

## **Summary of responses from play area consultation**

87 People completed the online survey and 59 people completed the paper version at our Family Fun Days.

### **Q1. Where do you live?**

110 people out of 146 people were Brentwood residents, with 36 people from out of the area.

### **Q2. What's your favourite play area in Brentwood?**

King George's Playing Fields	74
Warley Playing Fields	17
Bishop's Hall	11
South Weald	7
Courage Playing fields	5
Mountnessing	4
River Road	4
Doddinghurst	3
Hartwood	3
Weald Park	3
Kelvedon Hatch	2
Shenfield St Marys	1
Wash Road	1
West Horndon	1
Fairfield, Ingatestone	1
Hutton Recreation Ground	1
Margaretting	1
North Road	1
None	9

### **Q3. Why is it your favourite play area?**

Additional facilities such as toilets, parking and refreshments	51
Easy to park	56
Play area together with green open space	86
It is nearest to where I live	79
The mix of play equipment to suit a variety of age ranges	96
Other	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safe</li><li>• Forest walk in</li><li>• Beautiful and clean</li><li>• Refreshments, improvement</li><li>• Skate park</li><li>• It HAD a splash park</li></ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doddinghurst, 1-8 not much for older, Only parking for 3, cars, Yes because of Village Hall.</li> <li>• Golf course</li> <li>• Can also walk the dog (Warley)</li> <li>• Ball court (Warley)</li> <li>• Play area is secure for little children under 5, well fenced in and not too big, so you can see them wherever they are even when busy. (Bishops Hall)</li> <li>• disabled equipment and good normal play equipment (Courage's)</li> <li>• Brand new site and another smaller toddler play area across the road too (Warley)</li> <li>• Near my children's school (Doddinghurst)</li> <li>• I can see both my children even when they go in different directions from most spots in the park (Warley)</li> <li>• Not too busy and so better for our disabled son (Kelvedon Hatch)</li> <li>• seems safest park local to me (Mountnessing)</li> <li>• Safe for small children (i.e. no big drops or huge 'nets' to climb for small children or those children who aren't as aware of safety. It's also well contained do easier than most to keep an eye on two small children. (Bishops Hall)</li> </ul>	
--	--

#### Q4. How often do you visit your favourite play area?

Daily	7
Weekly	44
Monthly	77
Or less frequently	15
None	6

#### Q5. How do you get there?

Car	86
Walk	79
Cycle	4
Bus	5
None	4

#### Q6. What are the age ranges of the children that use the play area(s)?

0-5	117
6-11	70
12-16	22
17+	1

### Q7. What type of equipment do you prefer?

Swings	61
Slides	61
Climbing	67
Interactive	5

### Q8. Which other play areas do you visit in Brentwood?

Bishops Hall	32
Clements	2
Doddinghurst	24
Blackmore	6
North Road	4
Warley	35
Courage's	17
King George's	81
Coronation	5
Capon	4
Hutton Rec	13
Hutton Polo	5
Maple	1
Kelvedon Hatch	16
North Road	2
West Horndon	8
Clements	4
Railway Square	5
Masefield court	2
Gibraltar House	5
Cromwell	6
Mountney close	1
River Road	4
Elizabeth House	1
Tollesbury Court	1
Ingrave Johnson	5
Navestock	3
Seymour Field	1
Fairfield	2

### Q9. If you visit any other play areas in Brentwood, how often do you visit?

Daily	0
Weekly	49
Monthly	47
Or less frequently	15

### Q10. How do you get there?

Car	80
Walk	57
Cycle	5
Bus	6

### Q11. Any other comments?

- The area opposite Merrymeade House would be perfect for a play area. 6 schools on Sawyers Hall Lane, no nearby play areas. King George's would be prime spot for a splash park.
- More toilets/ changing facilities that are clean
- Picnic areas/benches
- The toilets at King George's could do with some attention
- use the one behind Sainsburys a lot but the facilities aren't good.
- the parks are generally brilliant, our kids love them!
- Kelvedon Hatch and King Georges need refurbishing. The parks are out of date or a lot of stuff is broke.
- I visit Hutton recreation ground only because it is close. It has very limited equipment and being on grass it is too muddy to visit from autumn to spring. I recently visited a park in Hullbridge with ship climbing frame/slide an additional climbing frame / slide, swings, baby swings, witches' hat seesaw, bucket swing, accessible round about and more. It also has toilets and plenty of picnic benches. If my nearest park was like that one, we would be regular visitors.
- A splash park to replace the pools in King George's would be ideal. This may already be happening I'm not sure what the plan is, but fingers crossed.
- Please ensure the grounds are even for little ones running around (my son has tripped on uneven ground in play areas) and equipment is safe for little children and those with less awareness of safety i.e. not too high or too difficult to climb.
- This park is becoming increasingly unsafe. There are very frequent reports on the local group sites about children/young adults threatening and intimidating younger children and or mums! I myself witnessed intimidating behaviour with my little boy who is autistic by 5/6 older boys who were spitting and throwing crisps down the slide and swearing at passers-by. Very sad as our village park which is used by so many school children and preschool age children is becoming unsafe. I never visit the park alone with my child now I prefer to drive all the way to Mountnessing which is very sad as my little boy loves Doddinghurst park especially the zip wire :- ( please consider cctv and or patrols. Thank you.
- Didn't know Clements had a play area!
- All the play area should have CCTV as there are lots of teenagers who use the facilities without showing any respect. Often kids must wait for the big one to move from the swings or slides or whatever else. And the big ones break them, make a mess, eat, smoke there. This should not be allowed. I understand that they have their rights, but they are uneducated and use the facility in an improper way.

- The equipment is very old and tired and needs replacing, we don't have any other parks nearby, please can you replace the equipment.
- Brentwood has some lovely play areas but are sadly not maintained. In an age of encouraging children to play outdoors to reduce medical interventions these should be looked after.
- Also visit South Wield and Thorndon Country Parks on a regular basis. Some equipment suitable for disabled children also would be good.
- I'd love to be able to walk to my local park but there are no pavements and it's too dangerous. We need something for children with special needs - there is nothing in Brentwood for these children.
- One or two more pieces of play equipment for toddlers and small children would be welcome. A great job has been done cutting back the trees as this has deterred youths from loitering hidden for whatever reason. One or two more benches would also make the place more family friendly and encourage picnics for families during warmer weather.
- Toilet facilities would be great in Mountnessing. So many people use the park daily, especially with the outdoor gym.
- Warley playing fields desperately needs a new car park or the thousands spent on it will be a waste. I've spoken to visitors who would come more if it weren't for the lack of parking.
- It would be great if there was a more shaded area for babies and toddlers, so they can play in the summer months. When the sun is blazing down the equipment becomes too hot. It is also difficult to feed baby's when there is no shade. It would also be good if there were more swings. It is a lovely park and the grounds are kept lovely. Thank you.
- The recent Warley playing fields are great, but the surrounding dirt is an absolute nightmare. I have a daughter with breathing issue and anytime the wind blows even just a little bit the dust blows all over the place it really does need to be sorted. I did message the council regarding it but heard no reply.
- We are very lucky to have a good choice of parks in the local area. The thing which frustrates me the most is how the parks are not maintained regularly. We moved here over two years ago - an infant roundabout at courage's playground has been out of action since before then and still awaiting repair!?!?!.
- The play park lacks everything and is not very exhilarating for the children that use it and could be updated it is well used in the summer by the pupils of St. Peter's school south weald. There is a lack of seating for parents, one seat. A couple of years ago a new seat was installed only to be vandalised a short time afterwards removed by the council never to be replaced. What happened to it? The other problem we have is rubbish, out of park and in park. Do we need more bins? The gates need child proof catches installed to protect the children from running out into the road, as drivers do not heed the 20mph speed limit which is a problem in river road as the signs for 20mph are not well sited and a speed hump might be a good idea. There was a rumour of a zip wire going in which there would be concerns as to looking in to properties.
- There is a play area not mentioned or maybe it is and I've not noted the name think just off St. Peter's Road /Cromwell Road/Crescent Road cm14. This is a fantastic little space that is run down but used by all local people with kids. Some play bits are damaged and broken and it's in desperate need of investment. It's used by youth to smoke drugs though but with a revamp would be such a positive addition to local kids.
- My children are now teenagers so commenting based on when my children were younger and enjoyed going to the park. It's still something I feel is very important for families.

- Weald Park
- It's a shame that people let their dogs go to the toilet and don't clear it up, and unfortunately you see people (mostly young adults) in their cars smoking drugs.
- North Road Park often has teenagers in the afternoon, and smaller children are unable to play in it. If there was a separate sitting area for teenagers, they would be less likely to sit on the play equipment and stop the smaller children from using it. The teenagers aren't being unpleasant (most of the time) they just need somewhere free that they can go.
- The toilets are awful and need to be redone and looked after better including better changing facilities.
- Equipment is always being vandalised and elder kids using areas late at night to drink/take drugs - cctv would be a good thing to deter this and any child safety concerns.
- a splash park would be ideal.
- Toilet facilities are a long way from the playgrounds in both Warley and King George's particularly if you have a recent toilet trained toddler. Both playgrounds could benefit from more shaded areas.
- It's great to see that the council are looking to improve park facilities. It's a lovely thing to do with children and gets them out in the fresh air every day. Please do think about incorporating some shady areas or planting some large trees in the surrounding areas to the parks - during this very hot summer the parks have been very hot and there is little to no shade to shelter under mostly and have a drink or cool off/apply lotion! Also places to leave buggies and dogs would be great, outside the parks. Clear signs to show who to contact if the park needs cleaning/something is broken and needs reporting, would also be helpful. Thank you.
- Zip Wire should have been included in Q7 "what type of play equipment do you prefer". And by the way it is not what I prefer, it is my grandchildren!
- South Weald is a regular.
- It would nice to have more special needs equipment. Our disabled daughter wants to do what her friends are doing and doesn't want to be excluded. We say a zip wire with a disabled sing chair on it which was amazing. Hyland Park has the best disabled play stuff which able bodied and disabled children can use side by side which is what most disabled children want. Teaches them so much about taking turns, sharing etc.
- Play areas like King George's are too vast and too spread out when you have more than one child, it is almost impossible to keep track of them when the park is busy. IT would be better if it were split into smaller, fenced off areas, especially the under 5s area.
- The park closest to my home (Rayleigh road) is disgusting. My oldest (7) fell playing football and landed in broken glass, upon further inspection it was littered with glass, broken vodka bottle necks and silver canisters of some sort! The play area is the same, glass down the slide, broken swings and an electrical game that has not worked for years.
- I visit the Bishops Hall Park more frequent than my local park as the area for younger children is far more suitable than my local park King George's. It is very helpful that the younger age group park at Bishops Hall Park is gated/fenced.
- Wash road play area needs updating. Such a shame the splash pools have gone from King George's.
- River road play area is a disgrace. Old, broken equipment, uneven surface (impossible to teach a child to ride a bike) one bench and most items need an adult to push, pull so little independent activities,
- North Road playground needs improvement.

- The cost of parking seems very expensive. I often go to Thorndon or South weald for a run or park run and only stay for half an hour and it is over £2. It doesn't encourage you to take your kids. We often go to parks in other boroughs that have better facilities and are free to park such as Hainault forest.
- Please retain the parks for public use. Public tennis courts/basketball courts/5 a side football pitches would be welcome to encourage kids to participate in sports.
- Need more facilities for young cyclists. Get them off roads doing wheelies and give them bike parks and pump tracks. Cheap to install and low maintenance whilst being great for health and fitness.
- The play area in Hutton Wash Road is lacking equipment, the electronic items don't work, it's dirty and needs investment. There aren't many play area in Hutton for that reason we tend to drive to Billericay for a more inclusive park. I think this is an utter shame. Hutton used to have a fabulous play area, what we are left with now is damaged, old and tatty. The surrounding shrubbery is over grown and full of weeds... and rodents.. I feel this is the forgotten park! Shenfield has a beautiful well-resourced park.
- My favourite play area is King George's but this lacks facilities such as a cafe and toilets that are close to the play area and up to date play facilities.
- Doddington is a joke, frequent drug use by the local lads, constantly dropping litter and smashing glass bottles. A bigger police presence is needed.
- Play facilities in Brentwood are pitiful compared to other councils. Brentwood needs to seriously review their leisure facilities. A lot of council tax but what do we get?
- Also Weald Park and Thorndon.
- Parking is a big thing to new mothers and should not be lessened anymore!
- Outside gyms would also be a great addition to some of these.
- King George's needs age appropriate football goals 6-11 11-16 and pitches.
- The play area in north road is pretty dirty, unkempt (up turned Sainsburys trolleys), often older kids hanging around in there.
- I would like to see the River Road area have a place where you can allow dogs to run as there is no green space for dogs locally.
- A lot of the parks in Brentwood are very run down. King George's is our closest but isn't practical any more with my toddler.
- St peters park is in a sorry state. Dogs are regularly walked thru park. Sad its allowed. Dog poo is regularly discovered on the grass area. Equipment is in sorry state. Horse has been caged off for over a year. Sad there is no equipment for older children like a climbing frame and slide. As this is the nearest park to where I live. Park equipment is dated and looks in need of some tlc. Could be a nice park.
- Should be more money invested in open spaces and sports pitches for kids.
- My children have special needs and are unable to use most parks as there isn't anything for disabled children.

**Facebook comments from Council's Facebook page.**

“Give the kids as much play area as you possibly can”

“Hutton Recreational park – We use this one quite a bit but needs a clean (the climbing frame bit) and the red button thing need fixing.

“Something water based is required that children can play in”

“I quite like them being play areas if I'm honest?!”

“Wash Road in Hutton needs extra funding”

“Inclusive play areas”

“Wash road needs a huge overhaul. Run down & so much space that it could have an amazing play area”

“cycling and play areas with grandchildren”