



PUCKLECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT EVALUATING THE PLAY AREA QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY 2021



With thanks to all the residents who took the time to respond to the questionnaire as without your help, there would be no data for this report.

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1. INTRODUCTION.

Pucklechurch parish council has ageing playground facilities and needs to develop a playground strategy to plan for future developments and help inform improvements to Eagle Crescent through S106 funding. Engaging with the community gives the community a voice and contributes to good community governance through clear civic leadership to act in public interest and create public value (Moore and Khangram 2004).

Government Social Research (2021) suggests research provides the evidence to:

- help challenges dissenting views;
- reduce risks
- improve the quality or implementation of council plans/projects or policies.

However, there is unlikely to be a single public view (Kindarto, Zhu and Gardner (2020)

1.1 Background

The council owns four play areas, this does not include the Shortwood play area which is rented.



The Recreation ground



St Aldams



Parkfield



Eagle Crescent

2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research explores, describes, explains and evaluates (Ruane 2016) by measuring data to provide evidence for this project. Connecting data to the ideas is the measurement process which can be quantitative or qualitative (Newman 2013).

2.1 Research methods

Quantitative (associated with numbers, hard data and statistics)

Qualitative (associated with words or observations to understand and interpret actual experiences through respondents' beliefs, values and feelings).

All data collection come with warnings as all research has limitations, a bias warning and needs to be appropriate to the task Goldacre (2009).

Mixing methods of data collection known as triangulation helps complement or supplement data (Yoshikawa et al 2008) to verify findings, mitigates against the research flaws and provides better answers (Hong et al 2020)

The parish council aims to achieve a balance between what is ideal in research and what is possible given constraints of time, resources and finances.

Pucklechurch parish council is committed to involving its community in visioning and planning and wishes to encourage participation and engagement in the locality decision-making process. This helps bring people together and despite the inevitable conflict and need to guide the community through the "zone of uncomfortable debate" (Hambleton & Howard 2013:56), consensus can be reached on the issues facing the locality (Cuthill and Fien 2005).

2.2 Data collection methods

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the method of collecting first hand empirical data was through a play area survey questionnaire as this felt most appropriate during this difficult and disruptive period.

2.3 Aim of questionnaire

The aim was for a:

- simple yet appealing questionnaire
- Focussed, short as possible but adequate explanations.

- well-structured with logic sequencing,
- no loaded or leading questions.

2.4 Why choose this method:

- cheap and effective way to undertake probability sampling - broad sample of community views from which generalisations can be made.
- Online and hardcopy, advertised through website and social media – good for lockdown.
- Target key groups eg school PTA – This enables snowball sampling where the PTA help the council reach the difficult-to-access or hidden populations. (Tracy 2013)

2.5 Limitations:

- Constructing surveys is not simple.
- Boredom and fatigue - longer questionnaires = lower response rates and poorer quality answers (Galesic & Bosnjak 2009).
- Responses may not be representative
- No control over who completes questionnaires.
- The potential for self-selection bias or indeed non-participation bias.
- It is difficult to validate truthfulness of responses.

2.6 The process

**PUCKLECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL
PLAY AREA QUESTIONNAIRE**

Views and those of your children are needed to help shape future play area provision for children up to primary school age. Please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire. You can also send us photos of fun ideas from other play areas or get your children to send us drawings. Email to: parish.council@pucklechurch.org by **23rd April 2021**

Note: inclusion of any play equipment listed below does not mean that Pucklechurch Parish Council will provide it.

				Yes	No
Are you happy with the current play areas as they are in Pucklechurch?					
Recreation	Eagle	St.	Parkfield		Shortwood

The questionnaire ran until 23rd April 2021. The questionnaire was advertised via the council website and social media channels and was available online at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfksVt-DCI7qQwukQcWmyV1mHbSrCp2QbyjR0g10DcOGd6ufA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0> with hard copies placed in the Post Office and available from the clerk.

All responses were anonymous although residents were invited to provide an email address if they were willing to be approached to participate in any subsequent focus groups or follow up interviews.

3 RESPONSES



The parish council received 80 responses.

Data:

Data reliability – (the soundness and consistency of research) is hard to judge because opinions can change and the impact of variables such as Covid means the parish council has no way of knowing if restrictions meant there were different users.

However, these research findings appear trustworthy (Lincoln and Guba 1985), are authentic and a fair and honest viewpoint at a given point in time.

3.1 Limitations

Some key observations from the data provided by respondents:

- Some massive 'information dumps' by respondents – often ignoring the question;
- Hard to separate facts from opinions
- Lack of clear focus with lots of generalist topics requiring analysis under broad headings.
- Unrealistic expectations on future upgrades - influenced by large-scale parks/adventure playgrounds where upgrades cost up to £350K
- Hard to know if different answers based on views of that issues or the interpretation of my questions.
- No single public view

3.2 Validity

The council intends to follow up this research with continued engagement through focus groups which will contribute to rigorous testing, validation (accuracy) of data, credibility through transparency and believability in findings. (Rose & Johnson 2020)



3.3 Lessons learnt

- Strong community governance in action
 - **parish council** – elected community representative
 - stakeholders - the **users** and
 - **citizens** - the wider community
- Strengthens accountability by blending voices
 - who council listening to
 - are views representative
 - what data is useable
 - what is missing
 - What work need to be done with the community to fill the gaps.
- All this will contribute to demonstrating the trustworthiness of the research to aid accountability.

4. RESULTS.

4.1 KEY FINDINGS

The recreation ground is by far the most used play area.

Multiple comments: 'Old and outdated play equipment not suitable for variety of ages.'

37.5% regard play equipment in all play areas as outdated/old or poor.

Multiple comments: "The Rec playground must be fenced off to protect kids from dog poo and loose animals".

28.41% would like the Recreation ground play area fenced off and dog free.

37.41% would like some form of themed play equipment.

favourites: ships 11.63% and castles 10.47%

11.63% would like some form of play building.

11.36% would like to see more equipment for older children/teenagers.

4.55% see a lack of equipment for smaller children/toddlers/babies.

Additional seating for all was identified at all the play areas

30% The Recreation ground

52% Eagle Crescent

38% St Aldams

35% Parkfield

4.2 Limitations

Respondents' perceptions vary:

'I love how many parks are in the village the choice is wonderful!'

'There is quite a bit of variety for the children to play on,'

'There is only a small amount of play equipment...my children get bored after a few minutes'.

Children's ages appear to influence responses:

'There is no place for teenagers.'

'There is very little for older children.'

'Not enough for smaller children.'

'Should be more stuff for toddlers.'

'Maybe some baby play equipment?'

Many respondents referred to wanting play areas similar to other local provision.

Comparison costs have been found for the following:

- *Splash pad like Mundy playing fields* £85K refurbishment in 2018.
- *Page Park* Part of £2.18M funding
- *Kingsgate Park in Yate would be a good example of things that could be built at St Aldams* Costs £350K
- *I would recommend that the team visit / talk to those responsible for the play areas at Hawkesbury Upton* Cost £130K
- Other local parks
 - Osprey Park £50K
 - Doddington QEII playing fields £152K,
 - Witches hat play area £148K
 - Baileys Court play park £105k

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.



Pucklechurch parish council has started the process of involving its community in visioning and planning for the longer-term future of its play areas. The community has come together and expressed views and opinions on this issue.

It is clear that the questionnaire has raised unrealistic expectations and there are comparisons with parks with far larger investment than would be possible in Pucklechurch.

Equally the questionnaire has provided useful data on the range of priorities the community would like to see addressed.

Follow up focus groups should be undertaken to drill down on key priorities and long term investment priorities including ideas for the upgrade to Eagle Crescent.

Findings will inform:

- the longer-term playground strategy.
- the Eagle Crescent play area project (aligned to the strategy) where the community will be consulted on the final design.

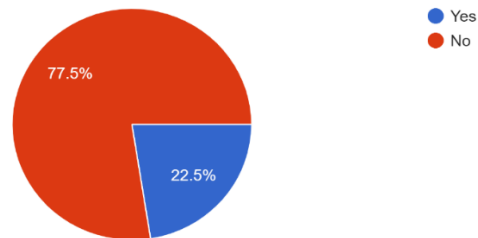
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Appendix 1 Analysis of questionnaire

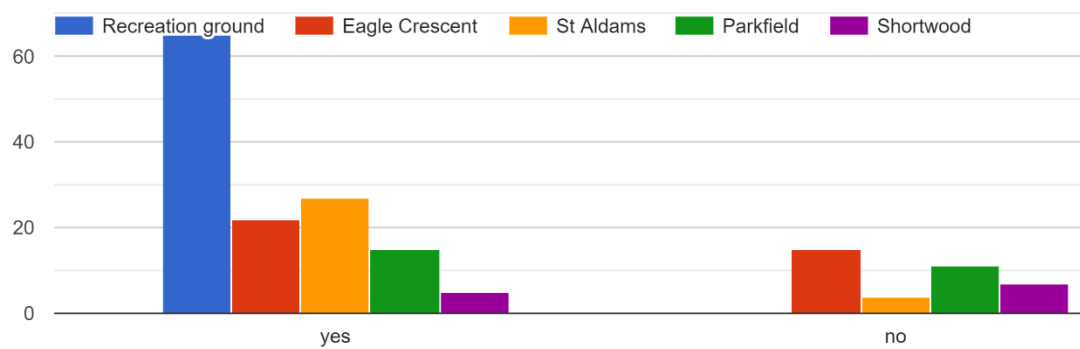
Q1

Are you happy with the current play areas as they are in Pucklechurch?
80 responses



Q2

Which play area(s) do you use?



Q3

What do you like and dislike with your local play area?



Home page of UK Playgrounds (2021)

General likes:

Four different play areas, that they have a range of equipment for different ages

I like that there are big green spaces
Swings and zip wire
I love how many parks are in the village the choice is wonderful!

General dislikes:

Boring/ not much adventurous equipment.
More sensory style play
Not enough for children who aren't confident climbers
Not enough swings
Not enough choice and imaginative play equipment

A The Recreation ground

Just under 80% of comments related to The Recreation ground

Results of those expressing a like:

The roundabout is excellent,
Playing field, a great space
Big slide and roundabout
Lots of grass area for stuff like sports.
Lots of space
Equipment suitable for all ages

Results of those expressing a dislike:

People expressing a view perceived some equipment as unsafe or dangerous
Outdated/old/poor play equipment
Limited space for play equipment
Those wishing to see a fenced off area to keep play area dog free
Need adventurous equipment suitable for older children/teenagers
Not enough for smaller children / baby
Not enough for imaginative play/less confident users
Not enough swings
Plant some trees along the fence that runs along Hill View Road
Soft surfaces that connect the entire playground so no slippery surfaces
Too little play equipment children get bored after a few minutes

B. ST ALDAMS

Results of those expressing a dislike:

More equipment would be lovely to see.

Swing seat needs to be replaced

Equipment needs refreshing as very tired

No suitable things for pre-schoolers

Needs benches



C. EAGLE CRESCENT



Results of those expressing a dislike:

Not much for younger pre-school children

Needs seats

More equipment needed

Outdated

D.PARKFIELD

Results of those expressing a dislike:

Dated

Slide too large for little children

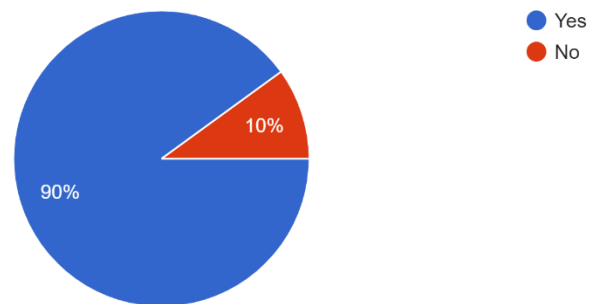
Extend fencing



Q4

All children like 'pretend' play. Would you want to see additional play equipment that encourages imaginative play?

80 responses



Q5 If so what kind:

General comments:

Theme each park

Vary heights of play equipment towers etc

Provide towers, bridges, tunnels, ramps, tumps,

More natural wooden logs / play equipment

Larger scale:

mud area	3.49%
skate park	1.16%
sand pit	8.14%
water play	3.49%
zip wire	1.16%
climbing wall	2.33%

Climbing/scrambling:

monkey bars	1.16%
trampoline	3.49%
large(r) climbing	
structures/frames	9.30%

rope ladder	1.16%
balance beams	1.16%
basket swing	1.16%

Games:

snakes & ladders game	1.16%
noughts and crosses	1.16%
Musical	2.33%

Smaller children:

little slides	2.33%
smaller climbing frame	2.33%
horse springer	1.16%
Anything traditional	1.16%

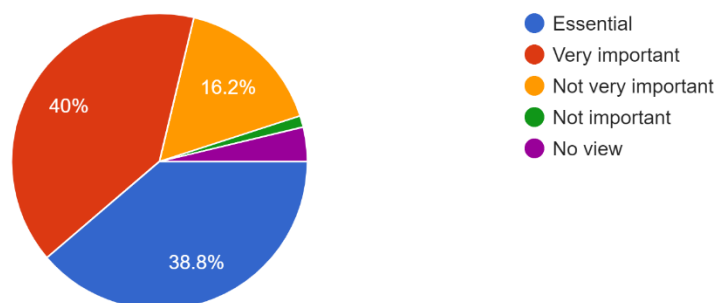
Themed imaginative:

ships	11.63%
castle	10.47%
Fort	1.16%
Tractor	1.16%
Helicopter	2.33%
Train	4.65%
Bus	2.33%
Car	3.49%
Wendy house/ play building	11.63%
pretend shop	2.33%

Q6

Thinking about the play areas, is it important that children of different ages can play together?

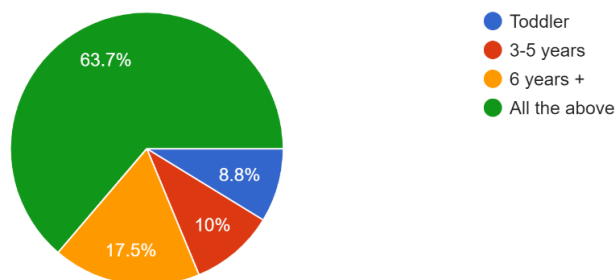
80 responses



Q7

Thinking about the current play areas, what age range would benefit from additional equipment?

80 responses



Q8 The parish council is trying to provide a wide range of play equipment. Thinking about the play areas, what are your views on the following equipment?

Traditional	Essential	Desirable	Not necessary
Rocker		X	
Swings	X		
Springers		X	
Slide	X		
Seesaw	X		
Roundabout	X		

Imaginative equipment	Essential	Desirable	Not necessary
Galleon		X	
Castle	X		
Playhouse	X		

Tractor/train or similar	x		
Play panel shop fronts		x	
Rock and roll roundabout		x	
Mushroom seats			x
toddler activity panel		x	
Play panel games		x	

Inclusive equipment	Essential	Desirable	Not necessary
Talking flowers		x	

Q9 Please add details of any other equipment, provide photos or send a drawing.

Other parks for ideas

- Splash pad like Mundy playing fields **NB: £85,000 refurbishment in 2018.**
- Kings gate park, yate and page park, staple hill are good examples **NB Osprey Park £50,000, Doddington QEII playing fields £152K, Witches hat play area £148K & Baileys Court Activity Centre play park £105k**
- Climbing frames as in Emerson's Green older children's play
- Kingsgate Park in Yate would be a good example of things that could be built at St aldams drive play park **NB: costs £350,000**
- I would recommend that the team visit / talk to those responsible for the play areas at Hawkesbury Upton. **NB £130,000.** They have adjacent parks for younger and older children with an excellent range of quality play equipment.
- Look at Lyde green main play area! Fantastic use of space and loads of great equipment.
- In ground trampoline, large climbing frame monkey bars
- Yate has a really good selection of parks, it would be nice if we could do something similar.
- Pump track for bikes Wick (Brockwell park) playground.
- The new park at Frenchay is an excellent example as are the pros in Luckington and Sherston.
- Adventure play something for older kids x 5
- Wooden pirate ship.... Climbing and slide inbuilt.
- Skate ramp/skateboard x 3
- Natural play would be wonderful - wooden equipment if possible
- Places for children to safely ride their bikes off road x2

- sunken trampolines x 3
- paddle/ splash areas
- Climbing wall/ frame x2
- shelters and seats,
- trim and trail,
- wooden play castles/ tractors
- Zipwire x 3
- Large seat swing,
- Spring floor,
- Monkey bars/balance beams x 3
- Bike track
- Basketball/football enclosure x2
- Metal football posts in Parkfield
- Picnic bench

Q10

Thinking about each play area, would it benefit from additional seating?

