

## Community response to proposal for new children’s play area and outdoor gym in Crowmarsh – April to June 2017

From April to June 2017, via the Crowmarsh News, Primary School newsletter and Parish Council web site, local residents were asked if they would support the construction of a new children’s play area and outdoor gym at the Recreation ground. They could respond by adding signatures and comments to sheets at the local Primary School, Village Shop or online at the Crowmarsh website. As a stimulus they were shown a picture of a potential design for these new facilities

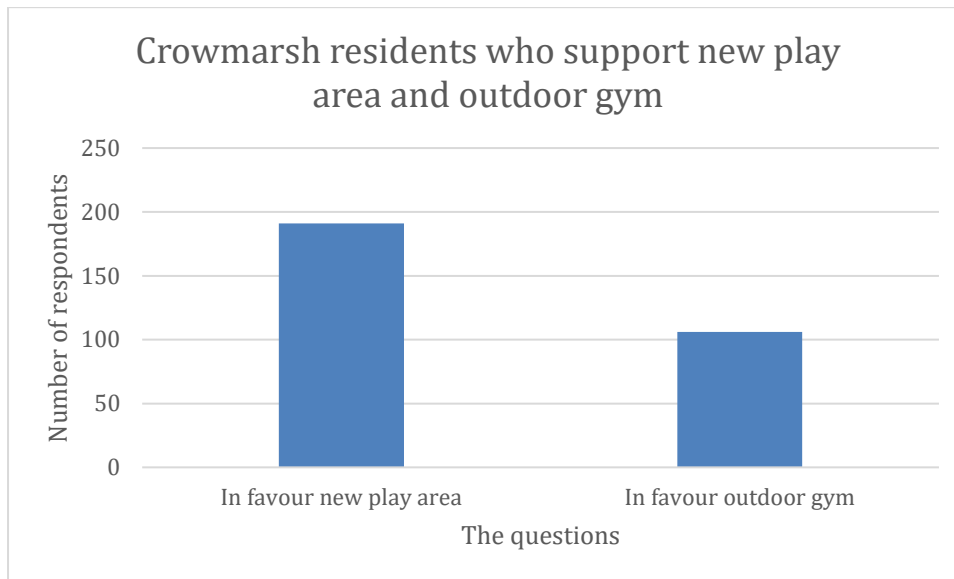


Figure 1. Results of the community survey

We collected 215 signatures in support of a new play area and 126 supporters for an outdoor gym (Fig. 1).

People were also asked to give their age. Not all did so, but from the responses we could look at the range of support across different age groups in the community (Fig. 2). What was very pleasing was to see community support across all the age groups. Thus, not just children and their parents were supporters, but also older retired residents. This wide range of support was obtained possibly also because we are offering facilities not just for young children but also for older members of the community hoping to keep fit with the outdoor gym.

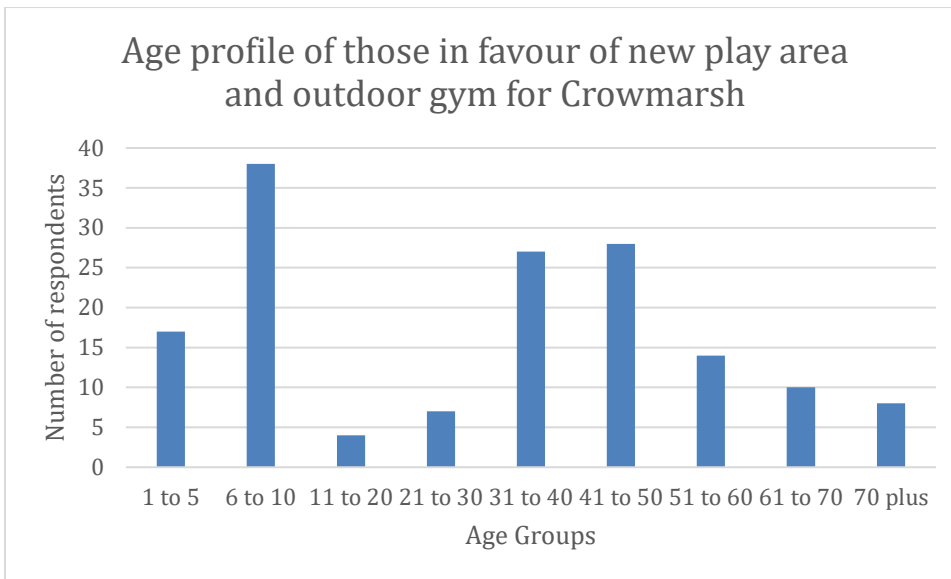


Figure 2. Age profile of those in support of new play area and outdoor gym

We have collated the comments left by supporters below. A number of themes stand out:

- Great enthusiasm and excitement at the possibility of new facilities
- Dissatisfaction with the current aging facilities
- Wanting the widest possible age range to be catered for
- Some children put in a request for zip wire, roundabouts, bigger swings, mounds, better climbing challenge and a tunnel

## Comments added by local residents

1. This looks top! Well done to those behind this.
2. These would be amazing and such an asset for all ages
3. Need to replace old equipment which could get dangerous
4. My grandchildren like the present play area but would love a better one.
5. We already use the play area when friends and family visit, and would appreciate the improved equipment options.
6. It would be great to have one like Henley's
7. Good idea, especially given that there will be more houses in the area soon.
8. We have 3 children (& would use this facility daily on the way to Crowmarsh School).
9. The proposed facilities are an excellent idea and will help encourage children to spend more time outdoors and keep fit
10. It would be great if the new playground could cater for all ages. Thanks.
11. I'd like to see the same for the older, less mobile members of our community, right next to the children's playground. It will stimulate all generations of our community.
12. It would be lovely to see play equipment suitable for a range of ages.
13. My children go to Crowmarsh School and have many an event at the 2 village halls. It would be lovely if we could also enjoy a fabulous play park in Crowmarsh instead of having to go to Wallingford.
14. Crowmarsh Rec is a fantastic facility for both local people and visitors to the area, complementing the riverside facilities. I'm sure new equipment would be well used.

15. Please remove the existing play wooden bridge as it is dangerous for little fingers when others are walking across. Please make the new facilities appeal to all ages in one enclosed space (with gates) so that little ones are safe along with older siblings.
16. Variety and options for imagination to flow are key.
17. Every other town has a good one. Think we need a new modern play area for both kids and fitness.
18. Let's get more children active outdoors this would be fabulous area to meet other parents carers etc
19. Outdoor gym would be excellent for the teens and the younger ones need more things to do outside
20. Great idea for the local community to help adults and children stay fit and get active.
21. I have three children aged between 1year and 12 years and this will be a much used facility.
22. I would welcome the opportunity to help in recommendations / comments on the choice equipment, from experience of visiting many children s play areas with my son and seeing items that are popular, and from a visual point of view.as a designer.
23. Look at the better facilities at Harwell Rec, Aston Upthorpe and Ewelme
24. Overdue
25. Slide is too hot in summer
26. Yes, new play area needed
27. I like roundabouts!
28. I think everyone will like the new play equipment
29. I would like a tunnel
30. Very important
31. Grown up swings, area for small children, climbing equipment
32. We currently travel to other villages who have better play equipment
33. Yes, totally needed
34. Much needed
35. Great idea, much needed
36. Brilliant Idea
37. Good idea especially for teenagers
38. Children can play safe