

Report on the consultation held by The Friends of Spencer Park and Recreation Ground on developments of the park.

Methodology

The Friends of Spencer Park group developed a consultation strategy to consult with local people and park users on their plans for the future of the park. A survey form was designed and approved by the Park Team of Coventry City Council (the park owners.) (See Appendix 1) It was decided to consult with people in several ways:

1. The survey form was put into the April 2013 edition of ECHO the local community newspaper, which has a circulation of c 3,000 issues each month.
2. The survey was available at local events in the park
3. At the Friends stall at the Earlsdon Festival.
4. The survey form was given to bowling groups who use the park
5. Copies were available for people to collect from the park office and Earlsdon Library.
6. The survey form was also available to download from our website.

234 forms were completed. 99 from the Earlsdon Festival; 17 from the big lunch in the park; 43 from the ECHO; 26 From Bands in the Park; 15 from a children's event in the park and 34 from Park users left in the box at the park.

Some of the questions asked allowed for multiple answers, so not all percentages will add up to 100%

Results from the survey – Spencer Park

Usage of the park

31% of respondents used Spencer Park with friends; 55% with family; 18% on their own and 21% did not use Spencer Park.

Activities undertaken in Spencer Park

The activities the respondents did in the park are: Walk 52%; Bowl 8%; Meet Friends 23%; Tennis 16% Dog walk 9% and attend an event 46%.

Other activities can be found in Appendix 2

Activities people would like to see in Spencer Park

Climbing and scrambling 70%; Swinging 61%; Imaginary play 52% and Sliding and balancing 62%

Other activities can be found in Appendix

Three features people would like to see in Spencer Park

Swings 49%; Slides 31%; Seating 30%; Yew hedge maze 27%; Sensory garden 24%; Painted play area 21%; Elevated house 19%; Roundabout 18%; Shelter 14%; Wooden stepping stones 14%; Enclosed hedge or fence 13%; and Logs 12%.

6% of respondents did not want play equipment in the park.

Suggestions for Spencer Park from the open questions

After analysis of the comments some common themes have emerged. There is support to include trampolines, climbing walls; monkey bars and zip wires in the play area. Some people would like an enclosed children’s play area. The provision for more benches, bins and picnic tables and a shelter within the park are suggested by several people. There is a suggestion having a café in the park, which could possibly be run by the local community. There are people who would like the area to be dogs free or to make dogs to be kept on a lead. There are 11 comments not wanting a play area at all.

Other ideas can be found in Appendix 4

Spencer Recreation Ground

The survey also asked about Spencer Recreation Ground (larger park by railwayline) and its current use was: Yes with friends 24%; Yes with family 33%; Yes on my own 21% and No 42%.

Activities taking place in Spencer Recreation Ground

Walk or run 42%; Football 17%; Swing 11%; Meet friends 11%; Walk Dog 8%; and Basketball 5%

Other activities please see Appendix 5

Three activities people would like to see in Spencer Recreation Ground:

Climbing and scrambling 51%; MUGA 49%; Swing and gliding 43%; Fitness circuit and equipment 39%; Shelter and seating 37% and Football pitch 31%

Suggestions for Spencer Recreation ground from the comments

The most common suggestions are for more litter bins, benches and a five-a-side football pitch. Other ideas for Spencer Recreation Ground please see Appendix 6

Survey Respondents Profile:-

Age:

Under 10 years	18%	10 – 18 years	10%	19 – 34 years	12%
35 – 49 years	28%	50 – 64 years	15%	65 and over	17%

Gender

37% of the respondents were male and 67% were female, this reflects that fact that a lot of mothers filled in the survey for their children.

Ethnic Breakdown

87% White British; 1% White Irish; 4% Any other White background; 1% Mixed White and Black Caribbean; 2% Mixed White and Asian; 1% Asian Indian; 1% Black African and 2% Any other ethnic group.

June 2013

Appendix 1 - Survey Q2 other

Run around look at birds
Cycle and cricket
Play sport
Walk through to get to central six and on occasions take my daughter for a run around.
Play with children, bike riding etc.
Playing with kids with own equipment, balls etc.
Take children cycling
Cycle
Read
Play with friends, snowballing, cycling with stabilisers when young.
If there was a cafe we could have a drink and use the play facilities
Picnic, sit down and play with daughter.
Keep existing building and toilets.
Ride bikes, scooters, climb trees, run and race.
Walk through on school run.
Climb trees
Let children run around.
We have organised three birthday parties for my daughter in the park and her friends
Cycle through park to work
Visit many parks with children
Sit and read.
Basketball
Picnic
Cycle
Relax in grass area.
Sledging in winter, riding scooter, kicking ball
Sledging in winter, riding bike, bat and ball
Cricket, snowmen and hide and seek
Walk through on way to town
Go on my bike, play football
Play with kids.
Bike and football on lawn.
Just admire the flowers.
My little girls (2+4) like to scoot there and play hide and seek.
Take grandchildren up for a run around

Appendix 2 - Survey Q3 Other

Play area to have fencing around it similar to the picture
Evening – colour lighting area
More seating, possibly with sheltered area so dog walkers can shelter from rain.
Cafe.
Needs nothing ambitious, just logs/ hopscotch and snail circle. – things that are easy to put in.
Small trampolines that are set into ground – like in Broomfield Park.
Accessible play for wheelchair users.
Cycling
Sand pit
Small play ground, including swings for toddlers.

Picnic / BBQ area

Trampoline, wooden pirate ship.

I like the area as it is no changes needed.

Paddling pool

I feel that all of these activities are already there. My daughter has done all of these activities without play equipment.

Zip wire

Play equipment for small children 2 – 6 years

None – I like it quiet so I can read. War memorial park has play equipment, we do not need it here.

Recreation ground for this!

Picnic area cafe.

Play ground for older children.

Spinning bowls.

Caves, cars climbing trees

Zip wire, electric cars exercise equipment

More sports based activities: mini tennis; petanque/boules

5 a side pitch, tree house, maze(big) artificial cricket pitch, crazy golf

Small pool, removal of concrete mess.

Tables and benches, themed nights (Arabian nights artwork) BBQ area

Cycle tack riding, badminton, zip line, climbing wall.

Tunnels, building

Trampoline and next to it a play set for really young kids. Monkey bars and trampolines.

None no play area.

None please keep small park for adults and older children.

Information boards to simply explain plants in the park, wildlife, bugs etc to children.

To include a steering wheel if possible always extremely popular in parks I've seen.

Bands in Park

Appendix 3 - Survey Q5

Small climbing wall

Climbing frame; concrete table tennis

More supervision to stop youths playing football on bowling green. CCTV to cover the park

Shelter and enclosed spaces i.e maze would unfortunately increase ASB. Open space is best, visible to all.

I would prefer to see developments in the recreation ground – Spencer park is a beautiful and special place.

A theatre stage/ band stand for entertainments that are outdoor – thus enabling the Criterion theatre chance at outdoor plays & at festival time there is a place for music outdoors (24)

More flowers

Mini trampoline, a picnic table and benches.

This needs to cater for small children on old tennis court / have place for adults to sit as they watch them play/ cafe

Rocks inlaid into ground to climb on as in Broomfield park

Little trampolines, climbing frame, monkey bars.

Small rocking horses.

Mini golf/ crazy golf cafe

Tables for chess, cafe and seating for cafe. Caged sports area.

More trees for children to play on.

Climbing trees

Tunnels original trees tennis should stay
Small cafe or a place to buy tea/coffee and ice cream
To make it an area that parents would want to take their children.
Kids suggest a zip wire.
Water play and sand.
More trees
Willow tunnel
Water park
Anything child focussed.
Zip wire and climbing frame.
Zip wire, trampolines, slides monkey bars,
I think it would be great if there could be a community cafe open in the summer at weekends. Local groups who want to fund raise could opt for particular weekends in the summer.
I am gutted that the natural hedging and overgrown bushes which provide much needed wildlife habitat have been torn out and cut back revealing the fencing to Broadway.
Seating.
Boulders and monkey bars.
I like it how it is now.
Just be fantastic for children to have somewhere to play at Spencer Park.
Outdoor swimming pool.
It should be closed at dusk and no dogs!
No dog area – there are still dog owners who are not responsible.
More trees for hide and seek games.
Better up keep of the crown green and edge, ditch and seats.
Climbing frames.
Warden for both park , Spencer memorial restored and gated.
Sandpit small football pitch
No sand
Enclosed, safe play area to suit a wide age range
Dress up place, castle, imagination trail in the trees
Mini bike and scooter play area, tunnel tyre swing, princes and princess play trampoline castle
As the park is primarily used by dog walkers, I think any play area should be fenced off, therefore keeping everyone happy. The Memorial park is a prime example how not to do it.
Week end 5-a-side tournament (family / mixed) a social activity, cafe with good coffee.
Less noise in the park.
Just access for Earlsdon Residents at certain times, more bins, cake shop
Baby changing area
Giant climbing web, trampoline
Smooth paths for rollerblading, less dog poo!
Keep the small park for adults to sit, talk or meet friends i.e. a kiddie free, a quite area.
Trampolines. As a user of the crown green bowling, I support this development but we must ensure seating for those watching bowls is provided.
The old tennis court which has been neglected for years, should be turf.
Play area suitable for under 5's; different equipment to memorial park; outdoor play ground; support and meeting groups- weekly?
Dogs to be kept on a short lead at all times – no exceptions. General and dog waste bins.
Couple of tables for activities or picnics to attract families.
Putting a fence around any play area to stop dogs going in would be good.
Football goal
Goal posts
Skate park.

Yes I do think Spencer Park should have a play house. (Under 10)

Drinking fountain maybe; as per many years ago.

A small seating pavilion for the bowling greens, with benches around so people can sit and watch the bowls.

Shelter.

Make this area a NO DOGS zone; if this is not possible then fence off an area i.e. old grass tennis courts to create a no dogs zone. Also no dogs in children's play area. If dogs allowed then strictly on leads only and No FOULING!!!. Picnic tables.

I use both parks everyday, dog walking. The small park should make use of the pretty building and have a small cafe, tables and chairs outside. Games in the park should be restricted to tennis and bowls. It could quite easily accommodate small concerts and outside plays. (Warwick Uni did " A Midsummer Nights Dream" about 2 years ago and it was fab).

Appendix 4 - Survey Q7 other

Cycle

Walk to central six or let daughter have a run.

Sunbathe, picnics

Hard surface play area not in small park. A Quoin (3 standing stones with 1 slab stone across with a triangular hedged garden layout, by Albany Road entrance. A stone mason could carve on a horse, the sun a fertility symbol.(24)

I used to play football and cricket.

Play with children.

Enjoying weather sun bathing

Leaf catching, Walk to work

Sit and relax

Use tyre swing, play football

Climb trees, play games and have fun

Walk through on way to station, pick up litter left by revellers.

Cycling

Mini football pitch

Play with ball.

Fly model planes.

Cycle

Sledging down path.

Walk through on way to town.

Scooter around the edge.

Cricket.

Just admire the green open space and flowers.

I only use it to walk through to get to town – what a waste of a fantastic place.

Appendix 5 - Survey Q9 Recreation Ground

An area for teenagers to meet and hang out, otherwise they take over the younger areas.

Could there be potential for a community garden, where schools, youth groups etc can learn skills and take responsibility for their local area, thus instilling respect, self-achievement and engagements skills.

Areas away from the houses where older children hang out, so they move away from pavilion in small park.

I love the crocus. It would be nice to plant more down on the railway track side. More seating required.

I am a little concerned that improvements will lead to an increase in poor late night behaviour from young people.

If it is used for football etc it would be good to have changing rooms and showers and a small sports club room.

Concrete table tennis table x 2 would give hours of pleasure to teenagers and adults.

How about a cafe.

Mini golf/ crazy golf cafe picnic tables

BBQ area, pathway around the whole area for running, cycling, more plants and beds.

More benches, shelters more litter bins.

Five a side football pitch

Lido

Sun bathing equipment e.g. beds, cushions and towels, swimming.

Paddling pool, swimming pool

Artificial cricket pitch

Low hedge on the boundaries.

Plenty of litter bins

More dog waste bins

Mountain biking.

Wildlife section nature watch

It would be good to have an enclosed sports pitch as it's quite a chore to collect footballs from across the field.

May be more seats around perimeter of park.

I like the open space of the recreation ground.

Maybe not a shelter as it could attract night time ASB

Skateboard park

Badminton pitches

Anything family focused. I used to go to Spencer Park as a child but do not feel safe there on my own with kids – lots of dis-used drug needles and feel vulnerable there in large isolated space

Adventure play ground.

Obstacle course.

Cross Road at Spencer Ave and Dalton Road very dangerous for cyclists coming from town due to parked cars, obscuring visibility – need a zebra crossing.

Keep planting trees and let nature and children make their own fun like they have for centuries!

Better litter facilities especially in summer.

See saw standing up, obstacle course, younger and older climbing frames, twirly slide and swimming pool.

I would definitely use an outdoor gym.

Swing seat not reliable and gets overfilled and broken.

Just keep it tidy with plants. No play area War Memorial park has these facilities.

Diagonal paved/ gravelled path.

Zip wire

Lots for children

Community orchard

It would be really nice to have a more defined play area for younger children (e.g. swings, slides, climbing frames etc.)

Similar things to Coombe park i.e. climbing scrambling.

Skate park, cafe

Cycle track (like the one they have in Solihull)

Clear pitch markings for multi games i.e. football and rounder's

Would still like it to be dog friendly.

Parking necessary between the two parks in Spencer Avenue. !!!

Parking need in Spencer Avenue for 3 hours every Monday pm.

Can any area have a sufficient hedge around it.

Petting zoo (with micro pigs) rounder's pitch, hill for sledging, zip wire, crazy golf, maze.

More signs for dog walkers to pick up dog mess, Toilets need to be updated and cleaned. Hire of the park for private functions (at a fee).

Maze mini wood, tunnels giant climbing web.

A hut for relaxing.

Monkey bars, trampolines, zip wire.

This could be an activity park for all ages with a section for the younger children, by keeping all of these together it would leave the small park a place of quite for more senior members of the society.

The biggest problem with the bowling on the small park is people playing football on the greens.

Multiple small, well-kept pitches on the rec may prevent this to an extent.

A comfortable sheltered area for parents and minders to sit and be able to watch children playing is important, but it may be difficult to prevent older children using such an area for alcohol and drug use.

More dog poo bins!; clearer bike route; formal path across the middle.

Litter bins by play area _ would like more seating but think it would be abused.

Plenty of general and dog waste bins.

Spencer Park should have some play houses and a rugby pitch.

Basketball area maybe as per games area with hard surface above.

More benches and picnic tables.

The large park should have much more play equipment (Swings slide etc, group games (Football etc can be played there.