



WETHERBY TOWN COUNCIL REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: Property Committee

From: Iona Taylor, Town Clerk

Date: 24th January 2018

Subject: Playground Designs Public Consultation & Preferred Supplier Selection

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Background

- The Town Council owns and maintains three children's equipped play areas (in addition to the skate park, Little Toe bike skills area and other recreational facilities).
- A need to improve the three playgrounds was identified.
- A [design brief](#) was prepared and provided to playground suppliers who used the information in this document and the results of a site visit with the Clerk and Deputy Clerk to prepare preliminary designs.
- The preliminary designs were presented to Property Committee members by representatives of each company on 14th November 2017.
- The designs were the subject of a public consultation exercise, the results of which are contained in this report.

Public Consultation Format

The public consultation was held between 6th and 20th November 2017 and took the following format:

- An exhibition of all the designs in the Town Hall¹, open at differing times over 3 days (13th, 14th and 15th November). This generated 34 responses.
- An online display of all designs at www.wetherby.co.uk between the 6th and 20th November. This generated 77 responses.
- After reviewing the designs (either online or at the Town Hall) members of the public were asked to complete a survey containing 9 questions. The results of this survey are analysed in detail later in this report.
- Young visitors to the Town Hall exhibition were asked to place a sticker on their preferred design.²
- The school councils from Crossley Street and St. James' Primary schools attended the Town Hall exhibition.
- A number of detailed written representations were received, primarily from residents living adjacent to the Nidd Approach site.
- Face-to-face meetings were held with residents wanting to discuss specific concerns, especially in relation to the Nidd Approach site.

1 – Photos of Town Hall exhibition – P.14

2 – Children's feedback using stickers – P.15



The consultation was advertised in the following ways:

- 500 flyers distributed through local schools, shops, the Town Hall and the library.³
- A3 posters displayed at all sites (Scaur Bank – 2, Masons Field – 2, Nidd Approach – 1).
- Electronic version of flyer distributed through schools, pre-schools and the Council's mailing list of interested parties (56).
- Through the Council's social media channels, reaching 3,154 people on Facebook alone.⁴
- An article in the Wetherby News on 9th November 2017.⁵
- A banner located on Bridgefoot Railings from 9th – 20th November.⁶
- Letters sent to the neighbouring properties of all sites.⁷
- On the Council's website; www.wetherby.co.uk.
- Via appearances on Tempo FM's Not the Midweek Show by the Town Clerk (Iona Taylor).

3 – Fyer / Poster – P.16

4 – Facebook post advertising consultation - P.17

5 – Wetherby News article – P.18

6 – Banner located at Bridgefoot – P.19

7 – Letter to neighbouring properties – P.20

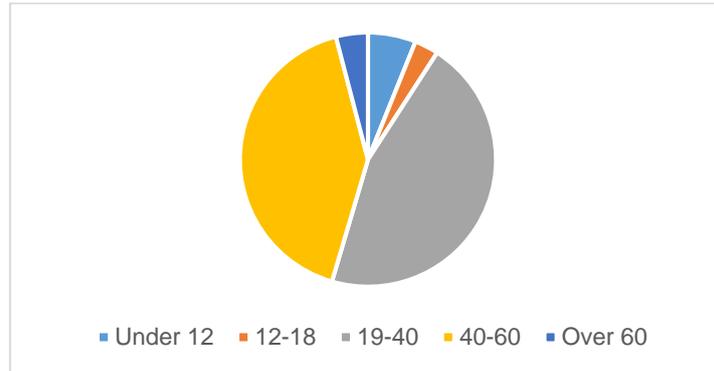


RESULTS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

General

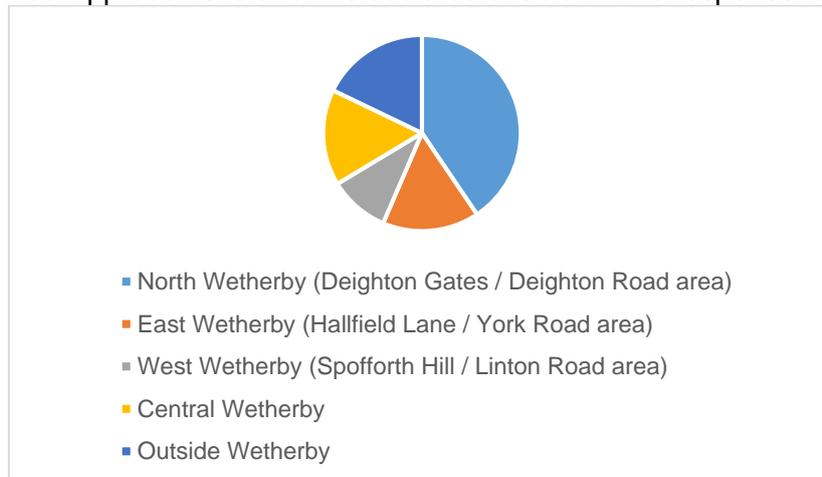
Age of Respondents

The majority of respondents to the Council's survey were adults, justifying the decision to offer specific opportunities to meet with the children from local primary school's councils and get more detailed user feedback in this way.



Location of Respondents

The majority of respondents to the Council's survey lived in the North Ward. There was significant interest in the proposals for the Nidd Approach site and this could be a factor in the response rate from that area.



1. Do you support the Council's ambition to improve its three playgrounds (Masons Field, Nidd Approach and Scaur Bank)?

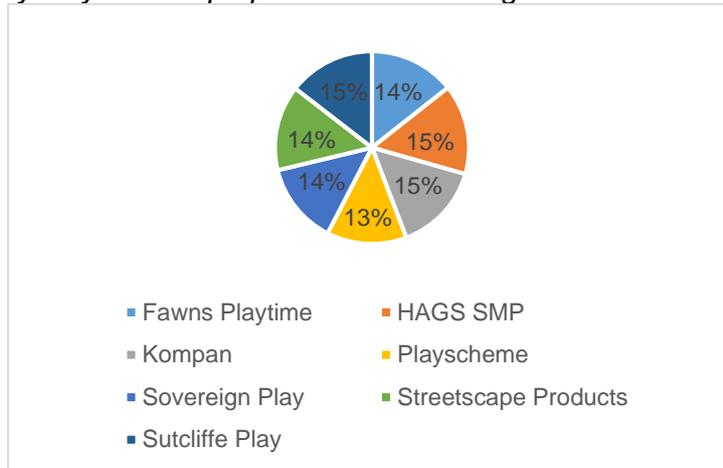


Conclusion:

Ongoing, overwhelming public support for the Council's project.



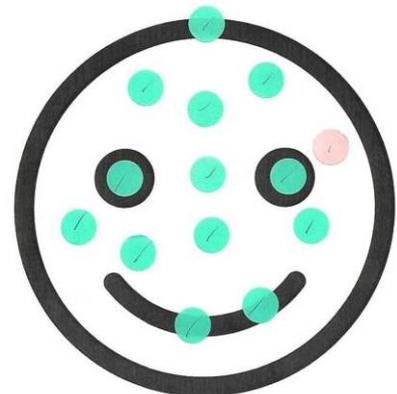
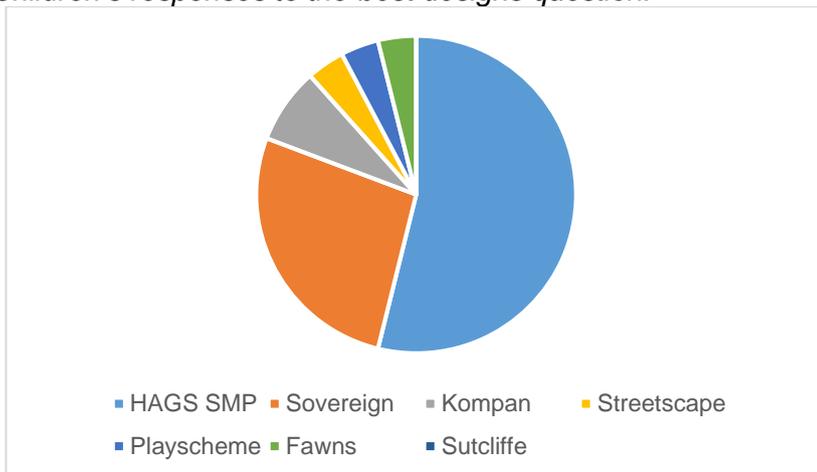
2. Overall, which company do you think prepared the best designs?



Conclusion:

Indeterminate response with no clear, overall favourite supplier expressed by survey respondents. However, the results of asking the public about their favourite designs for each site (see later in report) gave the clear response that they preferred Kompan.

Children’s responses to the best designs question.



Conclusion & Explanation:

The children’s preferred supplier was HAGS SMP, receiving 14 of the 26 votes cast by children under the age of 12.

The reason for this was the inclusion of a sunken trampoline⁸ in the design for Masons Field which generated significant interest, even gaining 100% of the votes from Crossley Street school council.

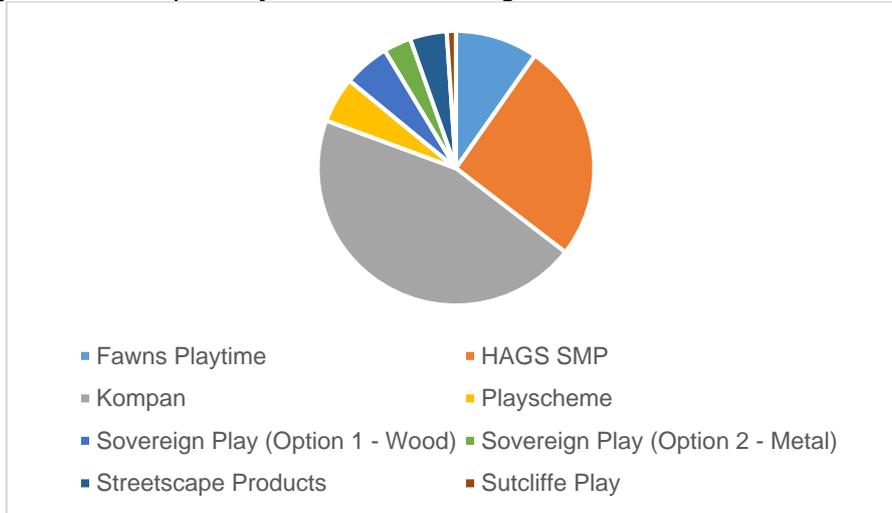
In a strong second place was Sovereign, again mainly on the basis of a single item of equipment; the [Labyrinth](#) climbing frame included in their design for Nidd Approach.

It is recommended that these items should be specified to other companies for inclusion in their designs and are not necessarily reasons to appoint either HAGS SMP or Sovereign as the Council’s preferred supplier.



Masons Field, Hallfield Lane

3. Which company has come up with your favourite design for Masons Field?



Conclusion:

Kompan, with 45% of the vote, was the public's preferred supplier for Masons Field.

4. Do you support the provision of a multi-purpose goal at Masons Field, as well as new play equipment?



Conclusion:

Proceed with proposals that include the provision of a goal end at Masons Field.

5. Do you think the play equipment at Masons Field should be fenced off from the rest of the field?



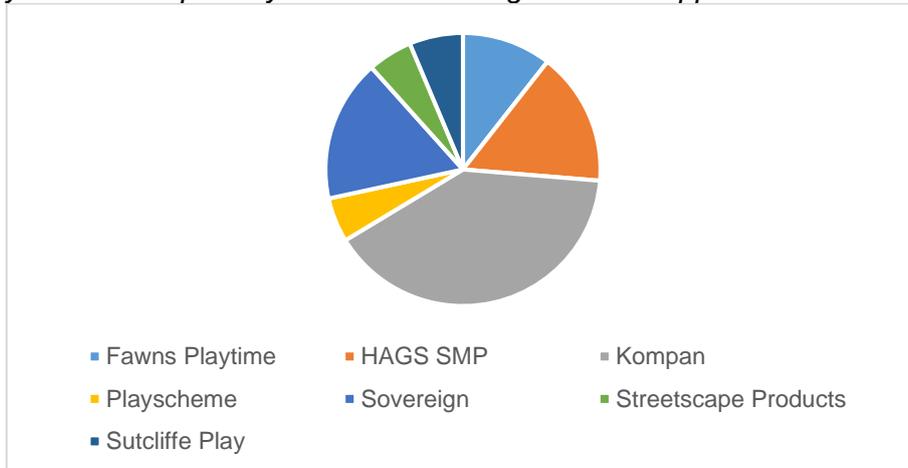
Conclusion:

Site equipment at Masons Field within a fenced area, revising designs to accommodate this where necessary.



Nidd Approach

6. Which company has come up with your favourite design for Nidd Approach?



Conclusion

Kompan, with 40% of the vote, was the public's preferred supplier for Nidd Approach.

7. Do you support the provision of a multi-purpose goal at Nidd Approach, as well as new play equipment?

- Survey results:



- Feedback from local residents:
Detailed representations were received from the majority of residents living adjacent to the Nidd Approach site.
Lengthy comments were received in response to the online survey, letters were sent to the Town Council offices, the local MP and several face-to-face conversations took place. The Town Clerk also made a site visit to a resident's house to discuss their concerns.
An anonymised representation from one resident, included as an appendix to this report⁹, provides an indication of the main concerns expressed which all focussed on the suggestion of providing a ball wall / goal end at the Nidd Approach site.
There were no objections to the proposed improvements to the play equipment.
Concerns focussed on the following issues:
 - Encouraging anti-social behaviour and use of the site, including substance abuse.
 - The size of the site is not sufficient to accommodate a goal end.
 - Noise disturbance to adjacent households.
 - Damage to property.Suggestions for alternative equipment were considered and discussed with residents, including innovative ideas such as the football table 'Teqball'.
Feedback on all ball game related proposals was a firm and clear 'no' from adjacent residents.



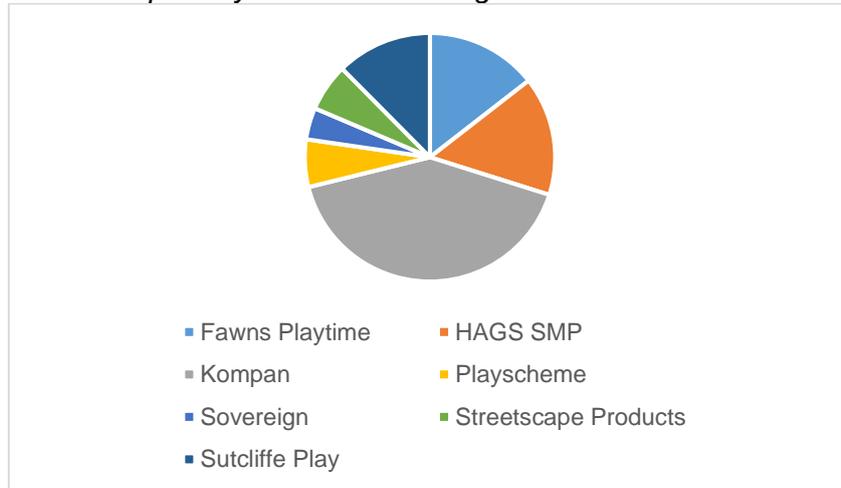
Conclusion and recommendation:

- Proceed with improvements to the play equipment.
- Investigate the provision of a labyrinth type climbing frame in accordance with feedback from children.
- Do not proceed with the provision of any ball game related items of equipment at Nidd Approach.



Scaur Bank

8. Which company has come up with your favourite design for Scaur Bank?



Conclusion

Kompan, with 41% of the vote, was the public's preferred supplier for Scaur Bank.



Other Feedback

9. *Is there anything else that you would like to tell us about the playground designs that we have received?*

Summary of themes raised by the 57 people who responded to this question:

- Concern about durability of wood equipment and safety when wet.
- More things for the younger children.
- Is there enough equipment for the older user.
- Request for more picnic benches and seats.
- Request to take into account visual impact on neighbouring properties at Masons Field.
- Concern about safety and aesthetics of a large 'tunnel' slide.
- Varying opinions on different styles of equipment – ranging from respondents who prefer wood, to those who prefer plastic / metal / multi-coloured.
- Keep young children and teenager's equipment separate, possibly by using differently coloured items.
- Positive response to keeping the pyramid climber at Scaur Bank.
- Thank you!



Feedback on Designs from Crossley Street and St. James CofE Primary Schools' Councils

Summary of feedback:



Comments made:

<i>Likes</i>	<i>Dislikes</i>
<p><i>HAGS SMP</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trampoline at Masons Field (10) • Higher monkey bars so tall people can't reach the floor / I like the monkey bars. • I like the zipwire (2) • The crossing Niagara falls is cool. • Climbing frame at Nidd Approach. • Metal swings. • Like the slide at Scaur Bank. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern that metal equipment might be better as wood might snap! • Think there might be a better design for Nidd Approach. • Wish there was a spider net.
<p><i>SUTCLIFFE PLAY</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great cableway. • Love the idea of fox fire (multi-activity unit in Masons Field design) / like the foxfire / love foxfire / flying fox is awesome. • Like the Masons Field goal end. • Nice basketball hoop. • Rocking & spinning. 	



Likes

Dislikes

PLAYSCHEME

- Scramble net / scramble bridge.
 - Nest swing (2)
 - Love the dragon swing.
 - Social play.
 - Zip wire / zip line / the zip line.
 - Climbing wall.
 - Cone climber.
 - Esmerelda's Tower with slide.
 - Woodland swing.
 - Wood house.
 - Monkey bars.
-

SOVEREIGN

- Like the zipwire.
 - The pink slide.
 - I like the seat.
 - Cool climbing frame.
 - I like the parallel bar slides.
 - Think that metal would be good as wood might snap!
 - Think metal longer lasting.
-

KOMPAN

- Climbing wall (2)
 - Hanging things.
 - Monkey bars / awesome high monkey bars.
 - Coloured climbing frame is epic.
 - Spinny things.
 - Zip line (2) / Cool zip wire.
 - Good football pitch / football pitch.
 - Epic sliding.
 - Cool swing.
-

FAWNS

- G-force roundabout.
 - The wood bench.
 - Jungle play unit / nice pick up sticks.
 - I like the boat.
 - Cool football pitch.
 - The bars.
-

STREETSCAPE

- Huge tube slide / I like the slide / big slide.
 - The green see-saw.
 - The silver swing.
-



Recommendations

Supplier:

That Kompan be appointed as the Council's preferred supplier for the upgrading of its three playgrounds.

Justification:

- Their initial designs came in exactly on budget (£140,000).
- They would replace the rope on the Scaur Bank pyramid climber at no extra charge.
- The quote included the replacement of the aerial runway at Masons Field (some didn't).
- The quote included replacement fencing, for an extended site, at Scaur Bank.
- The quote included replacement fencing at Masons Field.

- They would provide training on inspection and maintenance to the Town Handyman.

- They designed the public's preferred schemes for all three sites.
- Specific, positive, feedback received about Kompan was received in comments submitted to the online survey:
 - "Kompan's were well executed."
 - "Out of them all, I feel HAGS and Kompan are the best. Good use of space, nice to look at, complex kit and all round great attention to detail. I do believe that Kompan offer a lot of kit in their proposal, therefore the value for money is second to none."
 - "I like how Kompan gives the option of upgrading the climbing pyramid, which I think does need a lot of updating too!"
 - "Kompan is the best"
 - "Really like the pyramid with its bright colour"

Suggested Amendments to Designs:

- Specify a [foxfire](#) type multi-play unit for Masons Field.
- Specify a labyrinth 'pick up sticks' unit for Nidd Approach.
- Remove proposals for a goal end type unit at Nidd Approach.
- Give consideration to colour co-ordinating the equipment at Scaur Bank and Masons Field according to target age range.
- Specify a trampoline unit for Masons Field.
- Specify an [activity type goal end](#) for Masons Field.
- Include monkey bars in the designs for Scaur Bank and Masons Field.
- Include climbing features in the design for Masons Field.
- Include all equipment at Masons Field in a fenced area, with consideration given to extending the space if required.

Actions

- To consider results of the public consultation.
- To agree to appoint Kompan as the Council's preferred playground equipment supplier.
- To agree amendments to proposed designs.
- To agree to proceed to secure funding.



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Appendix 1 – Photos of Town Hall Exhibition



Welcome to
Wetherby Town Council's
playground designs
consultation.

Thank you for coming to help us choose
which company should work with us to
improve our playgrounds over the next few
years.

Wetherby Town Council owns and maintains most
of the parks and open, green space recreational
facilities in Wetherby, including three
playgrounds.

The Town Council is seeking to develop a strategy
for the phased upgrading of its playgrounds to
provide modern, fit-for-purpose facilities for the
current and next generation of Wetherby children.

The Town Council's three playgrounds are:

- King George's Field (Scarf Bank)
- Masons Field.
- Nidd Approach.

This consultation is not looking at any other
playgrounds or recreation sites in Wetherby.

Seven companies used a brief given by the Town
Council to prepare a design for each site.
A copy of the design brief can be found on the table
to the left.

Feedback from the public and from local children
will help the Council to pick a preferred supplier.

The Council will then work with the preferred
supplier to refine the designs and implement them
over the next few years.

We will keep you informed about progress with this
project on our website (www.wetherby.co.uk),
social media and via our regular newsletter.

Thank you for your help.

What do we want you to do?

1. Have a good look round the 7 designs prepared by the
playground companies.
Each company's designs are on a separate board.
2. Adults and children should take a copy of the questionnaire
from the table on the left. Use one per person.
3. If you are under 12 years old please take a child, so that we
can communicate and put it on the stamp of your favourite design.
4. Once you've completed your questionnaire please put it in the
box on the table to the left. Please leave your pen/pencil on
the table too!



Appendix 2 – Children’s feedback using stickers.





Appendix 3 – Flyer / Poster advertising consultation.



**HELP IMPROVE OUR
PLAYGROUNDS**

**WETHERBY TOWN COUNCIL INVITES
YOU TO AN EXHIBITION OF DESIGNS**

COME AND TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

<p>Town Hall Exhibition: 4-9pm Mon 13th Nov 4-9pm Tue 14th Nov 8am - 1pm Wed 15th Nov</p>	<p>Online consultation from 6th-20th Nov: www.wetherby.co.uk</p>
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4 – Facebook post advertising consultation.

Wetherby Town Council
6 November 2017 · 🌐

PLAYGROUND DESIGNS | ONLINE CONSULTATION
http://www.wetherby.co.uk/Playground_Project_18238.aspx

Over the next few weeks we're seeking feedback from the public on designs to improve our play area (Scaur Bank, Nidd Approach and Masons Field).

We want to know what you think about the ideas put forward and which company's ideas you like the look of.

You can either come to the **Town Hall** next week and look at the designs in person, or have a look on our website and respond to the survey online. The online information and survey is now live and can be found using the link given above.

HELP IMPROVE OUR PLAYGROUNDS

WETHERBY TOWN COUNCIL INVITES YOU TO AN EXHIBITION OF DESIGNS

COME AND TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Town Hall Exhibition:
4-9pm | Mon 13th Nov
4-9pm | Tue 14th Nov
8am - 1pm | Wed 15th Nov

Online consultation
from 6th-20th Nov:
www.wetherby.co.uk

👤 3,154 people reached

Boost Post



5 – Wetherby News Article, 9th November 2017

harrogateadvertiser.co.uk - rpingo.co.uk - wetherbynews.co.uk - Thursday, November 9, 2017

NEWS Have your say on the big stories
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FACEBOOK.COM/WETHERBYNEWS 

Consultation: Council is seeking public feedback

Have your say on playgrounds

By ANIGAIL KELLETY
news@wetherbynews.co.uk
@wetherby_News

Wetherby Town Council's work to develop a strategy for the phased upgrading of its three playgrounds has moved to the next stage with the launch of a consultation on the designs received for each site.

Over the next two weeks the council is seeking feedback from the public and local children on the designs which will help it to select a preferred supplier.

Wetherby Town Council owns and maintains most of the parks and open, green space recreational facilities in Wetherby.

Its portfolio includes three children's equipped play areas which are King George's Field at Scaur Bank, Masons Field at Hallfield Lane and Nidd Ap-



Scaur Bank playground

proach at Deighton Gates.

The seven designs received from a selection of playground equipment providers include proposals for the refurbishment and improvement of each site.

Chairman of the council's property committee, Councillor Galan Moss, said: "We want to know what people think of the designs put forward and which company's ideas they like the look of."

"The council is looking to appoint a company to work with to improve Wetherby's playgrounds over the next few years. We want to make sure that the partner we pick is one that can deliver the Wetherby public's aspirations for our playgrounds."

The consultation is available online from now until November 20 at www.wetherby.co.uk.

The designs will be on view in the Town Hall on November 13 and 14 from 4pm to 9pm and November 15 between 8am and 1pm. Feedback from the public and from local children will help the council to pick a preferred supplier.

The council will then work with the successful company to refine the designs and implement them over the next few years. Residents will be kept informed about progress with this project via its website, social media and newsletter.



6 – Bridgefoot Banner



HELP IMPROVE OUR PLAYGROUNDS

EXHIBITION OF DESIGNS

Town Hall Exhibition:
4-9pm | Mon 13th Nov
4-9pm | Tue 14th Nov
8am - 1pm | Wed 15th Nov

Online consultation
from 6th - 20th November
www.wetherby.co.uk



7 – Letter to neighbouring properties.

WETHERBY TOWN COUNCIL



The Town Hall
Market Place
Wetherby
West Yorkshire
LS22 6NE

Tel: (01937) 583584
Email: admin@wetherby.co.uk
www.wetherby.co.uk

20th October 2017

Dear Residents,

Playground Improvement Project

Wetherby Town Council is writing to you as a neighbour of one of our playgrounds. We own and maintain the sites at Scaur Bank (King George's Field off Linton Road), Nidd Approach and Mason Field (Hallfield Lane).

We have been working on a project to improve our playgrounds which started, at the end of last year, by consulting children on what they would like to see in our sites. They told us that the playgrounds in Wetherby are "old and a bit boring" – something which we agree with and would like to do something about.

Earlier this month we met with eight different playground supply companies who are submitting designs for each site by the end of October. We going to carry out a public consultation on the preliminary designs before selecting a preferred supplier who will work with the Council over the next few years to refine and implement the schemes.

As a neighbour we think it's important that you're aware of what we're doing and have input in to the process.

We would therefore like to invite you to take part in our consultation on the designs which you can do in two ways:

1. Visiting the exhibition in the Town Hall which will be open to the public:
4-9pm – Monday 13th November
4-9pm – Tuesday 14th November
8am – 1pm – Wednesday 15th November
2. Taking part in an online consultation at www.wetherby.co.uk which will be live from 6th to 20th November 2017.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

I. Taylor

IONA TAYLOR (Mrs)
Town Clerk

8 – Technical Specification Sheet for Circus Trampoline

Circus Trampoline

HUCK2002112

HAGS SMP
Inspiring all generations



Specification

Age Range: 0-7

Equipment Dimensions

m (L x W): 190 x 190

Surface & Space required

Max. Freefall height: M1.0

Min. wet pour area: m²19

Jumping Surface: Non-Slip, Vandal Proof Matting for

Medium Jumping Heights

Bordered by Fall Protection Panels

(Grass is an adequate surface around the mat)

Frame can be completely removed for cleaning

This stand-alone trampoline installation is perfect for the toddler to seven year-old group to join each other in energetic play. It will handle a whole posse of happy kids at the same time. Being recessed into a ground frame ensures minimal fall height and maximum safety with all its springing mechanism concealed.



Jumping

Interacting

Inclusive

Fitness



9 – Resident representation re. goal end at Nidd Approach.

Mrs I Taylor, Town Clerk

Dear Mrs Taylor

It was with a mixture of surprise, sadness and concern that I learnt of and saw the advanced plans for further development at the Nidd Approach children's playing field. It would have been more useful and considerate to consult the home owners who live around this field first. They have a good idea of its current use and fitness for purpose. Money has already been spent on these plans which show a lack of awareness, or concern for the following points.

1. All the surrounding homes, (13), have bedrooms, some used by young children, overlooking the field.
2. All these homes have short gardens between these bedrooms and the playing field.
3. No restrictions exist on the use of this space, in terms of activities, i.e. as a dog's toilet, with its attendant risk of causing blindness in children due to toxicara canis, age groups using the field, or time of day.
4. The existing equipment, swings and seat, already provide a meeting point until late at night, which includes marijuana smoking by some who arrive by car. Any further spread of equipment which cannot be seen from the road at night will only make this worse and affect more bedrooms.
5. The size of the playing field has been repeatedly shown to be inadequate as a football field for the older children and adolescent youngsters who use it. Balls come over our back fence, often with sufficient force to hit windows. It is dangerous for householders in their gardens and a noisy intrusion about which one is powerless.
6. Disturbance is caused by children calling for the return of their ball as late as 10pm. On one occasion this happened three times within an hour. Some climb on the council's fence to peer over or to climb over and trespass in gardens without permission.
7. Regular groups can play on several nights in the week, on both weekdays and weekends, during the summertime until nightfall.
8. Some of the plans have a fence for target practice. The constant hitting of this by footballs will increase repetitive noise levels. Three out of our four bedrooms are affected by playground noise. Double glazing is insufficient protection against this and windows cannot be opened in warm weather.
9. The target will also provide a screen, behind which, pot smokers can hide without fear of being seen as stated in para. 4. This activity which often goes on between 10.30 and midnight was reported to the police years ago.
10. Despite polite requests to be allowed to go to bed from 10pm onwards, I have sometimes been met with rudeness and must wait up until they go.

My reason for writing is not NIMBYism. Although there were arable fields behind the garden when we moved in over 44 years ago, we had 2 daughters who made use of the playing field at sensible times. Our grandchildren now occasionally use it. A playground for younger children open at sensible times is one thing. A facility which works to the disadvantage of adjacent residents is another. There are areas such as that next to St Joseph's School sports field which are far more suitable for football, due to its size and distance from domestic property.

I look forward to hearing from you with your comments and which local councillor has responsibilities towards those affected.



Yours faithfully
Mrs H – Local Resident