

Redcliffe Square Gardens

Analysis of stakeholder consultation

February 2020

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Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Introduction

Background

This winter the Council will be undertaking some improvement works to Redcliffe Square Gardens. As part of this project the Council is going to improve the perimeter planting, replace the current park benches with more accessible benches with arm rests and carry out improvements to the grass areas in the park, particularly under trees where the soil is compacted and grass doesn't grow. There are also opportunities to improve the playground, add additional seating and some natural play features which can be used by all.

Methodology and report

A survey was developed to seek residents' views on the improvements to Redcliffe Square Gardens, in particular, the views on the redevelopment of the existing playground and how natural play features into other areas of the parks. This report focuses on the stakeholder survey, a total of 72 surveys were returned by the closing date Friday 14th February.

Where graphs are shown, percentage figures are used. Where percentages do not total a 100 per cent, this may be due to computer rounding, where respondents have chosen not to answer a question or where respondents have been able to select more than one answer.

Appendices

Appendix one contains data tables of the results and appendix two contains details of all comments made by respondents in relation to open questions in the surveys. This is available as a separate document.

Acknowledgements

The Council would like to thank all residents that took the time to feedback their views as part of this exercise.



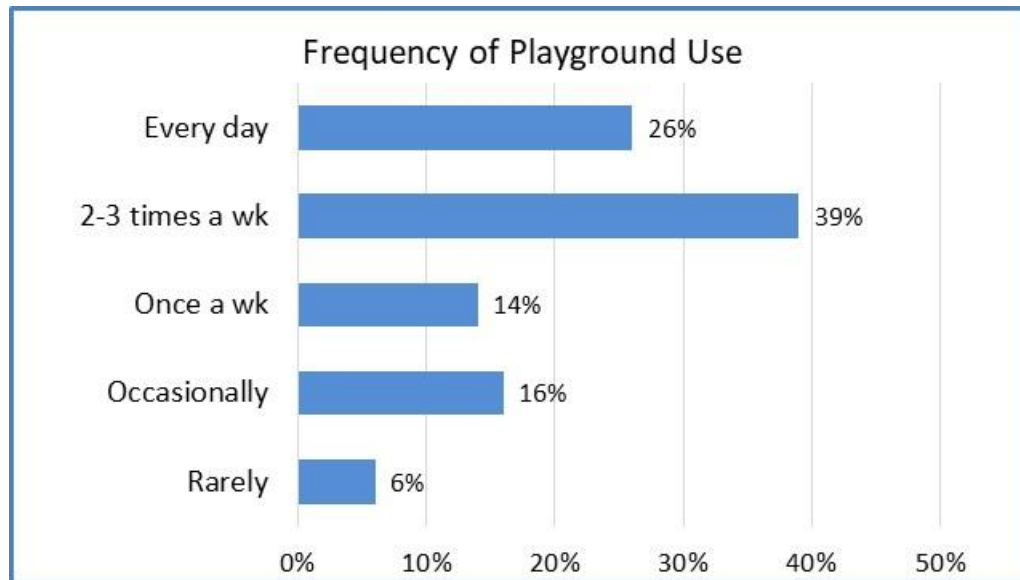
Results at a glance

- The majority of respondents are regular users of the Redcliffe Square Gardens playground with 26 per cent using the playground every day and 39 per cent two or three times a week.
- Seven per cent of respondents were very satisfied and 43 per cent satisfied with the current playground in Redcliffe Square Gardens.
- The two favourite pieces of equipment in the current playground were the swing (69 per cent) and the small multiplay unit (55 per cent).
- The favourite play activities of respondents' children were climbing (59 per cent), sliding (57 per cent) and playing in sand (47 per cent).
- The most popular equipment for the playground in the future were climbing equipment (39 per cent), cradle swings (toddlers) (36 per cent) and standard swings (33 per cent). Seventy seven per cent of respondents would like to see the sand play area retained and 56 per cent would like to see it extended.
- Seventy nine per cent of respondents would like to see some natural play features in the wider gardens with large trunks (66 per cent) and stepping stone logs (55 per cent) the most popular choices.
- Fifty five per cent of respondents would like to see the existing park benches replaced by standard park benches (as used in other parks) which can be engraved/memorialised. Sixty seven per cent of respondents would like to see picnic benches installed on one of the grass areas.
- Ninety per cent of respondents were in favour of the Earl's Court Community Trust holding family friendly jazz event in Redcliffe Square Gardens in the summer.



Consultation findings: Frequency of use

The majority of respondents to the survey are regular users of the playground in Redcliffe Square Gardens with just over a quarter (26 per cent) using the playground every day and a further 39 per cent two to three times a week. Fourteen per cent use it once a week and 16 per cent occasionally. Seven per cent of respondents use the playground rarely and there were no non playground users amongst the respondents.

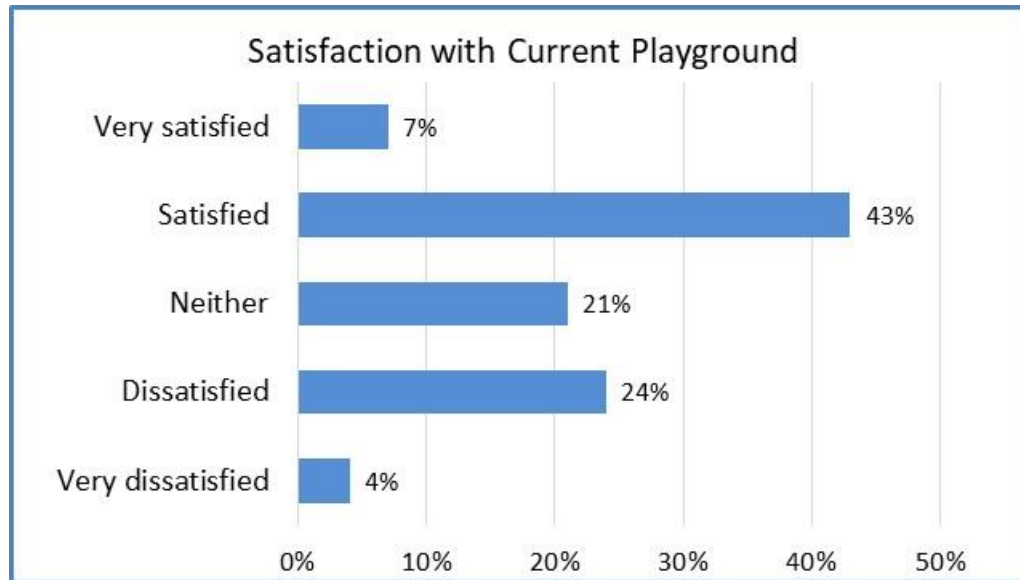


Base: All responses (72)



Consultation findings: Satisfaction with current playground

Half of respondents expressed satisfaction with the current playground in Redcliffe Square Gardens with 43 per cent satisfied and seven per cent very satisfied. Twenty one per cent of respondents gave a neutral response (neither satisfied nor dissatisfied). Around a quarter (24 per cent) of respondents were dissatisfied with the playground with a further four per cent very dissatisfied.

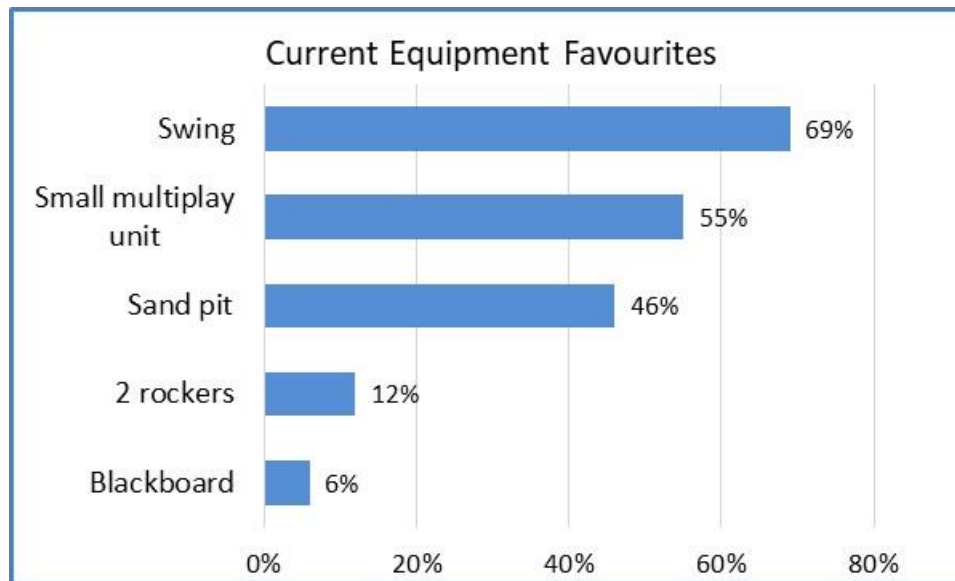


Base: All responses (72)



Consultation findings: Current playground equipment

Respondents were asked what their two favourite pieces of current equipment in the playground were. The top two favourite were the swing (69 per cent) followed by the small multiplay unit (55 per cent). Just under half (46 per cent) of respondents chose the sand pit. The two rockers and blackboard were much less popular pieces of equipment (12 and six per cent respectively). Respondents were also asked about the current sand pit area in the playground. Over three quarters (77 per cent) of respondents wanted to see the sand play area retained and 56 per cent of respondents would like to see this feature extended.

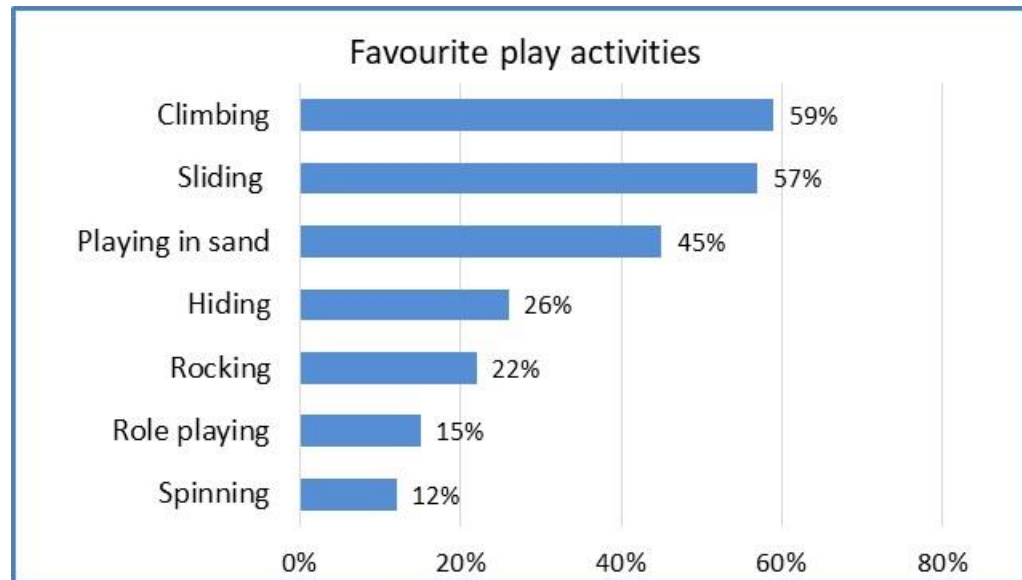


Base: All responses (72)



Consultation findings: Favourite play activities

Respondents were asked about their children's favourite play activities. The top two play activities were climbing (59 per cent) and sliding (57 per cent). This was followed by playing in sand (45 per cent). Hiding (26 per cent) and rocking (22 per cent) were less popular. Role playing (15 per cent) and spinning (12 per cent) were the least popular play activities.

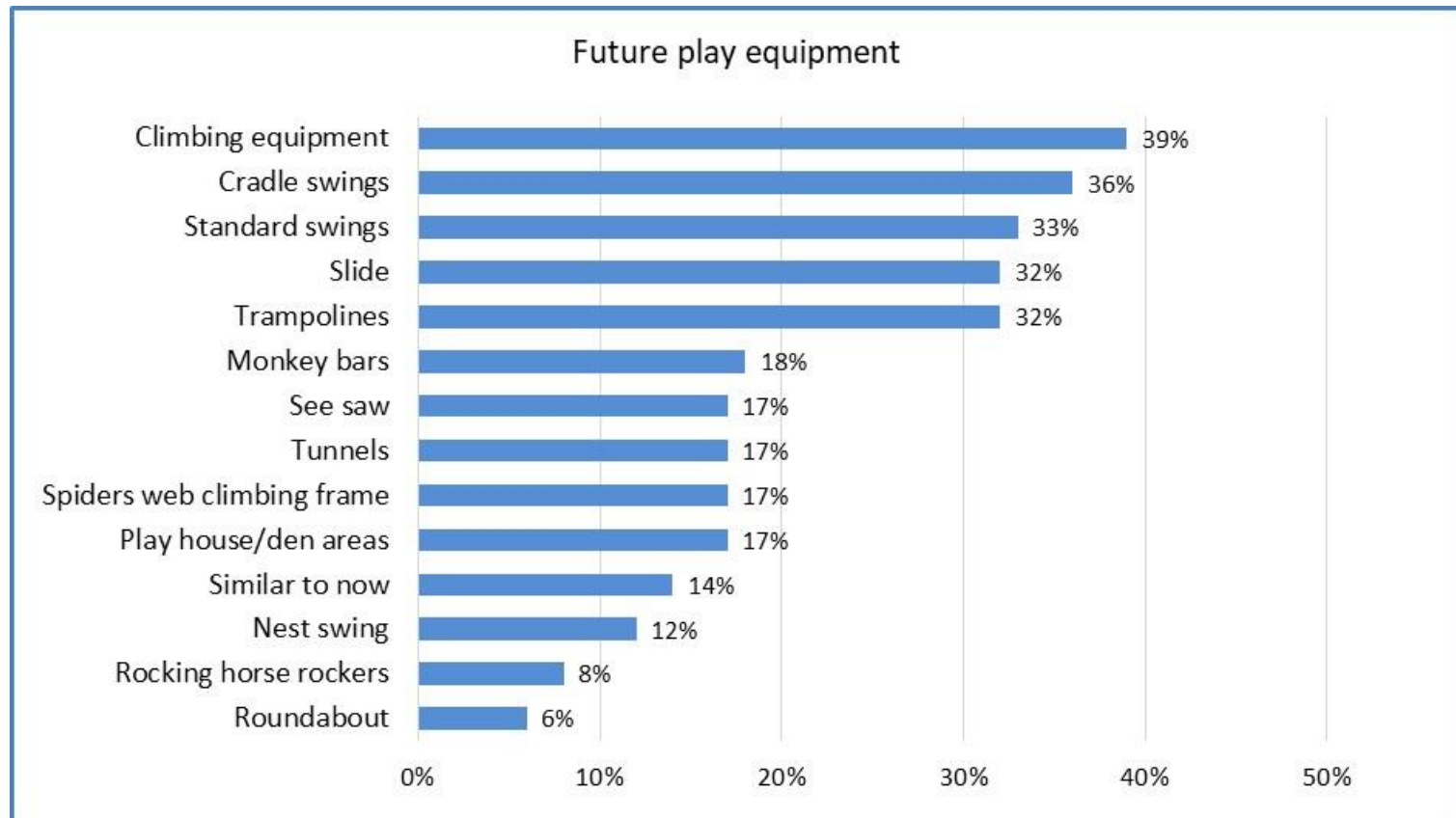


Base: All responses (72)



Consultation findings: Future play equipment

Respondents were asked to select their top three pieces of play equipment for the playground in the future. The most popular choice was climbing equipment (39 per cent) followed by cradle swings (toddler) (36 per cent) and standard swings (33 per cent). Trampolines and monkey bars were also popular choices (32 per cent each). Fourteen per cent of respondents wanted equipment similar to that in the playground now. There was less support for the other pieces of equipment listed with the rocking horse/rockers (eight per cent) and roundabout (six per cent) being the least popular choices.

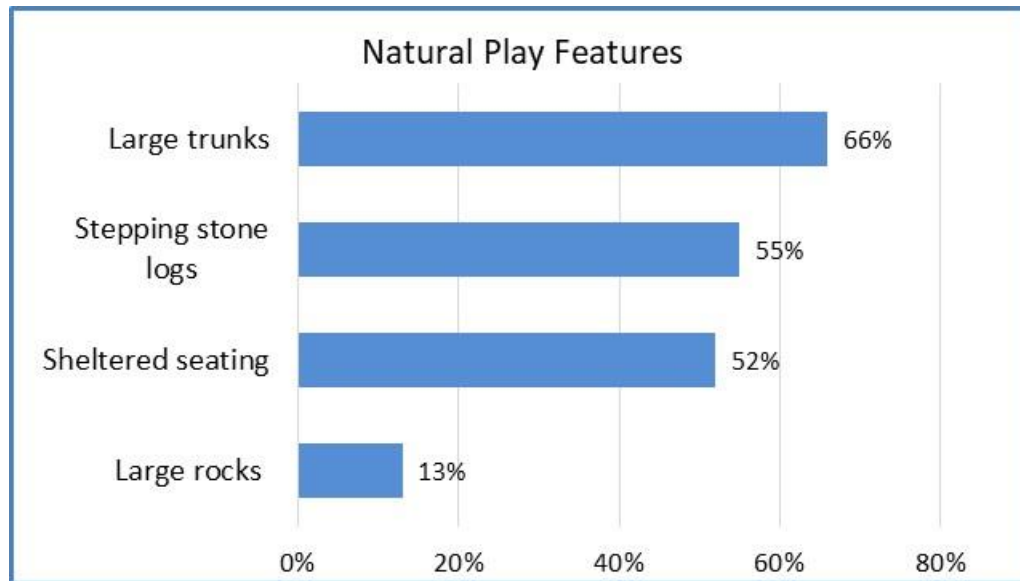


Base: All responses (72)



Consultation findings: Natural play features

Respondents were asked whether or not they would like to see some natural play features added to the wider gardens. Seventy nine per cent of respondents said yes. Respondents were asked to pick their top two natural play features from a choice of four. Two thirds of respondents (66 per cent) would like to see the introduction of large trunks. Over half preferred stepping stone logs (55 per cent) or sheltered seating (52 per cent). There was much less support for large rocks (12 per cent).

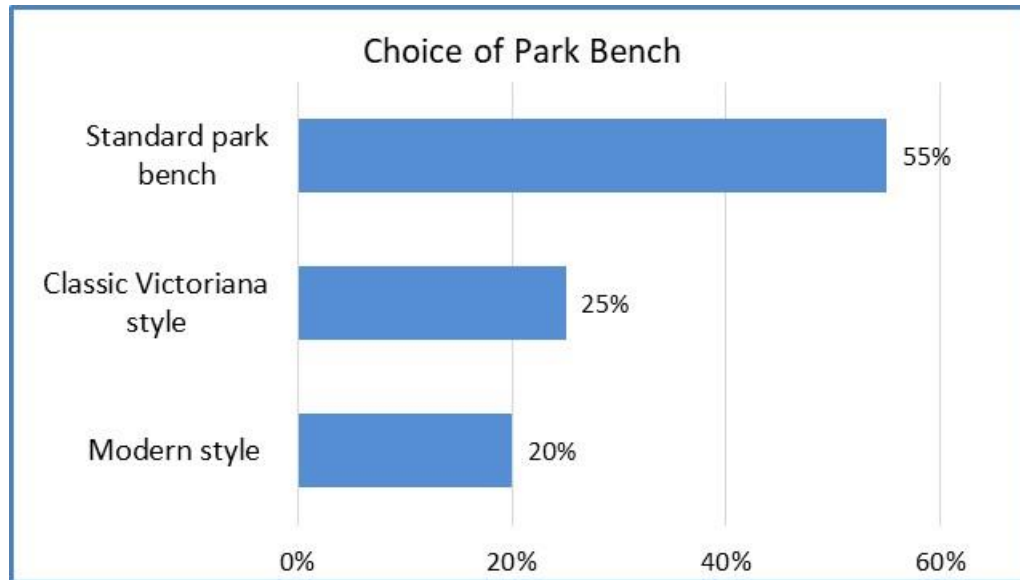


Base: All responses (72)



Consultation findings: New benches

Respondents were asked which style of park bench they would prefer in Redcliffe Square Gardens. Over half of respondents (55 per cent) chose the standard park bench (as used in other parks) which can be engraved/memorialised. A quarter (25 per cent) chose the classic Victoriana style and less at 20 per cent the modern style of bench. When asked about the installation of picnic benches on one of the grass areas in the park, just over two thirds (67 per cent) said yes they would like picnic benches. Respondents were also asked if they would support the Earl's Court Community Trust holding a family friendly jazz event in Redcliffe Square Gardens in the summer, ninety per cent of respondents supported the idea.



Base: All responses (72)



Consultation findings: Other Comments

Respondents were asked if they had any other comments to make about the potential improvements to Redcliffe Square Gardens. A total of 28 comments were made and these have been themed (comments may appear under multiple themes). A selection of comments made can be found on the following slide with the full list found in the appendices. The following table summarises the themes:

Theme	Comments
Playground equipment	11
Health and safety and park maintenance	6
Sandpit	4
Other equipment	4
Learning from other parks	4
Planting	3
Other	2



Consultation findings: Other comments

Play equipment

The playground is unsuitable for under 2s at the moment and it would be wonderful to have options for babies (baby swings etc.). Many thanks!

For families that have 8 yo and 3 yo is important to have variety of equipment. like swings for all, slides for all...

The playground should have two swings, 1 cradle/toddler swing and one flat bottom swing.

It's an amazing garden for 1-2 year olds, good to have activities for older kids.

Sandpit

If sand is retained -- figure out a way that it does not spill out and get greatly reduced quickly. The children lose a lot of joy this way.

Lid for sand pit. Looking forward to improvements.

Other equipment

Can some adult gym equipment be put somewhere in the gardens like at Holland Park? But with a solid base so that users are not forced to stand in mud?



Health and Safety and Maintenance

Tall trees and falling branches are hiding light and becoming more and more dangerous.

Playground: Bigger sand pit and cradle swing would be great, blackboard never used and not needed. South east part and grass: always muddy, trees stop light getting through. South side trees: have not been pruned in 20 years! Create shade in big part of garden which could do with more light. Plane tree growing through chestnut tree. Large branches falling is a danger, needs serious attention. Gates: Would be good to have springs to have them close automatically. Pigeons: Swarms of pigeons and that people are feeding them is an issue!

Ball games - No ball game sign, not observed. Gates left open - safety risk.

Learning from other parks

The renovation of the children's playground at Holland Park is a great success and should be benchmarked.

