

**Friends of Beechwood Park (FoBP) (a sub-committee of Torbrex Community Council):
Summary Report of key issues arising from analysis of data from Consultation exercise
on Beechwood Park – proposed developments by 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 2008 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 Comm/Council, along with *FoBP* and reps. of Children’s Services on 29th April;

discussion at *FoBP* meeting on 21st May of findings of the 29th April (special meeting) analysis.

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*.

We therefore hope that Torbrex Community Council will support our request that we are informed by Children’s Services as soon as possible how they propose to address the above concerns which were expressed in the Consultation.

Hirek Kwiatkowski
Convener: *Friends of Beechwood Park*