

Bouverie Square – Proposed Play Park – Survey Results

The data analysed contains 496 responses from a public survey to gain feedback on a proposed play park in Bouverie Square, Folkestone Town Centre. Respondents provided opinions on various aspects including equipment preferences, accessibility needs, amenities and general comments.



Demographic Overview (About you)

Postcode

Findings

- 496 responses were collected, primarily from parents, caregivers, and local residents.

Most respondents were from Folkestone (CT19, CT20, CT21), with a few from nearby areas (TN, CT18, CT16).

Are you disabled?

Findings

- Majority (89.9%) reported no disabilities.
- 6.7% identified as disabled (e.g., visual impairments, mobility issues, autism).
- 3.4% preferred not to say.

Interpretation

The majority of respondents had no disability of their own.

Details of your disability

Findings

12 responses out of 496, (some containing multiple conditions) with the rest blank.

Disability types mentioned:

- Mobility-related – (1%)
- Neurological – (0.6%)
- Chronic Illness – (0.5%)
- Mental Health – (0.2%)
- Blank – (97.7%)

Interpretation

Most respondents did not provide a response about a disability of their own.

Do you have children (or any children that you care for) who would use the play park?

Findings

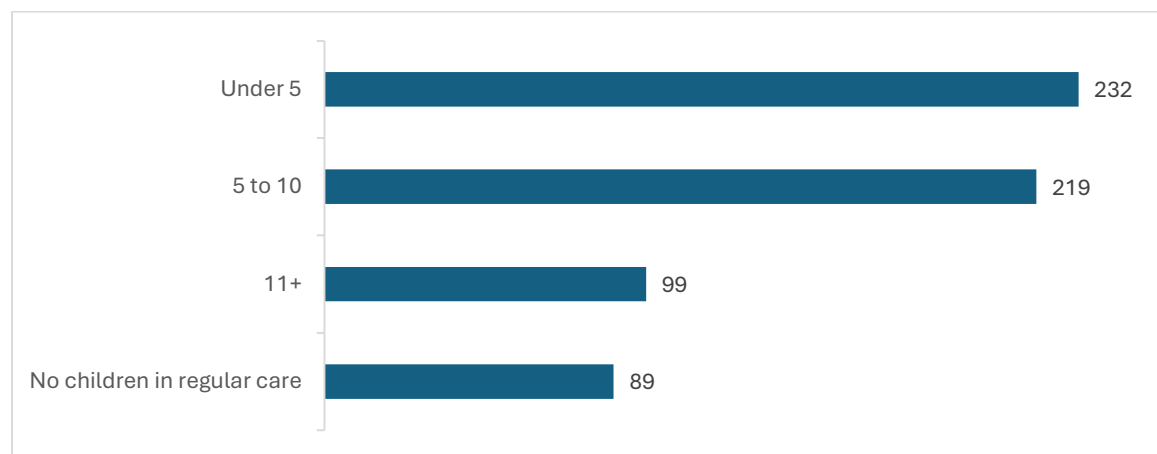
- Yes (80%) reported they did have/ cared for children that would use the play park.
- No (20%) reported they did not have/ cared for children that would use the play park.

Interpretation

Just under three-quarters of respondents (71%) reported having children or caring for children who would use the play park which suggests strong community interest in or need for a play park facility. Based on these responses, the play park would serve a substantial portion of the surveyed population.

How old are your children (or any children that you care for on a regular basis)?

Findings



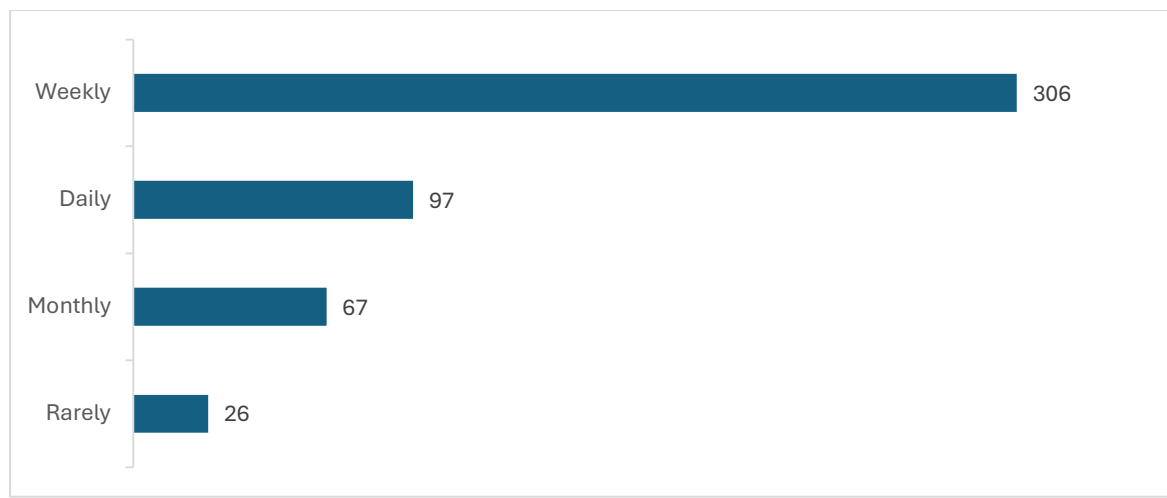
*Note: Percentages sum to more than 100% because some respondents reported multiple age groups

Interpretation

Children under 5 years old represent the largest user group (46.8% of respondents with children). This suggests strong demand for toddler/preschool-appropriate play equipment. A number of responses included multiple age groups, indicating many families/caregivers have children spanning different developmental stages. While less frequent than younger groups, 20% of responses included children 11+, suggesting the park should accommodate some activities for pre-teens

How often do you visit the town centre?

Findings



Interpretation

Weekly visits dominate: Over 6 out of 10 respondents (61.7%) visit the town centre weekly, making this the most common visit frequency.

Daily visitors substantial: About 19.6% visit daily, indicating a significant portion of frequent visitors.

Infrequent visitors: About 13.5% visit monthly & 5.2% visit rarely, suggesting the town centre maintains regular engagement with most respondents.

Combined weekly and daily visitors make up 81.3% of respondents, showing strong regular engagement with the town centre.

Play Equipment Preferences

Which type of activities does your child/ children enjoy the most? (Please rank the answer choices in order of preference, 1 being the most enjoyable).

Findings

Overall Preference Ranking (Based on First Place Frequency)

1. Climbing - Appeared in the first position 176 times (35.5% of responses)
2. Adventure play - First position 94 times (19%)

3. Swinging - First position 74 times (14.9%)
4. Sliding - First position 66 times (13.3%)
5. Imaginative play - First position 49 times (9.9%)
6. Jumping - First position 17 times (3.4%)
7. Balancing - First position 12 times (2.4%)
8. Spinning - First position 8 times (1.6%)

Overall Preference Ranking (Based on Position Frequency)

1. Climbing - Appeared most frequently in first position
2. Sliding - Appeared most frequently in second position
3. Adventure play - Appeared most frequently in third position
4. Swinging - Appeared most frequently in fourth position
5. Imaginative play - Appeared most frequently in fifth position
6. Jumping - Appeared most frequently in sixth position
7. Spinning - Appeared most frequently in seventh position
8. Balancing - Appeared most frequently in eighth position

Interpretation

Climbing dominates preferences: 35.5% of respondents (18 in 50 respondents) listed climbing as their top choice, making it by far the most popular play activity.

Adventure play is second most popular: About 10 in 50 respondents preferred adventure play first. Although sliding was second choice most frequently, about 7 in 50 chose this as their first choice making it less favoured than adventure play. However, it is evident there is a strong interest in more complex play structures.

Traditional activities favoured: Swinging and sliding, classic playground elements, still rank fairly highly in preferences.

Imaginative play notable: While not the top choice for many, its presence in the top 5 of both above lists shows value placed on creative play.

Less interest in isolated play equipment: Jumping, spinning and balancing were consistently ranked lower, suggesting they're seen as complementary rather than primary activities.

The data suggests children strongly prefer active, physical play (climbing, adventure) over isolated skill activities (balancing, spinning), with creative play occupying a middle ground in preferences.

Accessibility and SEN (Special Education Needs)

Are there any specific needs or disabilities that should be considered in the design of the play park?

Findings

- "Yes" responses: 206 (41.5%) - Approximately 40% of respondents indicated some connection or need related to accessibility/SEN.
- "No" responses: 290 (58.5%) - A majority, approximately 60% did not indicate such needs.

Interpretation

The responses suggest consideration should be given to specific needs and disabilities in the design of the park.

Please outline the specific needs or disabilities that should be considered in the design of the play park.

Findings

Substantive responses: 205 (41%) with specific suggestions.

Blank/empty responses: 291 (59%).

Several elements are applicable to both the Bouverie Square site and/ or areas outside of playpark boundary including:

Key Themes Identified

- Physical Accessibility (Most Frequent Mention) – 34%
- Inclusivity for All (Second Most Frequent) – 26%
- Sensory Needs (Third Most Frequent) – 22%
- Other – 18%

Specific Disability Considerations

Autism spectrum (sensory needs, quiet spaces)

Visual impairment (tactile elements)

Hearing impairment

Physical disabilities

ADHD (energy release opportunities)

Support Facilities mentioned

- Accessible toilets/changing places
- Seating with proper support
- Shaded areas

Other

- Several respondents referenced existing good examples (Mote Park, Radnor Park)
- Some provided specific website/resources for inclusive design
- About 10% deferred to experts while emphasising importance

Do you have any suggestions for making the play park more inclusive for children with SEN?

Several elements are applicable to both the Bouverie Square site and/ or areas outside of playpark boundary including:

Key Themes Identified:

Accessible Equipment (Most Frequent Suggestion)

- Wheelchair accessible swings
- Inclusive roundabouts
- Ramps instead of stairs
- Accessible climbing structures
- Flat-based equipment for wheelchair transfer
- Wide slides for parent/child use

Sensory Play Elements (Most Popular Category)

- Sensory gardens/planting
- Tactile elements
- Musical instruments/sound features
- Visual elements
- Water play features
- Sensory panels/boards

Physical Layout & Accessibility

- Wide, flat pathways
- Rubber/smooth flooring (not gravel/bark)
- Spaced-out equipment
- Clear sight lines for supervision
- Fenced/enclosed areas for safety
- Step-free access throughout

Quiet/Calm Areas

- Designated quiet spaces
- Sensory nooks
- Areas with natural shade/trees
- Spaces that block traffic noise

Inclusive Design Principles

- Integration rather than segregation (multiple mentions)
- Equipment usable by all children together
- Consideration for older SEN children
- Universal design approach

Additional Amenities

- Accessible toilets with changing facilities
- Seating for children and carers
- Covered areas for rain protection
- Cafe/refreshment facilities
- CCTV for security

Opposition/Concerns:

- A small minority expressed that no changes were needed or that existing SEN facilities elsewhere were sufficient

Park Environment & Amenities

What amenities within surrounding buildings would you like to see in or near the play park?

Findings:

Overall Preference Ranking (Based on First Place Frequency)

1. Cafe/Eatery - Appeared first in approximately 60% of responses
2. Toilets - Appeared first in approximately 35% of responses
3. Bike Store - Appeared first in about 5% of responses

Evening economy and "Other" were almost never ranked first.

Consistent High Priority for Basic Amenities

Cafe/Eatery and Toilets consistently appeared in the top 2 positions across nearly all responses and were almost always ranked higher than bike storage or evening economy features.

Patterns in Lower Rankings

Bike store typically appeared in 3rd position

Evening economy most commonly appeared in 4th position

"Other" was most frequently ranked last (5th)

Interpretation:

The strong preference for cafe/eatery and toilet facilities being prioritised reflects a desire for basic convenience amenities that serve all visitors.

The consistent inclusion (though lower ranking) of bike storage indicates recognition of cycling as an important transportation mode to/from the park.

While evening economy features were included in all responses, their lower ranking suggests they're seen as valuable but secondary to daytime amenities.

The universal inclusion of all five categories suggests the community wants a park that serves multiple functions - dining, convenience, transportation, night-time use, and flexibility for other needs.

How important is it that the play park is fenced?

Findings

- Total responses: 496
- Scale: 0-10 (0 = Not important, 10 = Extremely important)

Frequency Analysis

- 10 (Very important): 274 responses (55.2%)
- 0 (Not important): 46 responses (9.3%)
- 5 (Neutral/moderately important): 68 responses (13.7%)
- 8 (Important) 43 responses (8.7%)
- Other responses (1,2,3,4,6,7,9) make up the remaining 13.1%

Interpretation

Strong preference for fencing: Over half of respondents (55.2%) rated fencing as very important (10/10), indicating this is a high-priority feature for most users.

Divided opinions: While most respondents value fencing highly, a significant minority (9.3%) see it as unimportant (0/10).

Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding the play park? Any other comments

Key Themes

Themes identified are applicable to both Bouverie Square and areas within playpark boundary.

1. Safety and Security (Most Frequent Concern)

- CCTV monitoring
- Anti-social behaviour prevention: concerns about drunks, drug users, unruly teen
- Fencing requirements
- Security: park keepers, PCSOs, 24-hour security
- Nighttime concerns: locking gates, lighting to deter vandalism

2. Age-Appropriate Design

- Requests for separate areas for different age groups
- Need for more toddler-friendly equipment
- Suggestions for teenager spaces (skate parks, parkour, basketball
- Inclusive design for SEN children

3. Amenities and Features

- Seating for parents
- Shade/shelter
- Toilets/changing facilities
- Food/drink options (ice cream shop, café)

4. Maintenance and Upkeep

- Concerns about litter and cleanliness
- Need for durable, well-built equipment
- Regular maintenance programs

Significant Quotes

- *"Make it as big as possible and for all ages! Best way to get people in the town and spending money on the high street."*
- *"This play space could be an absolute game-changer for Folkestone. So go big and imaginative!!"*