



## Poole Park Life: 2016 Development phase play strategy

### 1. Introduction

This brief has been written for the public as part of the consultation programme and for play suppliers. It includes a vision for play in Poole Park and a specification for design and materials.

Feedback has been used in this request to suppliers for expressions of interest in tendering for the project in 2017, if the Heritage Lottery Fund Phase 2 bid is successful. In undertaking early market engagement with play suppliers we hope to::

- Provide concept designs that the public can view
- Enhance our public consultation, providing an opportunity for the public to understand what is possible within the play theme and the wide range of equipment available beyond traditional swings and slides.
- Engage with you early so you have a full understanding of the project, it's aims and principles for design and the requirements that will form part of the tender brief in 2017.
- Satisfy the HLF that our allocated budget is sufficient for the project.

This is with a view to using the **ESPO 115 framework** (to be revised 2017) and full tender through the Supplying the South-West [portal](#). The earliest this will take place is autumn 2017 and all capital work must be complete by end of 2021.

**Please note that full tender will only follow IF the bid to the HLF is successful.**

This early supplier engagement includes two specific ways in which we would like you to be involved in the project:

- Opportunity to provide a single A1 graphic** showing the range of equipment and some of the solutions you could offer to answer our design brief. This will be included on our [website](#) and as a formal part of our public consultation process.

#### **Outputs:**

Deadline of Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July for all concept artwork.

Single A1 graphic supplied as finished pdf and a single hard copy for consultation presentations.

Within the presentation should be examples of the range of equipment you can supply and opportunities available within the park for innovative and exciting play spaces.

Natural play concepts

Replacement of outdoor fitness equipment

Indicative costs to be supplied for project purposes only.



B. You are invited to **attend our Family Funday taking place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August in Poole Park, 10am – 3pm.**

We would be delighted if you could display your concept design and showcase what you can offer the people of Poole, including displays of your equipment as appropriate. We do not want you to consult on specific items within your catalogues; instead we will facilitate a consultation process where the public can score each suppliers concept. These scores will be used in later decisions and within the scoring matrix for the full tender, so it is a prime opportunity to showcase your work.

Please complete and return the booking form.

These expressions of interest will be used for public engagement in July/August 2016. As part of this we will:

- seek to engage the public on how we develop the play spaces in Poole Park
- seek opinion on locations
- not consult on specific pieces of equipment or ask people to design

We are keen to learn from your experience so also welcome the opportunity to visit your installations in order to make the most informed choices possible for Poole Park. Please provide details of play areas that you would recommend visiting.

## **2. Background, 2014 Round 1 bid to the HLF:**

### **Play theme principle**

Improving the existing play areas and introduce a play landscape for all ages and abilities throughout the park.

### **Play design principles**

Design should encourage informal sociability between the generations.

Design should provide for the play experiences to be accessible to all regardless of ability or age.

The design should try to make Poole Park a nice place to play and straightforward to maintain.

### **HLF Outcomes**

Play improvements will improve the local area for the community, providing a better place to visit

### **Budget allocated**

£400,000 for all play, fitness and natural play areas, to include surfacing, planting, contingency and for reinstatement.



### 3. 2016 – 2017 Early market Engagement

#### 3.1 Vision for Play

*There is potential for play opportunities across all of Poole Park, with a destination play area at West field that will be completely redesigned to be the best in the local area.*

*Cygnets play area will continue to focus on play for younger children and will be redesigned and refurbished.*

*The new play areas will be based on innovation, providing a thematic link to its history and the local area. It will be fully accessible for all ages and abilities, encouraging informal social use between generations.*

*Opportunities for playable landscapes outside of the formal play areas will be encouraged, building on the heritage of climbing on leaning trees.*

#### 3.2 Specification for design and materials.

There is a crucial balance to be found in the design and specification for new play areas and landscaping between two factors:

- I. Providing **innovative, modern play spaces**, using materials and landscaping that enhance the play experience, adding value, interest and that can stimulate senses and be fully inclusive.
- II. **Minimising future maintenance** of play equipment is also vital, with the choice of materials, surfacing and landscaping being of primary importance. The choices made must provide a longevity and robustness that ensures the play spaces are still in good condition for years and decades to come.

The design and installation of all equipment and surfacing shall accord with guidance in EN1176 Playground Equipment Standard and BS EN 1177 relating to surfacing.

Outdoor fitness equipment should confirm to the new standards EN 16630:2015.



## **4. Design Brief**

### **4.1 West Field Play area:**

#### **Currently:**

All of the existing play equipment is beyond or approaching the end of its useful lifespan, some dating from the 1960's, and will be removed. Current landscaping and land forms can be modified to accommodate new designs.

#### **Inspiration:**

Principally the play space is defined by its boundary fence line which shall remain. However, in seeking an innovative design there may be opportunities to explore design proposals outside of the fenced area, in particular to explore some integration with the adjacent lagoon. There is potential to site equipment in or near the lagoon that can provide a unique sense of adventure and challenge that cannot be replicated on land.

Design as an exemplar space for inclusive play, providing a link to other work on sensory gardens, the access audit and other improvements.

The vision identifies links with the heritage of Poole Park and the local town centre and quay. Inspiration for themed landscaping and equipment can be drawn from:

- The original park design from 1890 through to the inter-war years, with curvilinear paths up to the highest point where a summer house was located, this path could be incorporated in to a new design.
- War-time use included air-raid shelters for the local High School, tank traps, fuel stores and cannons being sited in the park.
- Potteries, clay, rope and Iron works and a busy history as a merchant port with the Newfoundland trade provide a rich local heritage.
- Within view is one of the largest natural harbours in the world and a wide range of internationally important wildlife

Special consideration shall be given to the topography of the site. The design shall maximise the play value provided by slopes whilst giving careful consideration to accessibility and surveillance.

#### **Limitations:**

Unknown underground conditions from the former use as an air raid shelter and resulting use of in-fill materials or capping off. In-situ testing required for any new structures and construction.

Sediments and harbour muds on lagoon bed and variable water quality.

Sloping site may preclude loose-fill surfacing unless retained by the use of low soil mounds.

#### **Materials:**

Wet-pour, grass mat and bonded recycled rubber surfacing are all favoured to provide a variety of coloured surfaces and experiences under different fall heights. Steel equipment is favoured in order to provide greatest longevity, with some timber equipment mixed in.



Replace the pedestrian gates with modern self closing gates in a bright colour to aid access for the partially sighted

### Key Outcomes:

Innovative destination play space with equipment that challenges and provides risk. Suitable for all ages and not only follows best practice but provides innovative solutions to inclusive design.

Landscaping and surfacing should provide access and interest for all users, including links from existing paths.

For use by all park users and generations

Link to use of natural play across the whole park.





## 4.2 Cygnet Play area:

### **Currently:**

Designed and built in 2005, with subsequent minor alterations, the play area is sited under significant mature trees and adjacent to two freshwater ponds, receiving very high footfall. Equipment is beginning to age and the surfacing is looking tired, especially the soft landscaping near to the trees.

### **Inspiration:**

An assessment of the existing equipment shows that most is towards the end of its lifespan, or will be by the end of the Delivery phase. The play equipment shall be assessed again and equipment refreshed or replaced where required, surfacing improved and new features added to reflect changes in play area design post 2005, such as use of natural play and innovative new equipment.

There is an opportunity to provide a wider range of sensory interest within the play space in landscaping as well as equipment, for example musical, tactile, surfacing and planting. The existing sand pit works well, but could be more imaginatively edged in new decking and boulders.

The play space can be extended to use the space between the play area boundary and the small freshwater pond, currently laid to gravel and without a specific design purpose.

£2,000 of a donation from the Friends of Poole Park is from an inclusive play fund, specifically for the provision of a low level slide in Cygnet Play area. The need for such a slide will be assessed as part of the play strategy work and that or an alternative inclusive piece shall be selected.

### **Limitations:**

Limited space to incorporate large items of new equipment.

Limited areas for construction under mature tree canopy, tree impact assessment required.

High footfall, extensive tree canopy and high water table in this area means robust surfacing is required.

### **Materials:**

Surfacing to be addressed beneath trees with a sympathetic solution for both enhancing the space and the benefit of the trees. The equipment is to be sympathetic to the original design which combined stainless steel and timber.

### **Key outcomes:**

Maximise the available space in a re-design

Provide a new modern and refreshed play space.

Link to use of natural play across the whole park.

Suitable for all ages with a focus on under 12's and follows best practice for inclusive design.

Low future maintenance cost





### 4.3 Playable Landscape

#### Currently:

Poole Park is well known for its leaning trees that generations have crawled and climbed on and jumped from. This is to be celebrated and enhanced with other natural play opportunities that add to the park's appeal.

#### Inspiration:

A playable landscape will allow all ages and abilities to climb, roll, jump and explore the natural features and areas of the park away from the two formal play spaces. This does not mean filling every open area of grass with equipment, but more finding a balanced approach to extending opportunities for play, through the use of timber, boulders or mounds in the right places.

Innovative play elements which double as interactive artworks can create stimulating environments for play with exciting visual appeal for adults and children. Sculptural features can serve as 'Play on the way' for everyday use.

There is also increasing demand for areas that can provide for parkour, or free running that encourages different skills and movement to a traditional play space.

Similarly the local climbing centre has shown an interest in being part of any outdoor boulder/climbing wall opportunities.

#### Limitations:

Formal areas of the park such as around the war memorial, near bedding display and at the entrances shall be avoided.

Maintenance costs of natural play are often high as these materials wear quickly.

**Materials;**

Use of play-grade timber such as Robinia or native species like Sweet Chestnut that are proven to withstand a high water table, salt winds and rapid decay.

Use of grass mats to prevent wear.

Use of local natural stone and design references to Victorian Rockeries and 'Whitecliff'.

**Key outcomes:**

Provide more opportunities for playing and exploring the park's environment and link the two formal play spaces.

Designing sensitively so as not to detract from those not interested in play.

Use of robust materials to provide longevity.

Link to work on sensory gardens and existing areas used for play.

Encouraging exploration and discovery of the historic landscape through play:

- Along the line of the National Trust's Campaign '50 Things to do before you are 11 ¾ years' [www.50things.org.uk](http://www.50things.org.uk)
- Children's version of a guide book/map (shows location leaning trees; where to go for pond dipping; a special tree – try estimate how old; where to launch a model boat; fly a kite)
- Conker festivals integrated into the Activity Programme





## 4.4 Fitness Equipment

### Currently:

There have been several waves of fitness equipment installations in Poole Park, starting in 2009. This first equipment was very much '1<sup>st</sup> Generation' and whilst proving very popular has been difficult to maintain and high in the use of consumable parts.

The fixed equipment, sit-up benches and chin-up bars for example, have proved to be very robust and similarly well-used.

There are over 30 individual pieces of exercise equipment spread over 7 stations and a 2Km activity route within Poole Park; this also extends in to a 5Km activity route in to Harbourside Park.

### Materials;

Steel equipment is preferred, powder coated and to a high standard to withstand harsh local conditions with salt-winds etc.

### Key outcomes:

Revitalise the fitness equipment providing a range of exercise equipment for all abilities.

Equipment should be as accessible as possible, with additional hand-supports fitted where required.





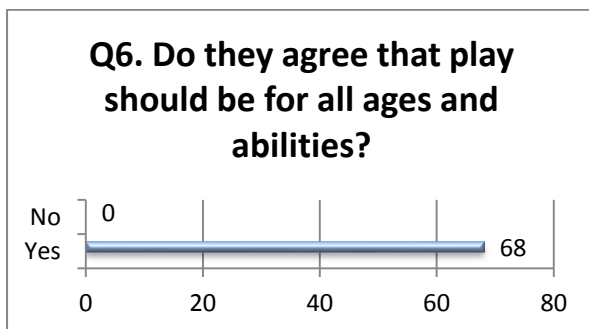
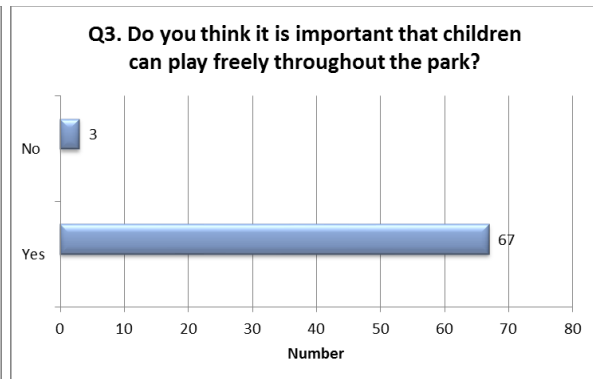
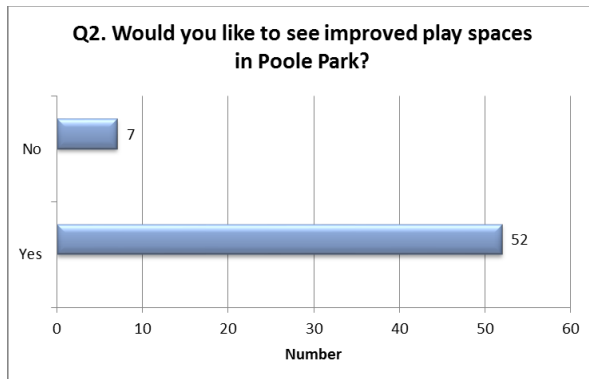
## 5. 12 Design principles

To make Poole Park's play spaces successful they will:

1. be bespoke
2. be well located
3. make use of natural elements
4. provide a wide range of play experiences:  
SPICE:
  - Social
  - Physical
  - Intellectual
  - Creative
  - Emotional
5. be accessible to disabled and non-disabled children
6. meet community needs
7. allow children of different ages to play together
8. have opportunities to experience risk and challenge
9. be designed to be sustainable and appropriately maintained within available resources
10. Allow for change and evolution.
11. Take advantage of the location to offer sunshine, shelter, shade and views where possible.
12. Associated seating should have clear views to the play facilities.

## Appendix 1: Public consultation

As part of the Round 1 consultation the following results were gathered:



Children could play more freely if the water was fenced off and cars were slowed down.

The most popular forms of playing for free in the park were swings, slides and climbing on trees.

Favourite memories are all outside of play areas: playing on the fallen trees, feeding ducks, boating activities, the model train and learning to ride.

## Appendix 2: Existing Play Value assessments

NB: 2007/08 assessments

Poole Park Play Value														
Site	Estimated User Numbers						Play Value					Site Score	Seating Value	Total Score
	Date Inspected	Toddler User No's.	Junior User No's.	Senior User No's	Teenage User No's.	Total Site Users	Toddler Play Value	Junior Play Value	Senior play value	Teenage Play Value	Total Play Value			
CYGNET PLAY AREA (with train)	07/11/2008	47	59	16	12	134	300	342	170	110	922	42	216	1314
WEST GATE POOLE PARK	14/04/2008	6	24	22	22	74	26	164	156	156	502	41	192	809

Play Value scores are derived from the number of activities from the table below that each piece of equipment offers and is added together for each age category.

The estimated user numbers is the number of users that could use a piece of equipment at any one time.

Activity Key		Sl	Sliding	G	Gathering
C	Climbing	B	Balancing	M/A	Mental Activity
Sw	Swinging	I	Interactivity	S	Sensory (Sight, Sound, Touch, Smell, Taste)
R	Rocking	R/P	Role Play	Ed	Educational
Sp	Spinning	P/A	Physical Activity	Co	Competition
Dda	Accessible Item				



PLAY EQUIPMENT AGE DETAILS & HISTORY						
SITE & DATE OF LAST UPDATE	COMPANY	ITEM	DATE INSTALLED	EXPECTED LIFE SPAN IN YEARS FROM 2013	Estimated End Of Useful Life	REPLACEMENT COST (Includes installation at date installed if known or 2007)
CYGNET PLAY AREA POOLE PARK	Sutcliffe	Springer SSA 300 Inclusive	16-Nov-05	5	2018	£573.00
LEAP	Kaiser Kuhne	Three Way Spring See-Saw	16-Nov-05	5	2018	£2,485.00
Site Opening Date 30/05/06	Kaiser Kuhne	Merry - go - round	16-Nov-05	5	2018	£9,030.00
Last update 22/06/2006	Kaiser Kuhne	Multi-play Tower Unit	16-Nov-05	5	2018	£20,351.00
16 Items of equipment	Kaiser Kuhne	K&K Post Swings Junior Swings	16-Nov-05	5	2018	£3,763.00
G3263A25A	Kaiser Kuhne	Cradle Swings	16-Nov-05	5	2018	£3,824.00
	Kaiser Kuhne	Talking Tube	16-Nov-05	5	2018	£2,897.00
	Machola	Sand Pit &	16-Nov-05	5	2018	£3,500.00

		Decking				
	Neptune	Cicular Tree Seat	16-Nov-05	10	2023	£1,794.42
	Neptune	Kara SF75 Bench Seats	16-Nov-05	10	2023	£747.26
Cost donated by Friends of Poole Park	Hags	Activity Wall	30-May-06	5	2018	£1,418.00
		Sorting Game	30-May-06	3	2016	£161.00
		Picture Puzzle	30-May-06	3	2016	£697.00
		Periscope	30-May-06	3	2016	£354.00
		Algebra Game	30-May-06	3	2016	£241.00
		Ships Wheel	30-May-06	3	2016	£287.00
		Dashboard	30-May-06	3	2016	£20,584.90
	Glasdon	Dolphin Litter Bin	16-Nov-05	10	2023	£367.39
	Zaun	Steel Bowtop Fence	16-Nov-05	25	2028	£2,230.00
	Medway Galvanising	Mono Hinge Gate	05-Oct-08	15	2028	£770.95
	Signs Express	Information Signs	Dec-06			£148.86

Cost donated by Friends of Poole Park	Fawns	Locomotive	10-Jul-08	5	2018	£2,055.34
	Fawns	Passenger Waon	10-Jul-08	5	2018	£1,560.34
	Redlynch	No mow Surfacing around train	19/20/01/09	5	2018	£2,650.00
	SMP	Polynesia Ark Springer	10-Feb-11	8	2021	£1,662.90
<b>Total Site Values @ February 2011</b>						<b>£84,153.36</b>
<b>SITE &amp; DATE OF LAST UPDATE</b>	<b>COMPANY</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DATE INSTALLED</b>	<b>EXPECTED LIFE SPAN IN YEARS FROM 2013</b>	<b>Estimated End Of Useful Life</b>	<b>REPLACEMENT COST (Includes installation at date installed if known or 2007)</b>
POOLE PARK WEST GATE	Gametime ( Universal Play Ltd)	Buckabout	Oct-88	3	2016	£1,760.00
G3263A25A	Leisuremark	Double Grind Rail	1999	8	2021	£534.00

25/03/2006	SMP Playgrounds Ltd	Cabin Slide	Oct-88	10	2023	£4,395.00
Opened 1988		Cradle Swings	Oct-88	5	2018	£2,046.00
		Junior Swings	Oct-88	5	2018	£1,958.00
NEAP		Senior Action Pack Unit	Oct-88	5	2018	£8,731.00
8 Items of equipment		Wide Slide	Oct-88	5	2018	£5,000.00
	Sutcliffe Kaiser Khune	Talking Tube	23-Mar-06	8	2021	£2,840.00
	?	Swing Barriers		10	2023	£1,948.20
	Earth Anchors	Tri-Table		15	2028	£910.42
	I. Tylor, Romsey	Fence		15	2028	£10,150.00
	Neptune	Seats		15	2028	£1,701.18
	Wybone	Litter Bin Lbv 5				£664.29
	Claydon Architectural Metalwork	Cycle Stands		10	2023	£235.00
	Signs Express	Information Signs	Jun-06			£148.86





						£17,846.14
<b>Total Site Values @ June 2006</b>						<b>£60,868.09</b>