

**Children's
Play
Advisory
Service**

**THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA**

Consultation Report

for

Holland Park Adventure Play Area

June/July 2017

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HOLLAND PARK ADVENTURE PLAY AREA

Report On Consultation

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This consultation aimed to ensure that the Holland Park Adventure Play Area meets users' needs and to involve people, particularly children, in its development. The consultation was devised so that it gave opportunities for suggestions on environmental and ancillary items (seats etc.) to be made.
- 1.2 The consultation format was prepared in discussion with Heather Marsh and Alice O'Mahony on behalf of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. It was designed to include interviews with the public at Holland Park and an on-line questionnaire. The consultation was advertised by way of notices at the play area, a locally delivered leaflet and the Council website
- 1.3 The on-site consultations were carried out on Wednesday 14 June and Saturday 17 June 2017 by Rob Wheway and Jackie Boldon of Children's Play Advisory Service and Heather Marsh, Alice O'Mahony and Sarah Brion of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Further consultations were carried out by Heather Marsh and Alice O'Mahony on Tuesday 4 July and Tuesday 18 July.
- 1.4 Additionally a consultation was carried out at the St Quintin Centre for Disabled Children and Young People on 12 July. The results are detailed in section 7.
- 1.5 Some observational research was carried out at Holland Park and at nearby play areas (Avondale, Regents Park, Hyde Park and Ladbroke).
- 1.6 The consultation was carried out and the results analysed. This report describes the consultation process and the analysis of the responses.
- 1.7 Where answers are worded differently but have very similar meanings they have been grouped together in the tables within this report. Responses which only received 1 mention have not been included within the tables as they are not statistically significant. Some will have been included as above.
- 1.8 Where suggestions were made in "Other Comments" but clearly related to other parts of the questionnaire then they were included in the appropriate part. This was only done where the meaning was certain and duplication was also avoided.

2 CHILDREN AND ADULTS CONSULTED AND USE

2.1 There were 102 responses in total, broken down as follows:

	Male	Female	Not Spec.	Total
Child	16	16		32
Parent/Carer	18	46	3	67
Not specified			3	3
Totals	34	62	6	102

An equal number of boys and girls were interviewed. Where a good proportion of the children are free to come unaccompanied there is a tendency for girls to slightly outnumber boys. The equal number of boys result reflects that virtually all children are brought to the park.

The higher number of female adults is consistent with other consultations which have been carried out. It reflects the fact that in many families, females still take the traditional caring role. In this consultation some of the carers would have been nannies, which is a reflection of the socio-economic profile of the area. The role of nanny is almost entirely female.

2.2 There were some differences between the results on the 4 days.

On the Wednesday 14 June after school there were the following:

	Male	Female	Not Spec.	Total
Child	11	6		17
Parent/Carer	5	18	1	24
Not specified			1	1
Totals	16	24	2	42

On the Saturday 17 June

	Male	Female	Not Spec.	Total
Child	3	7		10
Parent/Carer	12	18	1	31
Not specified			1	1
Totals	15	25	2	42

On Tuesday 4 July

	Male	Female	Not Spec.	Total
Child		1		1
Parent/Carer		7	1	8
Totals		8		9

On Tuesday 18 July

	Male	Female	Not Spec.	Total
Child	2	2	1	5
Parent/Carer	1	3		4
Totals	3	5	1	9

There were a greater proportion of children on the Wednesday and Tuesdays. This was possibly due to children being brought by nannies on the weekdays whereas on the Saturday they were more likely to be brought by parents.

The significantly higher proportion of male adults on Saturday indicates that Dads are more likely to take their children to the playground on a non-work day.

- 2.3 Having on-site interviews gave a greater opportunity to interview children and get a greater in-depth understanding of the issues people were raising about this specific play area. The numbers were good and this was assisted by pleasant weather.
- 2.4 Not all answers on the form were completed; consequently total responses in this report are often less than number of forms. Some questions had opportunities for more than one answer so some totals are higher than the actual responses to that question.
- 2.5 The catchment area for Holland Park is quite wide as it tends to be a destination park rather than just a local park.

2.6 Age Category

Responses by age category were:

Ages	Male	Female	Not Spec.	Totals
3		1		1
4	2			2
5	6	6	1	13
6	1			1
7		2		2
8	3	1		4
9	2			2
10		3		3
11		1		1
12	1	1		2
14	1			1
16-18		2		2
25-34	2	8	2	12
35-44	7	26		33
45-54	4	6	1	11
55-64	1			1
65+		2		2
Not Spec.	4	3	2	9
Totals	34	62	6	102

Interviews with children were predominantly with children who were 5 years old. This is an interesting finding as the nearby sand play area might be assumed to be more appropriate for this age group. It is clear that the children and/or the parents/carers who brought them feel that the bigger more exciting equipment is what they want. There was little evidence that they attended because the family group included older siblings.

There is a distinct lack of junior age and older children. There were only 5 interviewed in the 11-16 age range (the other one came as a parent/carer). It is almost certain that these were the only ones present at the playground as children in this age range would be obvious ones to interview.

The parents/carers were primarily in the 35-44 year age group.

Overall these figures indicate that the playground is primarily used by primary school children who are brought to the area by adults.

2.7 Children of Parents Consulted

Parents were asked for the ages of their children. This gives an insight into the views of the children they may well be representing. It also means that there it provides feedback about toddlers who would be too young to answer the questionnaire for themselves.

Children's Ages	Numbers
u 1	2
1	8
2	10
3	19
4	12
5	14
6	6
7	8
8	8
9	2
10	4
11	2
12	1
13	1
15	1
17	1
Total	99

The results indicate that the current usage is dominated by families with young children. This may mean that there will be an increasing desire for more adventurous and challenging equipment as their children grow up. It may, however, indicate that there are factors about the playground or its location which mean that it is particularly suited to adults who take young children.

The relative lack of older children throughout the consultation is a surprise. Reasons may be that they never had unaccompanied usage when younger and so the play area did not become a place to meet up, the location may be inconvenient for many, they may be encouraged to go to organised activities by parents, there may be a feeling that play is frivolous and homework is more important. Further research would be needed to ascertain whether older children play in different places or if there is play deprivation.

2.8 Frequency of Visits

The frequency with which visits to Holland Park were made:

	Child	Parent/Carer	Not Spec.	Totals
Every Day	2	9		11
2 or 3 Times a Week	7	17		24
Once a Week	8	19		27
Occasionally	8	12		20
Rarely	5	8		13
Never				0
Not Spec.	3	2	2	7
Totals	33	67	2	102

Well over half (62%) of those who answered this question visited the area at least once a week.

An interesting finding is that there were only half as many children interviewed as parents. This re-emphasises the fact that children attend the playground when they are accompanied and also that the majority are young, some too young to be interviewed.

When this difference is allowed for it can be seen that children say they visit the play area less often than the parents/carers say. This indicates that the children feel it is not often enough. The parent/carers on the other hand appear to want to show their commitment to giving the children a visit to the play area.

2.9 Going with an Adult

People were asked if the children were accompanied by an adult or were able to go to the playground on their own.

	Child	Parent/Carer	Not Spec.	Totals
Only taken by an adult	23	63	0	86
Only taken by an older child	0	0	0	0
Without an adult	3	0	0	3
Not Spec.	7	4	2	13
Totals	33	67	2	102

Of the 89 who answered this question only 3 attended unaccompanied. One was an 8-year-old who said this only happened occasionally. No children were brought by older brothers and sisters. This emphasises that the playground does not fulfil the role of a place where children play freely and unsupervised but is a destination facility.

2.10 More in the Holidays

People were asked if they visited the park more in the holidays

	Child	Parent/Carer	Not Spec.	Totals
Yes	12	36		48
No	7	23		30
Not Spec.	14	8	2	24
Totals	33	67	2	102

This confirms what would be a reasonable expectation that more children do indeed attend during the summer holidays. The difference is possibly smaller than might be expected. Given the demographic of the local area, families may take extended holidays over the school holiday period.

3 CATCHMENT

3.1 Responses came from the following road/areas (all included)

Home Location (all)	Child	Parent/Carer	Not Spec.	Total
W8	4	5		9
W14	4	3		7
Not specified	2	2	2	6
Camden Hill Road	1	3		4
USA	2	1		3
W6 7PB	2	1		3
W11	1	2		3
Local/nearby	2			2
Lawrence Hill	1	1		2
NW6	1	1		2
Palace Court	1	1		2
SW5	1	1		2
W14 8DD	1	1		2
W2	1	1		2
W8 6UP	1	1		2
Ladbroke Walk	1			1
SW5 0PU	1			1
SW6 2NY	1			1
W10	1			1
W10 6LU	1			1
W2 2HJ	1			1
W2 5LU	1			1
West Kensington	1			1
Abbotsbury Close		1		1
Adison Road		1		1
Boston		1		1
Brook Green		1		1
Ealing		1		1
Ealing/Harrow		1		1
Fulham		1		1
Holland Park		1		1
Holland Road		1		1
Ilchester Place		1		1
Italy		1		1
NW1		1		1
NW1 0SA		1		1
Olympia		1		1
South East London		1		1
SW3		1		1
SW5 9QW		1		1
SW7 3AS		1		1
SW7 5NE		1		1
W1		1		1
W11 1RB		1		1
W11 3RZ		1		1
W11 4BN		1		1
W11 4BU		1		1
W11 4LJ		1		1
W11 4QG		1		1
W11 4QZ		1		1
W12		1		1
W12 9DP		1		1
W14 0JP		1		1
W14 0JT		1		1
W14 8BP		1		1
W14 8DH		1		1
W14 8DP		1		1
W14 8DT		1		1
W14 8EQ		1		1
W14 8FL		1		1
W15		1		1
W2 4BQ		1		1
W2 5QL		1		1
W8 5JB		1		1
W8 6HR		1		1
W8 7AL		1		1
Totals	33	67	2	102

If we then amalgamate all the postcodes by the first part of that postcode then the results are as follows:

Home Location (all)	Child	Parent/Carer	Not Spec.	Total
W14	5	12		17
W8	5	9		14
W11		7		7
Not specified	2	2	2	6
W2	3	1		4
SW5	2	2		4
Camden Hill Road	1	3		4
USA	2	1		3
W6	2	1		3
W11	1	2		3
Local/nearby	2			2
W10	2			2
Lawrence Hill	1	1		2
NW6	1	1		2
Palace Court	1	1		2
NW1		2		2
SW7		2		2
W12		2		2
W2		2		2
Ladbroke Walk	1			1
SW6	1			1
West Kensington	1			1
Abbotsbury Close		1		1
Adison Road		1		1
Boston		1		1
Brook Green		1		1
Ealing		1		1
Ealing/Harrow		1		1
Fulham		1		1
Holland Park		1		1
Holland Road		1		1
Ilchester Place		1		1
Italy		1		1
Olympia		1		1
South East London		1		1
SW3		1		1
W1		1		1
W15		1		1
Totals	33	67	2	102

The results tend to indicate that a high proportion of the interviewees come from relatively nearby with, however, significant numbers travelling some distance and 1 or 2 being on holiday in this country.

Because the interviews are on site, they would tend to pick up people who are there purely by chance as well as those who had knowledge of the consultation.

4 DEVELOPING HOLLAND PARK ADVENTURE PLAY AREA

- 4.1 People were asked to name their 3 favourite items of existing equipment in the Holland Park Adventure Play Area. This first table shows all responses where there were 2 or more mentions.

Zip wire	53
Big net climbing frame	31
Rocket multi-play	31
Swings	26
Spacenet	20
Infant/toddler multi-play	18
Skateboard	16
Tarzan swing (not fitted)	13
Junior multi-play	11
Slide	11
Big cage roundabout	5
Rotating cone	5
Roundabout	5
Supernova	4
Climbing elements	3
Tubes slide	3
Ecology centre	2
Hammock swing (not fitted)	2
Infant/toddler area	2
Pirate ship multi-play	2
Spring seat	2

The big cage roundabout has been out of use for some time. It is a high cost item both in terms of purchase and maintenance.

The second table separates out the children's answers

Zip wire	17
Rocket multi-play	14
Big net climbing frame	9
Junior multi-play	7
Spacenet	7
Swings	7
Tarzan swing (not fitted)	7
Skateboard	5
Big cage roundabout	3
Infant/toddler multi-play	3
Ecology centre	2
Supernova	2

The children's answers are very similar to those in the first table. The Rocket Multi-Play is, however, more popular than the Big Net Climbing Frame but both are still popular.

- 4.2 People were asked for their top 3 suggestions for new equipment and natural features. This first table shows all responses where there were 2 or more mentions.

Slide (inc. bigger/better)	34
Water play/splash zone	19
More swings	13
Sand play	13
Climb wall	9
Tarzan swing (inc. repair)	9
Zip (inc. longer)	9
Trampoline	8
Bigger swings	7
Climbing equipment	7
Skateboard/scooter track	7
Paddling pool	5
Pirate ship/boat	4
Adventure/trim trail	3
Big net climb	3
Climbing frame (bigger/better)	3
High climb	3
Rocket	3
Roundabout	3
Slide on rocket	3
Somewhere to buy drinks/snacks	3
Swimming pool	3
Big multi-play	2
BMX track	2
Challenging equipment	2
Elevated walkway	2
Explore area	2
Good as it is, don't change much	2
Good sightlines	2
Hill	2
Imaginative items	2
Monkey bars	2
More adventure playground stuff	2
More for U3s/babies	2
Music play	2
Rotating cone	2
See saw	2
Swinging boats	2
Tree house/slide	2
Tunnel slide	2
Twirly slide	2
Wooden items	2

Interestingly, the Zip (cableway) was mentioned even though there is already one there.

Adults requesting more swings than children do is partially explained by them wanting cradle swings for children too young to be consulted.

The second table separates out the children's answers.

Slide (inc. bigger/better)	10
Trampoline	6
Tarzan swing (inc. repair)	5
Zip (inc. longer)	5
Skateboard/scooter track	4
Water play/splash zone	4
Climb wall	3
More swings	3
Pirate ship/boat	3
Swimming pool	3
Bigger swings	2
BMX track	2
Climbing equipment	2
High climb	2
Paddling pool	2
Rotating cone	2
Slide on rocket	2
Twirly slide	2

The slide is clearly the most popular desired item. There were additionally in other places a couple of mentions of putting the slide back into the Rocket Multi-Play and a "Twirly Slide" (precise meaning uncertain).

- 4.3 People were asked whether there were any other aspects that they thought needed to be improved, eg seating, shade or other facilities. This question was to ensure people thought about the whole environment of the play area and not just playground equipment. To some extent there was an overlap between this and the previous question.

Benches/seats (more)	21
Toilet (more/better/cleaner)	17
Shade/shelter (more)	13
Café/refreshments/somewhere to buy drinks	10
Improve grass	6
Cleaning	3
No	3
Picnic tables	3
Natural play features (eg dens)	2
Trees (more)	2

The desire for more shade/shelter probably indicates the desire for a specific shelter. The site is already quite sheltered by trees and would probably benefit from some thinning out of these.

- 4.4 People were asked how likely they were to recommend Holland Park Adventure Play Area to a friend (where 10 = very likely and 1 = not likely).

10	23
9	18
8	27
7	9
6	8
5	1
4	1
3	1
2	1
Not specified	13
Total	102

What is clear is that the overwhelming majority (68%) value the play area and would recommend it to friends (they scored it 8, 9 or 10).

- 4.5 People were further asked if there are other parts of Holland Park they particularly liked to go to.

Kyoto (Japanese) Garden	21
Fish pond	13
Toddler play area	11
Football pitch/playing field	9
Peacocks	8
Café	7
Woodland/forest	6
Ecology centre	5
All of park	4
Sand pit	4
Chess set	3
Dutch garden	3
Flowers/plants	3
Rose garden	3
No	2
Opera House	2
Outdoor gym	2
Tennis courts	2

The playground is only one part of the park and it is clear from the answers that other opportunities within the park are valued.

5 OTHER PLAYGROUNDS

5.1 People were asked if there were other playgrounds to which they preferred to go.

Diana	31
Hyde Park	12
Avondale	7
Battersea	7
Kensington Memorial	5
no	5
Ravenscourt	5
Brook Green	4
Queens Road	3
Primrose Hill	2
Regents Park	2

The impression gained from some people was they liked the other parks as an alternative but didn't necessarily prefer them to Holland Park.

5.2 People were asked for their favourite things to play on at these other playgrounds.

Water play	22
Sand play	20
Pirate ship multi-play	17
Slides (inc. 7 big)	17
Climbing	7
Swings	7
Music play	6
Boat (inc. swinging and wobbly)	5
Rocket with slide	4
Basketball hoop	3
Climbing frame	3
Fort multi-play	3
Paddling pool	3
Spacenet/climbing net/big nest climb	3
Tree house	3
Tyre swing	3
Big rope	2
Café by play area	2
Elevated walkway	2
Monkey bars	2
Nest swing	2
Play house	2
Rope and wooden climbing frame	2
Trampolines	2
Zip (inc. big)	2

The answers here emphasise the high play value of sand and water play.

It also reinforces the desire for a slide which, if “Rocket with slide” is added into the total for slides, gives 21 mentions – about the same as sand and water play.

The zip (aerial runway) has a low score in this question whereas it was high in favourite items at Holland Park. This suggests that the Holland Park one is preferred to any zip slide at the other popular playgrounds.

6 PLAYGROUNDS GENERALLY – SAFE OR RISKY?

6.1 People were asked whether they thought playgrounds in general were safe or risky.

Playgrounds are too safe and boring and should be more exciting	13
Playground are generally about right - good fun but safe	57
Playgrounds are dangerous and need to be safer	6

This finding demonstrates that parents are realistic about the risks to children on playground equipment. There have been many popular reports in the press of parents restricting their children too much and not allowing them to experience risk.

Given that the majority of children were young and the playground is quite challenging for this age group, then this is a significant finding.

A few comments were made which emphasised the choice made rather than giving any new insights.

7 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES/INCLUSION

7.1 People were asked if they were aware of any people or groups within the local community that don't use the playground.

7.2 This question was designed to elicit responses which were more thoughtful than merely asking people for their ethnicity.

7.3 The numbers answering this were fairly low as younger children would not be expected to know how to answer it.

7.4 Of those people who did answer, 38 were not aware of people who do not use the playground and only 3 said there were.

7.5 Some comments were made, these included:

- It's a very white area
- Not many Asians
- It reflects the local area
- Not enough for disabled children

- May be too far
 - Some people too busy or prefer somewhere else
- 7.6 There were no groups of answers which were significant. People appeared to think about it and then confirm that they were not aware. This would indicate that if there are problems with accessing the playground either for physical or cultural issues then these are not obvious.
- 7.7 A consultation was also held at St Quintin Centre for children & young people with disabilities. Those interviewed were
- 6 year old girl who was in wheelchair most of the time but could be lifted out. She never went to Holland Park but liked another park which has an accessible roundabout.
 - The mother of the 6 year old girl who confirmed that she did not take her daughter to any park. She only went when the school (probably the Centre) took them. She also mentioned the accessible roundabout, trampoline and low level features at a Play Ship.
 - The mother of an 18 year old male who was in a wheelchair but he was able to get out. They occasionally went to Holland Park. He liked the Tarzan Swing, the Rocket Multi-play and the Big Net Climbing Frame. She requested Sensory/Musical items, better wheelchair access (muddy at present) and a Hammock Swing. She suggested interactive boards to encourage standing. They went to Avondale because it has easy wheelchair access and interactive items. They also went to Dukes Meadow Playground because it has a big slide into a sandpit.
 - A father of a boy with autism rarely took him to Holland Park because other parents complained that he scared other children so the father had to take him away. Because his son had no fear he needed close supervision. The father would take him to the park if there were supportive supervision.
 - A 17 year boy of with Downs Syndrome was accompanied by his mother. They rarely went Holland Park; they used to go a lot but she felt he was now too big. He loves the sandpit but again she felt he was too big. He likes a swing and a roundabout if it is gentle. Also he likes board type games e.g. Connect 4 and musical items. They also went to Holloway Park and Hyde Park for a picnic.
 - An 11 year old sister of a child wheelchair user attending St. Quintins said that they rarely went to Holland Park. They did go to Teletubby Park and a park off Kensal Road. She went to a park adjacent to where they lived with her sister in a wheelchair. Her sister could not use a slide or a rocker because of problems with her back. She recommended a kids drawing area.
- 7.8 This consultation emphasised the importance of low level sensory equipment and revealed that not all disabled children are wheelchair users and that wheelchair users may still be able to access exciting play items, possibly with a little assistance.

- 7.9 More than three of the parents talked of difficulties with taking their children to the play areas. These were not physical barriers but issues around the children being too big, too boisterous or just different. This was a small sample but this finding is consistent with the research carried out for the NPFA report “Can Play Will Play. Disabled children and access to outdoor playgrounds” (Alison John and Rob Wheway) which found that social barriers are often more significant than physical ones.

8 OTHER COMMENTS

- 8.1 The biggest number of “other comments” were based on maintenance issues:

- Maintenance and security
- Roundabout jammed
- Slide missing at rocket multi-play (children can’t get down)
- Broken equipment takes too long to fix
- Old and unused equipment - great that it will be renewed
- Voice tubes broken
- Accessible roundabout is stuck
- Keep everything mended
- Woodland play area never open
- Big cage roundabout broken

- 8.2 Towards the end of the consultation, an additional question was added. This was how did people get to the playground.

Walk/cycle	2
Train or tube/walk	6
Walk	3
Car	1

All of those who answered mentioned either walking or cycling and only one referred to coming by car. This is quite a surprising finding as it might have been expected that most would have come by car. It was, however, a small sample and it’s almost certain some people would have come by car. They did add that parking is very expensive at Holland Park.

9 SCHOOL GROUPS & OTHER OBSERVATIONS

- 9.1 Observations by the consultants found that a good proportion of users of the Holland Park Play Area were coming in groups from schools or similar. This seems to have been an increasing trend at playgrounds in London generally. The consultant has noticed this at many parks and believes there is an increasing understanding of the importance of exercise and consequently schools use the parks, particularly where their own outside areas are insufficient.

- 9.2 This appears to be particularly the case at Holland Park Adventure Play Area. It is possible that there are a higher than average number of small private and/or faith schools which have no playground. It is also likely that local authority schools have limited outdoor space.
- 9.3 The play area is hidden from the road by dense trees and bushes. This means that people may not know about it as they can pass by without seeing it. It also gives a feeling of isolation. Considerable research by this consultant has found that both children and adults prefer places where they can see and be seen from nearby housing and/or passers-by.
- 9.4 Access is from one end of play area which therefore means the travel distance from the far end of the site is significantly further than from the near end. Travel distance has been found to be an important factor in determining usage.
- 9.5 There is an Ecology Centre adjacent to the play area. There is little visual linkage between the play area and the centre. This means that the play area does not benefit from casual supervision from the Centre. "Casual Supervision" means the beneficial effect of users knowing that they can be seen even though no actual supervision is given.
- 9.6 It would seem sensible to discuss ways in which the centre and play area might co-operate to improve the opportunities offered by both. School groups attend both.
- 9.7 The play area has limited scope for stimulating role play and pretend play.
- 9.8 Observations at other playgrounds along with unstructured interviews indicated that teenagers made good use of the Avondale Play Area on their way home from school as they would pass through and not need to make a specific journey.

Teenagers using Avondale Play Area enjoyed hanging out in the high nets and chatting. They also enjoyed the swings – again as a place for social interaction.

Some of them had visited Holland Park, but only occasionally.

Informal interviews with visitors to Ladbroke Square commented on the security of the playground, the tranquillity and expressed appreciation of the "garden feel" of the squares. Young children enjoyed playing on the wooden ducks and engaged in prolonged periods of imaginative play.

10 CONCLUSIONS

- 10.1 Holland Park Adventure Play Area is popular with its users and they would strongly recommend it to other people. It is a destination playground for visits by children accompanied by parents and nannies. Most users live relatively near to the play area. There is virtually no unaccompanied usage.
- 10.2 Usage is primarily by children of around 5 years old with limited use by children of Junior school age or older. The reasons for this are not obvious. The area is well used by groups coming from schools whose own play space may be limited or non-existent.
- 10.3 The most popular items are the Zip Wire (cableway), the Rocket Multi-Play and the Big Net Climbing Frame. Water and sand play would be popular but have high maintenance costs so are not to be considered.
- 10.4 Children's priorities would be for a big Slide, Trampoline, Tarzan swing and a Zip Wire. Adult's priorities are similar but they would like more swings
- 10.5 More seats/benches and better toilets were desired ancillary items.
- 10.6 Parents are not risk averse and want challenging and exciting opportunities for their children.
- 10.7 Inclusion may be more about overcoming social barriers rather than physical ones.
- 10.8 The area has no casual supervision from nearby housing, passers-by or the Ecology Centre and travel distances to the play area could be reduced.

11 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 A big slide is the most desired item for the playground. Advice on slides can be found at http://www.childrensplayadvisoryservice.org.uk/publications/publications_linkp_age.html#Slides
- 11.2 A replacement Zip Wire should be at least as long as the existing one. A Tarzan swing similar to the one which has been removed would be popular.
- 11.3 (A) Trampoline(s) would be popular. I would recommend that small ones which give a limited bounce are preferable in an unsupervised playground. They are difficult to keep clean as litter, leaves etc. become trapped underneath. Ease of litter removal should be an important criterion.
- 11.4 More swings including cradle swings should be considered. Cantilever or hammock swings can give social play as well as swinging.

- 11.5 Consideration should be given to discovering why the age profile of users is so young.
- 11.6 Whilst ease of access is important for inclusion it would be desirable to give introductory support to parents who feel unable to bring their children to the play area for reason of social barriers.
- 11.7 Increasing the visual connection between the Ecology Centre and the Play area is desirable and relatively easy to achieve. Opportunities for greater co-operation should be discussed.
- 11.8 More seating in the play area is desired. Improved toilet maintenance would also be popular.
- 11.9 Opening up sightlines and reducing travel distances to the play area would be likely to have a beneficial effect on usage.

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