

Sunnybank Road playground

Consultation report

October 2026

Consultation report by Policy, Strategy, and Transformation

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Purpose of the consultation

Rushmoor Borough Council plans to replace the Sunnybank Road playground with a new, updated facility. The current equipment is fairly old and some items are nearing the end of their useful life.

Given the close proximity of Meon Close playground to Sunnybank Road, the Council carried out a separate targeted consultation to the properties within Dart Road, Meon Close and Mole Close to consider the future of the Meon Close playground. The results showed that Meon Close is little used and the full refurbishment budget should go to Sunnybank Road (£100,000) and not split between the two playgrounds.

The consultation invited the views of local residents on what should be included in the new design and what ages the playground should cater for, with the aim of completion by the May 2027.

Method

Letters (appendix A) were sent to 983 local households, asking them to complete an online survey (appendix B). Paper copies of the survey were available on request.

The survey ran from 1st to 12th October 2026.

Response rate

In total 77 respondents completed the survey (all online).

48 respondents left email addresses to be involved and kept up-to-date on the development of the playground.

Consultation results

Summary

The majority of respondents did have children or grandchildren who use the playground (84%).

Respondents preferred age group for the new play equipment was 5-7 years (81.7%), closely followed by 1-4 years (77.5%).

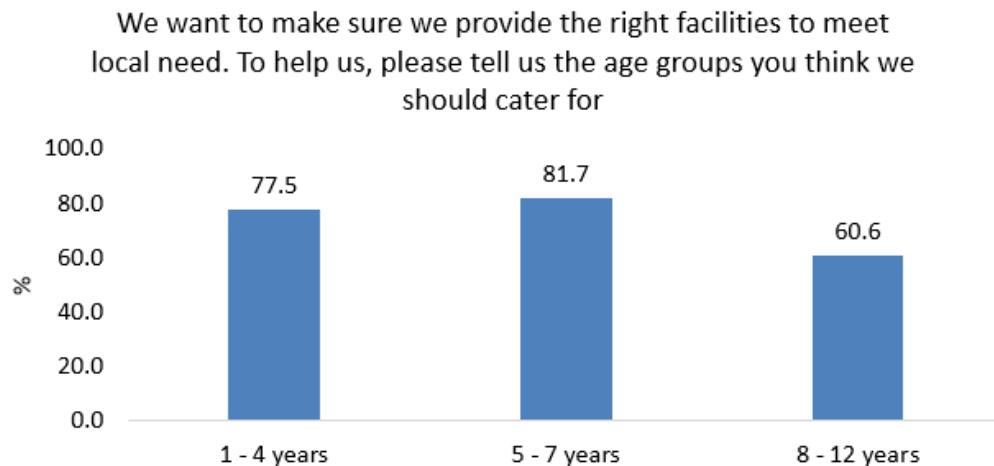
The most important play features, for the park, excluding swinging, sliding and climbing (these are considered essential and will be incorporated within the design) was play structures. The second most important play feature was balancing/agility. The third most important play feature was imaginary/educational.

The main themes of the open question included requests for benches/seating, respondents wanting the park to be for younger children and concerns about possible anti-social behaviour.

Detailed responses

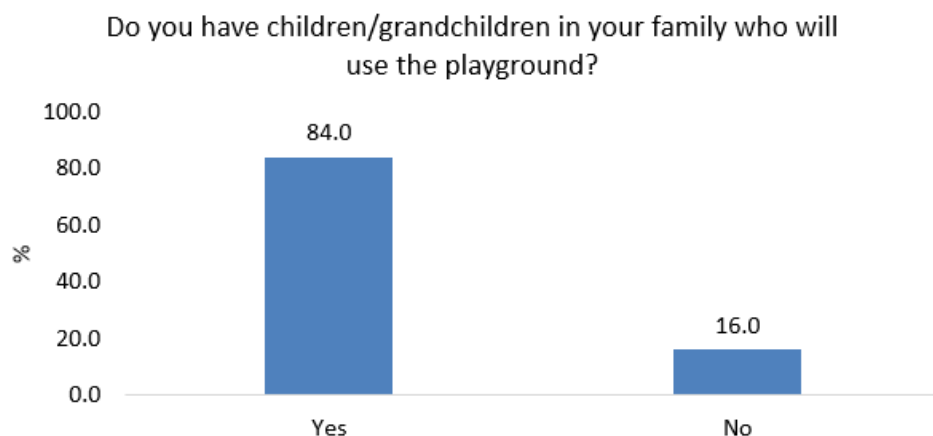
Question 1 - We want to make sure we provide the right facilities to meet local need. To help us, please tell us the age groups you think we should cater for.

In total 71 respondents completed question 1. Overall, the highest percentage was for the 5-7 year age group, 58 respondents thought this was the right age (81.7%). The 1-4 year age group was second with 77.5% (55 respondents).



Question 2 - Do you have children or grandchildren in your family who will use the playground?

In total 75 respondents completed this question and 63 respondents answered yes (84.0%).



Question 3 - Please rank the following play features in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 8 the least.

This question asked respondents to rank 8 play features in order of importance. Not included, in the list, were swinging (e.g. all types of swings, including basket swings), sliding (e.g. chutes and slides)

and climbing (e.g. net climbers, climbing walls and climbing units), as they are considered essential and will be incorporated within the design.

76 respondents completed this question. The following chart shows the average rating for each play feature. With 1 being the respondents' favourite play feature, the lower the rating the more popular the play feature was.

The most important play feature was play structures (e.g. larger multi-use units incorporating multiple play features, i.e. climbing, sliding, agility and social, usually a centre-piece), in total 61 respondents had this in their top three most important play features.

The second most important play feature was balancing/agility (e.g. beams, stepping stones, trampoline, monkey bars, overhead ladders and crawling tunnels), in total 54 respondents had this in their top three most important play features.

The third most important play feature was imaginary/educational (e.g. role play, panels, small playhouses and animals/features), in total 30 respondents had this in their top three most important play features.



Question 4 - If you would like to be involved and kept up-to-date on this work, please provide your email address below

48 respondents left email addresses to be involved and kept up-to-date on the development of the playground.

Question 5: If you would like to provide any other feedback about the playground.

In total 33 respondent left a comment. The main themes of the comments (all those mentioned more than 3 times) were:

- A request for seating / benches (mentioned in around 7 comments)
- Park should cater for younger children (mentioned in around 5 comments)
- Concern about possible anti-social behaviour at the park (mentioned in around 4 comments) – two of these respondents did not want the park to be refurbished.
- A request for some sort of football or basketball area (mentioned in around 3 comments)
- The park should be for a range of ages (mentioned in around 3 comments)

Appendix A – copy of the letter



Council Offices, Farnborough Road,
Farnborough, Hants. GU14 7JU
Tel: (01252) 398 399

Website: www.rushmoor.gov.uk

Our reference:
SBRConsultation1

Contact: Laura Smith

E-mail: Laura.smith@rushmoor.gov.uk

Date: 23rd September 2026

Dear Resident,

Re: Upgrade of Sunnybank Road Playground

I'm pleased to inform you that Rushmoor Borough Council is renewing the playground at Sunnybank Road, removing old equipment and surfacing and replacing with new.

The site is one of five playgrounds in Farnborough & Aldershot that are set to be refurbished or renewed over the next two years after Rushmoor Borough Council's Cabinet agreed to a £400,000 investment programme.

Given the close proximity of Meon Close playground to Sunnybank Road, we carried out a separate targeted consultation to the properties within Dart Road, Meon Close and Mole Close to consider the future of the Meon Close playground. The results showed that Meon Close is little used and the option to spend the full budget of £100,000 at Sunnybank Road was preferred. This new consultation will help to inform us of the priority age ranges for the new equipment at Sunnybank Road.

As you live close to Sunnybank Road playground, we would like to hear your views on what play provision should be included in at the site. Please visit www.rushmoor.gov.uk/sunnybankroadplaygroundsurvey for the short online survey, which will take about 5 minutes to complete. Or you can scan the QR code included at the bottom of this letter, with your phone or tablet, which will take you through to the survey. If you don't have access to a computer, please call (01252) 398399 and we will send a survey form to you.

We use the information you provide to influence the final design of the playground. Companies are invited to design a playground based on the feedback we receive and those who provide their email will be kept informed and invited to be involved in the evaluation process for the final design that will be installed.

The closing date for completion of the survey is Monday 12th October 2026.



Yours faithfully,

Laura Smith
Projects Officer

Ian Harrison – Chief Executive

Karen Edwards – Executive Director

customerservices@rushmoor.gov.uk

www.rushmoor.gov.uk

Appendix B – copy of the survey

Sunnybank Road playground

Introduction

The majority of the current equipment at Sunnybank Road playground is old and at end of life. We will be replacing it with new, updated equipment which we aim to have in place by the end of May 2027.

The results of this survey will help us determine what type of play equipment to include in the new playground and what age groups should be prioritised.

Please take a few minutes to provide your views by completing this short survey by Monday 12th October.

To view our consultation survey privacy notice please visit www.rushmoor.gov.uk/consultationprivacynotice



1. We want to make sure we provide the right facilities to meet local need. To help us, please tell us the age groups you think we should cater for. (Please tick all that you think apply)

1 - 4 years	☐
5 - 7 years	☐
8 - 12 years	☐

2. Do you have children/grandchildren in your family who will use the playground? (Please tick one)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

With the available budget the following play activities are considered essential to be incorporated within the design:

Swinging (eg all types of swings including basket swings)
 Sliding (eg chutes and slides)
 Climbing (eg net climbers, climbing walls and climbing units)

3. Please rank the following play features in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 8 the least. You can either select a number for each item or drag and drop the item into place (If you are using a mobile phone or tablet you may not be able to drag and drop the items into place, so please use the drop down to choose the number for each play feature).

Spinning/rotating (eg roundabouts, carousels and spinners)
Rocking (eg spring animals and see-saws)
Balancing/agility (eg beams, stepping stones, trampoline, monkey bars, overhead ladders and crawling tunnels)
Dynamic/technique/movement (eg multi-directional movement, items imitating surfing/skateboarding and more challenging requiring practice to master)
Imaginary/educational (eg role play, panels, small playhouses and animals/features)
Play structures (eg Larger multi-use units incorporating multiple play features, i.e. climbing, sliding, agility and social, usually a centre-piece)
Cooperative/competitive play (eg items designed for paired/multi-use enabling competitive/cooperative play)
Others - sensory, graphics/games, social (eg panels, differing materials, floor graphics i.e. hopscotch & social seating)

4. If you would like to be involved and kept up-to-date on this work, please provide your email address below (optional).

We will only use your email in order to continue to communicate with you about Sunnybank Road playground, including the proposed designs and inviting you to be part of the evaluation process to decide the final design that will be installed. We will also email you about the opening of the playground and inform you of any other news relevant to the playground.

5. If you would like to provide any other feedback about the playground, please do so in the box below:

Thank you for completing our survey