

Springfield Park and Spring Hill

Results of Springfield Park and Spring Hill User Survey

23 June 2008 – 1 August 2008

908 Springfield Park User Surveys were completed during our consultation on sports and leisure facilities in the park. Thank you for such a positive response to this project. Your feedback will help us make decisions that reflect the views and needs of the local community.

The following is a brief summary of the feedback you supplied us with.

The Whitehouse

There was overwhelming support to have 'Events and Functions', 'Community Group Meetings', 'Health and Fitness Classes' and 'Educational' activities in a newly refurbished Whitehouse. Feedback like this tells us that there is demand for the Whitehouse to become a central and well used community building in Springfield. Only 7.9% of the community said they would not find these rooms useful.

Almost 75% of respondents were keen to see the Whitehouse open late in the evenings too.

The Café

Over 62% of respondents have used The Whitehouse Café at least once in the last 6 months, and 22% of you told us that no changes were necessary. However, a significant number of people were in favour of cheaper food, availability of kosher food and the use of locally and organically grown produce.

The Glass House

23% of respondents supported the installation of year-round heating in the Glass House compared with, 24% who chose either 'disagree' and 'strongly disagree'. A further 28% had no opinion on the matter showing there is not overwhelming support for this facility. However, the existing Glass House already houses tropical plants without heating this does not mean the tropical fauna can not be housed here.

'Educational activities', a 'plant nursery' and 'educational activities' were the most selected options for a refurbished Glass House. You were least interested in the area becoming a public meeting place.

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Sport in Spring Hill

Overall, the majority of respondents were not interested in playing rugby, cricket or football on Spring Hill. But there was still considerable interest in these sports. 20% already play or were interested in playing rugby, 21% already play or are interested in football and 16% already play or are interested in cricket. From this we can tell the variety of sporting facilities and pitches will have to be supported to keep various sports teams happy.

Sport and leisure in Springfield Park and Spring Hill

Overwhelmingly, you agree that a new playground is needed in the park. 83% of respondents said it was 'definitely needed' or 'needed'. The second and third most requested facilities were 'additional public toilets' and 'changing rooms in Spring Hill'. You were least interested in 'cricket nets' in Spring Hill. However, each option was supported by at least 36% of respondents. From this we can gather that there was no huge objection to any of the new facilities, even though some were more popular than others.

We asked you whether you would use any new facilities. We were interested to see that 64% of you said you would use a new playground when over 80% requested it. This shows huge community support for a new play area. Additional public toilets would be the most used of any new facility. 77% said you would use them. There was additional support for sporting facilities in Spring Hill as the next most popular facilities were 'Changing Rooms in Spring Hill' and 'tennis courts in Spring Hill.'

Bandstand

Almost 500 of you left comments about the bandstand. The most popular comment was unsurprisingly to use it to perform music. It was encouraging to read that so many people use it already as a shelter for picnics and as a meeting place. You also told us that the bandstand was historical and deserved renovation.

Play in the park



A



B



C



D

Image C was the most preferred park, and Image D was the least preferred. However all marks were evenly spread, as shown in the table below:

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Picture	Selected as favourite by:	Picture	Selected as favourite by:
A	25%	C	31%
B	26%	D	28%

Over 500 of you left comments about what you liked and did not like about playgrounds. Most popular comments were the use of imaginative and challenging play, alongside safety. There were contradictions, as many of you liked bright equipment compared to comments about natural equipment that matches surroundings.

94% and 90% of you respectively cited safety and durability as key elements of any play area. The least popular options were ‘provision of shelter’ and ‘value for money’

17% of you had no preference for the location, but 30% selected the area near Big Hill compared with 52% selecting the site near the tennis courts in Springfield Park.

Site of the old One O’clock Club

The three most popular options were to transform the area to a ‘new afternoon club’ (29%), ‘community allotment’ (30%) or a ‘nature and wildlife area’ (33%). There is no reason why the area cannot be a combination of options but the high response to this question tells us that the community is keen to see the area used by the community again.

What is happening next?

The next stage of this process is to analyse all your feedback in detail. This report covers only the ‘top-line’ results. The huge response to this survey means we have had to invest in professional questionnaire analysis to identify the opinions and attitudes of the local community. We are currently asking research companies for quotes for this service.

The eventual report from the independent company we choose will be used to help us develop plans for the future of the park.

This user survey was just one element of the consultation. We will continue to work with community groups, clubs and park users to ensure we can make changes that everyone can be satisfied with.

Full results are available on request. For this and more information contact:

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