

## Summary of Fitz Park Play Area Questionnaire Feedback

### **Introduction**

47 Questionnaires were submitted at the play area workshop held on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2008 regarding the Fitz Park Play Area redevelopment. Respondents ranged from aged 5-70 years old. Identifying, that the range of people using the play area is from tots to adults and therefore any redevelopment of the play area must cater for all these age ranges.

The play area is not just an area for play but an important socialising area for parents and relatives of the children using the play area. Consultation with the public has revealed the way the public do and do not use the play area, this is pre determined by the existing condition and layout of the play area.

### **What people like about the play area?**

When asked what people like about the Fitz Park play area, people said that they valued the good location of the play area as it is close to Keswick town centre and the surrounding natural environment was also valued. Respondents answered that they liked the proximity to the large play field and that parents and children like the contained design of the play area because it stopped dogs from entering the play area and also gave an feeling of security.

### **What do people not like about the play area?**

When asked what they did not like about the play area the respondents answered that:

Firstly, the natural terrain proved an unsuitable surface particularly in winter when the play area can become inaccessible due to flooding. The approach to the play area is sometimes impossible due to the muddy stretch from the path. Respondents did not like the bark chippings either.

Secondly, the lack of variety of equipment in the play area was insufficient and respondents felt that equipment that installation of inspired creativity is essential in the development.

Thirdly, respondents felt that that there was a lack of provision for the very young children and the older children/ teenagers. They felt that division of equipment was a missing element in the design of the play area. Lack of design meant that young children feel unsafe and older children feel that they are invading on the young ones space.

### **Inclusion and Exclusion**

There was also a strong feeling that lack of public conveniences close to the play area was a major disadvantage.

From the questionnaires it was identified that the tots and teens are the main groups that are isolated from the play area as it is now and that a scheme should aim to make a play area user friendly for these groups and suitable equipment for both groups should be incorporated into the design.

Consultation also identified that children with disabilities and pushchairs users are also made to feel excluded from the play area due to poor access. Incorporation of the needs of those with disabilities should be included too.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, a large amount of the data from the questionnaires was qualitative which is representative of what the local community would like to see in the play area.

Below is a list of key features that the community feel should be central to the design of the play area:

- Improved surfacing
- Retain some form of contained fencing
- Climbing equipment in particular ropes and cargo nets
- A sand pit
- A more focused theme in the play area
- Separate areas for different ages
- Shaded area from the sun e.g. Gazebo
- A roundabout
- Retain the variety of swings with in the play area
- More challenging equipment for older children
- More seating and picnic areas for adults
- Imaginative and creative play equipment

The above list retains some of the existing features with the play area whilst incorporating a more challenging and organised design. The above data will be forwarded to suppliers to draw up a scheme. There is obviously a number of ideas that may not fit within the existing footprint and consultation with suppliers may reveal whether a potential extension to the play area will be necessary.