

## **Proposed Beechwood Park Redevelopment**

### **Report on a Public Consultation held in March 2008**

As part of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) for Schools agreement, Stirling Council stipulated that a proportion of the planning gain monies from housing developments should be used for redeveloping local play facilities. Accordingly, monies from the Stirling High School PPP housing development were allocated to the redevelopment of facilities in Beechwood Park. Torbrex Community Council, its standing sub-committee "The friends of Beechwood Park" and staff from Stirling Council's Play Services arranged a one day consultation event in the Beechwood Scout Centre on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

The event gave local residents an opportunity to view the proposals for redevelopment, discuss these and give their views. As part of the consultation, a questionnaire (see appendix 1) was made available on the day and on the Community Council's website (which had a link to the plans on Stirling Council's website). The questionnaire was intended to give people a chance to share some information about themselves and express their views on the existing facilities and use of the park, together with views on the proposed development. 36 people handed in questionnaires on the day, 9 were handed in after the event and 6 were completed online. An initial examination of the age ranges of respondents revealed that there was a severe under representation of young people. Accordingly, meetings were arranged with 14 pupils in the Green Team of St Ninians primary School and 14 members of the local scout group.

The questionnaire offered people a range of multiple choice questions, followed by an opportunity to express their views on a number of issues. The responses to the multiple choice questions were transferred to tables (see appendix 2). The responses to the open questions were considered at a workshop organised by the Community Council to identify the issues which were being raised. The results of this workshop were transferred to graphs (see appendix 3). The written responses made to the open questions is included as appendix 4.

The results of these analyses and the workshop have been discussed at meetings of the Friends of Beechwood Park (a standing sub-committee of Torbrex Community Council) and their views and suggestions subsequently discussed and adopted by the Community Council at its meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2008.

Torbrex Community Council recognises the efforts put into this consultations and analysis and would wish to thank members of the Friends of Beechwood Park, staff of Children's Services' Play Services, Judi Legg (consultant planner), staff and pupils of St Ninians Primary school, members of the 7<sup>th</sup> Stirling (Beechwood) Scouts and local residents for their support.

The following Summary Report has been prepared by the Friends of Beechwood Park and formally adopted by Torbrex Community Council.

**Summary Report of key issues arising from analysis of the results from a Public Consultation held during March 2008 regarding proposed developments in Beechwood Park by Stirling Council's Children's Services.**

Following the consultation regarding the proposals for Beechwood Park from Children's Services, the Summary Report outlined below follows:

- an interim analysis of the data collected at the March 17th Consultation exercise by FoBP, presented and discussed at the FoBP meeting of 15th April;
- analysis of full data (including additional data from younger age groups) at special meeting of Torbrex Community Council, along with *FoBP* and representatives of Children's Services on 29<sup>th</sup> April;
- discussion at *FoBP* meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May of findings of the 29<sup>th</sup> April analysis;
- discussion and adoption at the meeting of Torbrex Community Council held on the 28<sup>th</sup> May.

Deriving from all of the above, a summary overview of key issues emerging from analysis of the questionnaires indicates a range of very positive views:

- a genuine interest in/valuing of Beechwood Park as a social space and for its environment and facilities;
- an appreciation of its facilities - especially for children's bikes and play (recognising that these facilities require refurbishment and redevelopment); and a strongly expressed wish for development of additional facilities for teenagers and adults;
- a wish to raise the quality of Park environment through addressing: litter dropping; more litter bins; anti-social dog owners; more dog bins; more seating/relaxing areas; wider range of shrubs/plants; and better lighting.

However, there is also clear evidence of a number of strong concerns:

- lack of maintenance of environment and equipment;
- inadequate number of litter and dog bins, and inadequate management of these;
- proposed developments do not cater for the range of community needs;
- current vandalism/rowdyism, and a worry that these could increase with new proposals;
- safety/security: related particularly to children's play areas (especially from older people bringing young children to the Park);
- current levels of lighting in the Park (particularly by people using it as a thoroughfare);
- lack of responsibility by some dog owners: leading to fears over children feeling threatened by dogs and the health risks associated with dog fouling in an opened-up environment.

*FoBP* are keen to see positive developments in Beechwood Park, including developments for children and young people. While there may be a "policy" in Stirling to move to more open play areas for children (although a secured area is still a principal feature of many parks); and in view of the broader consultation being initiated by Stirling Council on the development of play areas, we are of the view that the very clear and specific concerns which have emerged from the Consultation must be addressed in relation to the Children's Services proposals for Beechwood Park **before any proposals are implemented.**

Hirek Kwiatkowski, Convener: *Friends of Beechwood Park*

Adopted by Torbrex Community Council at its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2008-06-12

Murray Dickie, Chairperson, *Torbrex Community Council*

**Appendix 1** (The questionnaire was printed as an A5 leaflet. The text has been transferred to an A4 format and condensed for inclusion in this report)

### ***Beechwood Park Developments***

You may know there is about to be a major development of the facilities for children/young people in the Park soon. It is also hoped that there will be further wider development of the Park in the future.

It is very important to have the views of:

- people who use the Park
- people who live near to the Park

in taking forward developments.

**You are invited to provide your views and ideas regarding *Beechwood Park* and its development by completing this brief form.**

Thank you very much for your co-operation.

- 1: My home postcode is?
- 2: I am (Multiple choice - male or female)?
- 3: I am aged? (Multiple choice - 5 to 11 years, 12 to 18 years, 19 to 25 years, 26 to 40 years, 41 to 60 years or over 60 years?)
- 4: How often do you use Beechwood Park? (Multiple choice - Once or twice a week, once or twice a month or Once or twice a year)
- 5: When you use the park are you? (Multiple choice - On my own, with a child under 5 years, with a child between 5 and 11 years, with a child between 12 and 16 years, with someone my own age?)
- 6: What time of day do you usually visit the park? (Multiple choice - mornings, afternoons or evenings)
- 7: Which days of the week do you usually visit the park? (Multiple choice - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday)
- 8: What is your main reason for visiting the Park? (Multiple choice - to use play facilities, as a pedestrian route way, to relax, to walk the dog, to play kick about football, to play or watch organised football, to walk?)
- 9: What do you like about the current park?
- 10: What do you not like about the current park?
- 11: How do you feel about this change? (Multiple choice – strongly approve, approve, I am not affected, disapprove, strongly disapprove)
- 12: Comments on the proposal to remove internal fences.
- 13: Safety and security concerns with existing park.
- 14: Safety and security concerns with the proposed developments.

## Appendix 2 - Analysis of Responses to Questions 1 to 8:

### Question 1: My home postcode is?

67 people gave details of their home postcodes. These indicate that the majority of respondents lived close to the park.

Postcode	Number	Percentage
FK7 9	32	47.76
FK8 2	22	32.84
FK7 0	7	10.45
FK7 7	2	2.99
BT41	1	1.49
FK7 8	1	1.49
FK8 9	1	1.49
FK9 5	1	1.49
Totals	67	100.00

### Question 2: I am male or female?

74 people stated their gender indicating an almost even breakdown of male and female respondents.

Gender	Number	Percentage
Female	38	48.10
Male	36	45.57
Not Stated	5	6.33
Totals	79	100.00

### Question 3: I am aged?

Despite extending the survey to a number of young people, there is still a lack of responses from the 12 to 25 year age range, particularly the 19 to 25 year range. This sets a challenge for future engagement with this group of users.

Age Range	Number	Percentage
5 to 11 years	22	27.85
12 to 18 years	7	8.86
19 to 25 years	0	0.00
26 to 40 years	7	8.86
41 to 60 years	15	18.99
over 60 years	26	32.91
Not stated	2	2.53
Totals	79	100.00

### Question 4: How often do you use Beechwood Park?

Responses to this question indicate that the majority of respondents are regular park users. Younger respondents also commented that their pattern of use of the park increased during holiday periods.

Frequency	Number	Percentage
Once or twice a week	46	58.23
once or twice a month	18	22.78
Once or twice a year	12	15.19
Not stated	3	3.80
Totals	79	100.00

**Question 5: When you use the park are you?**

Responses have been divided into young people and adults. Young people indicated that they were mainly coming to the park with someone their own age or in the company of an adult (someone over 16). A minority indicated that they came on their own or with a child under 5 years. Adult responses also indicated that their use of the park was principally social in nature, with only some 20% reporting that they used it on their own. This percentage increased with age. Some 75% reported that they visited the park with a young person and less than 20% indicated that they came with a person their age, although this increased to 40% for respondents over 60.

**Young Person (Aged 5 and 16 years)**

	<b>5-11</b>	<b>12-16</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>On your own</b>	7.14	8.33	7.74
<b>Child under 5 years</b>	7.14	0.00	3.57
<b>Child between 5 and 11 years</b>	39.29	8.33	23.81
<b>Someone aged between 12 and 16</b>	3.57	66.67	35.12
<b>Adult (over 16 years)</b>	42.86	16.67	29.76
	100.00	100.00	100

**Adults (Over 16 years)**

	<b>17-25</b>	<b>26-40</b>	<b>41-60</b>	<b>60+</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>On my own</b>	0.00	10.00	25.00	28.57	21.19
<b>Child under 5 years?</b>	0.00	40.00	25.00	11.43	25.48
<b>Child between 5 and 11 years</b>	0.00	40.00	35.00	20.00	31.67
<b>Child between 12 and 16 years</b>	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	3.33
<b>Someone my own age</b>	0.00	10.00	5.00	40.00	18.33
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

**Question 6: What time of day do you usually visit the park?**

Responses indicated that most use occurred in the afternoon. Anecdotal responses reported that young people had a different pattern in the school holidays and at weekends and older people reported increased use in better weather.

<b>Times</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>mornings</b>	20	18.87
<b>afternoons</b>	64	60.38
<b>evenings</b>	22	20.75
<b>Totals</b>	106	100.00

**Question 7: Which days of the week do you usually visit the park?**

There was no suggestion that any day of the week was significantly more popular.

<b>Days</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Monday</b>	38	12.54
<b>Tuesday</b>	37	12.21
<b>Wednesday</b>	49	16.17
<b>Thursday</b>	41	13.53
<b>Friday</b>	49	16.17
<b>Saturday</b>	47	15.51
<b>Sunday</b>	42	13.86
<b>Totals</b>	303	100.00

**Question 8: What is your main reason for visiting the Park?**

The largest single use reported was the use of the play facilities. Not surprisingly, given the interconnecting pathways through the park, the next largest group of responses was for a route way. This was followed by relaxation and a significant percentage of dog walker and footballers – both formal and informal. Unfortunately, the survey did not include the large number of people who play and watch organised football at the weekends.

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>To use play facilities</b>	50	37.31
<b>As a pedestrian route way</b>	29	21.64
<b>To relax</b>	25	18.66
<b>To walk the dog</b>	13	9.70
<b>To play kick about football</b>	10	7.46
<b>To play or watch organised football</b>	4	2.99
<b>Walk</b>	2	1.49
<b>Run</b>	1	0.75
<b>Totals</b>	134	100.00

### Appendix 3 - Analysis of Responses to Questions 9 to 16:

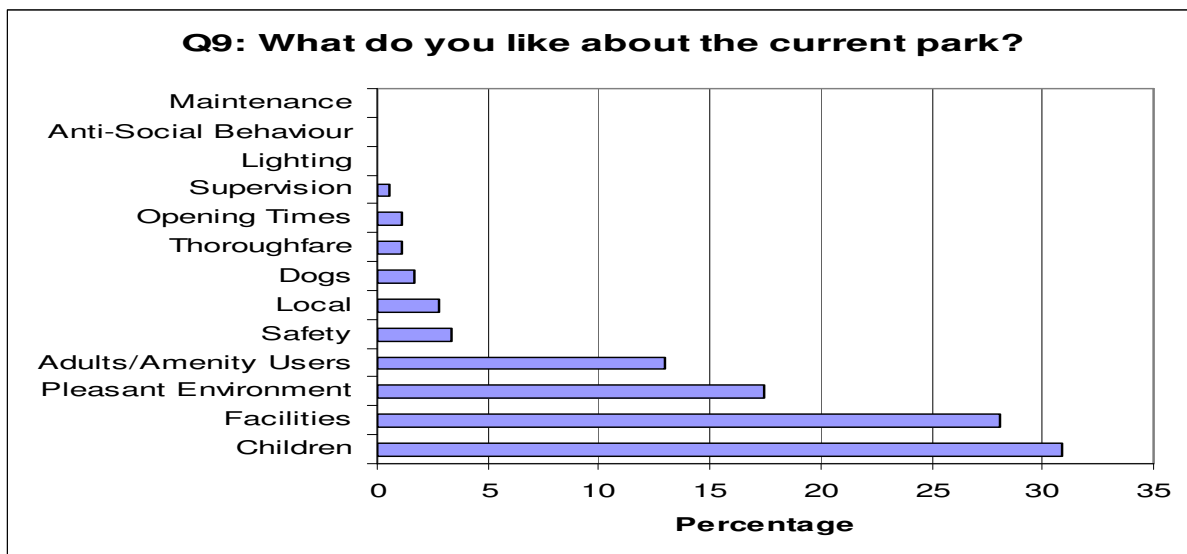
#### Analysis of Issues Raised in Text Responses to the Questionnaire:

A workshop was organised by the Community Council to look at the issues raised in the text responses made in the questionnaires. The workshop was attended by eight members of the Friends of Beechwood Park Subcommittee, four community councillors, a member of Stirling Council Play Services and the project consultant. The first set of text responses was discussed by the whole group, identifying a number of basic issues. Remaining responses were considered by small groups, with the agreed issues list. Any new issues identified were added to the small group lists so that everyone was working with the same agreed issues list. Each text response was coded with issues which the group felt had been raised in the response.

#### Issues Identified in Workshop:

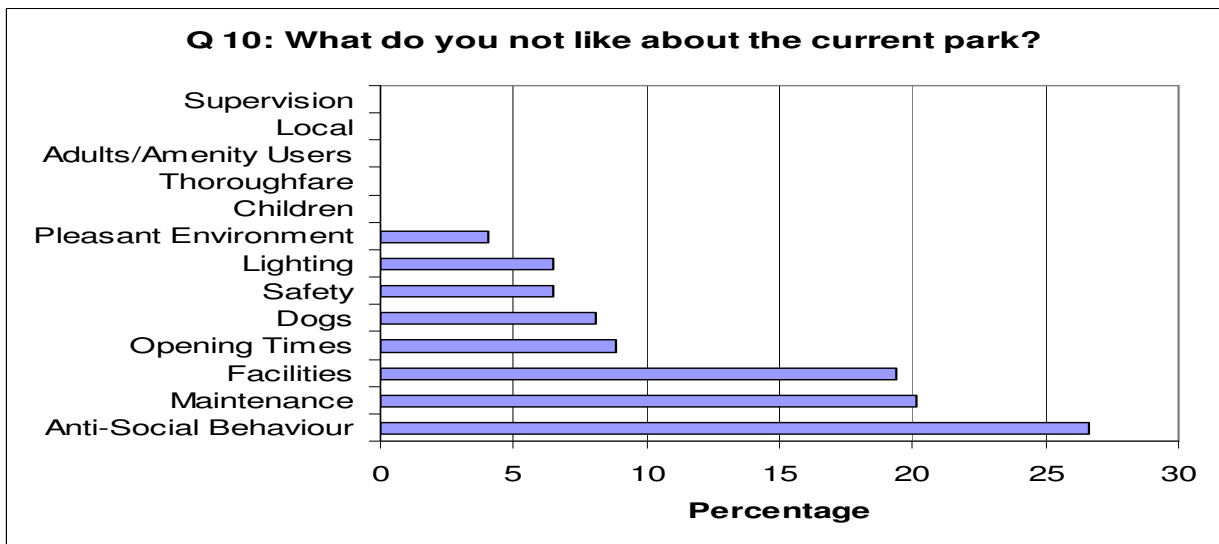
- A Facilities
- B Children
- C Pleasant Environment
- D Thoroughfare
- E Safety
- F Adults/Amenity Users
- G Local
- H Dogs
- I Anti-Social Behaviour
- J Lighting
- K Maintenance
- L Opening Times
- M Supervision

#### Question 9: What do you like about the current park? (expressed as percentages)



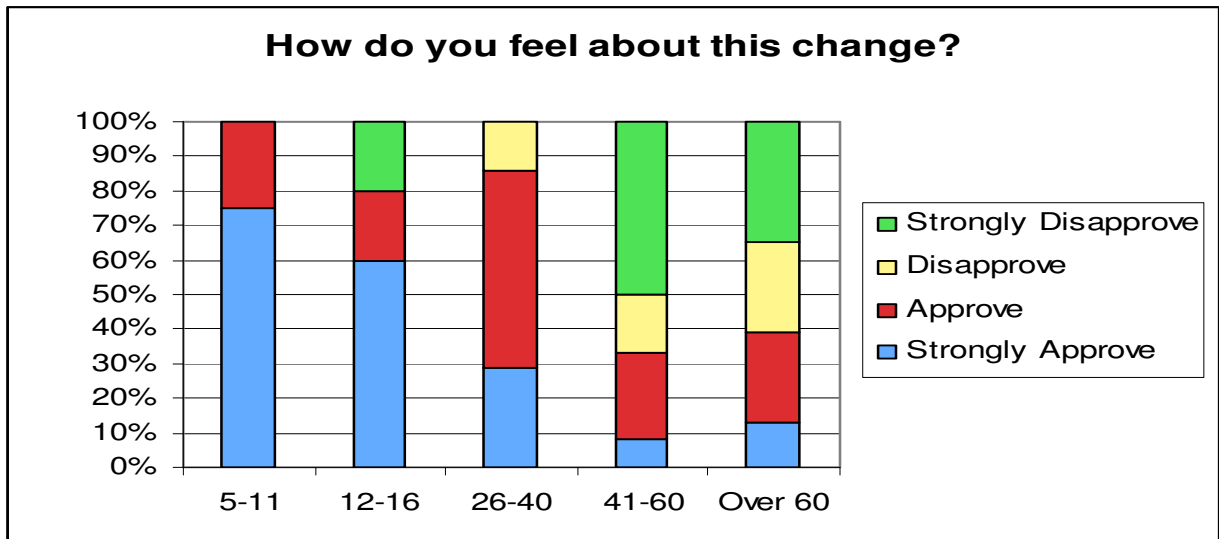
The largest number of responses (over 55%) mentioned “children” and “facilities”. As the proposed development concentrates on provision for younger people, this was a reassuring response. However, these were followed by a “pleasant environment” and “facilities for adults and amenity users” (over 30%). This identifies a future area for development.

**Question 10: What do you not like about the current park? (expressed as percentages)**



**Question 11: How do you feel about this change? (expressed as percentages)**

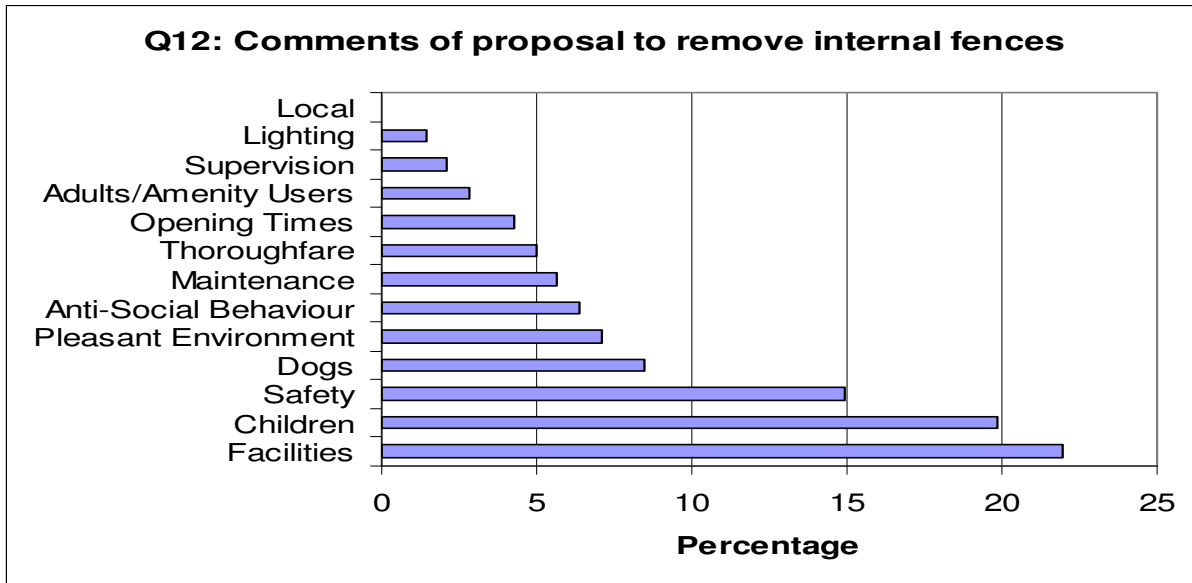
This question asked people to comment on the proposal to remove internal fences from the park. Overall, more people approved than disapproved of the proposal (53% to 41%) with 7% “not sure or “not affected”. There was a significant difference in the responses of the different age groups. Younger people were more approving and older people were more disapproving.



The responses of 12 young people were not included as their response to the following question indicated that they had misunderstood the question or they made no response to the following question. As there were no responses in the 17-25 year age range, this range has been omitted.

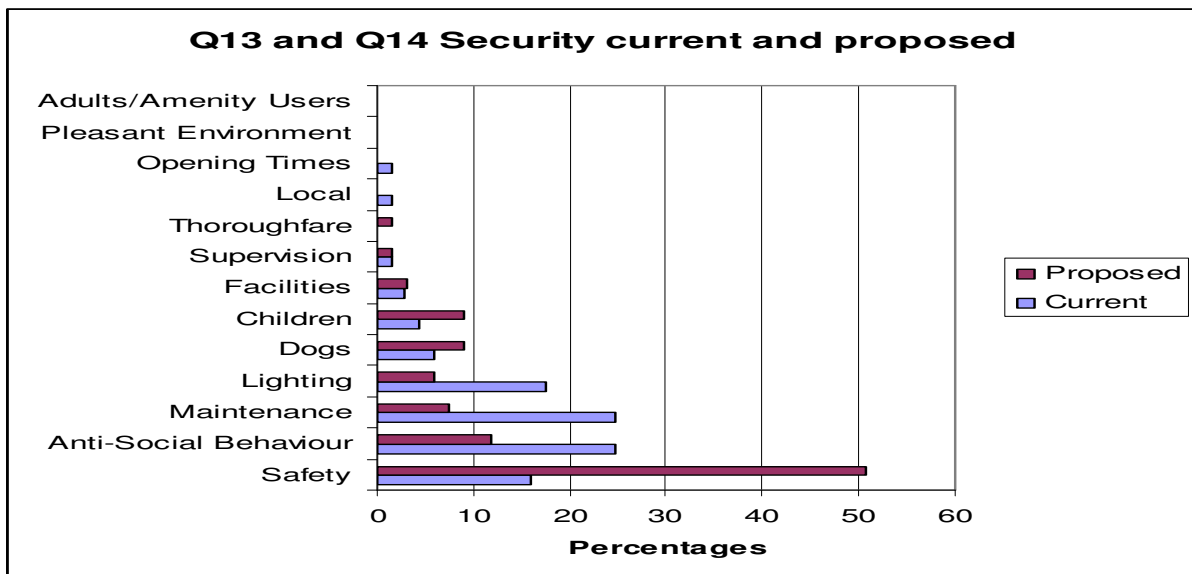
**Question 12: Comments on the proposal to remove internal fences (expressed as percentages)**

Again, the two issues most commonly raised were the impact on children and facilities. Concerns expressed mainly centred around general safety of children (lack of containment and worries about supervision) and the impact of uncaring dog owners. There were concerns about the possibility of increased anti-social behaviour, maintenance requirements, need for lighting and impact on through routes. More positive comments were made about increased access to facilities, principally the mini-traffic area.



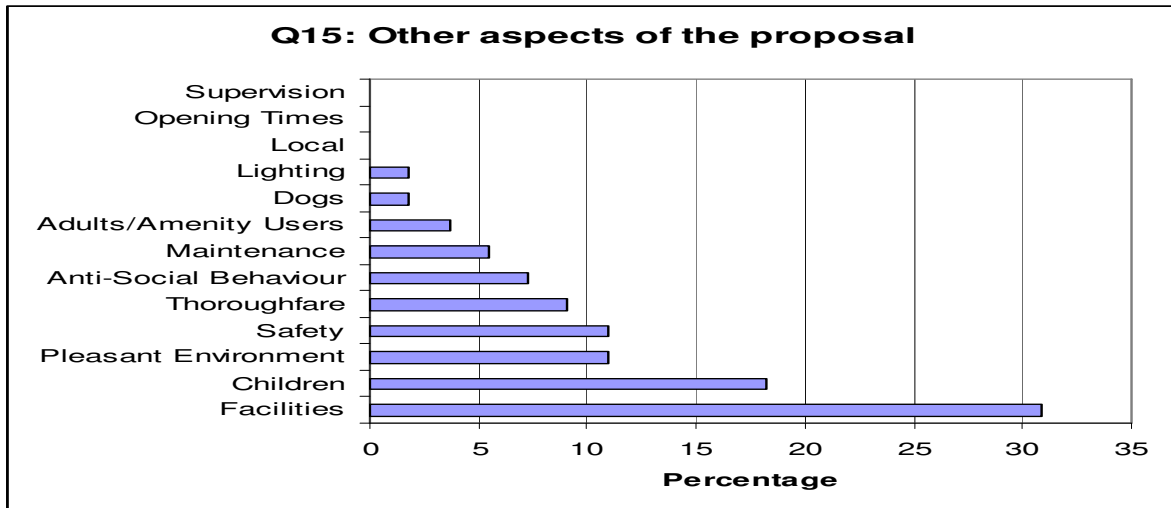
**Questions 13 and 14: Safety and security concerns with existing and from proposed developments (expressed as percentages)**

The responses to these questions have been combined into one graph to give a sense of comparison. The most significant difference is the considerable increase in the references to safety, from less than 20% in the existing park to over 50% as a result of the proposed developments.



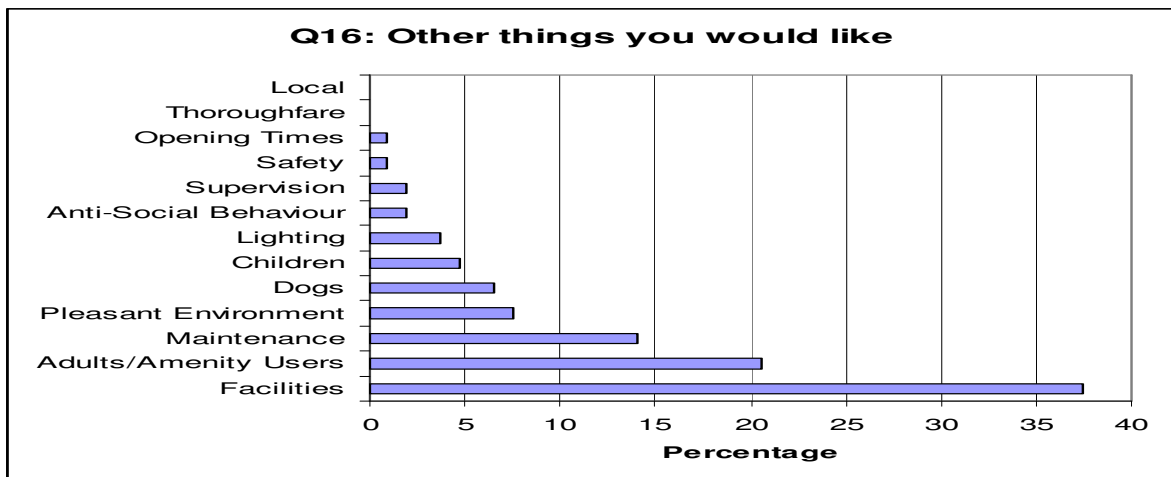
**Question 15: Other aspects of the proposal (expressed as percentages)**

Most of the issues raised were about the facilities for children. There were desires for environmental improvements, safety, preservation of easy thoroughfare, quality maintenance and facilities for adults and amenity users.



**Question 16 Other things you would like ages expressed as percentages)**

The two most mentioned issues were “facilities” and “adults/amenity users”. While some of the requests were for additional facilities and resources for children, the majority were for additional facilities and resources for adults and amenity users. This, together with the “pleasant environment” issue raises challenges for future developments. There were a considerable number of responses on the issue of “maintenance” – a strong request for a better regime than is in place at the moment. Again, “dogs” featured strongly – as it has done in other questions. There is a clear desire for more and more regularly emptied dog bins and strong measures to encourage their use. There was a degree of support for improved lighting and supervision, often with reference to “anti-social behaviour”.



#### Appendix 4 – Responses to open questions:

##### Question 9: What do you LIKE about the current Park?

a play park for children  
a pleasant place for relaxation and leisure for all ages  
a very hand green cut through to SHS, the ice rink and beyond  
a very nice green space  
Activities for children  
an urban oasis  
available open space  
away from Road  
Best local park in the area and reasonable facilities  
Bicycle track, climbing frame, traffic lights, swings  
Bike bit  
Bike park - part of my children's childhood  
bike park is a greater, safe way to learn  
bikes  
BMX  
BMX Track  
Children have safe area for play  
Children's area  
climbing frames  
Cycle park  
enclosed play area, enclosed grass area for playing with a ball  
Good for all age groups.  
Good open access  
Good play area that we can walk / cycle to & close to the primary school for after school let off steam.  
The 2 cycle area is very good.  
good play facilities  
Grass  
Great open space in the city  
Green area for dog walking  
Green open space  
Green space  
helter smelter  
I go to the park with a mixed age range of children (0-10yrs I like the wide range of facilities suitable for different ages. Children Love bike tracks. Little ones use the concrete tracks  
I like how it has a selection of things for youngsters and bigger children  
I like how it's got the road track, BMX and the climbing frame and the witches hat  
I like playing football with my team  
I like playing on the equipment  
I like the bike park  
I like the field and all of the climbing frame  
I like the helter skelter  
I like the slide and the field  
I like the tyre  
I like this park because it's quite peaceful  
I like the big tyre swing  
I love the trees in the summer  
If people are able to stay for a morning or afternoon with little ones). Having a bouncy castle in the summer is an extra bonus and makes it a special outing.  
It is a very aesthetically pleasing park with the tree planting

It is an open green space with wonderful trees and a few shrubs which will soon be the only green space in the area when the former high school is demolished and more houses and flats are built  
It is the last remaining green space nearby  
It is very fun  
It lets children use up some of their energy  
It's big  
Its great having toilet and cafe facilities on site in the summer (essential)  
It's quiet and peaceful  
Large areas to run around. Traditional children's play facilities.  
Lots of open spaces with mature trees  
Lots of play equipment  
Mature trees, Mature trees, Mature trees, mature trees  
And the enclosed bike park which is a safe training area for learners. Bike park is excellent resource for young children providing it is safe from older children on bikes etc.  
Mini traffic - when open  
Mini traffic layout  
my two year old said that her favourite thing about the park was "being able to climb"  
Nature  
Nice area to walk in  
no supervision  
Not a lot as it is run down and in need of attention and general maintenance - has been for several years  
open aspect, open aspects  
Open nice are in which to walk  
Open space - the only open space left in the area  
Open space for kids  
Place for children to play  
play equipment  
play facilities for children, Play facilities for grandchildren  
pleasure of walking in lovely grounds  
plenty of open space  
probably big tyre swing  
sheltered areas for picnics  
Situation - away from busy road, reasonably quiet  
space  
space to run around  
Space to walk dog  
swing and climbing areas  
swing park, swing park, swing park  
the bike park has been a feature for Stirling for over 40 years - children come from a wide area to use it  
The bike park, the bike park,  
the BMX track, the BMX track, the BMX track, The bike track, mostly the BMX track  
The climbing frame  
The fact that it exists  
The grass park  
The helter skelter in the play area  
The play stuff  
the chute  
the space (fenced area near pavilion) because you can bring your own football along to play  
the tyre swing, the tyre swing  
The trees and greenery  
The variety of options for the children - some days we kick a ball.  
Other days the play park  
There are very few parks in Stirling. This one is needed  
through route

Trees, Trees, Trees  
well used by community for walking dogs  
well used for football matches  
When my children were younger, I used it with them a lot - particularly the play area  
When our grandchildren come to stay we use the park a great deal. We like having easy access to play facilities.  
Whilst big ones can use mud track next door so everyone is happy.  
the play park  
mini-traffic  
it is a place for relaxation and fresh air for people who have no gardens

**Question 10: What do you not like about the park?**

A lot of grass that there is hanging about  
At times there is a lot of litter  
Bad swings - old hard to get on  
Bike area not always open  
bike park fenced and not open all the year round  
Child's cycle track nearly always closed and provides a big closed off block of ugly chain link right in the middle of the park  
Condition of the pathways  
Dog fouling, Dog fouling, Dog fouling, Dog fouling, Dog fouling - has anyone been prosecuted? Dog mess  
Equipment run down  
Football teams when playing on pitch - language of spectators and players is foul - next to children's play area  
Graffiti, Graffiti, Graffiti, Graffiti, It's full of graffiti, Its full of graffiti  
I don't like all the fences because it stops you getting through  
I don't like the fences that are there right now  
I hate the slide, the vandalism and the fences  
In the 22 years we have stayed here it has been badly maintained & sometimes is a haunt of rowdy youth.  
inconsiderate dog walkers  
insufficient dog bins  
irresponsible Dog walkers who leave their dog's dirt  
It's looking a bit run down - particularly the play area which never looks particularly safe or clean anymore  
Lack of ability to access traffic layout except at specific times  
lack of adequate dog bins which are often overflowing  
lack of attention to shrubbed areas  
lack of facilities for older people  
Lack of facilities for the over 10 year olds so that they spend time abusing the play area for young children.  
& insufficient litter bins and dog bins  
lack of flower beds  
Lack of lighting, lack of lighting, lack of lights  
lack of maintenance  
Lack of ongoing maintenance  
Lack of ongoing maintenance, poor litter removal regime. Lack of single department looking after whole park.  
lack of public toilets  
Lack of seats  
lack of seats outside the child play area  
Lighting is very poor  
Limited play equipment. Park needs up-grading.  
Litter, Litter, Litter, Litter, Litter, Litter, Litter, Litter from SHS pupils, Litter is a problem, little litter collection  
Mini-traffic area closed most of the time  
Most of the things are for younger people

no adventure play equipment for children  
Noisy teens in evening  
Not enough lighting  
not enough seating  
not enough seats - or even any in the further away areas  
not enough seats throughout the area  
Often quite a lot of rubbish and broken glass in the swing park  
old dated swings and chutes  
Open bins in play park allows birds and squirrels to scatter refuse  
park can be muddy  
Park has been neglected  
Pedal dumper trucks, Pedal dumper trucks  
People smash bottles  
play facilities/paths etc poorly maintained  
Poor litter removal regime. Lack of single department looking after whole park.  
Poor maintenance  
Rubbish and litter not collected  
see-saw and swings squeak, squeaky swings  
the bark chippings in the swing area get wet and sappy and hide broken glass  
The bike area is fenced off  
the bike park being open for a short period of the year  
The bike track is locked off in the winter  
the fact that some areas are only available seasonally  
The fences  
The helter skelter is very steep  
The lack of maintenance of the whole park  
the lighting and the dark corners  
The monkey bars are too small, The monkey bars are too small,  
the neds  
The one dog bin not emptied as it should be  
the sand pit  
The swings, the see-saw, parts of the climbing frame  
The vandalism - broken bottles, etc  
there is not enough seating  
climbing frame - cause people put dirt and things on it  
Toilets being shut  
toilets not open all year  
too much emphasis on developing children's area  
too much litter, Waste Paper  
Too old fashioned - out of date  
Vandalism, Vandalism, vandalism, vandalism - including graffiti, Vandalism to play equipment  
rusty equipment  
vehicles coming into the park cause ruts in the grass  
Very dark at night  
Very poor play items  
Would like to see picnic tables out with the bike areas.  
would like to see toilet facilities (but realise this is difficult to maintain)  
Youngsters who hang around drinking, etc

**Question 11: How do you feel about this change?** This was a multiple choice question.

**Question 12: Please use this space to comment on your answer**

A long overdue refurb and a great alternative to King's Park will have to be looked after  
Although I do not have small children, I think that it would be easier and safer to supervise children in an enclosed space  
An excellent idea in principal - However, I am not appreciative of the proposals to put gates across paths through the park  
mini-cycle track can be used out with the set times  
Anything would be more attractive than the existing fencing  
Beechwood park was designated a public park in 1960s when the house and grounds were bought by Stirling Burgh Council. In particular it was for use by young and old. For the security and safety of youngsters I think that fencing should be around the areas equipped for them with adequate seating inside for parents and carers and????? to keep dogs out. All the other areas of the park should be open and unfenced so that others can freely roam and enjoy this precious scarce green space  
Change is needed but am concerned that older children on cycle BMX track might deter young ones - might take over  
do not like fences  
Dogs do not mix with young children on swings, etc  
Easier access for unaccompanied dogs younger children's area needs fenced off bit - otherwise have space to roam -nothing for older children  
Feel the removal of existing fences around children's bike area will lead to a substantial increase in vandalism of the revolutionary "award winning" facility. The removal of fences/anti-dog grids around young children's play area will lead to increased presence of dog dirt (perhaps hidden within bark cover) and potential for dangerous medical conditions in young children. If we are to have a fence let's keep it wooden (the existing one still looks robust, and let's put it on the periphery of the park. No need for some expensive steel fence as it won't be painted regularly and will rust. Go for a locally sourced/treated larch. Fences marked red on plan OK. Reservation re mini cycle track being removed - all new fittings must be vandal proof  
Good idea to join up mini-traffic and swing park  
Health and safety and security require that childproof, well maintained, child friendly fences separate these facilities from the public park  
Hmmm. How about low fences around bike area. It works brilliantly at the moment because one doesn't have to worry about losing a toddler near a busy road (childminders often have 3 toddlers for instance) Also stops bigger kids zooming across from next door mud tracks and mowing down little ones  
How are dogs going to be excluded? By removing the fence between BMX track & mini traffic will mean older children could make life difficult for the younger children.  
I approve with the proviso that dog owners are encouraged to use a different area for walking. Young children particularly are often frightened of dogs - plus the "poo" element  
I don't mind what happens  
I don't mind what happens  
I feel a smaller fence with gate should surround the bike park. If there is no fence, younger children could wander off into the BMX track where older children play and this could be dangerous.  
I feel that in respect of vandalism the fences have enabled the existing cycle track facilities to have lasted so long. I have great reservations that the proposed changes would do anything other than encourage additional vandalism  
I like the changes as it has been the same for ages  
I like the changes, because instead of having it all fenced up it is nice and open  
I like the idea of making the new cycle track accessible all year round  
  
I see advantages and disadvantages of the fence plan options. Whatever one is used, the gates must be easily navigated by people with prams, buggies, bikes, bike with tag along, wheelchairs, etc.  
I think that you should keep the fence to keep the younger children in  
I think we should change all the rusty old equipment for the people to relax in and be happy  
I want to use the track more often

I would love to approve of removing fencing, but I have serious doubts that the new equipment will not last due to vandalism. Fence has surrounded mini-traffic for many years and maybe this is why it has lasted so long.

I would still feel safe

If you Take down the perimeter fences you'll open up these protected areas for dog fouling and vandalism in the mini traffic area in particular - Mothers of small children at the moment can relax knowing they cannot go from the cycle area

It is less enclosed

It needs a change because it's quite old

It will be a real bonus to be able to use the bike park all the year round. My one concern is that there will be no dog free areas - I am concerned both about dog fouling and also small children being scared by exuberant dogs

It would let me use the cycle track more

It would mean more access to the facilities

It's because some of the stuff is too old

It's for the good

Make more room

Mini-cycle track will deteriorate (dog fouling, vandalism)

On balance, I think I approve to increase accessibility throughout the year. I do have concerns re safety of small children and with vandalism

Parents, guardians get a chance to relax if the play area is secure. Bike park is unique feature and good practical learning experience/leisure for younger children. Opening it out will mean older children will be there and little ones may find this intimidating or undermining when they try to build their understanding/skills

People climb over fence. Take away fences because they are old and black but put new ones

Prefer the alternative fence positioning

provided the new railings are in the alternative proposal and the furniture in the mini cycle track is removable when it is not supervised

Removal of fences will lead to further vandalism/graffiti etc and dog fouling

Removing the fences will have these consequences - children playing in the park will be less secure. Child play areas will be contaminated by dog fouling ~ park users won't keep to the path - play will be interrupted and play areas will become worn. Putting the perimeter fence as proposed will create a barrier for people using the main north/south path through the park. It will be a hindrance to cyclists, mobile scooters, elderly people (see attached note)

Should be good if adequate security is provided in the form of CCTV and suggested lighting

Small children liable to wander off when attendant adult not watching

So I can use the cycle track more often

The enclosed areas are the only dog free areas (most of the time)~carers of very small children need only watch two exits from the present swing park - important when there are only one or two to keep an eye on

The open space gives a sense of freedom

There will be more space

There will be more things to play on

This is a public park as well as a children's play area therefore a dividing fence is a necessity

This will reduce safety and increase the risk of vandalism

Very pleased to see facilities being updated

We need to know what groups are available to approach for funding to carry out work in the remainder of the park

Welcome the removal of fences. Traffic signs need to be removable. new fence should be on the play area side of the path

When using play area with more than one child it is necessary to have fenced area to retain children in safe environment. When visiting in summer some parents and grandparents can have more than 2 or 3 children on various items of equipment. From experience know that fenced areas are necessary.

### Question 13: Security issues – If the development proposals are implemented?

Asides from using the park with children I am also a runner but feel unsafe about using the park in the evenings

Babies could run on the road

Drinking in the evenings

Equipment past its best

Fence around mini-traffic often damaged

I don't like the neds

I think they should renew the equipment and the slide, because my brother fell down it and hurt his head

It is not as safe or secure as it should be. The general cleanliness is a health hazard

It is not well lit at night. The paths are broken and it is not easy to see them in the dark

Lack of lighting, Lack of lighting, Lack of lighting, More lighting would be useful, Not enough light, Not enough lighting at night time for those who use the park as a thoroughfare

Lack of supervision by authorities

Lighting requires to be greatly improved - this park is used in hours of darkness, Dark areas - lighting needed for some paths

Metal rusty

Metal swing park not too suitable for wee toddlers

Our issue is that young people gather at night for drinking & at times causing disturbance & occasionally set fire to the trees.

Rusty metal and peeling paint, Rusty metal, peeling paint

The glass

The neds

The park would benefit significantly if it were to appear more looked after (litter/debris removal) and regularly policed. It needs to be recognised as an area where antisocial behaviour will not be tolerated particularly in the evenings.

The sand that was dumped in area next to pavilion has been in situ for 2 years It has been totally unhygienic since first day due to animal fouling and anti-social behaviour. No child should have been encouraged to play in it as it is a health hazard. Hopefully no repetition of this or similar.

the vandalism, vandals, Vandalism, vandals

Too many young people hanging about the park at nights

Unlit area which often attract teenagers - often for underage drinking and vandalism

Very dark at night

We need lighting as a priority

Would like to see gates within the park area to keep out dogs

could do with more regular tidy

dense shrubbery at end of BMX track

Drinking, broken bottles and vandalism

lighting

Litter - attracts vermin and birds

lots of young adults hang around early evening

more policing of park

pavilion badly graffitied and unsightly at present

Play area has rubbish - isn't much evidence of being maintained and cleaned regularly

Youths gathering - can be very intimidating for people walking alone

Dog fouling - only a few uncooperative owners - but they risk the health of park users  
dog wardens

glass bottles

state of some path surfaces and edges

regular cleaning of litter urgent

#### **Question 14: Security issues – If the development proposals are implemented?**

As stated before, although a fence will be erected before coming to the main road, I still feel young children would be more secure and safe with a fence around the bike area.

Bark chippings which can conceal broken glass - rubberised mats used in other parks may be a possibility concerned about the height of the proposed grass mound in front of Beechwood Gardens and the provision of water taps

Dogs and children!

Don't put gates in as it is hard to get into the park with a bike

Fence removal is not a good idea for safety reasons

I have never felt any worry while being in the park with my children

I think the fences should be kept

If open plan implemented - may be problem with dog waste in play areas

If you take down the perimeter fences you'll open up these protected areas for dog fouling and vandalism in the mini traffic area in particular - Mothers of small children at the moment can relax knowing they cannot go from the cycle area

Increased [possibility of additional features being vandalised

It will be better

It will be even less safe and secure as it is now.

Key to this plan being successful is ensuring that the facilities are not abused and are looked after

Lighting, Lighting will be a key improvement, Needs adequate lighting

Not sure about the fence being taken down around the bike park

Only re feeling of "safety for small children"

Open roads, open roads, open roads

dogs without owners cleaning their toilet up, dogs free to roam on their own

Open space which means that security for visitors with children could be compromised

People could fall out the tree house

Potential for larger kid's bikes (8-16) on BMX track and smaller kids bikes (2-7) on the cycle layout to collide. Surely the connecting of these two facilities is wrong?

Safety and security will be badly affected

It would be unsafe and impractical to remove fence from little ones bike area.

Still looking for lighting

That it might create interest by unwanted groups which cannot be controlled

The above will not be improved

The bike area will become a race track for older children

The removal of fences around the play area and bike park will lay them open to all the dogs which are walked or roam in the park resulting in possible soiling of the area and resulting hygiene and disease problems

Vandalism, Vandals, Will new features be left alone- vandalism etc

Willow tunnel hard to maintain

apart from some youngsters being afraid of dogs

Vandalism - feel the addition of tree house & hammock may exacerbate these problems.

Good idea to have fencing rails all round

loggia fragile

paths still need to be improved

Policing of the area to prevent youngsters gathering and subsequent vandalism

tree house - abuse by older groups - e.g. den for drinking

sand - dog fouling, sand - possibly glass/needles, dogs could pollute sand areas

**Question 15: Comment on any other aspects of the proposed developments.**

Apart from the concerns outlined and the management of the sand and water facilities i.e. cleanliness and hygiene~ the changes are to be welcomed.

Big digger in a sandpit is a waste of space. Children fight over it when parks are busy. Toddlers wander too close and get clonked by bigger children. 3 yr olds are the age group that really want to use it and aren't big enough so get frustrated. Just have sand!

Can't foresee any issues

Damage of facilities by teens

Don't forget the swings - old fashioned swings are the most used element in the whole park

Everything must be vandal resistant

I believe along with my children that we need to retain swings and chutes in the park. The proposal should be to supplement what we have and at least retain it. Looks to me like we are trying to spend the money to use up the budget on expensive new low-level fencing and other features. See no point in a table tennis table in a park (how does a ping-pong ball cope with a slight breeze - try it!)

I like the new ideas

I like the things that will be built

I see the main path through the park as being the one from Torbrex lane (by the old high school) to the pedestrian crossing at the main road. I would not want to see a fence or gate across that path. I would not really want to see a fence or gate across any of the paths.

I think that the lighting, at a later stage, is a brilliant idea, making it a safer place to walk through at night.

I think they're good but it needs swings - a park's not a park without swings

I would love the park to be successful, however, it has to be a multi-agency approach to enable this to happen

If any fencing is introduced, gates must be wide to allow access to wheelchairs and buggies

Improvements to play equipment would certainly be good

It all looks very positive and a good mix, given the available space

It is unfortunate that the emphasis of the development is on the age group 0 -10 years with little or no thought for all the other users of the park

Keep the open aspect from Beechwood House across the woodland to the main road. Extra fencing not necessary to surround park.

More seating

Please be aware that some items of equipment (i.e. enclosed covered areas) have and will attract anti-social behaviour (e.g. drinking and drug use) and this leads to vandalism

Position of proposed fence - by moving back to other side of path as suggested by Friends, will look much better by retaining open front area of park and uninterrupted line of footpath - also trees less damaged  
removal of fences (existing)

That there will be no dog free areas - low fences around some or all of the play areas may provide a solution so that children and dog owners can all enjoy the space

The extended "climbing frame" is excellent, providing challenges for children - would like more similar (cuff King's Park)~would be sorry to see helter-skelter go~like the water facility - it's great at King's park

The plan ideas are good

The play area only should be fenced and the remainder open for public use. All fences should have gates wide enough for wheelchairs

We are very happy to see new trees & the refurbishment of the park- long overdue

Wonderful to see improvements coming

How will the sand be kept in the one area?

### Question 16: Are there any things you would like to be added?

A cafe in the park would be a great addition "Beanscene in the park...." I can just imagine a continental cafe with tables out side when the weather is ok. Coffee in the morning; tapas for lunch and a glass of wine as the late evening sunshine set through the trees" I could spend all day in the park watching the children play and meeting friends - well I can dream....

A flying fox and a bike rail

A flying fox~another goal post

A multicourt

All the additional features look great. Picnic tables and areas for adults to relax will be a real plus and will encourage more visitors

and bins for dog mess

Are there plans for more seats for adults &

Area for dogs

baseball hoop~swings~toilets

Basket ball hoop with flat concrete ground

basket ball hoop~witches hat~football goals

better availability of toilets

better lighting

Better toilet access

Council cleans dog litter bins on a regular basis

development of area behind Scout Centre

Developments for 12-16 year olds

Extra litter bins

Flying fox

Further seating in the play area and out with that section.

Given the current vandalism that goes on, the tree house would have a very short life or would become a drinking den

Goal posts

I think you should get more poo bins~better lighting

It would be good to have a flying fox

It would be nice to see planted and maintained areas with seating where other members of the public could just sit and read. Please not immediate to children's play area. Could perhaps be used by older people as Eccles Court is in the neighbourhood. Obviously though some seating at play area for carers

joined-up maintenance programme

large slide would also be appreciated

lighting and more seating

lighting of paths towards back of path

Like the idea for a tree house and high level walkways

long term management plan

Many more seats throughout the park

more colour provided in planting e.g. some seasonal plants e.g. bedding plants/crocus etc

More cycle parking

More cycle parking

More cycle parks

More dog bins

More dog poo bins please

More facilities for young adults - football facilities, etc

more floral/bedded areas

More goal posts

More litter bins

More litter bins, more litter bins?

More public seating inside and outside the play area

more regular bin emptying

More seating, More seating, More seating areas, more seats  
more shrubs to replace those lost over the past decade, more shrubs which are looked after, more small trees  
and flower beds, More trees/flower beds/shrubs  
Multicourt  
my six year old would definitely like some form of roundabout  
Need simple attraction - picnic tables for example to attract people to the further reaches - under trees etc  
Petting zoo  
planting to promote better butterfly habitat  
Please keep swings, Swings  
proper facilities for dog walkers - several waste disposal bins  
regular policing  
regularly emptied litter bins and bins for caring dog walkers to deposit dog dirt  
reinstatement of the putting green  
seating for adults  
Somewhere to buy a cup of tea - always sadly lacking in Beechwood, given the lack of café facilities in the  
vicinity  
spring flowers, especially along Newhouse  
Sunshade facilities  
football and rugby posts  
The ideas on the plans look wonderful. The redeveloped Causewayhead park is my children's favourite  
outing  
The use of the park being checked regularly by police or others. Increased use of dog bins and education of  
irresponsible dog owners to clean up after their dogs~Regular visits by dog wardens could also help.  
the willow tunnel  
There do not appear to be any baby swings on the proposals - baby swings are one item of play equipment  
that very young children can enjoy a long time before they can use anything else in the park - please can  
you keep the existing baby swings or put in new ones? Thank you - look forward to using the new and  
improved Beechwood Park  
toilets open more regularly  
Tree house and new race track~Slides~trampolines  
Tyre wire, new slide, tree hide out  
use of open space between new school patch and Torbrex Lane to engage older children in kick about area  
with climbing ropes  
use of open space between new school patch and Torbrex Lane to engage older children in kick about area  
with goal posts  
use of open space between new school patch and Torbrex Lane to engage older children in kick about area  
with net ball  
use of open space between new school patch and Torbrex Lane to engage older children in kick about area  
with rounders  
Use the money wisely to retain traditional play facilities which are used all year round (swings of various  
types and chutes) rather than sand and water facilities that will only have a limited use during summer  
months.  
wall height reduced and entrance widened at Torbrex Lane entrance to park  
We note the absence of traditional swings & chutes. Would it be a good idea to have a separate enclosed  
area for small children?  
What about older folk?