

Play area improvement survey – Fewston Crescent, Harrogate

North Yorkshire Council is working to improve the quality of the Fewston Crescent play area in Harrogate. 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 (£8,865.67) 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

- 41 respondents provided demographic information.
- The majority of respondents were female, with the majority aged 31 to 40 years.
- The play area is used regularly, with of respondents visiting weekly.
- Most respondents spent less than one hour at the play area during a typical visit.
- Climbing, swinging, sliding and exploring were the most popular play activities.
- The most popular items of play equipment were swings, climbing frames, mini climbing walls or boulders, slides and roundabouts.

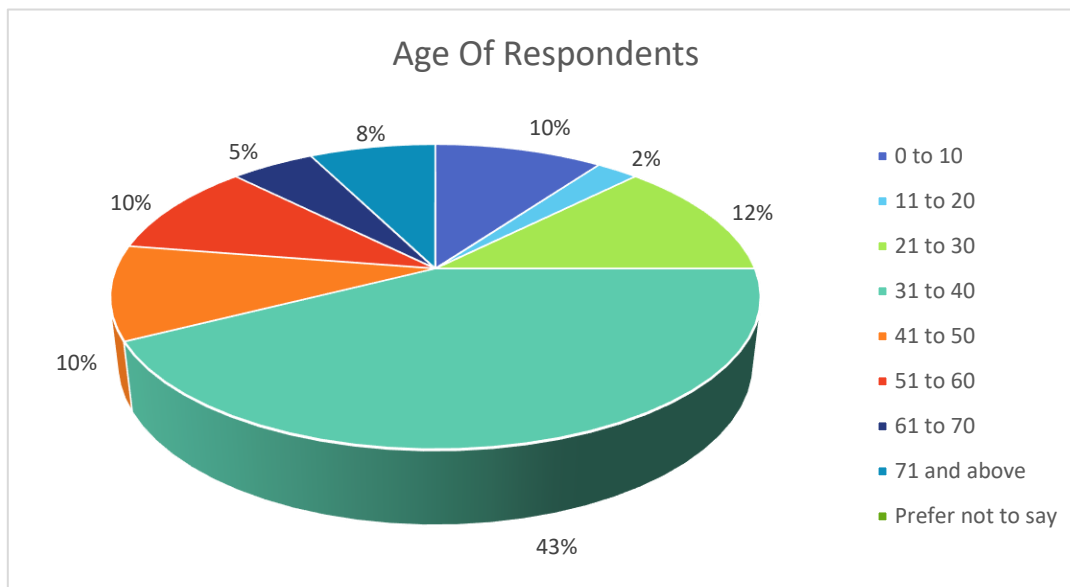
The survey findings indicate that the play area is an important local facility, used regularly by residents and families with young children. Respondents highlighted climbing, swinging, sliding and exploring as the most popular types of play, with strong support for equipment such as swings, climbing frames, slides and roundabouts.

The qualitative feedback demonstrates a clear and consistent message that the existing play area does not currently meet the needs or expectations of local families. Many respondents described the site as outdated, poorly maintained and lacking in variety, with several commenting that children quickly lose interest due to the limited range of play opportunities available. A recurring theme throughout the feedback was the desire for additional equipment, particularly climbing frames, slides, monkey bars, playhouses and other features that encourage active and imaginative play.

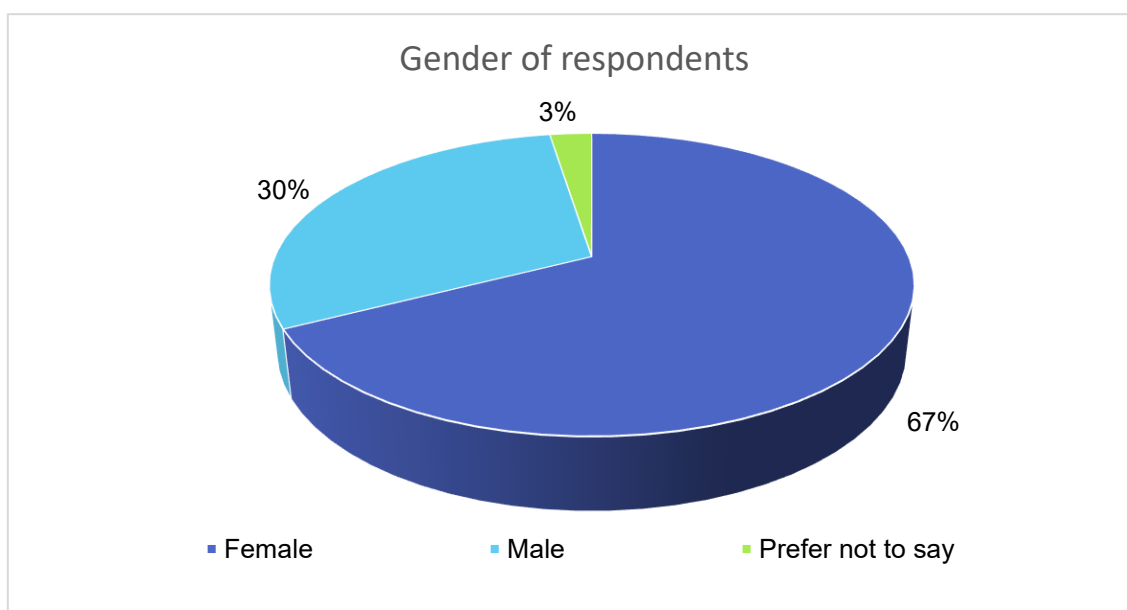
Concerns were also raised about the condition of the site, including ageing equipment, uneven surfacing, overgrown grass, litter and cleanliness issues. Several respondents highlighted incidences of antisocial behaviour and felt that improving the play area and making it more attractive to families would help increase positive use of the space.

About the respondents

There were 41 respondents in total. The largest age group was 31 to 40 years old, accounting for 17 respondents, followed by those aged 21 to 30 years old with 5 respondents, and 41 to 50 years old, 51-60 and 0-10 all with 4 respondents each. A further 3 respondents were aged 71 and above, while 2 respondents were aged 61 to 70. 1 respondent was age 0-11.

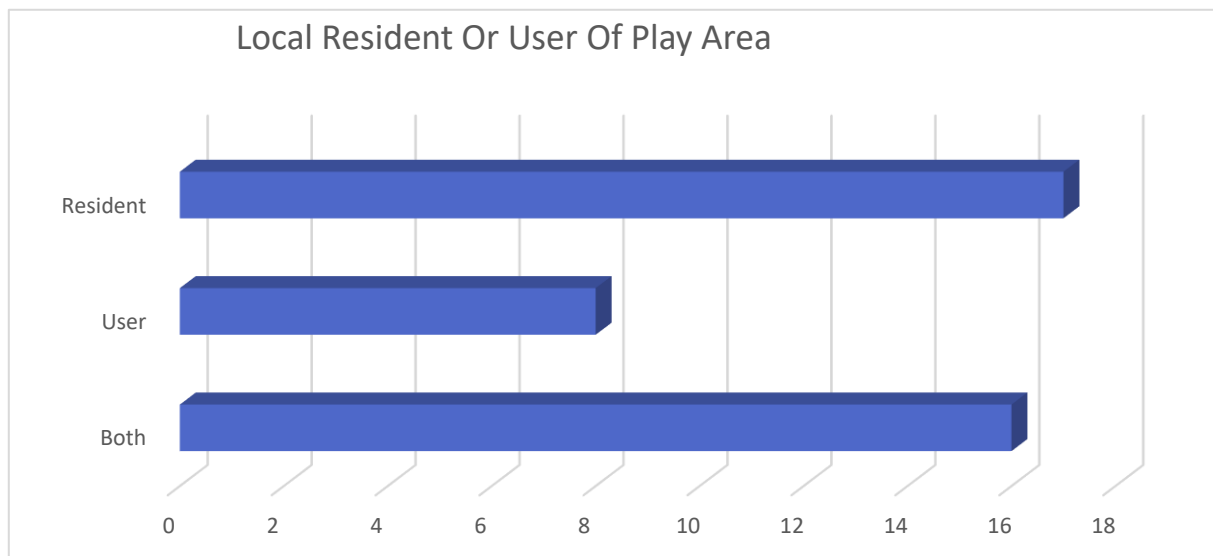


The majority of respondents were female (27 respondents, 67%), with 12 male respondents (30%) and 1 respondent (1%) who preferred not to say.



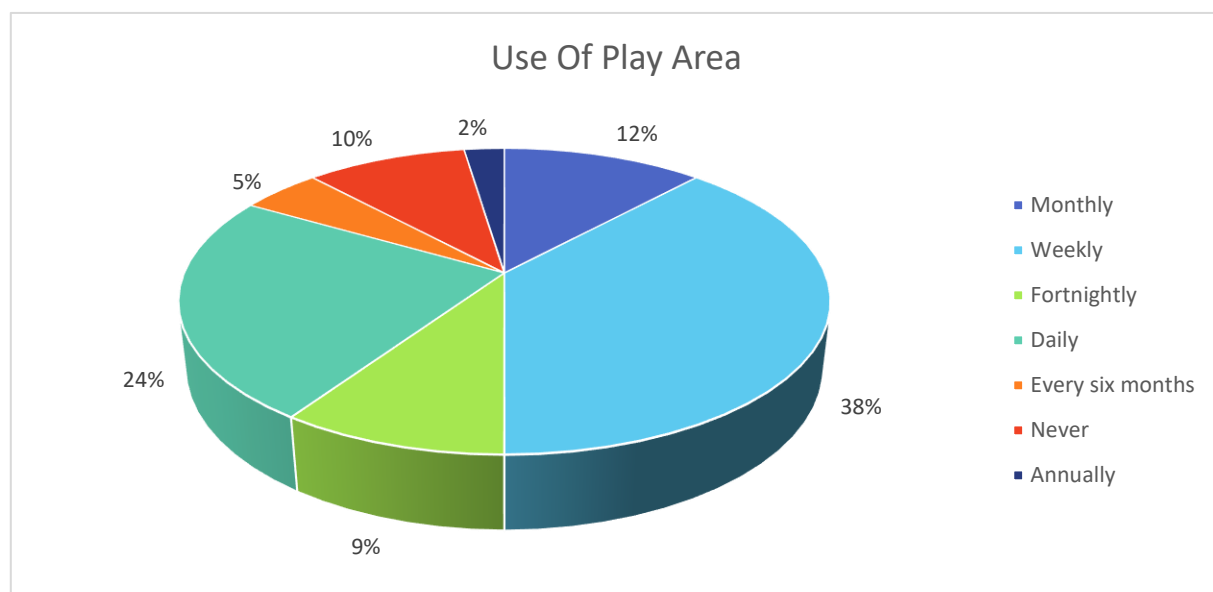
Are you a local resident or user of this play area?

Of the 41 respondents who answered this question. The largest group of respondents identified as Residents (41%), closely followed by those who identified as Both residents and users (39%). A smaller proportion identified solely as Users (20%).



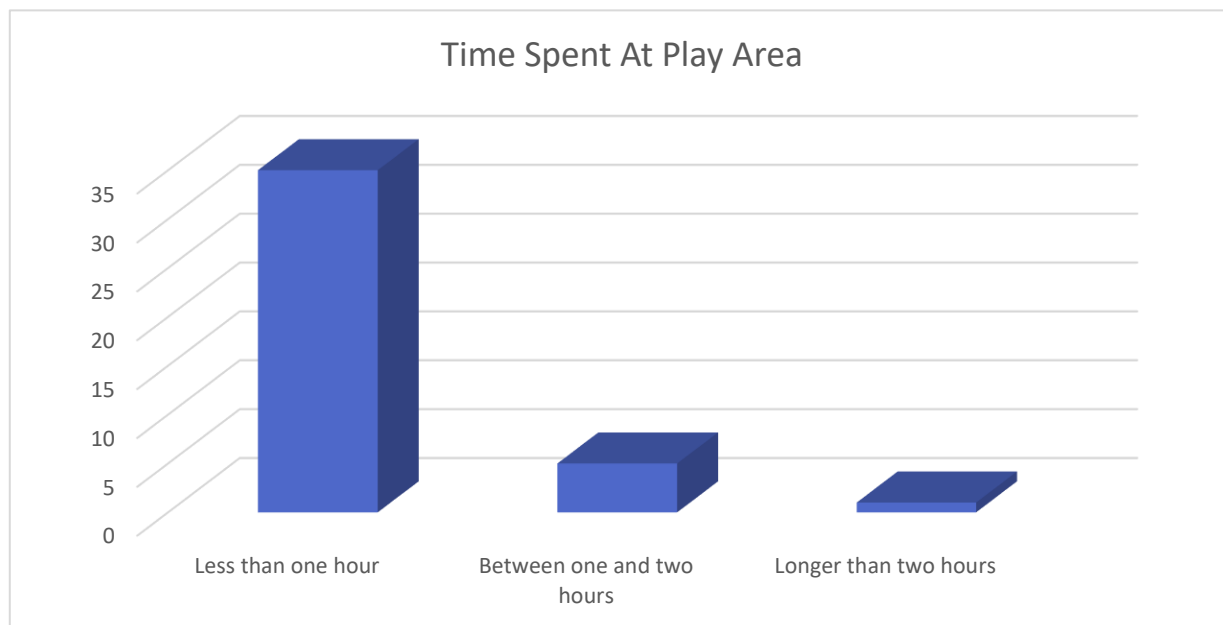
How often do you use the play area?

There were 42 respondents in total. The most common response was Weekly (16), followed by Daily (10). Less frequent engagement was reported by those responding Monthly (5), Fortnightly (4), Every six months (2), and Annually (1). 4 respondents reported Never



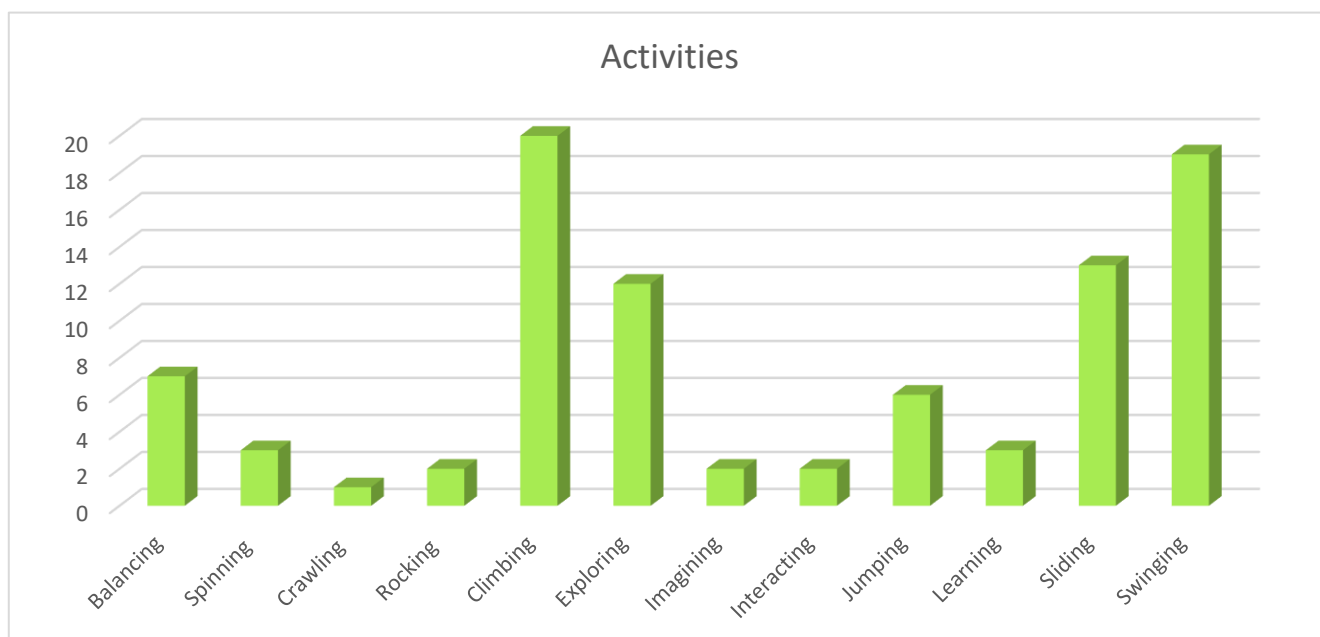
How long do you spend in the play area?

The majority of respondents (85%) reported spending less than one hour. A smaller proportion (12%) spent between one and two hours, while only 2% spent longer than two hours.



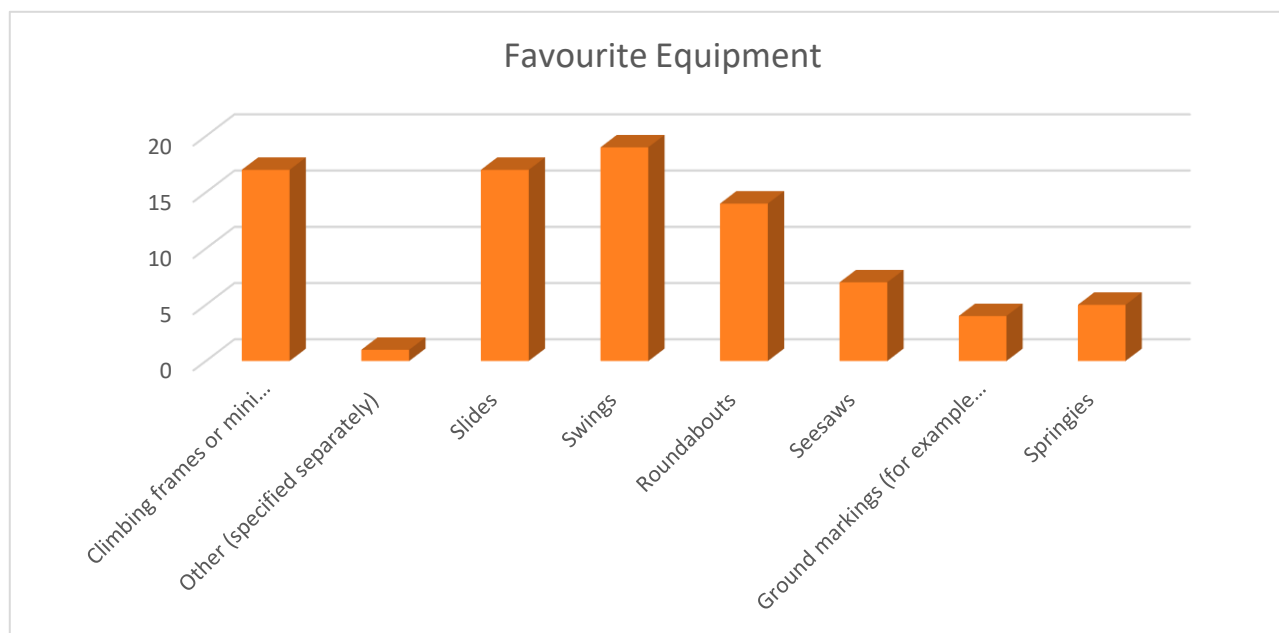
What activities do you like best?

Climbing (51%), Swinging (49%), Sliding (33%), Exploring (31%), Balancing (18%), Jumping (15%), Learning (8%), Spinning (8%), Imagining (5%), Interacting (5%), Rocking (5%) and Crawling (3%).



What play equipment do you like best?

Swings (46%), Climbing frames or mini climbing walls or boulders (41%), Slides (41%), Roundabouts (34%), Seesaws (17%), Springies (12%), Ground markings (for example trails and games) (10%), Other (2%)



Other suggestions were...

Rope dragon swing.

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

This is such a horrible park. Even my children call it the rubbish park. It literally had 2 sets of swings and a motorbike that is normally covered in ****. You have so many children around this area and it is the worst park in Harrogate. I live opposite this park and to be honest it is an eye sore. Make it fun for children, add some climbing stuff or at least a slide. Relay the floor. Currently it is just used for a place the drug dealers go at night. Make it more tailored at children and this stop

There is not enough equipments for children only a swing and a spring rocker. These equipments are very old and boring. The swings are too bulky and the baby swings are short and only can use them for one specific way. The playground area is big enough to put at least a slide with playhouse and another spring rocker for babies. Like us there are a lot of families with small kids who needs to go to other playgrounds because of the lack of equipments.

My daughter uses Fewston Crescent when at nursery but would like to ask for a bigger climbing frame with slide to be installed at batchelor fields playground

Jennyfields park near crowberry drive need a completely update.

Make it more fun for all the kids in the area

This play ground is very boring, my child has no interest other then the idea of a play area and wants to leave after 5 minutes max

Worn down, often full of glass, also noticed not all play areas are listed we use coppice drive alot however the conditions in there are appalling....

A great park with up to date swings and slides and roundabouts, my granddaughter said the park is boring and only spends no more than 5 minutes because it hasn't been updated
I grew up locally and this playground hasn't changed at all. I am now in my thirties with 2 children and never take them to this playground because it is badly maintained with lack of variety and colour to the equipment. I have always felt it has been forgotten about. A climbing frame with a slide and monkey bars would be much better suited. My children love swings but these have strange seats and short chains so don't swing high. An update is much needed.
This park has no imagination or real activities and ends up with teenagers hanging out there. There needs to be some more equipment like a slide and climbing frame in order for it to be used more. I would like an upgrade to the equipment and have more obstacles or activities to use my imagination.
Layout needs to be level, too many young children running and falling due to this and a softer surface would be better rather than concrete. Needs to be a little more in this park so it's more fun.
This play area is lacking in variety or equipment to play on. There is only a swing, and 1 rocker. It's very run down and dirty so not very friendly for toddlers. It's not very welcoming for children, there is no slide or climbing equipment and it needs painting.
Slides climbing frames
Park offers very little in the way of equipment for children to enjoy; pretty much only has swings to play on. Floor is uneven and difficult for young children to walk around the fenced area. Would benefit from additional facilities such as slide/climbing frame etc.
I have a one year old baby and the play area is very old and not very welcoming. I live just down the street and we would love somewhere that my child can go much more frequently. Especially since this is his first summer he can enjoy things.
This area has been left almost derelict for decades.
Up keep and cleaning as 2 weeks ago we found a used condom on the floor.
Needs TLC and more equipment
Grass is not cut as regularly as the rest of the estate, so very overgrown. Used condoms found in there, as well as 2l bottles of unknown liquids - does this park have CCTV, as it seems to be attracting antisocial behaviour which makes me not want to take my 2 year old there. I cleaned up a used condom and the bottle of (assuming alcohol mixed with mixer) last time we were there. I think if you make it more child friendly, this should hopefully support to deter young people from using it as a place to vape and drink. This park is in a perfect location to those of us in Jennyfield that aren't as close to the big park, so would be lovely to have it done up.
Very basic play equipment currently and requires a complete revamp with new equipment
The play area is extremely POOR a couple of swings and an archaic rocking horse really doesn't cut it for the children. Please improve out play area.
The park is really small and often not well looked after. I take my grandchild who lives on bewerly road
Just a general revamp
It needs tidying up and some more age appropriate things
The seats are too narrow and dig in to your hips. There isnt enoughh equipment. Very boring park thats not well looked after
I personally don't use the play park and my children are grown, so also don't use it. However, there are little children close by that use it regularly and I'm not sure when it last has a spruce up, but it needs one. It's looking tired and rough around the edges and would be so nice for the local children to have a lovely safe place, in walking distance to their homes, to play in.
To add some new features & upgrade.
More activities please
The inside of the play park could be re tarmarked and could extend the park back where the small area of grass is
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.