



King's Lynn Area Consultative Committee
Monday, 30th January, 2023 at 4.30 pm
in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market
Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ

Reports marked to follow on the Agenda and/or Supplementary Documents

1. **Provision of accessible play equipment (Pages 2 - 18)**

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Everyone has the right to play: making parks accessible to all

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By West Norfolk YAB

The West Norfolk YAB:

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We know that young people are struggling when it comes to having access to inclusive equipment in playparks.

So...

The West Norfolk YAB are working with Breckland YAB to:

- Have accessible equipment fitted in existing public playparks making them inclusive for all children and young people.
- Make the government and local authorities acknowledge that playparks are not the only places to be made accessible.
- Have inclusive equipment included as standard to newly built parks.

What we would like to see:

- That existing parks such as The Walks have inclusive equipment fitted, so that all young people can have the same opportunity and experience when using play parks.
- Currently we are aware of families who are unable to use The Walks, and cannot spend the day together due to park equipment being unsuitable for disabled children and young people.

Why do we need this?

- Those with physical/neurological challenges are struggling to socialise and make new friends, or enjoy themselves because some parks may have only one or two pieces of equipment that are accessible. They are still unable to fully enjoy the park as a whole.
- It is unacceptable that the only fully accessible park in the UK is as far as Exeter when there is a high number of young people with disabilities in Norfolk.
- Churchill Park and other providers may have inclusive equipment on site during the school term but when children are on school holidays, where can they go to play on equipment?



WE ALL DESERVE EQUALITY.

Why do we need this?

- In the 2021 Census , Kings Lynn and West Norfolk showed that:
- 43,776 people are disabled under the Equality Act (2010).

Of those:

- 18,134 said that there was 1 person in their household with a disability.
- 5,554 said that there were 2 people in their household with a disability.



WE ALL DESERVE EQUALITY.

We prepared ourselves by...



- Meeting with Miriam who designed, funded and set up the only all age, all ability park in the UK (in Exeter).
- We had the chance to interview Miriam, a local Councillor from the community and two Exeter County Council officers to find out more about the park and what was required to build one.
- We also discovered that the park we visited was the only one of its kind in the UK. This pioneering park should not be the only one in the UK.



These were some of the pieces of inclusive equipment at King George V park in Exeter.

They also had several signs that displayed the name and picture of the equipment to demonstrate how to use it. This also includes Braille to support those with sight impairments.

There were also signs that were written in sign language so that those with hearing impairments or other neurological needs could understand how to use the equipment.



Why this area?

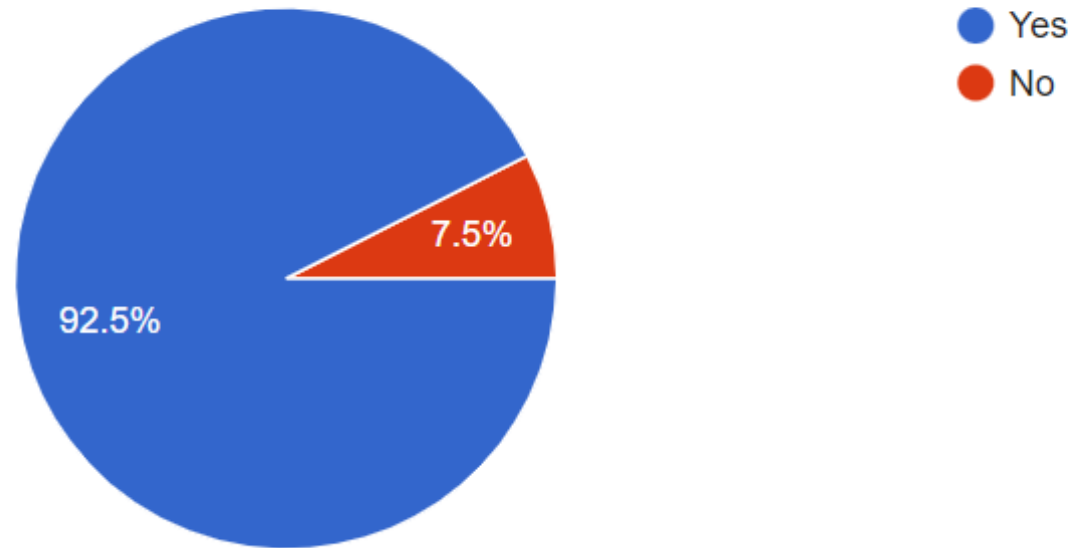
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- We feel that a brand new park is an unreasonable ask, due to the cost. We would like to propose adding inclusive equipment to The Walks as not only would it mean parents of disabled and non disabled children could enjoy the park together, it also means that children have the opportunity to build friendships, and play at the same time.
- Another benefit is that disabled children and young people would strengthen muscles and develop their prefrontal cortex.
- The Walks is central to the Kings Lynn area, therefore most people can access it. It is also a short walk from the train station.
- It would increase revenue into The Walks' shops, as there will be more people accessing the park.

We carried out a survey in the local area. These are the results...

Do you know someone who could benefit from having disabled friendly play equipment in The Walks?

40 responses



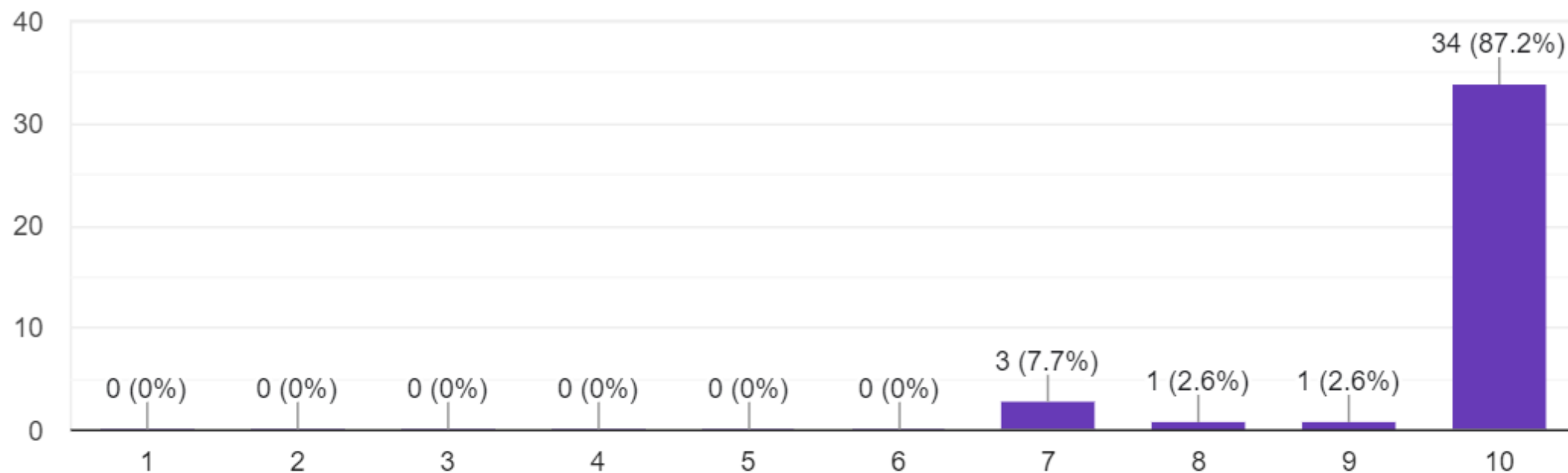
We asked the public what type of equipment they would feel to be most appropriate to install in The Walks and out of 37 responses:

- 5 said wheelchair accessible equipment
- 3 said sensory equipment
- And the remaining 29 said both accessible and sensory equipment.

How much is The Walks in need of all-inclusive play equipment?



39 responses



The next question we asked was, "How would all inclusive play equipment improve The Walks?"

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And a lot of people raised the same points, which were:

- "It makes it accessible for everyone."
- "It would help disabled children to develop both physically and mentally."
- "It's an area that is easily accessible meaning more families could use it."
- "Children would be able to play with their friends and family at The Walks rather than being unable to access the equipment."
- "It would help reduce some of the stress that parents face when having SEND children as there aren't many places they can go, meaning they may spend more time indoors isolated from peers."

- "People of all ages from a range of backgrounds and abilities will socialise which is good for the individuals."
- "Future generations will learn about differences and will break down barriers."
- "It's our duty as the human race to make everything inclusive. The benefits are for all, particularly in building understanding and compassion."
- "Encourages people to go outside rather than just playing on computers, meaning more social interaction."
- "Social inclusion and less isolation of children and their families."

The last question asked was, "What do you see as the potential benefits of The Walks being more inclusive for people with disabilities for the wider community?"

Most people said:

"That it will bring more visitors to The Walks, particularly the surrounding businesses such as the shop next to the play park."

Other examples include:

- "able bodied kids can access disabled equipment too. By building an inclusive park, every child is catered for. This in turn creates a better understanding and promotes inclusion of all abilities. This makes for a more inclusive adulthood for these children to look forward to."
- " It can bring more families together. The community would feel proud that there is an opportunity for all to access the space."

These are the top pieces of equipment we would like to see in The Walks...

