages.

Yes. Football came out very well in the original consultation yet apart from a brief paragraph to say it's in the hands of other stakeholders, there is no provision whatsoever. Waste of time doing the previous consultation because you've only gone and proposed what you wanted to do in the first place. I can say with almost 100% certainty that any money put aside for football will go to the Well-being park facility at Yarnfield. THIS IS NOT IN STONE. We will lose both pitches on Westbridge Park and the pitch on Tilling Drive. But don't worry, we can always play in Yarnfield or Stafford. Disgruntled to say the least. Please let it be known that I am speaking on behalf of four local football clubs- approximately 80 players and volunteers.

Concerned regarding lack of badminton and tennis court options but hoping these will be considered for future developments with the football areas. Play areas look great, much needed to encourage people to stay local and go into town afterwards rather than needing to leave to go to larger parks in Stafford areas.

We need more trees planted. I would love a forest where the meadows is. The meadows are normally muddy or like a swamp. The trees would soak up the flooded water and provide better countermeasures in reducing carbon monoxide emissions. It could be our own like 'natural trust' forest. There is never any plans to make forests. It would also support local wildlife.

The scouts losing the grass in front of their building which will restrict their outdoor activities. Lack of toilet facilities.

It all looks amazing and gives Stone both the green space and organised space for different purposes well done.

I am concerned about a pond / open water near to a children's play area. Will the play area be enclosed?

I like the wide range of areas and think it will be liked and used by many different ages of people.

Need football pitches and outside toilets and changing rooms for the pitches.

Love the fact you are bringing new play facilities for all ages to Westbridge Park. This will make the park a destination park like Victoria Park in Stafford or Westport Lake in Burslem. We desperately need modern, safe and exciting playing spaces in Stone. This will be a welcome addition if done well and on a suitably large enough scale to suit the town (Thinking the size of Victoria Park at least). I would however love to see some form of water play area like Victoria Park. This would be the icing on the cake. It's a shame the swimming pool doesn't have a toddler pool, it would be a double shame and missed opportunity not to put a water play area in the redesign.

I like the riverside seating, but i dont think it is enough, having visited towns such as Bakewell etc. The river is a big draw to visitors and i think there should be more picnic tables along the river edge. Also i think the Crown meadow is a mess along the riverside and should be cut back and more picnic benches placed along there.... Thank you.

Would like to see a children's water play and public toilet block essential for children's play area.

Particularly like the kids play area for all ages. Much needed in Stone. Would like to see water play similar to the water play area at Stafford Park.

I think the destination play area is long-overdue for Stone, given the three (at least) in Stafford. The natural play area and the woodland walk etc. are a great idea, and will help connect children (and their parents) with nature. However, there isn't a mention of toilets- this is essential for parents with young children, otherwise it will make it impractical for them to bring their children here. Also, I'm concerned about the loss of the grass outside the Scout Hut- this is used on a nightly basis during the summer by Beavers, Cubs and Scouts- will they be able to light fires, put up tents etc. on the 'main' grass? And if so this may be too far away from the hut for it to be practical anyway. This is a vital resource for a large number of children / young people to learn new skills in a safe environment

Lack of riverside seating. Lack of toilet facilities.

Like children's play areas, woodland walks etc, hope dogs will be allowed.

As a 49year old who still takes his kids skateboarding and bmxing and still skates and rides myself it is amazing that after all the comments for skate/ Bmx facility you have literally put the smallest of small areas to this. Well done. Stafford. Wild wood and even great heywood with its aging population has better facilities than this. I was hoping to get involved by looking at the plans but it is clearly an afterthought. Again nothing for the teenagers in the town. Anti social behaviour in the high street it is then. Pathetic.

Very good for Stone residents but what do you propose to do for WALTON residents.

No football pitch. No toilet facilities. Poor outdoor area for the scouts.

Particularly dislike the idea of a pond beside a children's play area. The children's play area looks an extremely small space in comparison to the number of young people here. Surely we should also be trying to attract out of town visitor's too with a splash park etc.

Would like to see a water/sand play area for children similiar to the one at Stafford park.

On the whole its looks good but as 'Westbridge park' i would like to see the kids/young peoples areas being the main focus which from looking at the plan only looks a small portion of the overall proposal.

The parking in front of the scout hut. This area of grass is used frequently by Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and would be a big loss, especially since they recently paid a lot of money to improve the building.

Needs to be more like Victoria Park in Stafford, water play, adventure play.

Great to see enhanced improved play areas and family friendly too!

Like- new play areas, sunken garden, opening up of the canal side so incorporate picnic areas, woodland picnic area and pond/picnic area, footbridge onto the estate.

Scrap the over spill carpark and replace with sandpits and or a waterplay area. Keep cars away from the play area. There is no need for so much parking!

Variety- catering for most people, especially families. Considers nature and in-keeping with the natural environment.

Love the development ideas as the area could currently be utilised more effectively.

No.

I like that there is something for everyone here, the proposals cater for all age groups.

As a canal boater of very many years standing (and joint owner of boatyard), I travel the canals extensively and there is currently a huge problem with speeding towpath cyclists who narrowly miss pedestrians. Would it be possible to take this into account when improving the towpath? Speed bumps/kissing type gates to slow them down (but giving full access to wheelchairs, pushchairs etc)? And even access for the occasional boat horse? Hope this thought will be taken into consideration- it's a minority of cyclists who speed but there are many near misses with pedestrians. Thank you. Other than that, the children's play equipment should be really exciting - like some of the apparatus you've shown. Look at Victoria Park Stafford- the wet area with fountains there is wonderful- be nice to have something like that included.

I dislike that there is so little detail. In particular will there be a cost for parking? This is crucial information to know because if there is a cost this would be detrimental to use of the park and also detrimental to the surrounding area as people find free stretches of road to park on instead. Also will time be limited on the car park? I have noticed this in other cities where it makes life very difficult if there is a time limit because it does not allow for a good day out. I would clearly favour time unlimited free parking to maximise possibilities. But I would be in favour of disallowing overnight parking, say from midnight to 6am to prevent people setting up camp on the site. I really like the sunken garden and walking trails.

Some sort of splash park with a play park would be great for the children of Stone.

I would prefer the teen play to be further away from the toddler and junior play but overall it looks fantastic! I'm so glad Stone will have this facility, it'll make the town a real destination.

Thought taken about habitat. The disabled access. The car parking. The seating.

No.

Ensure that the space on Tilling drive is used for recreational use & the current sale of a third of the to to be opposed. Instead, the recreation facilities to be improved.

Love the natural play area and the sunken garden.

No play equipment suitable for disabled, no suitable changing place for disabled users.

More information is needed on the idea to enhance the events space- what exactly does this mean? The plans for the destination play area are vague. I would love to see an element of water play there, as in Victoria Park, but it's not clear from the proposals if it will be included.

The main priority must be a decent play area.

The bridge link with the Walton/Cherry Fields housing. Maybe the same could be included for the Priory Road Estate, and the canal stretch just below the new M&S store?

There is no proposal for over 18 year old exercise equipment outside.

Like the comprehensive and coherent nature of plans. Do they depend on selling Tilling Drive land?

Like the destination play and wheeled sports park as good to have space for kids to play. Dislike a lot of space given to Meadow "9" and "19" - should really have made leisure centre bigger to include children pool with growing Stone population.

I think this is a wonderful plan- it will bring increased footfall to the High Street and generate wealth for the town.

Where are public toilets?

5, 10, 17, 18

Glves local residents and visitors from outside the area a multitude of environmental activities- embracing outdoor play for our youger generations. Much needed.

Question 5: Do you have any suggestions for how we could improve the proposals?

Traffic management should be considered and addressed as part of the proposal.

Ensure there are enough dog bins. Adequate fencing around the meadow area so dogs can be let off the lead and still remain safely contained with less risk of getting back to the main road.

Adult gym equipment outdoors. Basket/netball court. Are the tennis courts being replaced? Not all families can afford gym membership so these park facilities that can be used by adults are a must.

Invest in innovations in the play areas, invest in providing excellence in play and learning, look closer at susscesses of trentham eastate and Stafford park that what we need and deserve, especially when you're planning on selling play land in Tilling Drive to fund it.

No, just please put this together. Stone really needs something like this for everyone.

Protect and encourage wildlife as much as possible.

Do not put another football pitch on Walton Common. The footballers leave litter on it every time they play!

Disabled parking nearby.

More consideration in the proposals about supporting mental health (soothing, emotional regulation). I like Finnish style play areas and ethos where play areas are sympathetic to the natural environment e.g pine trees, tall rocks, slides built into the rocks etc. The areas usually have communal community storage where sandpit toys are kept e.g. rakes, diggers, buckets etc. Community seem to manage this well. The painted wood submarine etc play area as shown for toddlers looks great!! Bars where children can practise their gymnastics eg back hip circles etc. Wooden type climbing play areas, net bridges etc. Water play areas, gulleys and science based water areas, summer jets and sprinklers etc are always a hit please can we include these as we would love to not have to go to Stafford for this!

Build on a circular walking route around the canal and river with access to Cherryfields estate.

No

No other suggestions, I think it's great!

An additional footbridge on the meadow next to the Cherryfields estate, so that residents can have access across to the Westbridge meadow- gates must be included on the bridge to prevent cattle from wandering. An outdoor gym facilities would be useful and a child's wet play/water park area (similar to that in Telford Park).

Splash area for the summer months in the destination play area. A slide should have been included in the swimming pool.

Lots and lots of doggy bins so no excuse for owners leaving droppings on the ground and not permitting dogs on the play area.

None.

Better dog walking areas, bird boxes and a pond for wild life.

Get the money from elsewhere.

A splash water park feature for children would be great.

It is not clear if there will be any toilet facilities....these would be expected for the size of the area. Also frequency of litter & dog waste bins.

Given the amount of council tax you receive from Stone you should be able to at least put us on a par with leisure and recreational facilities in Stafford.

Remove the pond proposal and use the space to add park picnic area or increase size of existing park proposal.

Accessible play equipment, allowing the play area to be used by all children.

CCTV for added security, improved lighting, public toilets, skatepark to be accessible for younger ages too, bike racks.

Allow space for the beavers cubs and scouts outside of their hut.

Larger skatepark area.

Leave well alone.

No.

There is already an issue with unacceptable behaviour around the car parks and river side. How will this be improved. Lighting and CCTV?

I hope the play areas aren't going to have just 2 or 3 pieces of equipment, I'm hoping to see a vast array of things.

Nope

I would like to see yoga classes on the timetable for the leisure centre.

Outdoor gym.

Not for the moment, it all sounds wonderful.

No.

No. But I think the play facilities need to be installed as a matter of urgency. The lack of play facilities in Stone at present is a disgrace

We would like to see outdoor exercise machines around the park which could be used by all ages. Confirmation that toilets in the leisure centre would be available for the general public use.

No.

Return the park to its intended use and close all retail and other development. Ban the use of the park for noise generating events, stop lying about benefits and consider financial implications.

Project Plan the whole thing properly, identify funding sources and stop increasing people hopes. We're voting on a concept-that all.

Public toilets.

Have public toilets available. Have a park officer onsite. Move the play space so it's nearer the Leisure Centre, more of a linear park down the site.

Fund them properly.

Public toilets.

Destination play should be based around Victoria Park in Stafford.

The habitat/wild areas, I hope signage will be used to teach about native species of flora and fauna, maybe little photo stops- put face in a fox wooden stand etc. Recyclingmake it a feature, teach people why- educate.

Create a useful activity space around the scout hut to pitch tents etc. Allow access to toilet or changing for the destination play area.

Incorporating water play and sand play into the junior and toddler play as in Victoria park- not clear from proposal if this is factored in or not. Expanding the woodland fringe, and looking to entice people further out to the areas along side the river- perhaps some trim trail equipment or sculptures, making a nice circular walk (with waymarks stating time/distance at the start). Ensuring a good link with Crown meadows over the road via an underbridge footpath?

A Changing Places facility.

Make secure to prevent vandalism.

Add a water bit for the kids.

Can't see mention of any 'splash play areas' - these are always a big hit during the nicer weather.

Making sure there are enough nature reserves.

Water play for children included.

Remove footbridge and riverside seating.

Most definitely include toilet facilities. Also include outdoor gym equipment, perhaps randomly placed to create a form of circuit training. And set up one or more orienteering courses.

Look at the original consultation, see how many people responded about football and support them. Don't just be satisfied with palming them off to other stakeholders to take care of their interests.

Ensure play areas have excellent play equipment, good variety and sufficient seating for parents to supervise. Make sure access is reasonable as the current access road is a nightmare.

Plant Forest trees on the meadows.

Reconsider car park in front of scout hut, and incorporate toilet facilities it confirm public free access at new leisure centre.

I think it looks great.

Child safety first from open water and cars.

Toilets. Football pitches. Outside changing rooms for the pitches.

Please see previous comment about key addition of Water splash pad play area.

Yes as above MORE picnic areas and landscaping of the riverside.

Toilet block essential, water play, can the car parks be away from the play areas.

Include water play area and toilets.

As above- include public toilets and re-think the plans around the Pump House / Scout Hut so the area of grass outside the Hut is retained or replaced.

Include public toilet facilities. Include more riverside seating. Include clearer proposals on circular walks/routes and. Connections. Provide more information on prevention of vandalism and ongoing maintenance arrangements- volunteer groups etc?

Dog bins, dog play area, small kiosk for drinks, ice cream. Taps for drinking water. Outside gym equipment.

Put a decent Bmx pump track and skatepark like everywhere else does.

Move the football playing facility to WALTON, Tilling Drive and therefore keep the whole field available for WALTON residents.

Knock down m and s and put a football pitch, move m and s to the co op. Do not sell tilling drive to make way for this shambles.

Get rid of the pond and put in proper drainage, use this area for an area of children's play too.

Would like to see a water/sand play area for children similar to the one at Stafford park.

Enlarging the children's areas.

Allow space in front of the scout hut/move the parking slightly.

Water play and adventure play

Public toilets?

We travel all the way to Victoria park in Stafford to make use of their water play area, think one of those in Stone will be a great success!

Water and sand play needed.

Shop or coffee shop to opening during peak seasons.

Sandpits and waterplay area. Otherwise we'll still be going to Stafford.

Security & Safety especially around play areas to reduce anti-social behaviour, as appears to be quite a distance from the road and near to canal. Is the Multi-use games area caged in to stop balls going into the canal? (& children going after them). What about some outdoor gym equipment to promote fitness for adults whilst children play? Recycling bins. Sheltered areas, events boards.

Be involved with British Cycling, as the skatepark has disappeared, I would love to see a BMX training track in the more than ample remaining space, or a surfaced pump track, even a circuit, the British Cycling guys would be able to advise better than myself, but BMX would be most suitable in my opinion.

Security, I can't see mention about how the new area will be secured. How well lit it will be so that it feels safe to pass through on an evening?

Put in signage around the meadow, the riverside meadow and along the paths/footways to show people how far they have walked or run. Include visitor information to give people an idea as to which walking routes are accessible, how challenging they are and what they can achieve if they complete a particular walk (i.e. the distance/average number of steps/time spent being active).

Wet play area and sand pit similar to the one at Victoria Park, Stafford.

More detail on any charges or restrictions for the facilities. Plenty of benches and seating areas.

As previously mentioned, maybe move the teen play away from the toddler and junior play.

No.

No.

Stone could set up a Go Green initiative that is set up in local schools, clubs, independent shops, restaurants & pubs as well as within local communities/estates, to increase the awareness & importance of our open space, habitats & local wildlife, but also education into a litter and graffiti free Stone, to promote respect for our small town. This could be ran alongside a Local to Stone campaign. Similar to that in Leek & Ludlow.

Water park somewhere like Stafford's park.

Incorporate a changing place for disabled users.

More details about the destination play areas and the proposals to improve the event space.

Increase the size of the play area. Take a look at Victoria Park in Stafford!

It seems to me the plans are all about opening up provision and extending access wherever possible. All good!

There is no proposal for over 18 year old exercise equipment outside.

Do they mean that there is no place for a football pitch? That would seem a pity. We should be encouraging healthy exercise and supporting local teams, as well as providing a communal place for young people (boys and girls) to play casual football or just kick a ball around.

"18" and "1" should have metal cardiac stations for walkers and older kids or adults to use like in Longton Park for example. Perhaps "11" should be where "19" is as toddler, junior, teen area would be better away from traffic with more space.

Yes, provide a footbridge across the canal to give access to those living on the Prior Road Estate and other people living on that side of town. Currently the only access is via Abbey Street and the very dangerous main road. Have you ever walked along the footbridge opposite the Stag pub at a busy time?

For rain days- perhaps a covered area would be a good idea.

1) There has to be public toilets to attract people to a park like area. 2) Ample car parking at a reasonable cost.

A canal taxi service to bring visitors from local surrounding areas to the town, linking the Marchel to Stone High Street and activities proposed.

Question 6: Any other comments?

Need to have some kind of security cameras. Currently the play area is not maintained and often unsafe due to people drinking + leaving smashed bottles etc. Also dog owners not clearing their mess.

Why aren't the developers been asked to invest more into this area when we currently have 3 ongoing Estates been built. This new development should be the talk of the area, not more boring designs.

I'm looking forward to what is created. This could be a fantastic opportunity for Stone, both to increase cultural capital, local business footfall, and positively influence the mental health of the people visiting the park. I really hope the thought and investment make Stone a different and exciting place to visit.

It's great this happening and we can be proud of Stone once again.

Looks great overall. Finally a good, point of interest in Stone.

Plant fruit trees for the local community and children to eat.

Include a pedestrian crossing to improve public (especially children) safety.

Please consider accessibility of play equipment when designing the new play area. Thank you.

Water play area for the summer may be useful?

This is going to be the making of Stone once again, it will be somewhere people will travel to to visit and be able

to spend the day, which would be fabulous for the high street as well and all the local businesses.

(a) This is an ambitious project. However we discovered at the consultation on Stone High Street (17-08-18) that funding for the project is not secure. It would surely be more sensible- given current budget constraints - to start with a secured budget and plan accordingly, and keep within that budget. In particular it must not be funded- or the available funds "topped up"- by the sale of other green spaces/amenities. (b) We have serious concerns about the future ownership of the land. There have been previous suggestions that ownership will be transferred to Stone Council or a Trust, thereby securing the Park for future generations. We feel strongly that transfer of ownership to Stone Council or an appropriate Trust should be enacted before the development proposed progresses.

It would have been good to include the scout facilities for improvement perhaps integrating with the new guide hut. It is not clear what will happen to the services that currently cross the park like the sewage pipe. I also hope that the park will be maintained to good waste management.

The proposed development is not funded, and any funding would be generated by a increased tax levy on the majority whilst the development will only cater for a minority

Another consultation. More money wasted.

There is a real need to have an onsite presence.

Very much looking forward to the completion of this as it will be a huge benefit to the people of Stone and make the park a real community area.

Maximise access to the river and improve the safe use by grading the river banks. Play area should be for all ages and should include elements for older kids such as parcour, skate park, sand pits, climbing frames, swings etc.

Don't sell land at Tilling Drive to pay for any of it You had costed it all in 2014 for play facilities...

Please ensure you can stick to the plan and source funding to support all of the proposal! It works because of the mix of recreational uses, any one element dropped impacts on the use of the rest. I'd also like to see some staffed play sessions and family activities happening in the park to support wider community use.

Such a fantastic plan to improve the area. Daughter at school was especially thrilled to play a part in the consultation as to play apparatus, nice touch! Involving the youth in the area may encourage respect for the end result and reduce the risk of vandalism.

No mention of intended hours of availability, presumably, 24 hours given access from the canal path. So, maybe solar powered, low level lighting on at least some of the paths. Hopefully this would encourage more to use the park for longer as lit paths should feel safer in the evening

Too many to mention. Ridiculously out of touch. Let's just keep building on green space.

Unhappy if funding for this project comes from sale of land at Tilling Drive. That green space must be retained and improved to provide leisure and sporting activities particularly football. Concerned FA plans may mean shared facilities outside town shared with Stafford. We need more sport/leisure facilities not less.

Please enclose the play area.

If the football pitches may not be located on the site in the future how would the space be utilised?

I hope this isn't the final plan.

STOP the sale of land at the Tilling Drive WALTON site and keep the greenfield facility for our youngsters.

Its really nice to see something positive being done at Westbridge! I've lived here all my life and am really looking forward to all the improvements.

Good luck.

Water & sand play needed.

This is supposed to be a destination play for the residents of Stone to enjoy. Please give a thought for things we travel to at the moment and include them in this space. After all it is a park not a carpark.

No- very excited to be having improved outdoor facilities in the town!

With the fantastic success of the canoe club on the site, BMX facilities would give the area more scope for success in training for youth and keeping them from causing trouble, with Clark and Kent Contractors being based in Stoke on Trent we are well placed for a fantastic opportunity.

Please ensure there are plenty of dog waste bins provided along walk routes, other waste and recycling bins in key seating areas.

Promoting local shops, food etc and reducing the amount of plastic in supermarkets/shops are small steps that we can all take. Can we introduce a good waste bin for households too? As in, old tea bags, egg shells and leftovers. They used to do this in my old area but I'm surprised we don't in Stone.

Disabled children/adults need a Changing Place in Stone & this would have been the ideal time. Changing places have hoists & adjustable beds to allow wheelchair bound disabled people a place to get changed in.

The proposals overall are extremely exciting for Stone.

Frankly, little will change- unless the play area is significantly improved.

We need adult exercise equipment outside please.

Would be better to increase leisure centre size to improve pool to include little children pool as Stone population increasing. The toddler, junior and teen area must have shade and possibly water are like in Stafford for hot times. Please remember future generations while planning.

I really hope this happens!

Well done to you for all the hard work!

Encourage local residents to get involved in the project. 100% super proposal.