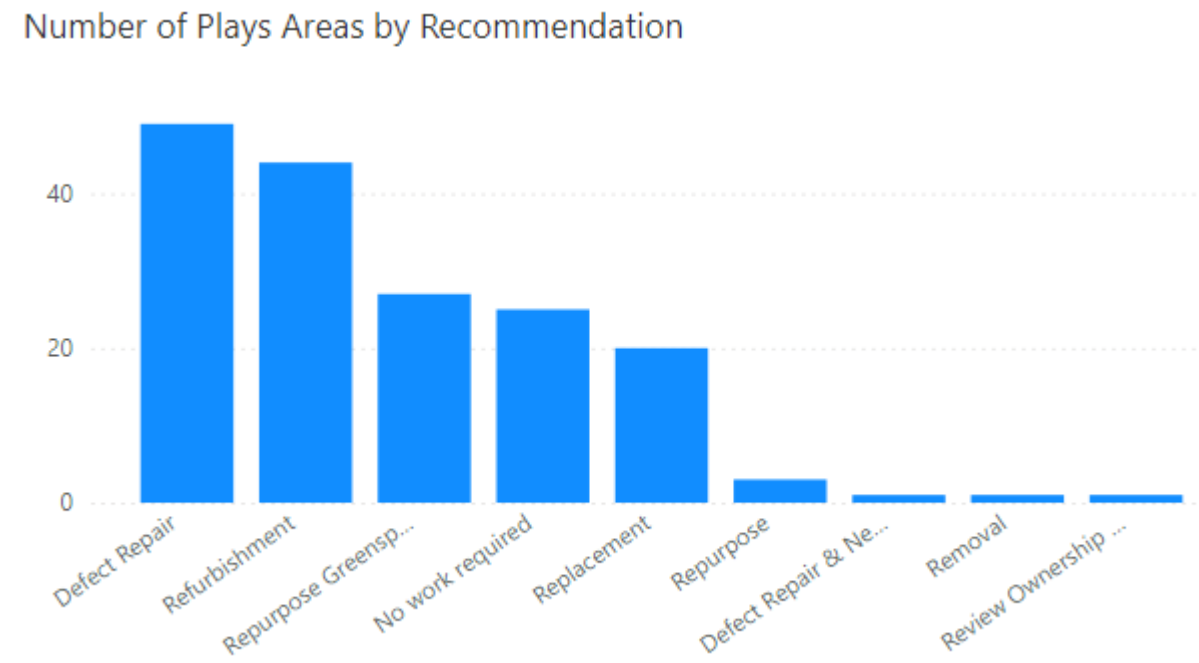
Appendix 4 Consultation

Plan for Play public consultation 2025

If the Plan for Play is adopted by BCP Council, then a detailed and robust consultation and engagement programme will be undertaken prior to significant changes to any play spaces.

There will be a BCP-wide play consultation that will allow comments on each play and wheeled space and seek views on future improvements. Everyone will be able to have their say on each space that is important to them. The graph below shows the recommendation for play areas across the whole Plan for Play.



Open in Power BI
Play Area Recommendations
Data as of 11/11/24, 09:01

There is a financial and spatial need to reduce the number of play facilities and that is set out as a Plan for Play principle that needs to be met. While not all play sites can be retained, there is a clear target to reduce the numbers, with a 19% reduction advocated in the improvement plan. The specific sites to be repurposed or changed will form part of the consultation.

Any decisions to change the improvement plan recommendations, such as retaining a site instead of it being repurposed, will need to be factored into the future revenue and maintenance budget, as well as additional refurbishment costs.

Consultation and engagement approach

A mixed approach to the consultation will include:

- Online digital engagement including surveys
- Programme website hosting individual plans and details for improvements
- Face to face:
    - In the play areas, most affected by the proposals on repurposing and improvements
    - In local community hubs
    - In schools
    - With specialist groups, e.g. disabled, young people, ethnic minorities.
    - Through existing stakeholders, such as DOTS disability, Youth forum

Where a cluster of play areas exists, there will be consultation to cover all these in a single approach. These will not be based on ward boundaries but where facilities and their geography naturally cluster sites together. The detailed approach to this consultation will be drawn up and published once adopted and funding approved by BCP Cabinet and Council on 10 December 2024.

Timing

We are suggesting a phased consultation approach so that there is enough staff resource to undertake the face-to-face engagement where it is needed. We will start with a Zone or cluster of play spaces that includes the most parks with 'works' proposed for phased 1. It is estimated we will start the consultation in April 2025.

Levels of consultation

There will be different levels of engagement used depending on the type of facility and the proposal for it. For those play spaces where no work is required, we will include this information as part of the zone engagement, but we will not be seeking detailed views on these play areas.

All play spaces where it is proposed refurbishment is required, we will seek views on:

- Style and theming of new play facilities.
- Types of equipment and facilities for the area.
- Ideas for improvements

Where sites are to be repurposed:

- Sharing and setting out the rationale and information related to the key decision making will be needed on the repurposing of sites. How this is managed across certain areas, the phasing and improvements to ensure nearby sites are improved first will be explained within the consultation.
- Consider the cluster of play spaces and the options for which ones stays open and what is repurposed, and for what.
- What happens to the green space/site if it is repurposed, and what type of options are there to use the space for, e.g. return to nature, tree planting, dog exercise space, tarmac surfacing used for scooter/junior bike trails etc

Specific sites

- Some sites are crucial to the local environment and green space and may warrant a deeper level of consultation, engagement with stakeholders and engagement with the design process.

Public consultation will utilise and link in to established community centres and Community Services areas. This can provide a base for engagement with existing audiences and stakeholders as well as the direct engagement in the green spaces in question. (App XX Consultation - community map)

Stakeholders seeking to support the improvements through fund raising will also be engaged through this process, allowing them to be part of the decision-making process. An FAQ style guide and information on the BCP projects website (https://bcpprojects.net) will be made available to help inform community groups and potential funders.

Summary of pre-strategy consultation and engagement

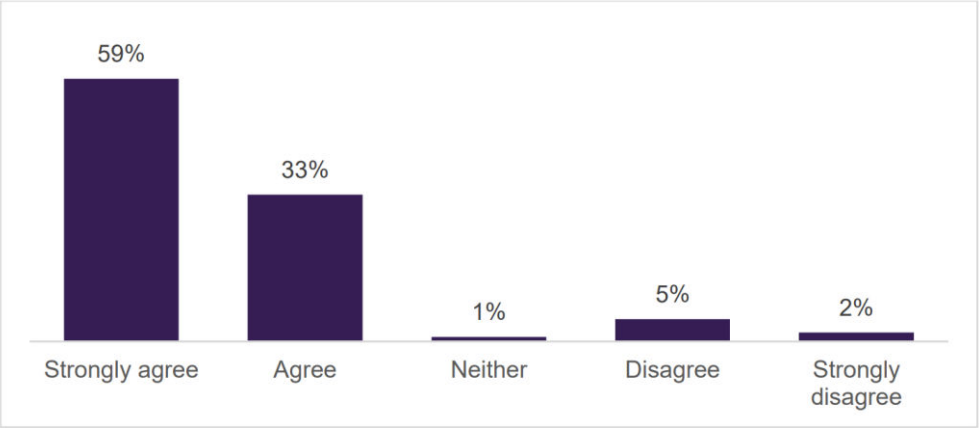
Public consultation 2023

A consultation was undertaken October 2022 to January 2023 that sought views on a draft vision for play as well as key information on how people use our play and wheeled facilities.

The comments on the draft vision have been used to shape the new vision. The draft vision in the consultation was:

To deliver high quality, accessible, safe and inclusive play spaces, where everyone of all abilities, across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, can learn, have fun and be active through play. All ages and abilities should feel safe, confident and excited to use our play spaces as part of leading fulfilled lives with brighter futures.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the draft vision?



The survey responses have informed the spatial review of existing and future state provision of play alongside other key elements that shaped the strategy aims, such as the lack of provision for younger children, facilities for disabled users, and opportunity for contact with nature.

Consultation headlines

- 506 respondents completed an online or paper form during the consultation period.
- 77% of respondents are female. 23% male.
- 13% have a limiting illness or disability.

Use of play spaces

- 70% use their local/nearest play space about once a week or more often
- 73% use play areas/playgrounds about once a week or more often
- 16% use wheeled play about once a week, with 42% never using them.
- 14% use MUGAs about once a week, with 43% never using MUGAs.
- 93% of respondents visit play spaces at the weekend

How many play spaces have you, or your family, used in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area in the past 12 months?

Number of play spaces visited	Number of people
None	3
1	16
2	23
3	44
4	53
5	53
6	67
7	27
8	36
9	9
10	65
More than 10	86

Base: 484 respondents

Satisfaction with play spaces

- 40% are satisfied with their local/nearest play space, with 51% dissatisfied.
- 49% are satisfied with play areas/ playgrounds for children aged 0-12, with 40% dissatisfied.
- 12% are satisfied with play areas/ playgrounds for teenagers, with 66% dissatisfied.
- 16% are satisfied with inclusive play areas with equipment suitable for those with disabilities, with 63% dissatisfied.
- 43% are satisfied with wheeled play, with 31% dissatisfied.
- 38% are satisfied with MUGAs, with 24% dissatisfied.

- 80% agree that they use their local play space because it is the closest to their home. 16% disagree.

The main reasons that stop people from visiting their local play space are:

- it's run down / has poor and broken facilities and equipment (54%).

This is followed by

- lack of suitable equipment (48%).
- Lack of toilets (36%),
- not clean, graffiti, litter (36%),
- not enough for young children (34%)
- it feels unsafe/there's antisocial behaviour (30%)

The main reason respondents use their most used play area is because:

- it is within walking distance from their home (55%),
- good equipment/facilities for children aged 0-12 (50%)

- feels safe for me and my family (43%)
- is my local play space (42%)

Specific play spaces

199 respondents named a specific play space. This includes 81 local play spaces. The graphic below shows the play spaces that were named, with Seafield Gardens having the most mentioned (14), followed by Muscliff (9), Westbourne (8) and Kings Park (7). This can potentially be linked to social media and publicity at the time of the survey seeking to improve some of these sites, often following the removal of individual items of equipment.

Youth Forum March 2024

BCP Council Youth forum spent time with the Greenspace Development team sharing their thoughts and views on the play spaces across the conurbation.

Feeling safe in our play spaces was the main thread through all the discussions along with the need for more social seating, lighting, performance areas, making sure our spaces are well maintained and accessible to everyone.

The group set out their key priorities across 3 themes.

Theme 1 Sociable Play Spaces safe and accessible for everyone

- Everyone feeling safe even after dark
- Social seating & tables
- Picnic Areas & water fill up stations
- Grass Areas to hang out and play
- Different spaces and places for large and small groups to socialise
- Play for parents & everyone
- Accessible for all users

Theme 2 Attractive and colourful Play Spaces cared for and well maintained

- Attractive Play Spaces that enhance and complement the wider environment
- Play Spaces that are colourful and feel happy
- Colourful Artwork in Play Spaces drawn by local children
- Art-boards that can be erased so small children and teens and adults can have fun
- Glow in the dark and glowing lights make it fun and safe in the rain winter and dark
- Flower beds and vegetable gardens to teach about wildlife
- Play equipment that is well maintained and cared for

Theme 3 Lots of different things to do

- A variety of different activities and play equipment for all ages and users
- Pathways and walking trails
- Basketball hoops and football goals
- Swings slides climbing frames roundabouts & monkey bars
- Technology incorporated into Play Spaces
- Games walls
- Performance Space
- Sensory play rain sticks and touch and feel walls

- Play trails with interesting activities and designs to cultivate interest in exercise

A stakeholder workshop was held in summer 2024 to understand views and seek input from BCP Councillors, community groups, those working in communities and other groups.

Stakeholder Workshop 2024
Perceptions of Play spaces in BCP - Worst Things

- Lack of parking
- Broken equipment
- No play spaces for older children
- Not enough play spaces for teenagers or teenagers not welcome
- Lack of amenities/toilets
- Lack of variety in one space
- Limited to one or two age ranges
- Not enough for different abilities or accessible play
- Connectivity – need a safe journey to play spaces
- Poor visibility of the play spaces
- Poor maintenance / Not welcoming
- Looking tired and falling apart

Opportunities Challenges & Priorities

- Wheeled - use a Hub & Spoke Model – Make Baiter the hub and the smaller Wheeled provisions the spokes. “if local users were asked they would want their money spent on Baiter”
- Speculative model of partnership funding
- How much would the maintenance budget need to be to address all 9010 defects across all the play spaces and what would it need to be year on year?
- Level of insurance cover required?
- Reword the aims to be more inclusive “everyone”
- Reframe the language to “repurpose”
- What is the right provision in 5-10yrs time?
- All the layers of green infrastructure, health & wellbeing to be used
- Biodiversity, recreation and play means living well in BCP