

**Response on the consultation findings
from Ashley Down Green Play Area and
improvements to Stoney Lane Access**

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The purpose of the document is to allow stakeholders to see findings and the response from BCC with regard to the recent consultation held on the provision of the new play area at Ashley Down Green and the improved access to Stoney Lane.

Summary of the recent 2016 On-line consultation responses

Play Area:

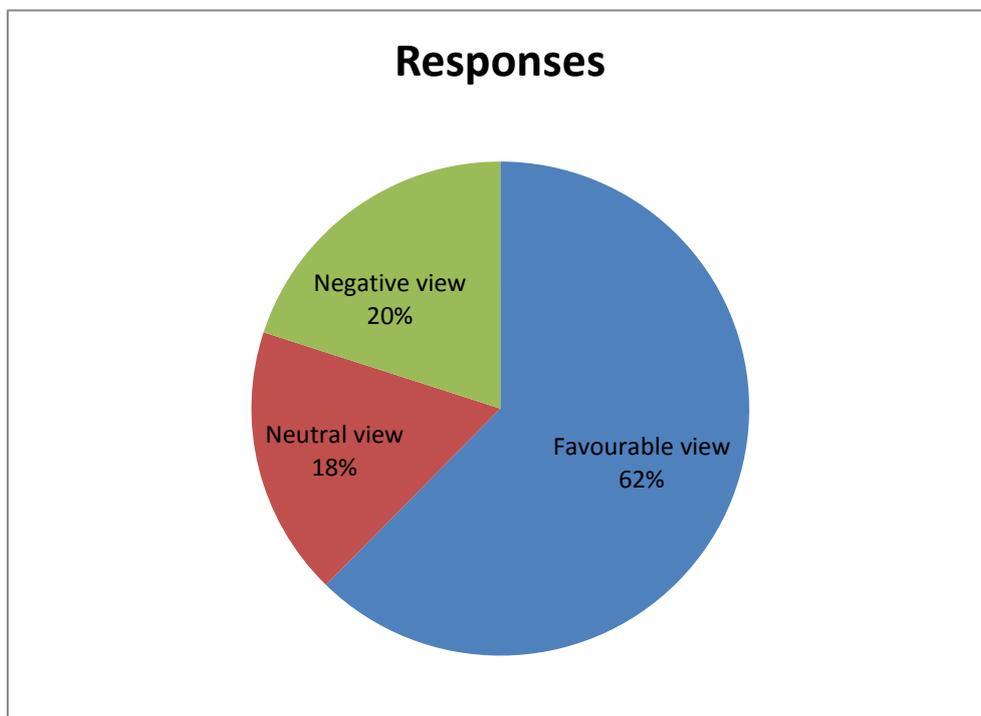
Online consultation responses for the play area = **85 responses**

Responses offering a favourable view on the Play Area = **53 responses**

Responses offering a neutral view on the Play Area = **15 responses**

Responses offering an unfavourable view on the Play Area = **17 responses**

People who skipped the question = **21**



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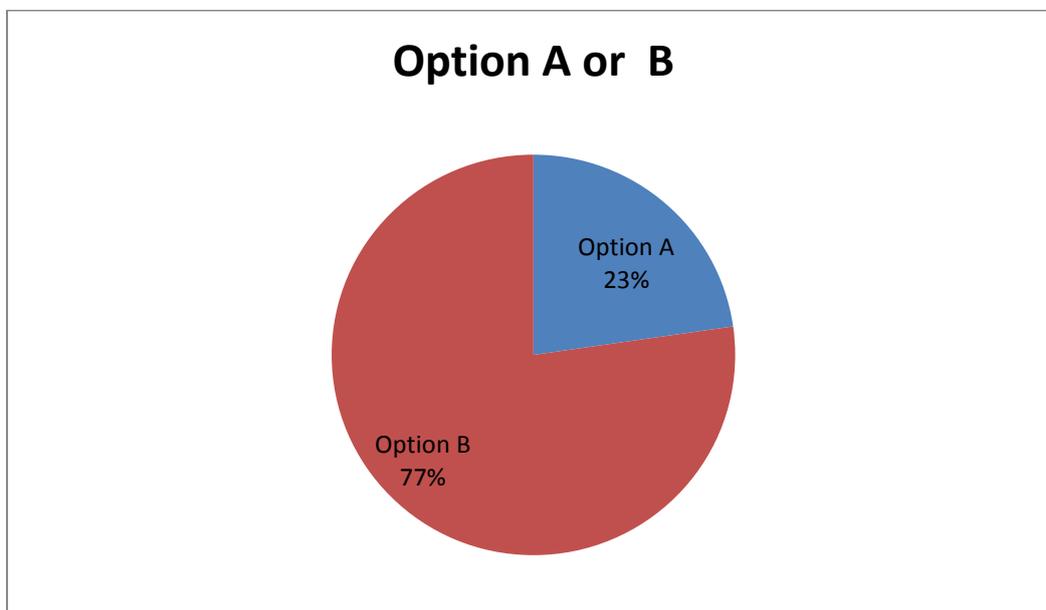
Option A or Option B:

Online voting for Option A or Option B = **88 responses**

Percentage of votes for option A = **22.73% (20 votes)**

Percentage of votes for option B = **77.27% (68 votes)**

People who skipped the question = **18**



Stoney Lane Access:

Online consultation responses for the improved access to Stoney Lane = **63 responses**

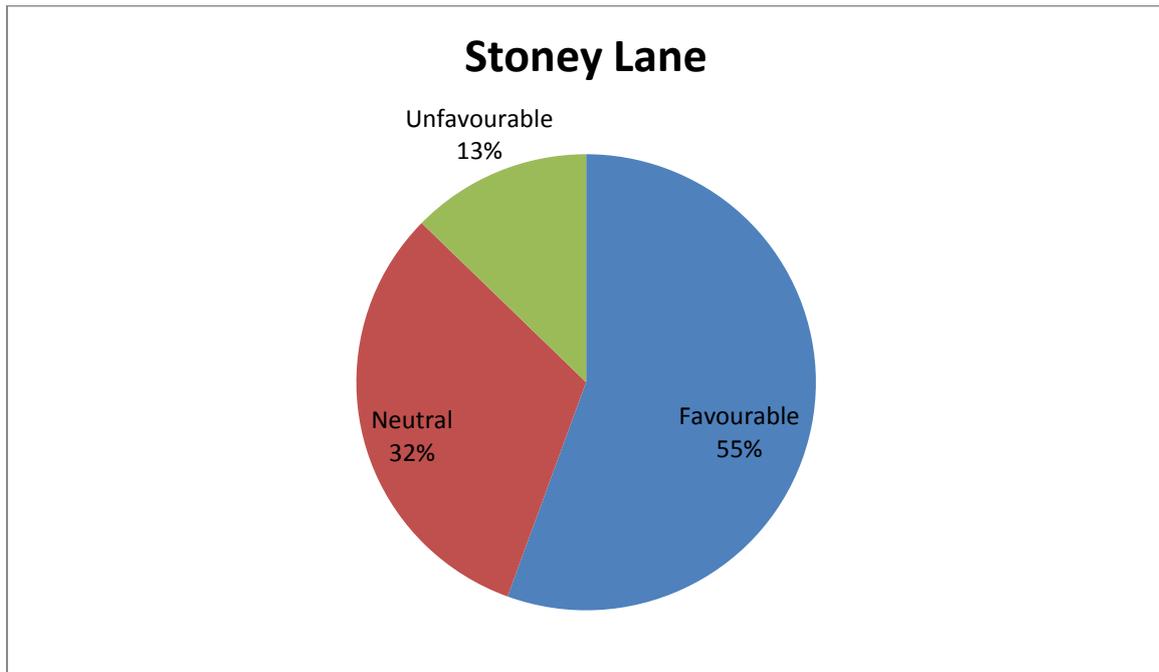
Responses offering a favourable view on the access improvements = **35 responses**

Responses offering a neutral view on the access improvements = **20 responses**

Response offering a unfavourable view on the access improvements = **8 responses**

People who skipped the question = **43**

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All the specific responses received can be found in the attached documentation Appendix 1. For the purposes of trying to keep the size of the document manageable, we have grouped the queries into specific clusters – e.g. colours used, materials used, relating to design brief etc.

Play area responses:

1. Background to why a play area is needed?

BCC response: The installation of a play area in this location can be linked to the planning consent that was granted back in 2003, and part of that consent was a requirement to provide open space into which a children's play area would be located. This would be funded by the developer but installed by the Council. The development came forward over a number of years and the Children's Play Area Contribution was not received by the Council until April 2013. The Council was not in a position to bring forward proposals for the children's play area until the open space was brought into an adoptable condition by the developer and transferred to the Council, which happened in late 2013. Consequently, it is only in the last couple of years that the Council has been in a position to progress the children's play area.

In relation to being advertised on site, notices drawing awareness to the consultation were hosted locally, information had been passed with The Friends of Ashley Down Green, Councillors and other interested local residents including all allotment holders had been engaged throughout the process.

600 households locally received letters advertising the consultation. The consultation had also been advertised via the Neighbourhood Partnership email list to 650 people, via social media and through Bristol City Councils consultation hub.

The size of the play area is in keeping with our standard policy guidelines and the location helps the City meet our standards in relation to distance and walk time to children's play space, as set out in the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy 2008 <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/policies-plans-strategies/bristol-parks-and-green-space-strategy>

By adding a play area we are enhancing and adding to the play value of the open space. Children, who can't access the grassed area or the copse area for whatever reason, will be able to use a safe, secure and maintained area that will be fully accessible.

The location for the play area within the site has been chosen due to being close to the passive surveillance from the residential dwellings, ease of access from the pathways and some of it is on the flattest parts of the open space meaning less ground works to level the area for the equipment.

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2. Colours, use of natural materials, imaginative play and blending into the environment.

BCC response: The colours proposed in the images were only used to give a guide on the type of equipment and safety surfacing that could be used on site. The use of colour in the revised design will be more in keeping with the surrounding environment, in line with the original design brief and still allow for imaginative play for all users. There is a need to strike a balance on the use of natural materials to those materials experience tells us will last the rigors of use, with accessible play and equipment that can be maintained within our budget constraints.

Consideration has been given to other users and usages of the site, the size of the play area is around 800 sq. metres, to enable maintenance vehicles and dog walkers to continue to drive/walk around the defined play area, we are not restricting access to the copse or the wooded boundary with the allotments.

3. Dates and schedules of work

BCC response: With any installation, the City Council will develop a schedule and plan of works, which will include details relating to start and finish times on site, phases of work and the start and expected finish dates with built in contingencies. This will be shared this with residents before work commences both for the play area and the Stoney lane access improvements.

5. Litter bins and litter collection

BCC response: The play inspectors will visit the play area each week and undertake visual inspections of all the pieces of equipment, fencing and safety surfacing, as well as litter pick the whole of the play area. The parks teams for the Central Area will undertake the bin emptying. Litter picking in the open space will be undertaken ahead of any grass cutting in the area. The new bin for the play area will be sited centrally.

6. Process on reporting Anti-social behaviour

BCC response: The procedure for reporting anti-social behaviour (ASB) is to use the Police reporting number **101**. For life threatening emergencies then **999** should be used.

Using **101**, to help record instances of ASB, will help Police officers, local authority officers and other agencies to target areas that are being affected by all forms of ASB and to develop actions that will mitigate these occurrences.

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Bristol City Council will be working closely with the Neighbourhood Policing team in liaising with local residents – through the Neighbourhood Partnership and the Neighbourhood Forums, providing advice, guidance and support to local residents.

More information on the Neighbourhood Partnership can be found here: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/people-communities/bishopston-cotham-and-redland-neighbourhood-partnership->

7. Potential to develop an overall plan for the open space to include future planting, more seats etc.

BCC response: The City Council is used to working alongside Friends-of-Groups for Parks and can engage at a local level to develop plans for parks, so that they cater for all users.

The Neighbourhood Partnership for the area (Bishopston, Cotham and Redland) holds regular sub group meetings specifically for Parks, to help the development of local park priorities, plans and to engage parks officers directly, so that funding can be aligned, maintenance issues or more general concerns can be shared and steps taken to improve parks in the area.

8. Parking

BCC response: The City Council is aware of the concerns of the residents and has passed these onto the relevant officers, however, issues relating to private parking bays cannot be enforced by the City Council and are the responsibility of the landowner.

If concerns or problems arise then reports should be shared through the Neighbourhood Partnership, Neighbourhood Forums for the area and through your Neighbourhood Officers.

9. Safety surfacing

BCC response: The City Council will be using recycled rubber for the safety surfacing in the play area in and around the equipment, **no** bark chips will be used on this site.

10. Railings

BCC response: The use of metal railings around the proposed play area, is something that will not be changed. The railings will be metal, as they last longer and are easier to maintain and are therefore more cost effective. Experience has shown us that wooden fencing around play areas needs to be replaced every 5 – 8 years, whereas metal railings should not need replacing, unless damaged.

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The metal railings proposed for the site will be painted/covered green to help blend into the environment.

11. Swings.

BCC response: Swings are currently part of the design for the play area, they will continue to be included as they are a favourite with children. Currently all play manufacturers design and produce swings that are self-lubricating in relation to the bushes and bearings used in manufacture, on top of this Play inspectors visit sites weekly to do inspections and check for any issues.

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Stoney Lane Access responses:

1. *Background to the improved access*

BCC response: The City Council is obligated under the terms of the original planning consent that set out the need to open up the access into the open space. With a new play area also being proposed, there needs to be another access in and out of the open space, so if children were to experience any instances of bullying or feel unsafe, there are safe routes away from the area.

The access improvements will link into the existing path and cycling networks which link the across the city, it will also provide a safer walking route from the open space through to Ashley Down Road.

The metal field gate, at the Stoney Lane end of the new access, is there to deter those fly-tipping.

The improvements to access will be funded through developer contributions from the original Muller House development.

2. *Surfacing of new improvements*

BCC response: The City Council will work with the Neighbourhood Partnership to consider whether further tarmacing and lighting works can be prioritised for funding. It will also seek advice from the Police as to whether the addition of the lighting will encourage anti-social behaviour.

3. *Concerns over mopeds and motorbike access.*

BCC response: The City Council has experience of installing chicanes to entrances to parks and open spaces across the City and most are able to deter nuisance from motorbikes. Officers will work alongside colleagues from the Police and access groups to make sure that the design for these improvements meets all the required standards and policies and keeps out motorbikes.

4. *Visual and noise impact of the proposed works*

BCC response: The chicane is proposed to sit on a concrete pad roughly 3 metres by 5.5metres and supersedes the original kissing gate design.

The railings to be used to form the chicane on the pad would stand 1.5metres in height and at lengths of 2.0 metres – with a gap to allow access of 1 metre.

Officers will work with residents and the friends of group to understand specific planting requirements and to help plan future planting schemes in the area. Some self-sown trees, close to the allotments will be removed as part of the planned works – however any further works to remove any significant vegetation will wait until the

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autumn/winter and will be undertaken in conjunction with the residents, friends of group and users.

5. *Proposed works and scheduling*

BCC response: Please refer to point 3 on page 6 about an appointed contact from the City Council to liaise with over the construction phase.

6. *Further road improvements*

BCC response: The City Council is working with other developers in the locality to potential secure further funding to develop the infrastructure needed in the area; it may be possible that some form of crossing is funded at the Ashley Down Road in the immediate future.

City Council officers will investigate this possible and the Neighbourhood Partnership will be able to make a decision on this in due course.