

**GROUNDWORK**  
**CHANGING PLACES**  
**CHANGING LIVES**



# Cowes Playbuilder

Northwood Recreation Ground

Stage Two Consultation Report 5<sup>th</sup> August 2009

[www.groundwork-solent.org.uk](http://www.groundwork-solent.org.uk)

## Project History

### Introduction

Groundwork Solent was commissioned by Cowes Town Council to undertake effective community consultation at Northwood Recreation Ground play area on the Isle Of Wight as part of the Department of Children, Schools and Families Playbuilder Programme.

### Methodology - Stage Two

A second round of public consultation took place at the Co-Operative food store in Cowes town centre on the 5th August 2009 10am—4pm.

This event was held in order to display the sketch designs for the Northwood Recreation Ground play area. At the event residents, partners and stakeholders were able to view the designs and convey any comments they had before a final design would be drawn up and submitted for planning permission.

### Number of Participants

We had 28 adults and 11 children attend the event during the day. Fifteen of the 39 who attended wrote their comments on sheets provided. All gave positive feedback verbally to the consultation team in attendance.



## >> Consultation Event

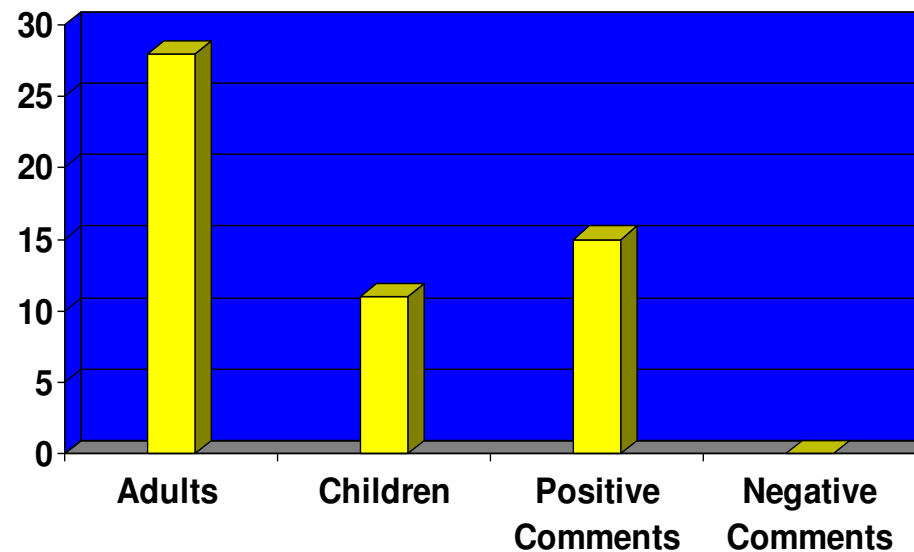
The overall response from residents to the sketch designs was very positive. There were no major objections, however the issue of whether the equipment would be challenging enough for the target audience was raised. It was explained that this equipment was selected by the children and young people who would be the service user of the play area, therefore it was felt that the equipment would be challenging enough, as it was selected by the children and young people themselves.

The location of the play area received a mixed reaction. One resident thought it was too near the road. It was suggested that the speed limit on the cricket club access road could be reduced. Most other residents thought the location to be perfect. Residents also thought that keeping the existing play area was a great idea.

It was felt by some residents that the play area would be an ideal place for children and young people to meet and that more families would access the play facility once the improvements project has been implemented. Residents also stated that they thought the plans were well thought out. The use of natural materials for the play equipment was welcomed by all. A request for more seating in the play area was made by one resident.

The older people consulted on the day gave very positive responses; almost all liked the designs. Many residents liked the use of natural materials and the concept of natural play.

## >> Participants at Consultation Event



Although 39 residents attended the event, along with 2 partners from Cowes Town Council, only 15 completed the comments sheet and returned them to the interviewers. Of the 15 comments sheets returned all gave a positive response. All of the 39 people in attendance gave positive verbal comments.

## >> Summary & Recommendations

### Summary

Overall support for improvements from residents who participated in the consultation was verbally very positive. Some issues regarding the speed limit on the road adjacent to the play area were raised. The children who participated in the consultation enjoyed being part of the process. Older residents liked the concept of natural play and using natural play materials.

### Recommendations

Implement the project as soon as possible

Reduce the speed limit on the Northwood Cricket Club link/access road

Use youth workers to engage with children and young people; also to monitor children and young peoples' use of the play area and their behaviour.

Community development workers could use the play area as a tool to engage with local families