

## Play area improvement survey – Allhallows, Ripon

North Yorkshire Council is working to improve the quality of the Allhallows play area in Ripon. This survey aimed to gather opinions from local residents and park users to help us decide on a new piece of equipment for the play area.

The money (£10,070.48) for this project would come from the S106 money (Commutated Sums) and Capital funding from the former Harrogate district. Commuted Sums is money paid to North Yorkshire Council by property developers when providing residential properties within the council area.

The online survey was open from Thursday 21 May 2026 until Thursday 2 July 2026, available on North Yorkshire Council's consultations web page. Posters were put up locally and paper copies were available at the local library.

### Headline Results

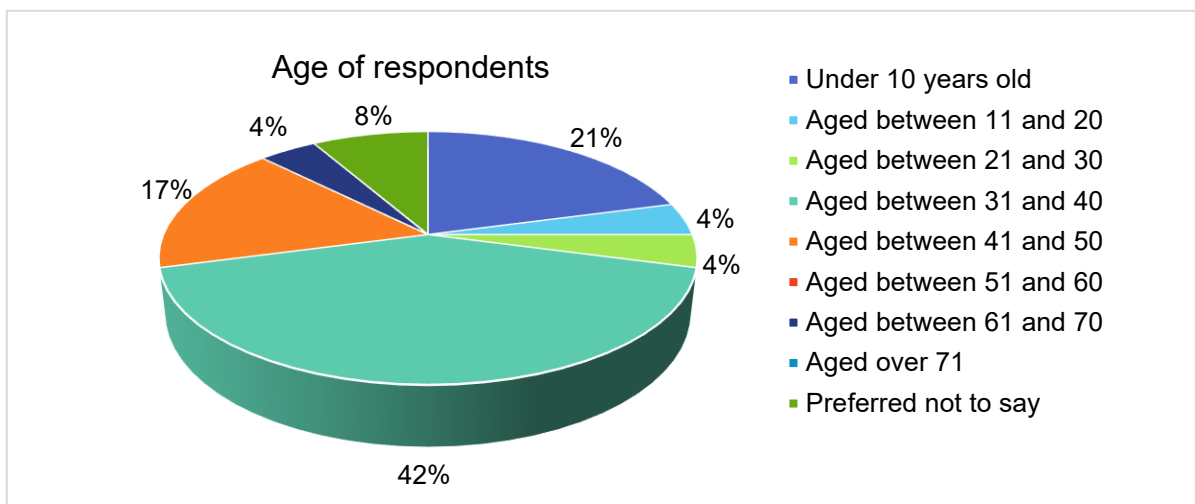
- 24 respondents in total.
- The majority of respondents were aged between 31 and 40 and were female.
- Climbing, Swinging, Sliding and Jumping appear to be the favourite activities.
- Slides, climbing frames / climbing walls / boulders, swings and roundabouts are most popular with respondents.

Feedback highlighted strong support for a significant upgrade of the play area, with requests for a more engaging and nature-inspired space that encourages exploration and play. Respondents would like to see a wider range of equipment, including larger climbing structures, slides, zip lines, trampolines, tunnels, interactive play features and activities that appeal to older children and teenagers, such as table tennis and bouldering.

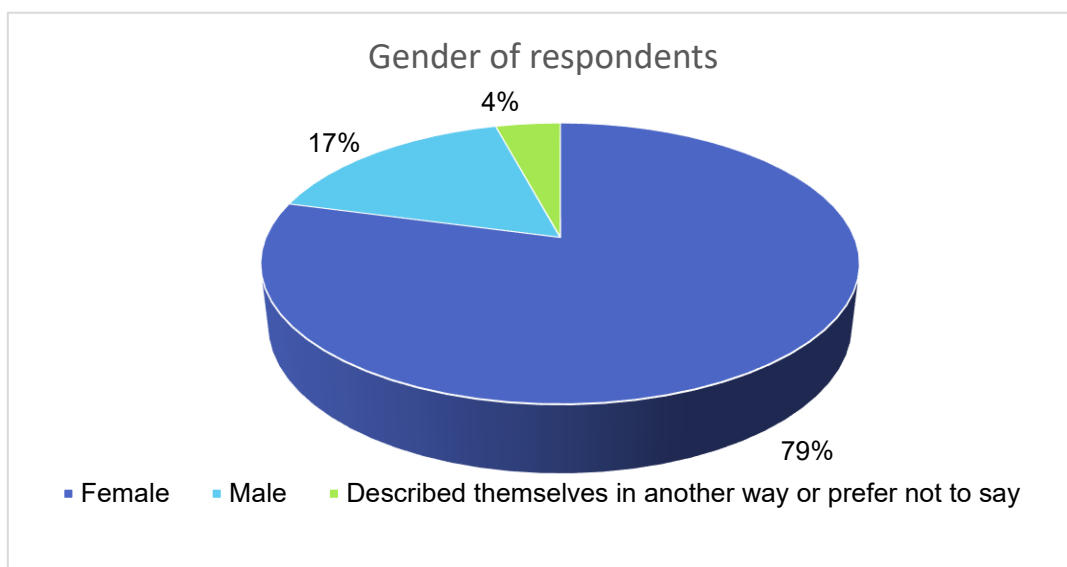
Accessibility, safety and maintenance were recurring themes. Residents emphasised the need for inclusive equipment suitable for wheelchair users and children of all ages and abilities. There were also calls for improved lighting, cleanliness and upkeep, alongside more seating, picnic areas and family-friendly facilities to create a welcoming, safe and well-used community space.

### About the respondents

There were 24 respondents in total. The largest age group was 31 to 40 years old, accounting for 10 respondents (42%), followed by 0 to 10 years old with 5 respondents (21%) and 41 to 50 years old with 4 respondents (17%). Smaller numbers of respondents were aged 11 to 20, 21 to 30, and 61 to 70, while 2 respondents preferred not to state their age.

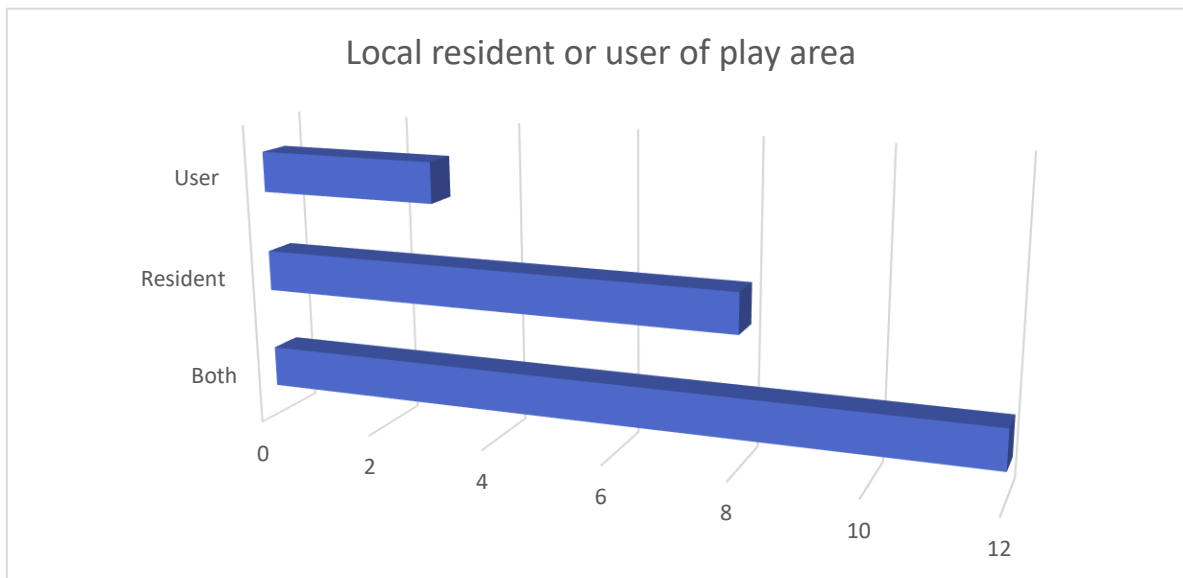


The majority of respondents were female (19 respondents, 79%), with 4 male respondents (17%) and 1 respondent (4%) who preferred not to say.



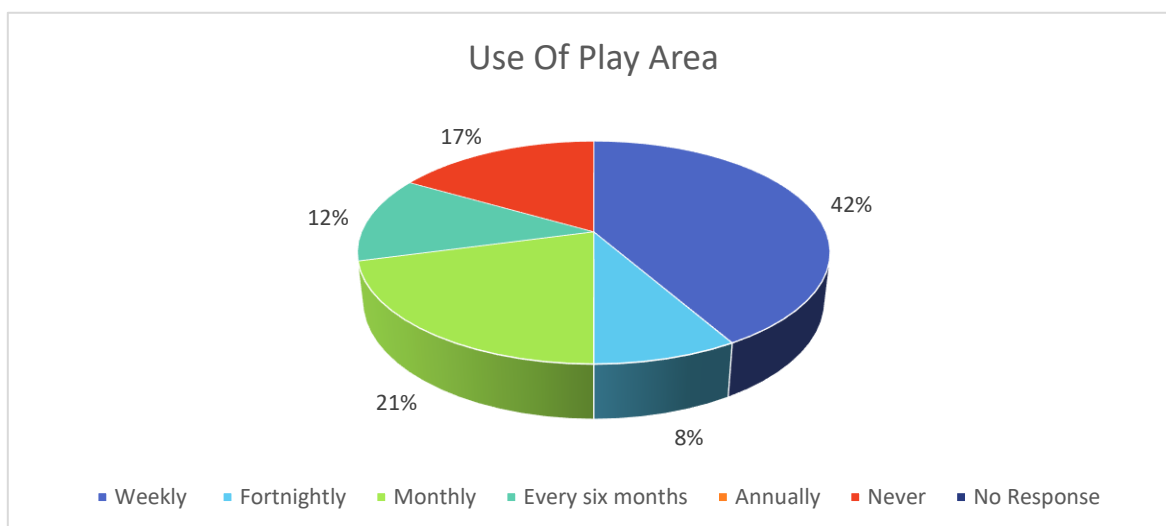
#### Are you a local resident or user of this play area?

Of the 23 respondents who answered this question, the majority 12 (52%) were both a resident and a user of the area. A further 8 (35%) identified as residents only, while 3 (13%) identified as users only.



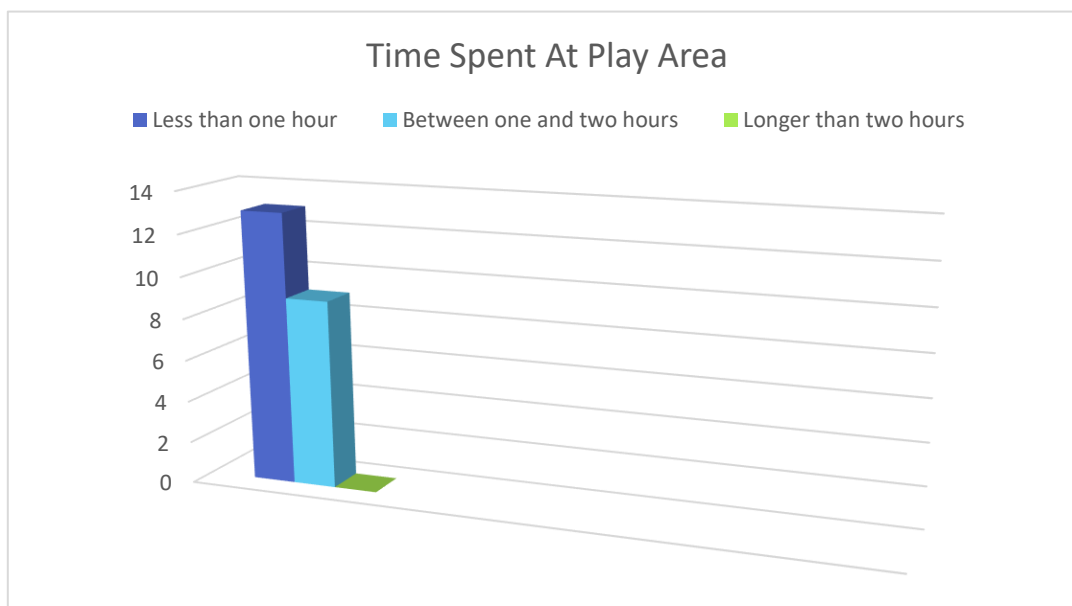
### How often do you use the play area?

42% of respondents use the play area weekly, making this the most common response. 21% of respondents use the play area monthly. 8% of respondents visit the play area fortnightly. 4% of respondents use the play area daily. 13% of respondents use the play area every six months. 17% of respondents stated that they never use the play area. Overall, most respondents use the play area regularly, with weekly visits being the most common pattern of use.



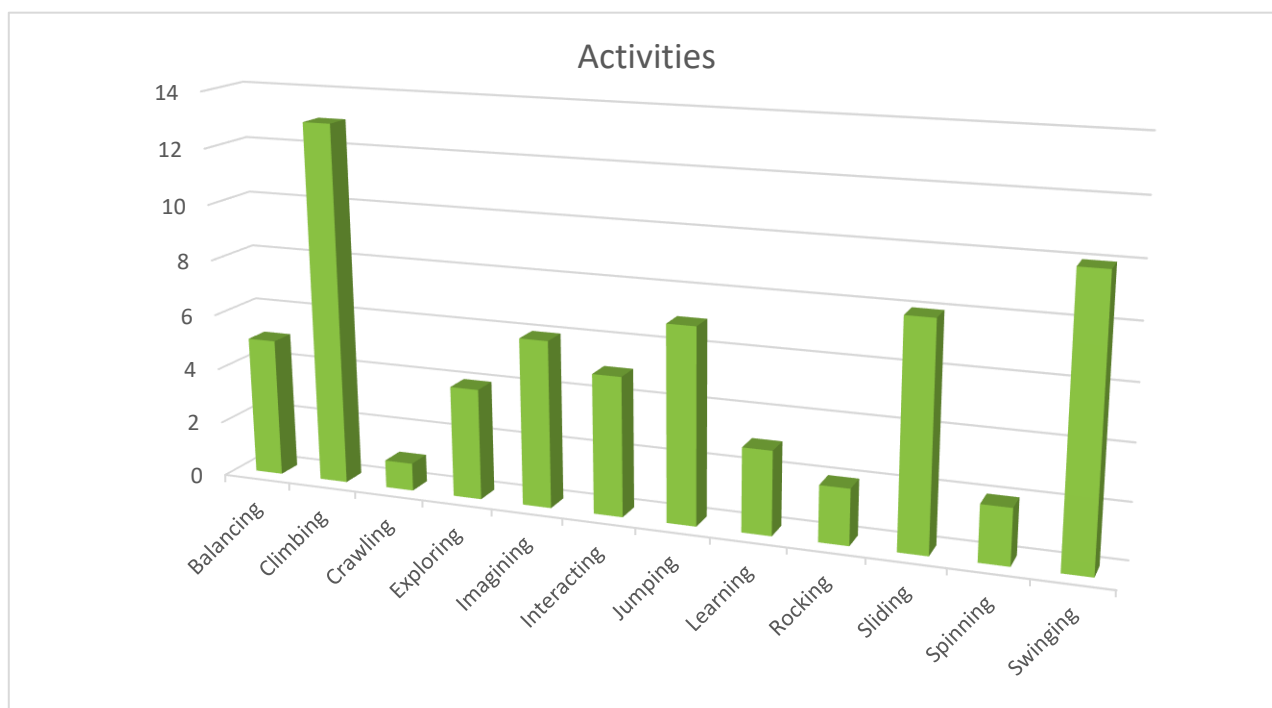
## How long do you spend in the play area?

57% of respondents (13) spend less than one hour in the play area, 39% of respondents (9) spend between one and two hours in the play area and 2 responses were blank/not provided (9%).



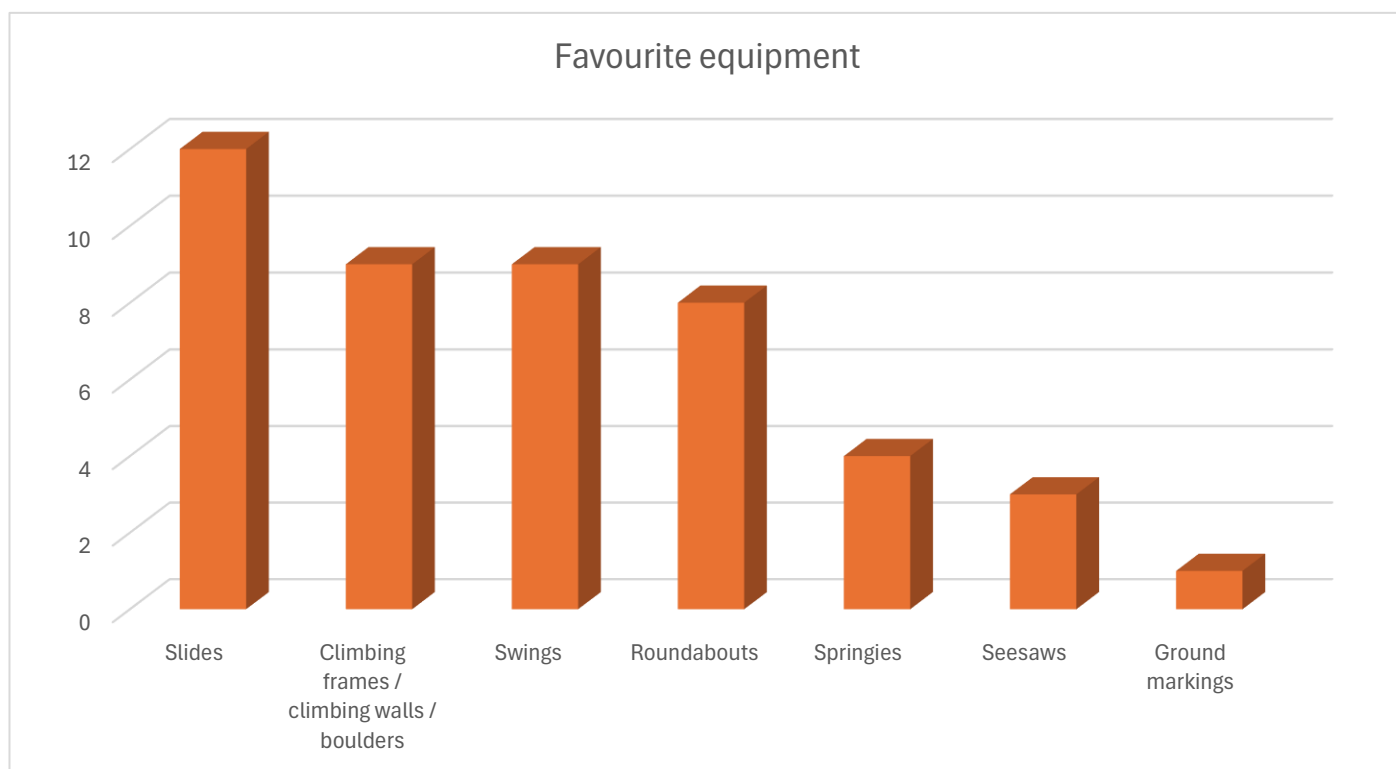
## What activities do you like best?

Climbing (13), Swinging (10), Sliding (8) and Jumping (7) are most popular with respondents. This suggests respondents strongly preferred active physical play.



## What play equipment do you like best?

Slides (12), climbing frames / climbing walls / boulders (9), swings (9), roundabouts (8) are most popular with respondents, followed by springies (4), seesaws (3) and ground markings (1).



Other suggestions were...

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Double zip line                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Trampoline                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Accessible playground equipment                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Things to be interactive with like musical sounds                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| I'd like something they felt like a safe place to go                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Table tennis                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| More interesting areas with tunnels - less of the hard to climb and not suitable for smaller children metal climbing frames that are just bars and get slippery. A more natural creative approach like the playground at fountains abbey. |

**Do you have any additional comments or suggestions for the play area?**

|                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The whole park could just do with an upgrade! It would be lovely to have a natural world inspired park which reflects the landscape. |
| A larger climbing play frame with more slides would be great!                                                                        |
| It is a great chance to create a city centre park which is attractive to both residents and visitors to the city!                    |
| High ropes.                                                                                                                          |
| Dens.                                                                                                                                |
| Places to explore.                                                                                                                   |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I would like to see more seating in the actual play area and around the garden area, perhaps a couple of picnic benches too.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| A pump track would get so much use!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Make it a play area for both infants and young children so consider having two sections that all ages can enjoy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Make a concerted effort to make all play areas accessible to those with mobility issues and wheelchair users.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Larger and smaller equipment for different ages, interactive play as well as the classics like a slide and swings.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| There is a great hill that could be made into a couple of racing slides.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Some shade on one side would be great and a couple of picnic benches.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Maybe a nice theme running through, for example nature, so it's also educational.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Some water play would be great and could teach about how gravity works.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| This park is badly lit, badly kept and not designed for teenagers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| It is only safe if parents are directly involved in play and is underused.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| More parks should include equipment for children with physical disabilities, such as a wheelchair-accessible swing. Every child deserves the opportunity to play alongside their peers, and inclusive equipment would make a significant difference to families who currently have limited access to suitable play opportunities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Simple, engaging information boards placed around the park could help parents understand how everyday play supports their child's development while providing ideas to encourage interaction and conversation. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 things you can see (visual)</li> <li>• 4 things you can touch (tactile)</li> <li>• 3 things you can hear (auditory)</li> <li>• 2 emotions you feel while at the park (interoception and emotional awareness)</li> <li>• 1 movement you enjoyed today (vestibular)</li> </ul> |
| The design of the equipment, choice of materials and impact-absorbing surfaces all play an important role in helping children to take appropriate risks safely. Children learn through appropriately managed risk, and well-designed play environments encourage them to develop balance, coordination, strength, resilience, confidence and problem-solving skills while giving parents reassurance that they can explore within an environment that has been thoughtfully designed with safety in mind.                                           |