

**HOWARD LEWIS PLAY AREA AND PARK
CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE**

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

Response Level

Howard Lewis Play Area and Park consultation questionnaires were delivered to schools and nurseries in the local vicinity. In addition, the questionnaires were also delivered to 434 households within Yate Central Ward. A total of 442 questionnaires were distributed. The consultation was also available to download from the Town Council website, was publicised in the January 2009 Town Council newsletter, on Town Council noticeboards and an article appeared in The Gazette.

19 responses were received from the following:

NAME	NUMBER OF LEAFLETS
High Way	
Ridge Way	2
Broadway	1
Firgrove Crescent	10
Melrose Avenue	2
Mercier Close	
St Mary's Way	
Elmhirst Gardens	1
Walnut Avenue	
Jubilee Gardens	
Melrose Close	1
Somerset Avenue	1
Hay Leaze	1
TOTAL	19
TOTAL PERCENTAGE/ NUMBER OF LEAFLETS	4.3

In addition to the above, one householder from St Mary's Way returned an uncompleted questionnaire but stated that they would like to walk their dog through the park as a short cut to the woods (NB. dogs excluded from all Town Council play areas). Two e-mails were received suggesting improvements for the play area and park, but the addresses of the respondents were not known and questionnaires were not returned. To ensure clarity of the analysis, the questionnaire from the householder from St Mary's Way and the two e-mail responses have been discounted from the total number of responses.

QUESTION 1

Do you use Howard Lewis Park?

OPTION	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Yes	84	16
No	16	3
TOTAL	100	19

If so, for what activity?

OPTION	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Walking to school	0	0
Play	59	13
Ball games	9	2
Sitting	27	6
Walking the dog	0	0
Other	5	1 (short cut and watching Grandchildren when they play there).
TOTAL	100	22

(NB. Two respondents indicated that they would walk their dog, but it is not permitted to do so in the play area).

QUESTION 2

Do you think the entrances to the park are satisfactory?

OPTION	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Yes	37	7
No	63	12
TOTAL	100	19

The following comments were received from respondents who answered No:

- 1 My Mother-in-Law uses a wheelchair and couldn't get in.
- 2 Prams and bikes can't get through.
- 3 Not able to open gates for large pushchairs and bikes. Youths bang them purposely as it echoes and sit on them on evenings.

- 4 Is there any reason why the 3rd access to the park by the shops has been blocked off?
- 5 They need to be locked to keep the jobs out at night.
- 6 Not easy to get into with a pram and impossible with a bike and trailer.
- 7 Prefer park with good fences and lockable at night.
- 8 Think they should be locked at night.
- 9 It's a pity that our closest entrance (by the shops) is closed.
- 10 You have cut off the entrance by the rank of shops.
- 11 Galvanised steel bars are instantly repelling, creating an unwelcoming barrier. Pity the wider access on the left of the shops has gone. Night security needs addressing – this may require lockable gates.
- 12 Very difficult to get a pushchair through the gate.
- 13 It needs to be locked up or you are wasting money doing it up, it just gets vandalised.

QUESTION 3

Do you think the play equipment is satisfactory?

OPTION	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Yes	22	4
No	78	14
TOTAL	100	18

If no, should it be:

OPTION	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Removed	6	1
Added to	40	6
Replaced	54	8
TOTAL	100	15

The following additional comments were received:

- 1 It is old, does not look nice and kids don't like it as much as St Mary's.
- 2 The equipment is clearly in need of repair and could be updated to meet the needs of a combined age group.
- 3 It needs to be more challenging and modern.
- 4 Swings for older children, football goal nets, more for toddlers.
- 5 Needs to be updated.
- 6 Whatever you put in will be abused during summer evenings.
- 7 Something suitable for smaller toddlers, possibly fenced off from bigger kids.
- 8 Swings for older children, large climbing frames.
- 9 Add swings and replace tennis court fence and tarmac.

- 10 I do not know how well used it is. Currently it looks ugly spread randomly about a large area. If it is used, new would be better looking, perhaps in a more contained area.
- 11 Old and tatty.
- 12 The swings are for toddlers only but nothing else is geared up for toddlers, it's for older children.
- 13 More swings needed.

QUESTION 4

Do you think the existing facilities are satisfactory? (Eg. Ball court, open space, seats and bins).

OPTION	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Yes	42	8
No	58	11
TOTAL	100	19

The following comments were received from respondents who answered No:

- 1 Needs tidying up.
- 2 Maybe more seats and picnic tables.
- 3 More seating would be helpful and more rubbish bins. Perhaps some picnic tables.
- 4 Because they are dirty and old.
- 5 Ball court needs to be upgraded – fencing, goal posts and surface.
- 6 Seating – perhaps some picnic benches.
- 7 Needs more bins.
- 8 It would be lovely to have the tennis net reinstated. Picnic benches would be great.
- 9 The seats and other facilities are old and need replacing. Also it needs some care and attention every month or two.
- 10 The ball court takes up about half of the available area that could be nicely landscaped. It is just dead space when not in use and very unattractive. The seats are downbeat, randomly positioned and awful utilitarian bins dotted about. There is nothing cohesive about the space; all just randomly placed.
- 11 No place to sit and eat.
- 12 It needs more bins and the bark is full of cat mess.

QUESTION 5

Is there anything about the play area or park that you particularly like?

The following comments were received:

- 1 Yes – no dogs is good.

- 2 The kids like the swinging tyre.
- 3 Trees.
- 4 It has the potential for serving a wide community and offering pleasure to a mixed community.
- 5 It is nice to see the children playing in a safe environment.
- 6 The tyre swing.
- 7 Close to the school, floodlights on courts for clubs to use on evenings.
- 8 We like the fact that the walnut trees are there for the wildlife. There is plenty of green area for children to run around and always gives impression it is looked after.
- 9 Mature trees for shade, near to school.
- 10 It's spaced out nicely and it's nice to watch the squirrels in the trees.
- 11 The small play equipment for smaller children.
- 12 Trees, large climbing frame.
- 13 Pleasant surroundings.
- 14 No definitely not, but we do like the amount of land that you have at the park.
- 15 Yes – amazingly! I like the trees and the round plan area.
- 16 Location.
- 17 It is in a lovely place for the community to use.

QUESTION 6

Is there anything about the play area or park that you dislike?

The following comments were received:

- 1 The flooring under games is falling apart.
- 2 Most of it, it needs replacing.
- 3 It is always untidy and full of litter including drinks cans and bottles which is unsafe for children. The equipment needs repair.
- 4 Metal equipment is cold.
- 5 Broken glass, urinating on equipment, used condoms, syringes, empty cans.
- 6 Summer evenings can be very noisy with lots of foul language used by teenagers.
- 7 Access.
- 8 The wood chip attracts the cats.
- 9 Litter and broken glass left by older youths.
- 10 Roundabout.
- 11 That you do not allow dogs or any animals into the park, even if they are on a lead.
- 12 The entrance/ball court/play equipment/seats/bins/surface finish of tarmac/the layout is awful.
- 13 Tennis court is tatty as is the park. The general appearance is poor.
- 14 The bark with the cat mess, not enough bins or swings and the fact it is generally very run down or it has been vandalised.
- 15 It is sometimes slippery at the edges of the soft ground the equipment is on (fake tarmac). People making toddler swings – unable to use by winding them over the top.

QUESTION 7

Would you like to see the existing ball court facility in the Howard Lewis Park improved?

OPTION	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Yes	65	11
No	35	6
TOTAL	100	17

The following comments were received from respondents who answered Yes:

- 1 The surface.
- 2 It is very old and does not look nice or safe.
- 3 Upgraded, CCTV if possible.
- 4 They need a tennis/badminton net.
- 5 Goal nets.
- 6 Fence needs doing and surface relayed.
- 7 Tennis net, basketball hoop.
- 8 Permanent netball rings.
- 9 Re-tarmac the ball court and re-fence it all as well and make sure it is strong and has two entrances or more.
- 10 Re-surfacing and re-fencing.

The following comment was received from a respondent who answered No:

- 1 Please remove it; it is not the right location for this facility. This is meant to be a 'PARK' and the area it takes up is too large. It could be resited in Lye Field park which is a much larger area.

QUESTION 8

Which user group do you think should benefit the most from improvements to the Howard Lewis Play Area/Park?

OPTION	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Toddlers (2-5)	35	16
5-12 years	38	17
12-18 years	11	5
Adults/senior citizens	7	3
Groups/clubs	9	4
TOTAL	100	45

QUESTION 9

Do you use the kickabout area at Lye Field (at the bottom of the Ridge School play field)?

OPTION	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Yes	11	2
No	89	17
TOTAL	100	19

The following comments were received from respondents who answered No:

- 1 We are OAP's.
- 2 I am too young and there is also teenagers hanging around there.
- 3 Broken glass and youths hanging around.
- 4 Lots of teenagers there abusing equipment.
- 5 Didn't know it was available to use.
- 6 Unfortunately too old.
- 7 Because loads of teenagers are all around the area so we are afraid to use it.
- 8 Glass bottles, dog mess and rubbish everywhere. Unsafe for children.
- 9 Child is too young at the moment.

The following comments were received from respondents who answered Yes:

- 1 To train my dogs !!
- 2 Only to walk across to Yate Shopping Centre. This area is a lost opportunity! Awful seating (should be more), not lit at night either.

QUESTION 10

What are the ages of the occupants at your address?

OPTION	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER OF RESPONSES
Under 5 years	24	9
5-12 years	27	10
12-18 years	0	0
21-40 years	22	8
41-65 years	22	8
Over 65 years	5	2
TOTAL	100	37

QUESTION 11

Please add any other information or ideas you may have about Howard Lewis Play area and Park:

- 1 The trees and surrounding shrubs tend to get overgrown.
- 2 Would like to walk through it with my dogs or even use the green space to train them for obedience work.
- 3 More flowers and plants would help to make the park somewhere pleasant with a warm feel to it.
- 4 Picnic tables would be nice.
- 5 Sadly despite living close to the park, we often go to Brimsham Park or Kingsgate Park to play.
- 6 This park was well used by my 4 children and now they bring their children, now grown up, and grandchildren to the park.
- 7 A park attendant to check and supervise.
- 8 A zip wire, monkey bars, bike rack, children's circuit training area for exercise, skate rail thing, challenging exciting equipment like Lilyput Park, round spinning disk like in Victoria Park !!!!!
- 9 The park must be locked up at night. The youths arrive from other areas and use it as a 'drinking den'. In the summertime they spend the night there sleeping under climbing equipment. I'm fed up of not being able to let my children use my garden in the summer due to the screams and vulgar language coming from the park, also they have to sleep with windows shut due to noise. I have to remove glass and cans every time I use the park to make it safe for my children. I work in a local pre-school and would love to use this area regularly but due to the above, I am not able to. By locking it up at night, the park could be used for its intended purpose.
- 10 Swings – baby and older children. Sand pit with metal sit on sand digger and perhaps a wooden boat or castle in it. Climbing frames, slides, spring mobile, swing boats, wooden train and carriages, giant snakes and ladders, Connect 4, Jenga or wall games with magnetic counters. Hopscotch, picnic benches, shelter for parents.
- 11 During dry evenings and summer time, if you had patrols they should visit the area regularly to cut down on yobbish behaviour.
- 12 Please make access of at least one entrance more user friendly for families with prams, bikes and trailers and a bike stand.
- 13 As a grandparent I have stopped using the park due to all the glass that has been left by the older children. It's generally a bit run down.
- 14 We think the park is great for children to play in and clubs to use the courts, but feel it would be better locked at night to stop vandalism and unruly behaviour.
- 15 Often lots of litter and cigarette ends. Grass worn away around benches. Michael Follett, South Gloucestershire Council's LEA Play Advisor has some inspirational ideas about what environments children need for play. I hope he is involved in this process.
- 16 A sign at Broadway School directing people to the park as new parents bringing their children to school don't know where it is. In previous years mums bring their children there after school to let off steam after being

- indoors all day. Some children don't have place at home to run about so park is essential.
- 17 The entrance should be open by the shops. Area for dogs should be supplied. More equipment etc.
- 18 Do not use the park, but I may if it was a pleasant park to make you want to spend time relaxing in.
- 19 I knew Mr Howard Lewis at the Ridge School. He was a fine headmaster. The park should reflect his spirit. This is a fantastic opportunity to create a beautiful park and space for everyone to enjoy – which it currently is not. Remove the 'ball court; to free up the entire circular area to design a fantastic landscaped space to make people want to come into it to play or relax. It has to have a quality feel to draw people into it; to want to spend time there. The space and atmosphere created will lead to more people feeling good. It will be uplifting – to make the local community feel proud of their park.
- 20 More swings, bigger slides, picnic area, more varied play equipment, rubber matting floor, better entrances for pushchairs and bikes.
- 21 It needs to be designed so it can't be ruined by the older kids. More variety for all ages, but with the teenagers hanging about it at night I'm not sure if I will continue to use it because I always have to clean up glass and on several occasions there has been sick all down the slides. The teenagers also camp out there in the summer. It really needs to be locked up at night and then it would be a lovely park to use for parents and the local pre-schools/schools.
- 22 Low level/ground level tunnels for toddlers to crawl through. Low level balancing beams or stepping stone logs. Playhouse/den. Toddler obstacle course. Drinks hut/toilet. May be take some ideas from the fab new adventure playground in Kingsgate Park?
- 23 We use this park often, although it does not have many things that are fun for older children. It would be great if there was a tyre swing for older children and may be a climbing frame similar to the one at Kingsgate Park. Also there is often lots of rubbish in the park, especially after the weekend.
- 24 Can access for triple buggies be accommodated when the park is re-ramped?

Appendix to Howard Lewis Consultation Report

Three additional e-mails were sent to Councillor Sue Walker in response to the 'Howard Lewis' article which appeared in the Focus leaflet:

1. We use this park often, although it does not have many things that are fun for older children. It would be great if there was a tyre swing for older children and maybe a climbing frame similar to the one at Kingsgate Park. Also, there is often a lot of rubbish in the park, especially after the weekend.
2. My 6 year old enjoys the climbing frames and especially the fireman pole, whereas my 9 year old loves to play football in the enclosure. Most evenings after school, we tend to join our friends at the park, the children get together, kick the ball around and run off some of their excess energy. While the parents relax together, knowing their children are safe. There are several benches available but it would be nice to have maybe one or two picnic tables to save the snacks being infested by ants. In our opinion the football area is an essential and a basketball hoop would be fantastic. Thinking of other parks in the area, the rope pyramid climber in the play area at Brimsham is always popular. The majority of the children who use the park attend either Broadway Infant School or the Ridge Junior School. Perhaps you could arrange to speak to the children and ask them for their ideas?
3. The park is in a prime location but I am unable to use it as it is totally inaccessible because of the gates arrangement. I am a local childminder and use a twin buggy.