

Play Area Improvement Survey – Markington

North Yorkshire Council is working to improve the quality of the Markington play area in Markington. 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 (£10,901.05) 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

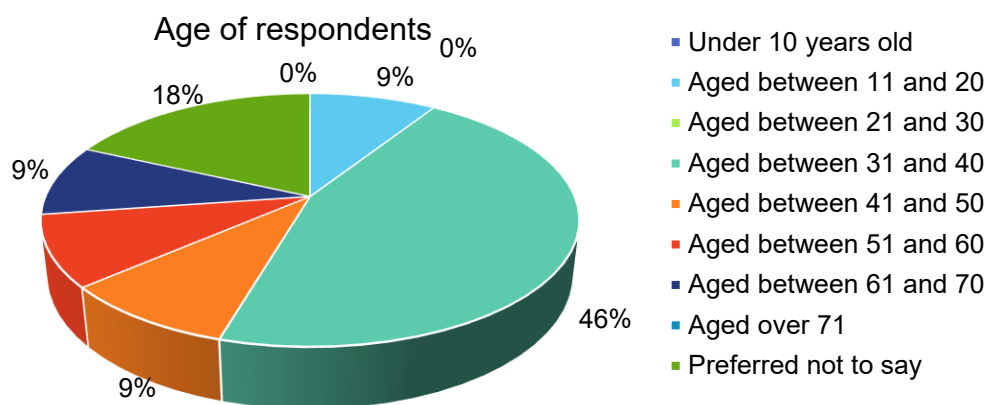
- 11 respondents in total.
- The majority of respondents were female, with the largest age group being 31 to 40 years old.
- Sliding and swinging were the most popular play activities, followed by climbing.
- Swings were the most popular item of play equipment, followed by slides and climbing frames, climbing walls or boulders.

Feedback highlighted strong support for a comprehensive upgrade of the play area, with many respondents describing the existing equipment as outdated, worn and unable to meet the needs of local children. Residents would like to see a wider range of play opportunities, including zip lines, basket swings, tyre swings, climbing structures, adventure play equipment, seesaws and age-appropriate facilities for both younger and older children. There were also repeated requests for football goals, a small football area and basketball facilities to provide more opportunities for older children and teenagers.

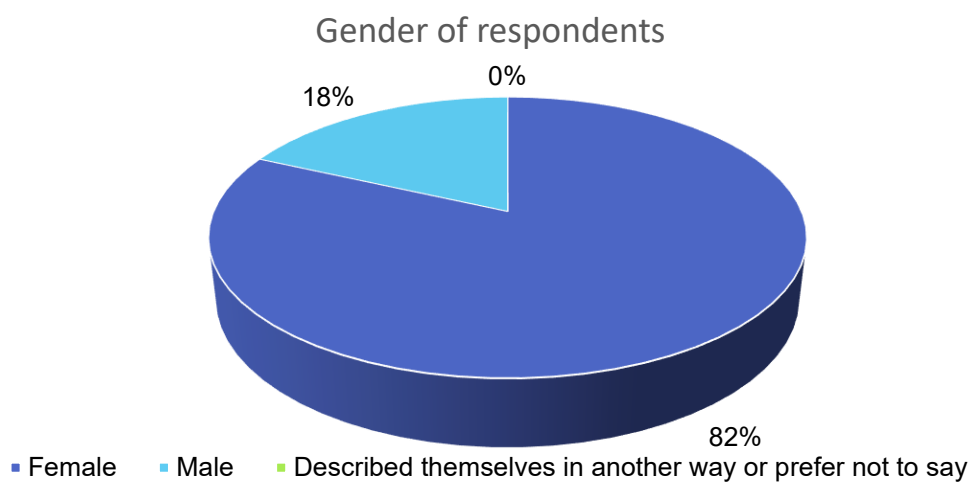
Maintenance, safety and better use of space were recurring themes throughout the feedback. Respondents raised concerns about long grass, ageing equipment, litter and the lack of a bin, with some highlighting the need for equipment replacement and improved upkeep. Many residents felt the play area has significant unused potential and would benefit from a more attractive, varied and inclusive design that encourages children to play for longer, supports a wider range of ages and abilities, and creates a well-used community space for local families.

About the respondents

There were 11 respondents in total. The largest age group was 31 to 40 years old, with 5 respondents (46%). Smaller numbers of respondents were represented across other age groups, including 11 to 20 years old, 41 to 50 years old, 51 to 60 years old, and 61 to 70 years old, each accounting for 1 respondent (9%). Additionally, 2 respondents (18%) preferred not to state their age.

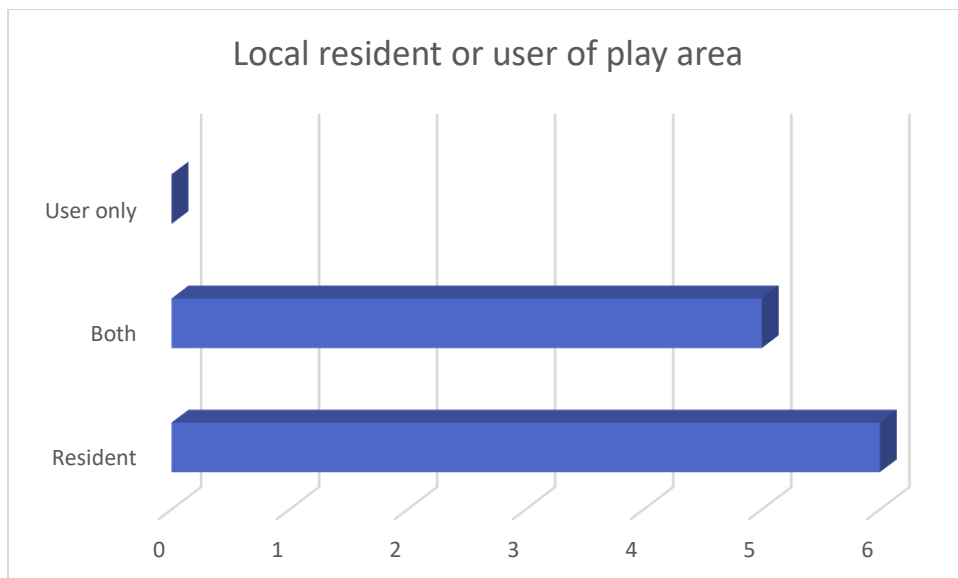


The majority of respondents were female (9 respondents, 82%), with 2 male respondents (18%) and 0 respondents who preferred not to say.



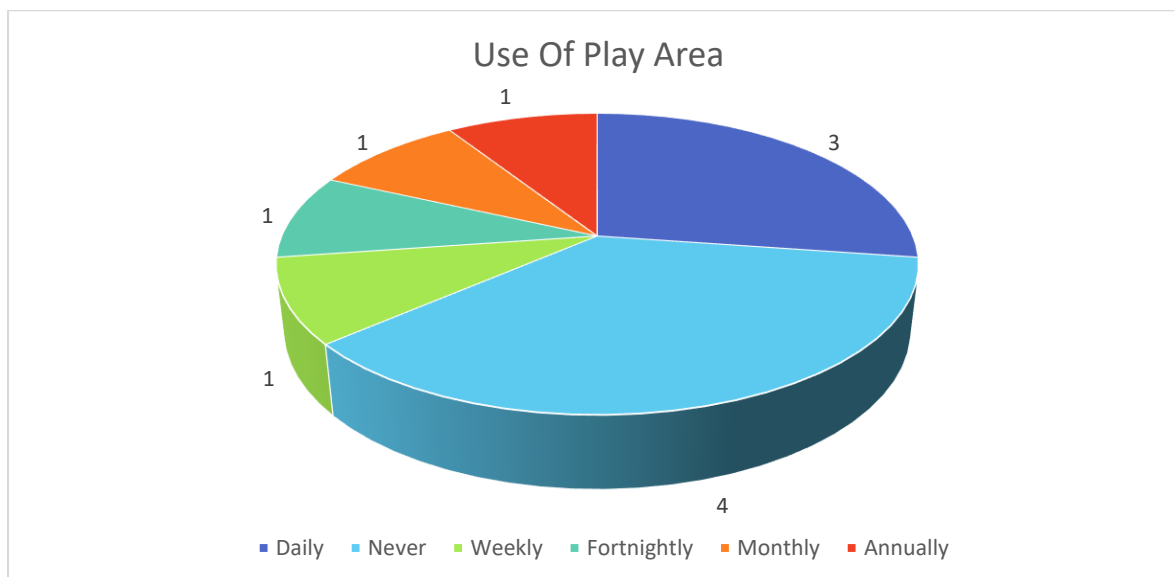
Are you a local resident or user of this play area?

Of the 11 respondents, the majority identified as local residents (55%), while 45% reported that they were both local residents and users of the play area.



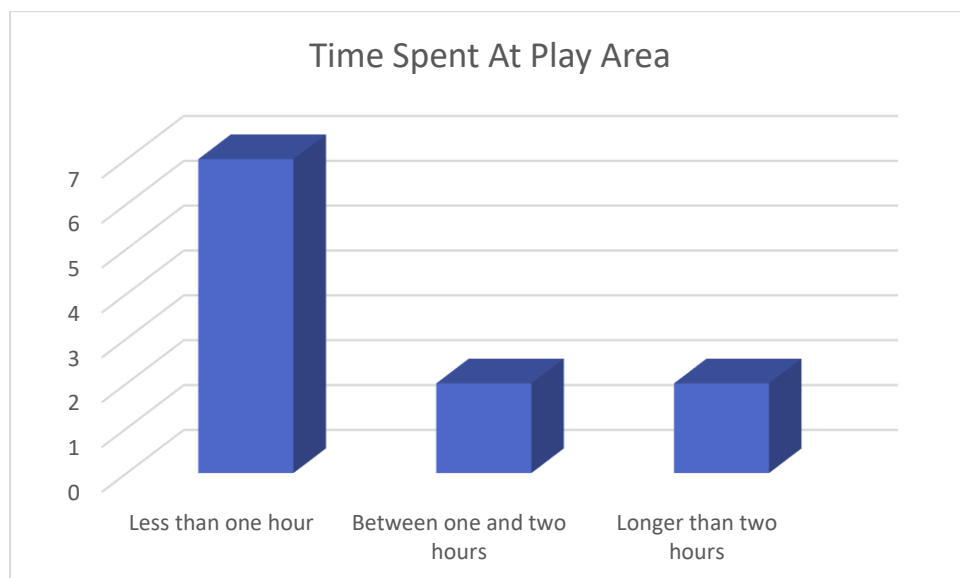
How often do you use the play area?

Of the 11 respondents, the most common response was Never, with 4 respondents (36%). This was followed by daily use, reported by 3 respondents (27%). Smaller numbers of respondents reported using the play area weekly (9%), fortnightly (9%), monthly (9%), or annually (9%).



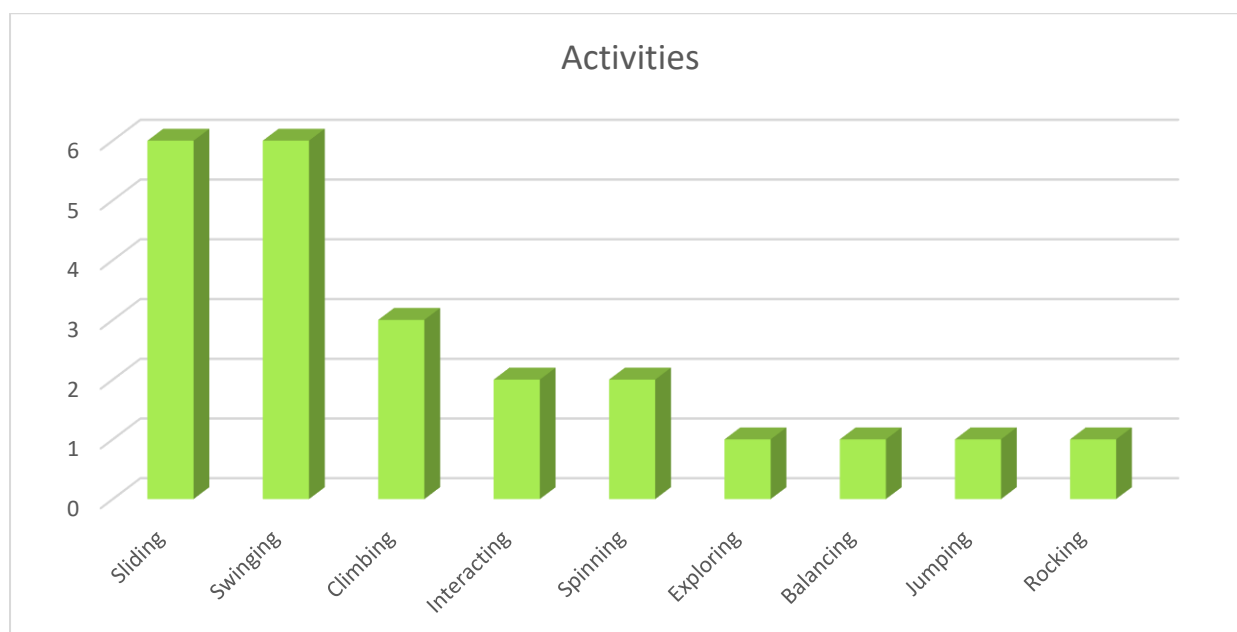
How long do you spend in the play area?

Of the 11 respondents, 7 respondents (64%) reported spending less than one hour in the play area. 2 respondents (18%) stated that they spend between one and two hours in the play area, while a further 2 respondents (18%) spend longer than two hours there.



What activities do you like best?

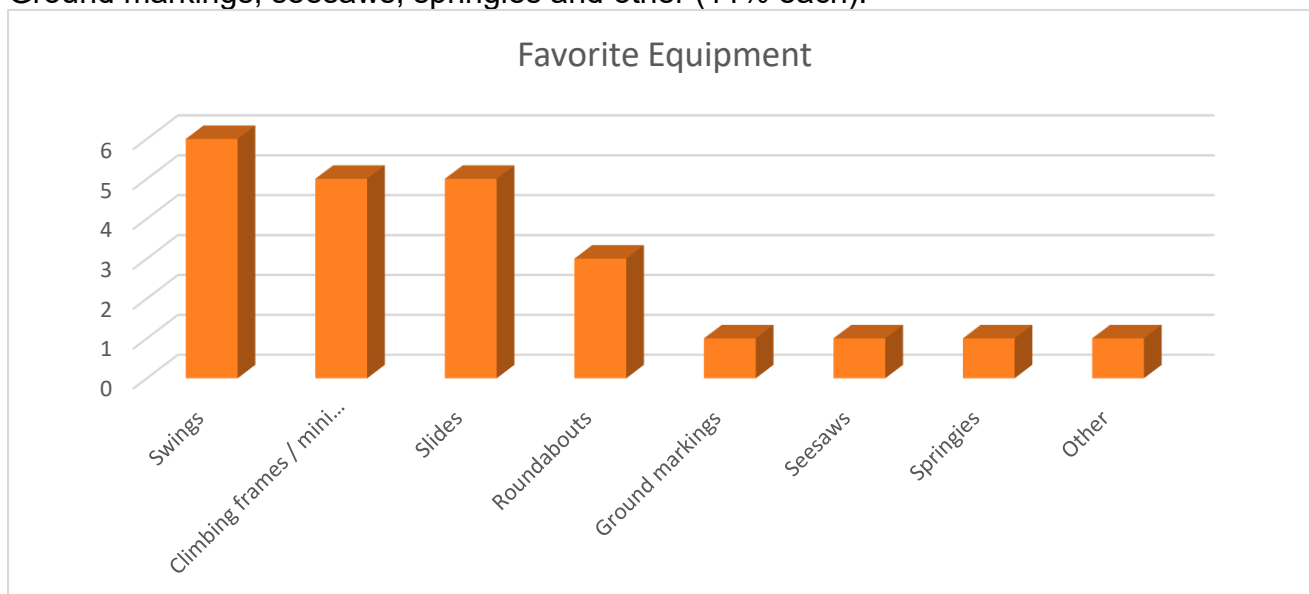
Based on the 9 responses provided, sliding and swinging were the most popular activities, each selected by 6 respondents (67%). This was followed by climbing, which was chosen by 3 respondents (33%). Interacting and spinning were each selected by 2 respondents (22%), while exploring, balancing, jumping and rocking were each chosen by 1 respondent (11%)



What play equipment do you like best?

Swings (67%) were the most popular play equipment, followed by climbing frames, mini climbing walls or boulders (56%) and slides (56%). Roundabouts being selected by 33% of respondents.

Ground markings, seesaws, springies and other (11% each).



Other suggestions were...

Zip line
A big exploring area with slides and climbing walls

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

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: 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.
We would like to see a zip line in our park. All the children that use the park daily have suggested they would love one in our park. Our park is missing a bin which occasionally causes littering. We have a fairly large park and we feel the space is not utilised to its fullest. The elephant seesaw is dated and doesn't get used. We have no space on our street for the children to play ball games so a mini football area with a goal would benefit the children massively. The monkey bars are very rarely used and again, are taking unnecessary space.
Zip line ,basket sing or tyer swin area for football as there is no were safe for this to b played a bin as there isnt one in play are
As someone now with a young child, I feel this is a great large play area that is wasted at the moment with very minimal equipment and lots of unused space. It does not serve all age groups and is aimed at older children for example the slide is not suitable for younger children because of the size of it. It would

be good to see the area made suitable for varying ages, maybe with a small climbing frame and slide etc with things to do for younger ones as well as the larger slide for older ones.
This area needs a massive upgrade to make it more interesting, safe, varied and attractive for young children, so that they are able to spend longer periods of time playing and interacting with other children. More imaginative facilities would be useful to allow role playing in different scenarios. It is too small with limited facilities.
Yes, I do. I am a nearby resident . I observe that the equipment is barely used. It is dated and very tatty. My son has taken my granddaughter there and comments that he finds it a depressing space. I suggest removing all the equipment and just have a pleasant grassed area. The children can use this as they wish. Easier to mow. No risk of injury from dated equipment.
Huge improvement is needed with a lot more variety and shelter. Wooden structures and soft ground. 0-10 years
Been a resident and been abit outdated for a park I strongly do think if the grass was cut often enough the kids may have a chance of playing in the park I believe there is a park down the road with basketball net and football goals but letting your child walk down a main road on there own isn't the best of ideas So I would say just modernise the park football goal basketball net basically the things you would expect to see in a park and cut the grass so people can use the facilities
I have lived in the village for years and have children aged and . I live on , and during the entire time I have lived here, the play area has remained largely unchanged. Unfortunately, my children rarely use the park because there is very little there to keep children entertained, especially older children. The equipment currently consists of a couple of swings, a rocking elephant, a slide, and monkey bars, all of which are rusty and clearly in need of updating or replacing. The maintenance of the area is also poor. The grass is often left uncut for months at a time, and when it is eventually cut, the grass clippings are left everywhere. In fact, the children seem to get more enjoyment out of playing with the piles of grass cuttings than they do from the actual park equipment. A few years ago, my daughter suffered a serious injury at the park when she cut her ankle open on sharp metal protruding from underneath the gate. This resulted in a visit to A&E, stitches, and she still has a scar to this day. This should never have been allowed to happen in a children's play area. There is another play area behind the Village Institute, but this is clearly designed for much younger children and toddlers, so it is not suitable for older children. In addition, there is no longer a football pitch in the village for children to use, as trees have now been planted there. This has removed another valuable space for older children to socialise and stay active. It is disappointing that the caravan park has a far more modern and better-equipped play area than the facilities available to the children who actually live in the village. At the same time, many parents would not feel comfortable allowing their children to walk around the village alone to access other areas. After more than two decades living here, I feel the children in this village deserve safer, updated, and more engaging recreational facilities.
a seesaw would be nice and also a adventure slide climbing thing
This is the only play area in the village and it would be used far more often if it was in better condition. There are a growing number of young families here, and a well-maintained space would make a real difference to the children's day to day experience, especially over the summer holidays and at weekends. A proper upgrade would give kids somewhere safe and enjoyable to spend time, give parents a reason to stay local rather than driving elsewhere, and bring people together in a way the village currently lacks. Equipment that suits a range of ages would be particularly welcome, given how many younger children are growing up here. This is one of the few shared spaces we have in the village, and investing in it would be a genuine addition for everyone who lives here. To note - I am completing this form on behalf of my two children