

## Play Area Improvement Survey – Bishop Monkton

North Yorkshire Council is working to improve the quality of the Bishop Monkton play area. 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 (£9,196.17) 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

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

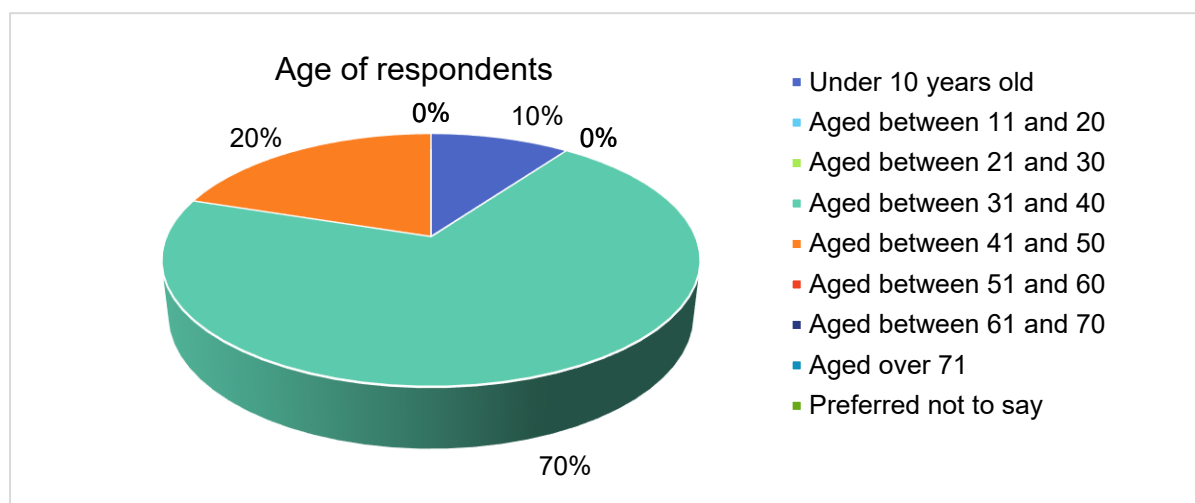
Feedback highlighted support for improving and refreshing the play area, with respondents expressing a desire for a wider range of equipment and play opportunities. Particular emphasis was placed on equipment that promotes climbing, swinging and active play, including suggestions for an improved assault course and features that cater for children of different ages.

Accessibility and safety were important themes. Concerns were raised about access to the site, particularly in relation to nearby housing developments and the need for safe pedestrian routes, footpaths and crossing points. Respondents also requested additional benches and seating, helping to create a more comfortable and welcoming environment for families, carers and visitors.

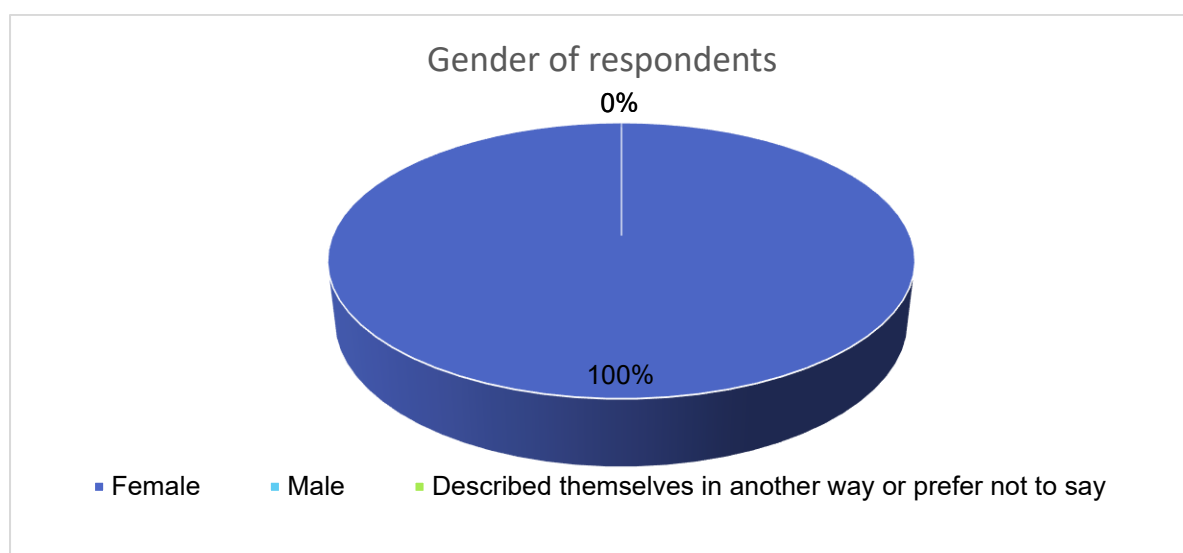
Overall, the feedback demonstrates strong support for a modernised play area that provides a variety of active play opportunities, caters for a range of ages, and offers safe, accessible and welcoming facilities for the local community.

### About the respondents

There were 10 respondents in total. The largest age group was 31 to 40 years old, accounting for 7 respondents (70%), followed by 41 to 50 years old with 2 respondents (20%). There was also 1 respondent (10%) in the 0 to 10 years old age category. No respondents were recorded in any other age groups.

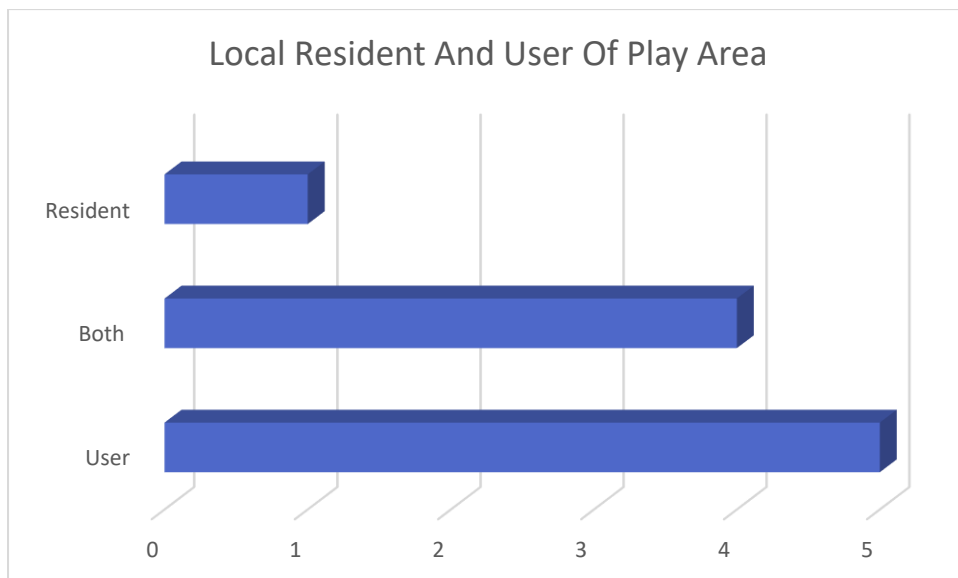


All of the respondents were female (10 respondents, 100%).



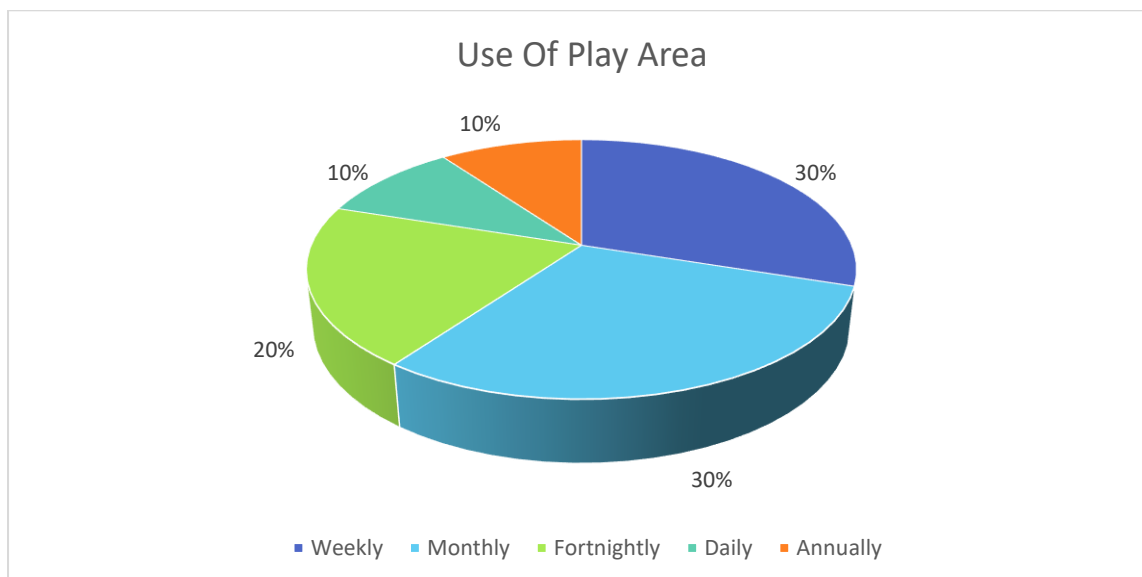
Are you a local resident or user of this play area?

There were 10 respondents in total. Half of respondents (5 people, 50%) were users of the play area, while 4 respondents (40%) were both local residents and users. Only 1 respondent (10%) was a local resident only.



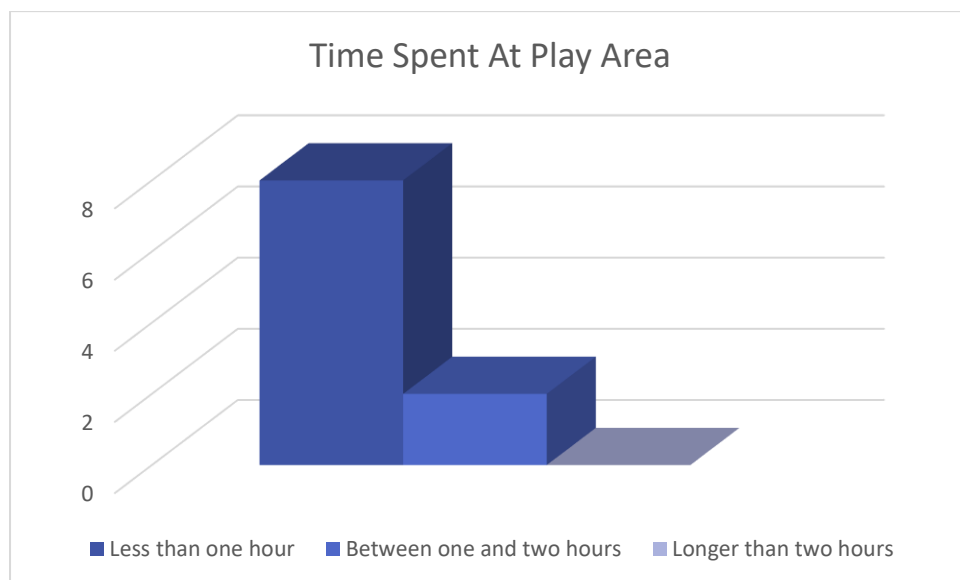
### How often do you use the play area?

There were 10 respondents in total. The most common frequencies of use were weekly and monthly, with 3 respondents each (30%). Fortnightly use was reported by 2 respondents (20%), while daily and annual use were each reported by 1 respondent (10%).



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

The majority of respondents (8 people, 80%) spend less than one hour in the play area, while 2 respondents (20%) spend between one and two hours there.



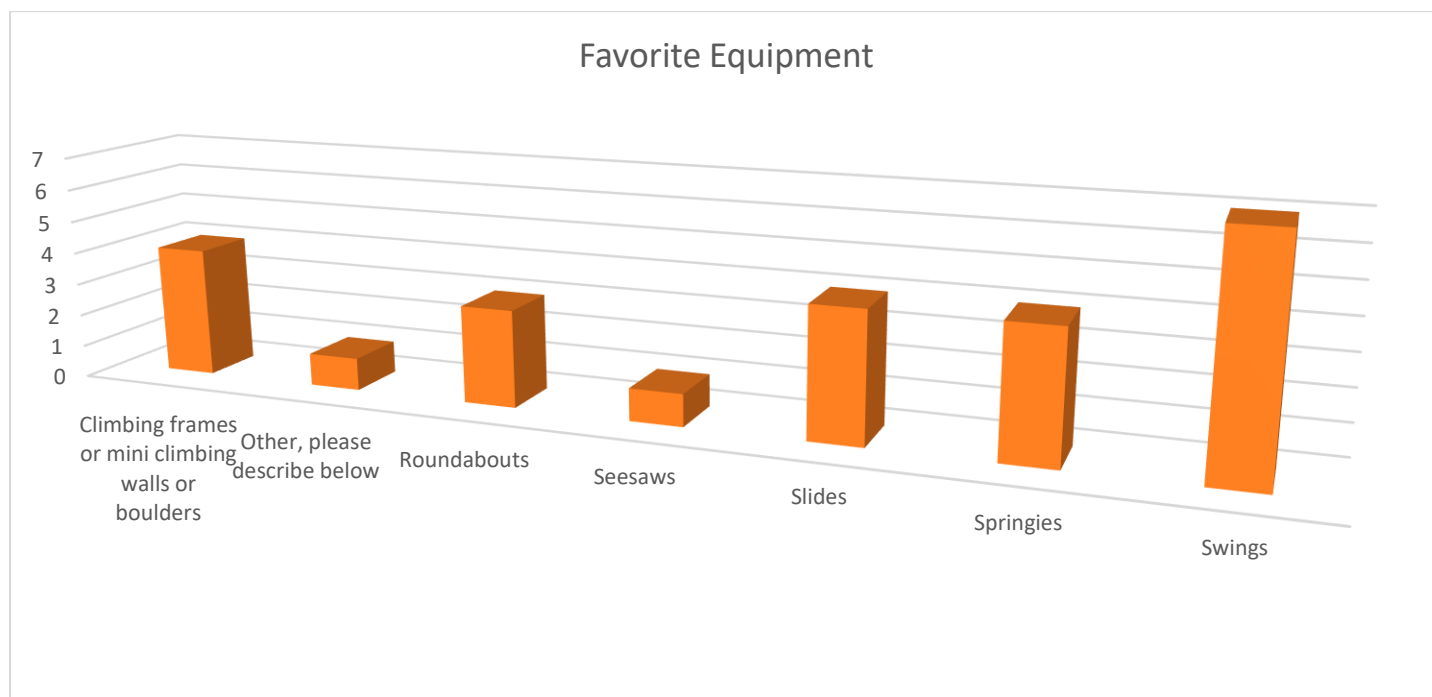
### What activities do you like best?

Swinging(6), Climbing (6), Sliding (3), Spinning (3), Jumping (3), Exploring (1), Balancing (1), Rocking (1).



### 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...

|                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ride on elephant                                                                                         |
| My children 6 and 9 find this playground very basic, not enough equipment and needs more older children. |

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

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| It would be great to have an improved assault course                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Houses are being built across the road from this play area. Children would have to cross a busy road (national speed limit close by) with no footpaths or crossings. Therefore access to this playground could be improved.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| A range of things for different ages would be great                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Any refresh would be great                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| More for older children, more benches.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 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:<br><br>5 things you can see (visual), 4 things you can touch (tactile), 3 things you can hear (auditory), 2 emotions you feel while at the park (interoception and emotional awareness), 1 movement you enjoyed today (vestibular) |
| 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.