WYBERS WOOD AND AYLESBY PARK COMMUNITY AND OPEN SPACES
CONSULTATION REPORT SEPT 2015

Overview

Aim

Given the limitations on available land and on any kind of community activity focused in Wybers Wood and Aylesby Park, the Council wished to get an up to date view from residents on the need for further community and recreational facilities. In particular, the Council sought residents’ views on the two remaining open spaces by the River Freshney and on the former school field at the end of Gedney Close.

Methodology

The Freshney Ward councillors worked with eight volunteers living in the area to conduct the survey and deliver a printed copy of the consultation form to every home. Distribution of the consultation on the Wybers Wood and Aylesby Park open spaces and community and recreational facilities was completed by July 3rd. As stated, the closing date for returns was July 31st. One electronic return was made after that date and they were accepted.

Only six people took up the option to pass their responses by e-mail to Cllr Ray Sutton. Most of those who took part in the consultation completed a paper survey/questionnaire and returned it to one of the collection boxes located at commercial or school premises thanks to local providers. The boxes were emptied at key points during July and at the end.

Response Rate

185 respondents completed the survey on Wybers Wood and Aylesby Park community and open spaces as follows:

e-mailed 6
Jubilee Pub 7
Wybers Primary Academy 16
Wybers Coop 77
McColl’s 79

The return rate was therefore 11% and this was thought to be a satisfactory rate of return for an uncannvassed survey.
Outcome

The results from this consultation will be considered when making decisions about the future of the Wybers Wood and Aylesby Park recreational facilities.

In particular it is hoped that the results will inform the spending of the section 106 money linked to the closure of the Gloria Way playground in 2010 which expires early in 2016.

The most important outcome may prove to be the number of residents who took the opportunity to register their interest in improving provision, more than 20 of them.

There will be further consultation with those who volunteered their services, with the ward community forum, Freshney Forward, and with the Longitude Wood volunteers. Every effort will be made to widen the reach, in particular among children and young people.

Key Findings/Summary

- Many people are dissatisfied with the level of recreational provision for children and young people
- The majority of people who travel for facilities and activities to other parts of the borough do so for leisure and recreation purposes
- Nearly three quarters of residents use the Freshney Park area on a regular basis. Of these, one in three uses it daily
- The tree planting in the Freshney Park is greatly appreciated but only one in three think this is a suitable location for play and recreation for children and young people, with safety being the greatest concern
- A large majority do not want the former school field to be sold for housing and they think it is suitable for play and recreation facilities for children and young people
- Skate/bmx park, children’s play, and soccer featured most often in the sort of recreational facilities that people are looking for in the immediate area
- When faced with a straight choice between the Freshney Park and the former school field, twice as many backed the former school field
- Over 20 people volunteered their services to join a community group and work at improving local provision

Over the coming months we will....

- Seek clarity within Council on the future of the former school field and the capacity of the Council to support the development and maintenance of recreational facilities going forward
- Meet with those residents who volunteered to work on improving local provision with the hope that a constituted development and support group may emerge (the first meeting took place on September 23rd)
- Meet with the John Harrison Foundation volunteers who are developing the Longitude Wood
- Seek advice and support from established organisations like Giving Young People Opportunities
Detailed findings

Existing provision

Q1 Are you satisfied with the local facilities?

The reactions of respondents towards this can be summarised in the chart below.

- The most popular response illustrates that more people are looking for additional or improved facilities. It is acknowledged that the word ‘facilities’ can be broadly interpreted and that many people value the commercial facilities and the range of shops.

Q2 What facilities and activities do you think are needed on our estate?

The majority of comments received could be linked clearly to the categories in the chart:

- The congregation of young people around the shops and car park areas was highlighted as an issue by many residents.
The chart illustrates what was an overwhelming concern for the lack of recreational facilities for children and young people, even from respondents who expressed some satisfaction with existing ‘facilities’.

Single comments not captured with the majority above included:

- Provide picnic tables
- Gloria Way – what happened to the funding from this??
- Indian takeaway and gym
- Better parking control around schools at arrival and leaving times
- More for the over 60s
- Glass recycling at the shops
- Mobile police unit on the car park, more anti-social policing
- Doctors and dentist surgery
- Footpaths swept and repaired
- Open grass needs to be cut during the summer
- More bins and rubbish picking
- Rubbish/dog bins to be emptied
- Pub to hold more activities
- Nursery facilities, breakfast club and after school club – longer hours
- Educate the public - not to park on footpaths, not to leave dog mess
- Faulding Way corner would be a better place for play area
- Put double yellow line on Cyrano Way just after the mini roundabout (speed bumps)
- Places with wheelchair access
- Pedestrian crossing required on the blind corner of the Jubilee

Q3 What facilities and activities do you travel to other communities to use and where do you go?

The majority of comments received could be linked clearly to the categories in the chart:

Comments showed that many different locations are visited across the borough, especially parks and open spaces (transport was not included so the reliance on private cars, cycling or public transport was not tested):

- Other parks or play areas – sites that are visited include Healing, People’s Park, Laceby, Weelsby Woods, Bradley Woods, Haverstoe Park, Boulevard Avenue, New Waltham, and Cleethorpes Country Park.
- Swimming at Cleethorpes Swimming Pool, Immingham, Havelock, Scartho & Grimsby.
- Tennis played at Healing, Scartho, Laceby, Keelby & Barretts
- Willows visits to the play areas, community centre
- Skate parks visited include Waltham, Freeman Street, Keelby

Activities mentioned less frequently included:

- Art Classes
- Over 50s Club
- Football
- Ice-ring
- Air cadets
- Shopping Centre
- Golf
- Supermarkets
- Cromwell Road Medical Centre
River Freshney Parkway and Longitude Wood (John Harrison Foundation)

Q4 How often do you use this space?

- Three quarters of residents surveyed are aware of this space and use it. Well over half of all residents surveyed use it at least weekly

Q5 What are your thoughts on the tree planting project and how can it be developed?

- This illustrates that the majority of comments on the tree planting are very positive stating it was a good idea, excellent, very good, the more trees the better. Approximately a quarter of the people consulted don’t or didn’t know about it. Many also said that the grass was overgrown and needed cutting back, with nettles an issue in some areas. In summary, the area needs to be maintained.

Single comments were generally intended to offer practical ideas for development but they covered a range of different stances:

- Get the local children and teenagers involved it may stop them pulling up he flowers.
- Do not want the area to be wooded – the light open space is wonderful.
- Develop a play area and picnic area.
- Leave it as it is, just a few benches to sit and take the view in x 2.
- Won’t use – too dangerous due to yobs from Willows and Laceby acres.
– More waste bins, particularly those for dog waste.
– Further development would be a mistake and potentially damage an important natural area.
– Not a suitable area for young children to visit alone because of water. Lovely area as it is for nature and walking.
– Do not think it is a good idea to plant too densely - lots of trees have been vandalised.
– Children’s play area, picnic area and grass cutting in place.
– Extend tree planting
– Fully support - Freshney has been neglected
– Leave areas free for kids to play and picnic spots. Put tables and chairs in places so that people will use it.
– More information required – details on a local notice board on how the council feel this area should be developed.
– Not in favour.
– Support conservation to encourage wildlife.
– Maze for kids
– Some local people assisted with the tree planting

Q6 Do you think this area is suitable for play and recreation for children and young people? If so, please detail what ages and what facilities are needed.

- The yes/no answers were not always supported by comments but by two to one caution was expressed about developing play and recreation facilities here.

Comments against included;
– Create too much damage
– Do not need these facilities
– Remain as a playing field
– It’s dangerous near a river x 7
– Play area for young children would be nice but the fear would be teenagers congregating at night and disturbing residents.
– Should be left as it is – woodland with tarmac path
– Leave it as it is x 3
– No facilities needed
– This area is not suitable for any children, grass too long to close to river
– Gloria Way create previous issues again – too close to houses
– Gloria Way funding – what has happened to this?
– Frequent litter picks needed
– Whatever is in place there will be vandalised without disciplined supervision.
– Too far from houses
– Fine for dog walking
– Should be left open as a national green space

Comments in support included:
– Install a wooden adventure park – zip wire
– Create play area, swings slides climbing wall etc
– There are a lot of children on the estate but unfortunately no play facilities.
– Provide similar facilities as Weelsby Wood
– Would need to be fenced off
– Only older children – provide a skate park x 12
– Yes any play area – desperately needed.
– Football area etc
– Basketball / 5 a-side
– Create educational pursuits
– Picnic tables

Age ranges suggested were many and varied, such as:
– Facilities for all ages
– 10-16 years
– 0-16 years
– 5-10 years
– All ages (young children supervised)
– 0-13 years
– 4-10 years
Former school field off Gedney Close and Mayfair Drive

Q7 Do you think this council land should be sold for housing and development? Please consider housing need, recreational need, access and maintenance.

The reactions of respondents are summarised in the charts below.

- The majority of respondents do not support the selling of the land for housing and development.

- While a third want no change, twice as many people want to see something developed with children and young people in mind.
Additional comments in respect of a future housing and development include:

Q8 Do you think this area is suitable for play and recreation for children and young people? If so, please detail what ages and what facilities are needed.

- The majority of respondents think that the former school field is a suitable area for play and recreation facilities.

Suggestions for proposed facilities:
Age range

- Most age ranges suggested were many and varied but twenty respondents suggested that all ages should be catered for. Other single responses were:
  - Toddlers (x 3)
  - 5-10 years
  - 6-12 years
  - 5-10 years
  - 6-17 years
  - 1-14 years
  - 1-10 years
  - 11-18 years
  - 8 upwards
  - Under 12s

Other comments included:

- Do not change
- Create fitness trail
- Provide a natural adventure play area
- More trees
- Dog fouling is an issue on the field
- Already used for football and dog walking by the community
- Create allotments x 1
- Access roads to site could be a problem
- Section 106 contributions from a new development should be made available for education facilities and children’s play area
- Gloria Way – previous issues could be a problem
- Gloria Way – what happened to the funding?
Your Involvement

Q9 Of the two green spaces mentioned, which one should be the focus for recreational development?

- If they have to choose, more than half of those who responded to the consultation prefer the former school field site to the River Freshney site.

Two people said ‘neither’ and single comments made were:
- As an alternative, could building be erected within the school grounds as the utilities are already on site and parking is readily available? The estates need a focal point for activities and for somewhere to meet – we believe this would ‘kick start’ community spirit.
- No. any recreation areas usually result in vandalism and older children congregating there in anti-social hours.
- None. The playground on Aylesby Park has already been closed due to antisocial behaviour of the people using it. Currently there are no issues with either area so why spoil this.

Q10 If you would like to join a community group to work on improving the local provision, please provide your contact details here. Please include your name, address, telephone number and email address.

20 residents said that they would like to join a community group to work on improving the local provision and they have been contacted. Anyone still wishing to be involved should contact Cllr Ray Sutton on 07952 488990 or ray.sutton@nelincs.gov.uk.

Additional comments made

- Disappointed that one of these leaflets was not posted to my address in Greyfriars.
- I have already done over 40 years voluntary work for this town. With little in the way of expenses. IN FACT I’m overdrawn at my bank. I have no car, no pets, no cycle and don’t drink or smoke.
- Why didn’t you do as councillors seize the opportunity to take advantage of £25,000 from Cyden Homes, or was that too obvious, this survey is about 10 year to late, nothing will be done, it seems to be lip service. I won’t hold my breath!! Prove me wrong for once, a labour voter very let down.
- Can I also put in a word about the rubbish in the area? No point in providing facilities to be spoilt by swirling rubbish!!
- Healing has 3 parks where’s Wybers !!!
- Are our councillors aware of Aylesby Park is not an extension to Wybers Wood? And when was the last time they knocked on a door. Bet these comments won’t get discussed!!