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Landscape Architecture  
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# Buttermere Recreation Ground

Consultation Results - Public Edition

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

September 2022





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## Document and Quality Control

### REPORT TITLE

Buttermere Recreation Ground -  
Consultation Results - Public Edition

### CLIENT NAME AND CONTACT

Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council

### REPORT STATUS

Final  
Revision D 2023.01.16 - incorporating  
com-ments made by NBBC on 2023.01.12

### RED KITE NAME AND REFERENCE

469.21 Buttermere Recreation Ground

### PRINCIPAL REPORT AUTHOR(S)

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### VERIFICATION AND REVIEW

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### CLIENT ISSUE DATE

07/10/2022

# 1.0 Introduction

- 1.0.1 Red Kite Network Limited were appointed by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC) in January 2022 for the ‘Development of a Landscape Masterplan and Administration of Delivery’ in relation to the proposed development and creation of a new community park at Buttermere Recreation Ground, which is located in St.Nicolas ward, north of Nuneaton. NBBC’s vision is to amalgamate the existing Recreation Ground with the new open space created by Bellway Homes who are building a large scale housing development to the north of the Site. Further to this is a much needed upgrade of the play provision to accommodate multi aged dynamic play; and realising the best routes for path infrastructure which assimilate the two open spaces together enabling fluidity between the communities of the existing and new housing. Through a variety of improvements and the meaningful union of the two public open spaces it is intended this will elevate Buttermere Recreation Ground to Community Park status.
- 1.0.2 This report sets out the findings and results of public consultation carried out to determine local residents’ and stakeholders’ views on the concept proposals developed to RIBA Plan of Work Stage 3 for Buttermere Recreation Ground. The report was produced by Red Kite Network Limited, a Shropshire-based landscape architecture, ecology and greenspace consultancy, and is for the consideration of the communities surrounding the Recreation Ground. In June 2022, public consultation was carried out to determine local residents’ and stakeholders’ views regarding the priorities for Buttermere Recreation Ground. This report sets out the methodology and findings discovered throughout the consultation process.
- 1.0.3 A full baseline assessment of social demographics, landscape, ecology and arboriculture was undertaken and the findings are presented in the ‘Landscape and Ecology baseline Report’ issued in April 2022. This informed the opportunities and constraints for the Recreation Ground and provided a baseline for Sketch Masterplans developed by Red Kite Network Limited. Through consultation with key NBBC officers a Concept Masterplan for Buttermere Recreation Ground (refer to Figure 2) was drafted in June 2022 for the purposes of discussion with the public facilitated through virtual and face to face opportunities.
- 1.0.4 The findings from consultation, contained in this report are publicly accessible on NBBC’s website; and as part of the iterative design process have further shaped the Concept Masterplan, the final version is illustrated in Section 6 of this report.

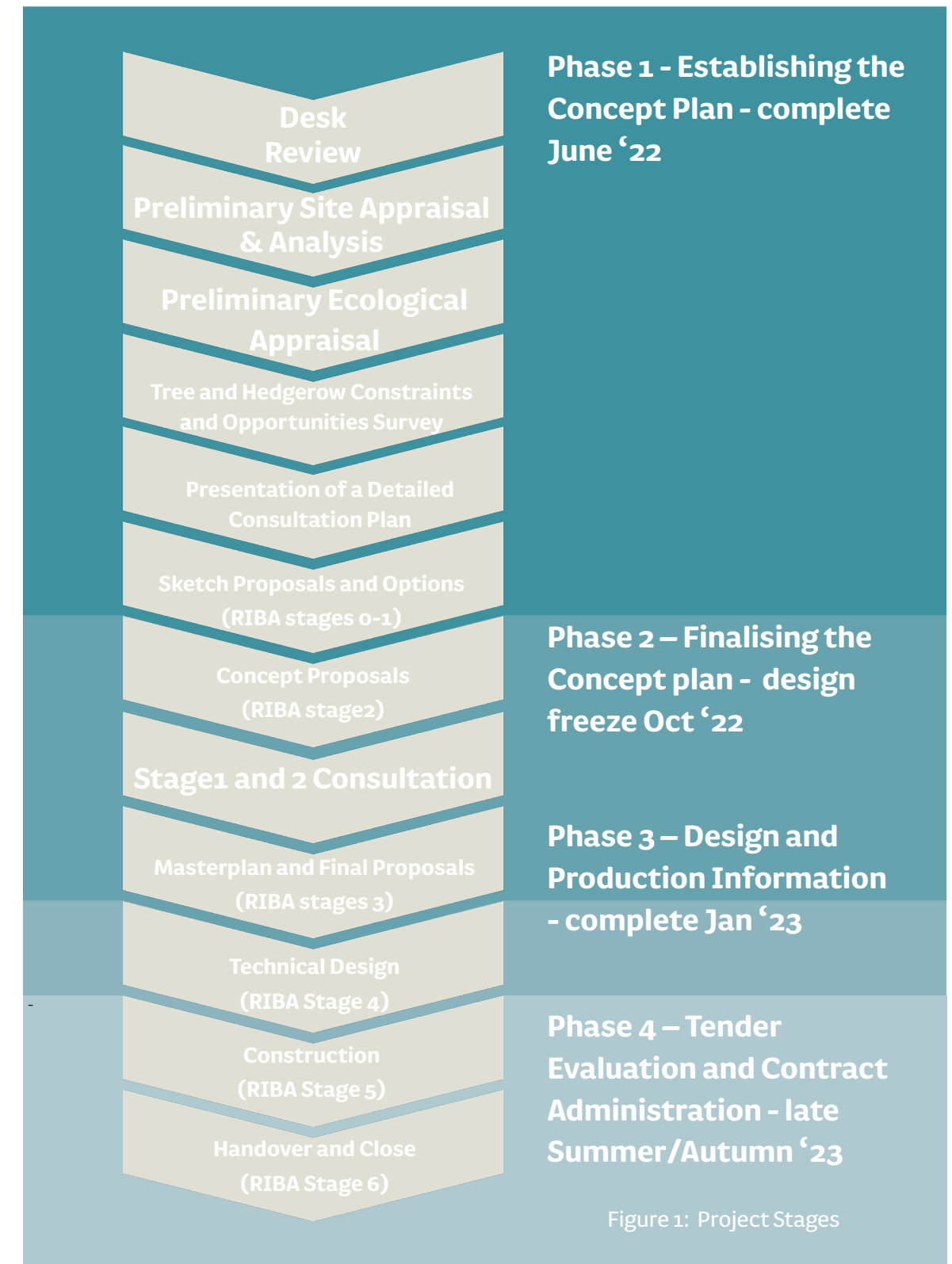


Figure 1: Project Stages

## 2.0 Methodology

2.0.1 A range of consultation approaches were adopted as part of the public consultation organised for Buttermere Recreation Ground to ensure a wide an audience as possible was reached. This involved virtual and face to face opportunities to talk and review the Concept Masterplan proposals as Figure 2, and enable people of all ages, health and with busy lives to participate. The online consultation survey was open from the 6th to the 30th June 2022, with a Public Drop-In Event held at Buttermere Recreation Ground on 18th June 2022 staged approximately mid-way through the survey process. All public consultation was publicised via a variety of media channels by NBBC prior to and during the consultation period, including:

- Door to door paper survey drop to local residents.
- Posters were printed off and displayed around St.Nicolas Park.
- Social media, including Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

2.0.2 Further to this local stakeholders were directly called and emailed by Red Kite Network Limited including local schools and establishments.

### 2.1 Online survey

2.1.1 An online survey (refer to Figure 2) was launched on the 6th June 2022 and ran until the 30th June via the Survey Monkey surveying platform. Questions asked were in the form of multiple choice or to obtain comment which generated qualitative and quantitative data. A total of 347 responses were received over the online consultation period.

### 2.2 Public Drop-In Event

2.2.1 A Public Drop-in Event promoted online, and via leaflets and posters as Figure 3 was held at Buttermere Recreation Ground on Saturday 18th June 2022 between 10am and 1pm, to enable members of the local community an opportunity to view and discuss the Concept Masterplan proposals with Red Kite Network Limited and officers from NBBC. Attendees were invited to complete a survey at the event if they had not done so already online, in order to capture ideas and issues raised during discussion. Attendance was continuous by members of the public despite the weather being poor and constructive conversations were held. Many had already filled in the online survey prior to the event but a further 21 responses were received on the day and additional comments were generated.



Figure 2. Screenshot taken from the online survey.



Figure 3. Poster used to publicise the Public Drop-In Event.

### 2.3 Written responses

2.3.1 Written responses were also received by NBBC from members of the local community. These were forwarded to Red Kite Network Limited and have been included within the collation of consultation material.

# 3.0 Results

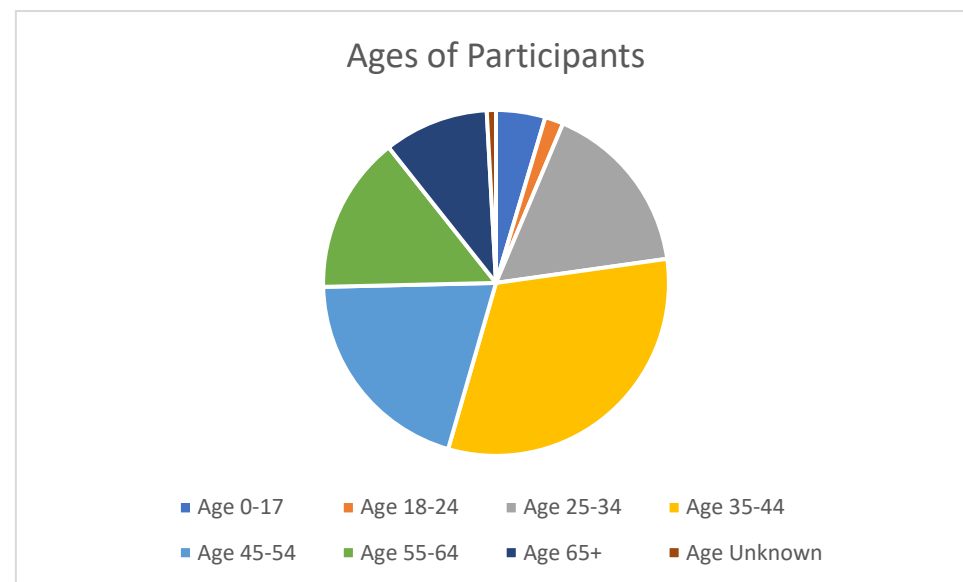
## 3.1 Survey Monkey Results

3.1.1 The results below are from the online consultation (6th to 30th June 2022) and the paper surveys taken on the day of the Public Drop-in Event. Results were analysed to provide clear and conclusive data to inform the further stages of the design process. The raw Survey Monkey Data can be found in Appendix A of the full Consultation Report.

*Q1. To help us make sure we have got a representative view from all residents and users, please tell us a little bit about yourself*

This question was set out to gather information on participants age, gender and postcode to provide a general indication to the common demographics that have an interest in Buttermere Recreation Ground. A total of 347 participants responded to the question providing the following insights.

Figure 4. Ages of Survey Participants



- The majority of people who participated in the Buttermere Recreation Ground consultation were female (61.96%) in comparison to males (37.18%).
- Some participants also identified as non-binary (0.58%).

Figure 5. Gender of Survey Participants

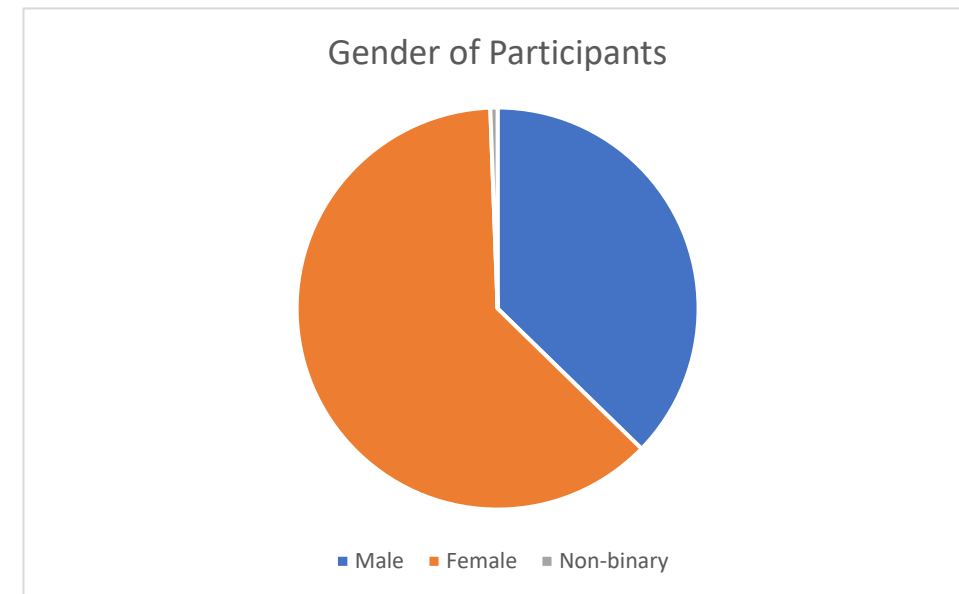
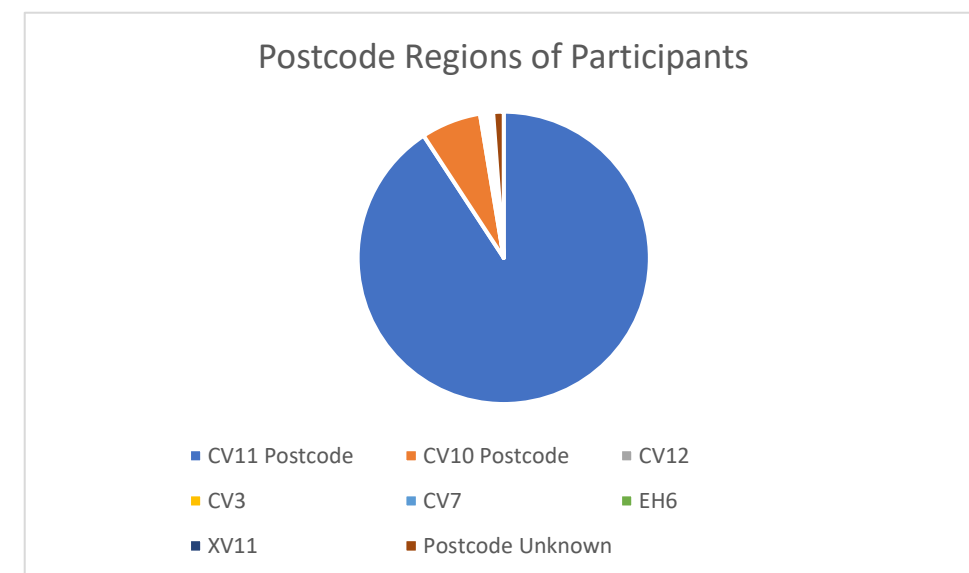
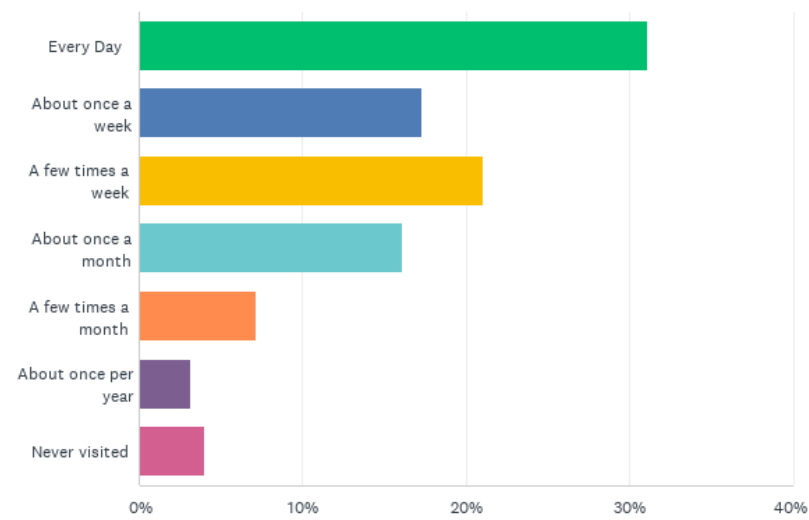


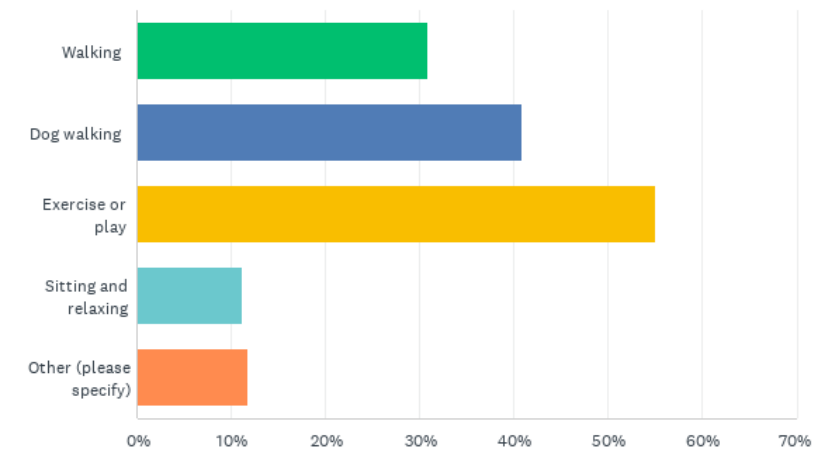
Figure 6. Location of Survey Participants



Q2. Please tell us how frequently you use or visit Buttermere Recreation Ground?



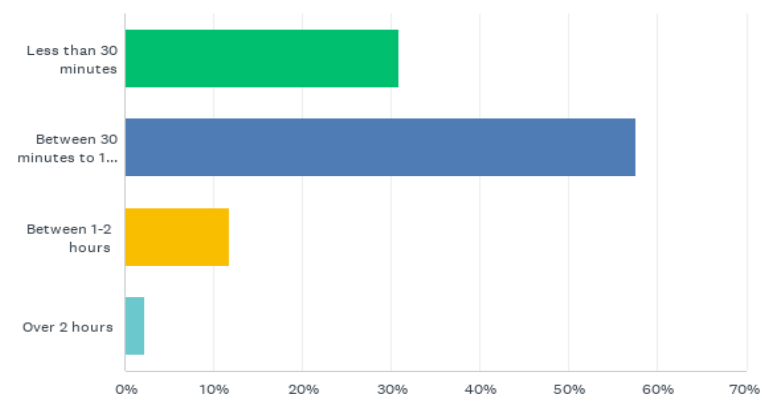
Q4. Please tell us the main reason for your visit.



Q5. Do you belong to any groups or organisations that use or have an interest in Buttermere Recreation ground?

Almost all participants claimed they are not part of any organisation related to Buttermere Recreation Ground (96.90%). Those who were, stated that they were part of the following groups:

Q3. If you visit Buttermere Recreation Ground, please tell us how long your visit lasts?

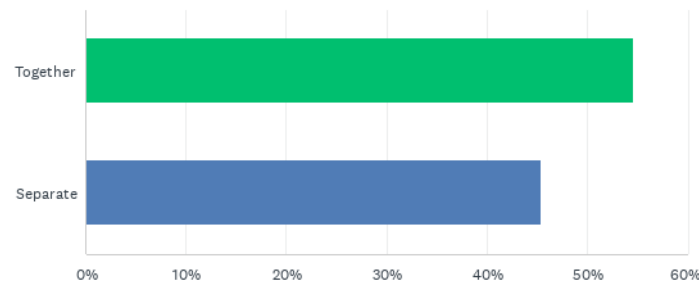


Dog Walking Group	1.24%	4
Neighbourhood Watch	0.31%	1
No	96.90%	313
No Specification	0.62%	2
Royal Park	0.62%	2
Warwickshire Wildlife Tru	0.31%	1
Untagged	0%	0

3.1.2 From this point on in the survey due to a combination of technical issues and participant human error the number of participants for the following questions reduced to 271. The percentages from the following questions are calculated from this reduced number of participants.

**Q6. Please tell us if you would prefer the toddler and children's play together or separate?**

Survey responses were close, with the majority of users wanting the play areas together (54.58%) in comparison to them being separate (45.42%). Best practice is to separate younger and older children's play, whilst remaining in sight with one another for supervision purposes.



**Q7. What do you think of the plan overall?**

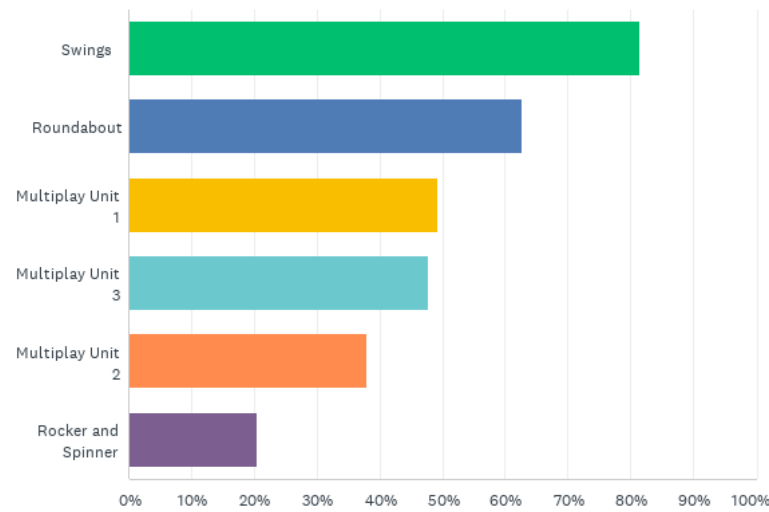
The majority of participants felt that enhancements need to be made to Buttermere Recreation Ground (87.18%), whilst other participants disagree with any and all enhancement works to the Site (12.82%). Various comments were made, requesting revisions to the design or reasons to abandon the project altogether.

Most participants were excited by the proposal overall, however comments in general were that it could be improved further with some amendments.

Against Skatepark	3.66%	10
Against the Project	12.82%	35
Approve of Footpaths	6.96%	19
Approve of the project	87.18%	238
ASB	6.23%	17
Border Fencing	0.37%	1
Cover the brook	1.10%	3
DDA Play	1.47%	4
Dog Area Fencing	6.96%	19
For Skatepark	2.93%	8
Less Paths	5.49%	15
More Bins	1.83%	5
More Greenspace	9.89%	27
More Seating	7.69%	21
Move play areas	3.66%	10
Need Motor Barriers	1.83%	5
Picnic Area	1.83%	5
Picnic Area Layout	2.20%	6
Play Area Fencing	1.47%	4
Untagged	0%	0

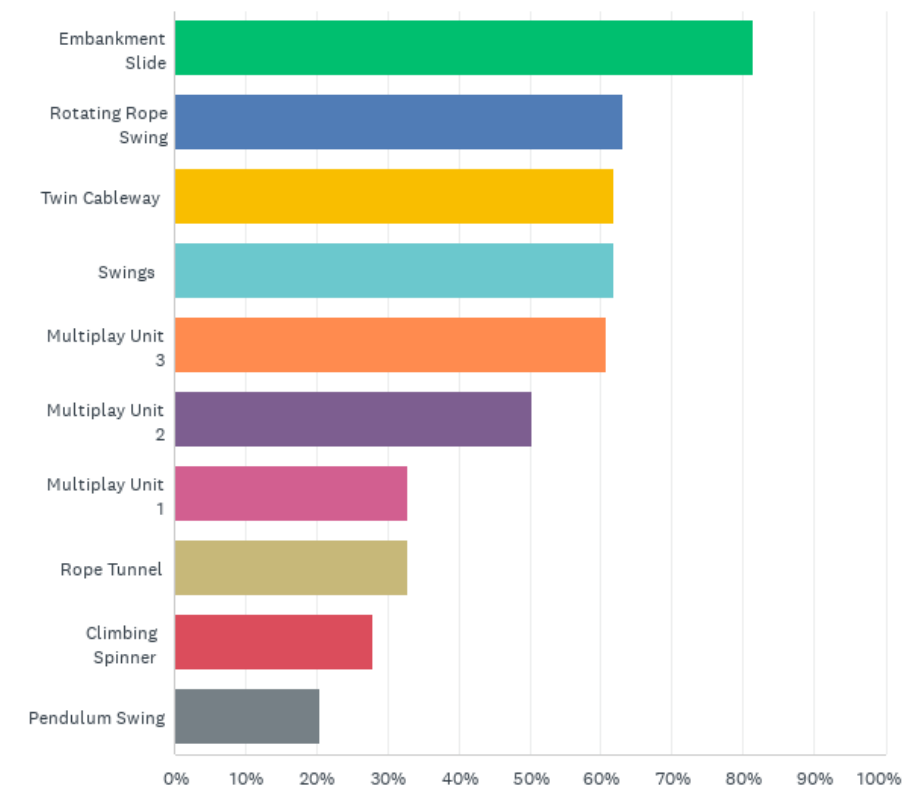
Q8. Please select your top three pieces of toddler equipment.

- The swings (81.34%) and roundabout (62.69%) were the two highly selected pieces of equipment by a fair margin.
- The third most selected piece of equipment was close between the multiplay unit 1 and 3, with the multiplay unit 1 gaining 49.25% of the votes and the multiplay unit 3 gaining 47.76%.
- This was then followed by the multiplay unit 2 (38.06%) and the rocker and spinner (20.52%).



Q9. Please select your top five children and teen play items.

- The majority of participants selected the embankment slide as their preferred piece of kit (81.34%).
- Rotating rope swing (63.06%).
- Twin cableway (61.96%).
- Swings (61.94%).
- Multiplay unit 3 (60.82%).

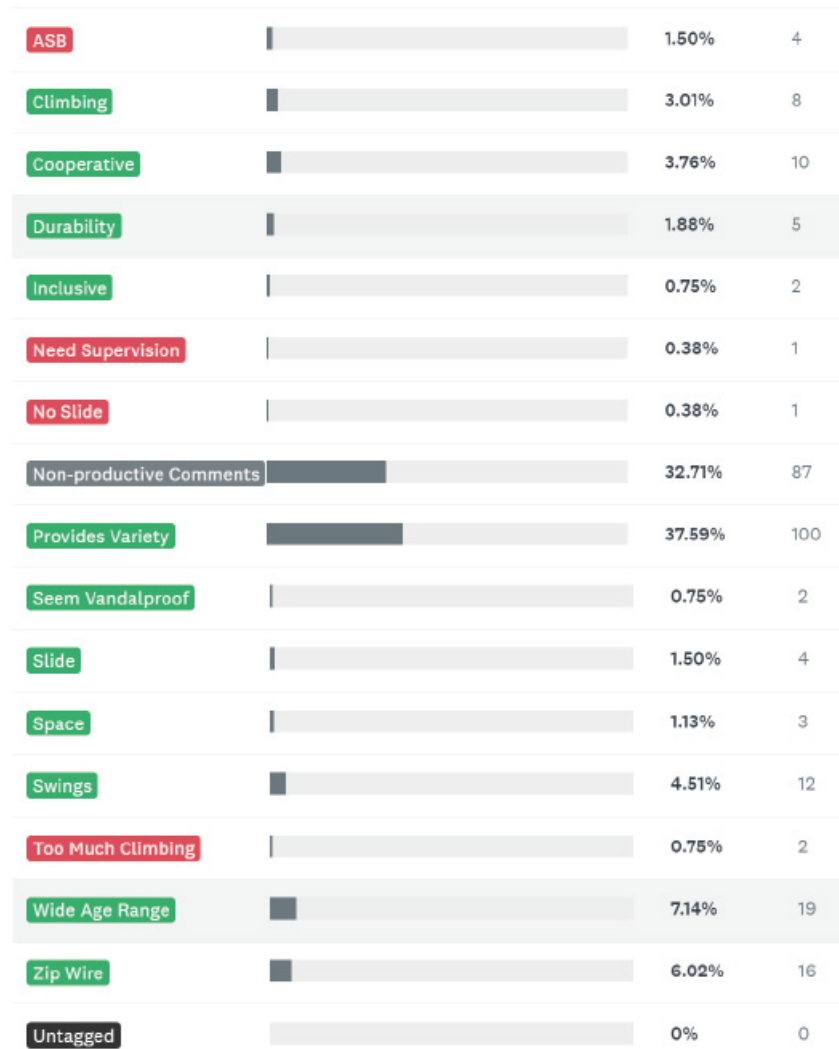




**Q10. Please tell us what do you like the most about your selected options?**

A large percentage of responses were general comments made and not relating directly to the question asked. These made up 32.71% of the responses and were more statements of how participants were generally looking forward to using the enhanced park and less about the actual play equipment itself. It can be concluded:

- The largest direct response regarding the play equipment was in relation to variety that was on offer (37.59%).
- Other comments that were made about the play equipment were they appealed to a wide range of ages (7.14%).
- Participants liked the inclusion of cooperative equipment (3.76%).
- Durability of the equipment specified was also mentioned (1.88%).



**Q11. Please tell us what do you like the least about your selected options?**

From the responses, 57.36% were general comments made that did not directly relate to the question asked. Relevant comments were assessed and have been highlighted below:

- The largest number of comments were made regarding concerns that enhancements could encourage antisocial behaviour (11.32%).
- The variety of equipment on offer wasn't varied enough (4.91%).
- Safety and complexity of equipment was also highlighted with 3.40% of participants raising it as a concern.
- Equipment being too large and taking over too much greenspace (3.02%).

**Q12. Please tell us how you think your selected options could be improved?**

From the responses 42.31% of responses could not think of a way that their selections could be improved and generally approved of the options provided. Relevant recommendations for improvements to the play equipment presented are highlighted below:

- 10.38% felt a wider variety of play equipment that covered a wider age audience and also activities such as football should be looked into.
- 7.31% would like durable equipment to be a priority along with regular maintenance.
- 5.77% wanted to see equipment to be inclusive for all ages and ability.
- 3.85% feel that the proposed play area is taking up too much space and needs to remain more naturalistic.
- 3.46% prefer more natural play elements to be used within the play area.
- 2.69% of participants felt that the play surfacing could be improved within the play areas by using impact absorbing flooring, instead of the sand and other play surfacing indicated by the images selected for participants to select equipment within the survey.
- 2.69% had concerns over antisocial behaviour and recommended enhancing security features.

**Q13. Please use the box below to make any other comments about the Site.**

This question invited participants to voice any other opinions or concerns about the project not picked up in previous questions within the survey. 16.83% made generally positive comments about the scheme whilst 11.54% were generally negative; and 13.94% of participants didn't have anything further to add.

## 3.2 Public Drop-in Event

3.2.1 From the public drop-in hosted by Red Kite Network Limited and NBBC at Buttermere Recreation Ground on the 18th June 2022, the following comments were raised. Around 30 participants attended.

- Too many paths have been proposed which will detract from the natural landscape currently at Buttermere Recreation Ground.
- The path currently proposed at the base of the culvert should be moved to the top of the embankment out of reach from flood water. The route along the top of the embankment is currently a well-used desire line by Buttermere Recreation Ground users.
- The wheeled sports area was highly contested; a reoccurring reason why participants didn't like the idea is because they felt it would attract antisocial behaviour, influencing the perception of security.
- Design works within the flood basin were also criticised. Participants informed Red Kite Network Limited that the detention basin floods annually so elements such as the proposed footpath would not last.
- Play features being located north of the mound were felt to be a bad idea, particularly in the case of older children's play due to potentially encouraging antisocial behaviour and safety concerns for younger children.
- Participants felt the proposal eroded the existing greenspace too much and that this would negatively impact the character and use of the Site.
- Participants do not want seating and benches in too many places.

3.2.2 Comments were also made by local residents that they would like to be better informed of the consultation findings and results to gain further understanding of the rationale behind the revised Concept Masterplan proposals for Buttermere Recreation Ground. It was discussed that this could potentially be achieved by publishing another poster around the Recreation Ground with an embedded QR code, linked to this report.

## 3.3 Written Responses

3.3.1 As part of the consultation process, two emails in response to the Concept Masterplan proposals were received by NBBC. These were forwarded to Red Kite Network Limited to be included within this report. The key points extracted are:

- Reduction in the number of paths to maximise the greenspace and save on material and construction costs.
- Plant more trees within Buttermere Recreation Ground.
- In addition to the play equipment, install more complimentary features such as natural play equipment, rocks, fallen trees, etc.
- Noise resonates from the existing MUGA through to the gardens of houses along Buttermere Avenue, driving residents inside their homes. Concern these enhancements will increase noise levels.
- Antisocial behaviour is currently an issue. By providing spaces for people to meet will this worsen?
- Proposed picnic table area is concerning due to its proximity near to housing. Litter is also an existing issue that could result.
- The extent of work that's being proposed will diminish the natural character and charm of Buttermere Recreation Ground.

Photo 1. Public Drop-In Event



# 4.0 Conclusions

4.0.1 After analysing all the findings from the consultation process, Red Kite Network Limited has drawn the following conclusions to steer the way forward for Buttermere Recreation Ground:

- The extent of work being considered for enhancement could have an impact on current use by local residents and stakeholders by eroding too much natural greenspace.
- The skatepark is a highly contested feature.
- Footpath quantity needs to be reconsidered although a circular route is welcomed. Potentially reduce footpaths leading to the cut-throughs from Buttermere Avenue.
- Residents and members of the local community would like to have easy access to the consultation results to make the process more transparent.
- Facilitating dog walking as a dominant function of the Recreation Ground should be accommodated better.
- Anti social behaviour is perceived as a current issue at Buttermere Recreation Ground. Measures to enhance security and surveillance should be considered.
- Most wanted play items for toddlers were the swings, roundabout, and multiplay units 1 & 2.
- Most wanted play items for older children were the embankment slide, rotating rope swing, twin cableway, swings, and multiplay unit 3.
- Fencing around Buttermere Recreation Ground should be kept as the existing wooden knee rail as the public believe if this is replaced with fencing noise would be generated from balls being kicked against metal panels.
- Relocate play to enhance surveillance and expand and extend the Toddler area.
- Plant more trees to enable succession of mature individuals.
- Encourage proposals that nurture biodiversity.



# 5.0 Changes to the Concept Masterplan in Response to Consultation

5.0.1 Having listened to residents at the Drop-In Event, collated consultation responses and taken on board further concerns by residents via ward Councillors; we have revised and formalised the Concept Masterplan presented in June with the following main changes:

- Removal of formal paths from jitties between the houses at Keswick Close and Loweswater Close.
- Expansion of toddler play area at Buttermere Avenue.
- Toddler play area fenced off.
- Junior play area reduced in size and moved to west of mound, in direct sight line of toddler play area.
- Skate plaza removed.
- Meeting place removed.
- Picnic bench area removed.
- Anti-motorbike security features at every entrance include which will still allow access for wheelchairs, mobility scooters and pushchairs etc.
- Number of trees planted reduced slightly to allow them to grow to maturity.
- One surfaced path circuit for all-weather access.
- New goal posts installed.
- Path removed adjacent to culvert.
- Culvert sides softened with coir matting and wetland planting to increase biodiversity.
- Most wildflower areas retained; those removed would have restricted line of sight between toddler and junior play areas.

5.0.2 This Concept Masterplan is illustrated in Section 6.0 .

# 6.0 Revised Concept Masterplan

## Buttermere Recreation Ground



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 info@redkitenetwork.co.uk  
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Registered in England and Wales No. 8169295

### Key

-  Existing tree
-  New areas of wild flower/ naturalistic planting
-  New tree

<b>CLIENT:</b>	Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
<b>PROJECT:</b>	Buttermere Recreation Ground
<b>DRAWING:</b>	Final Masterplan
<b>NUMBER:</b>	691.21.10
<b>DATE:</b>	21 October 2022
<b>STATUS:</b>	Concept
<b>SCALE:</b>	1:500@A1
<b>DRAWN BY:</b>	Jacqueline Bayliss
<b>CHECKED BY:</b>	Annie Millen
<b>REVISION:</b>	A - 2022.10.25 Goal posts B - 2023.01.16 annotation "enhanced safety measures"



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