

SURLINGHAM PLAY AREA

PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT

APRIL 2026



Prepared by: Surlingham Parish Council



Safety



Accessibility



Natural
Features



1. Introduction

Surlingham Parish Council (SPC) conducted a public consultation in April 2026 to gather views on the current condition and future development of Surlingham Play Area. The consultation was promoted through the Village Hall, Facebook, Surlingham.org, and hard-copy questionnaires available at Teles Patisserie and Yare Valley Farm Shop. SPC also engaged Surlingham School, providing a child-friendly questionnaire.

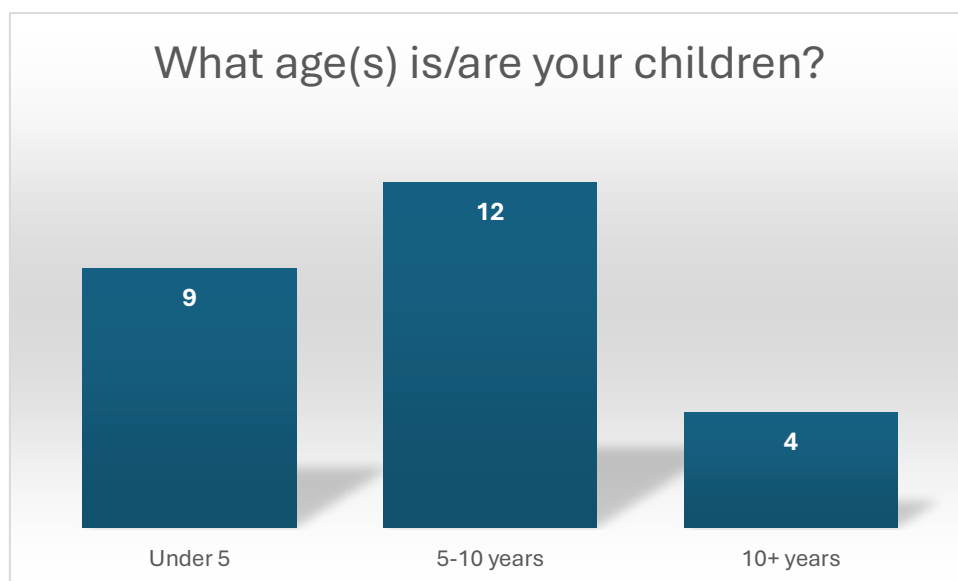
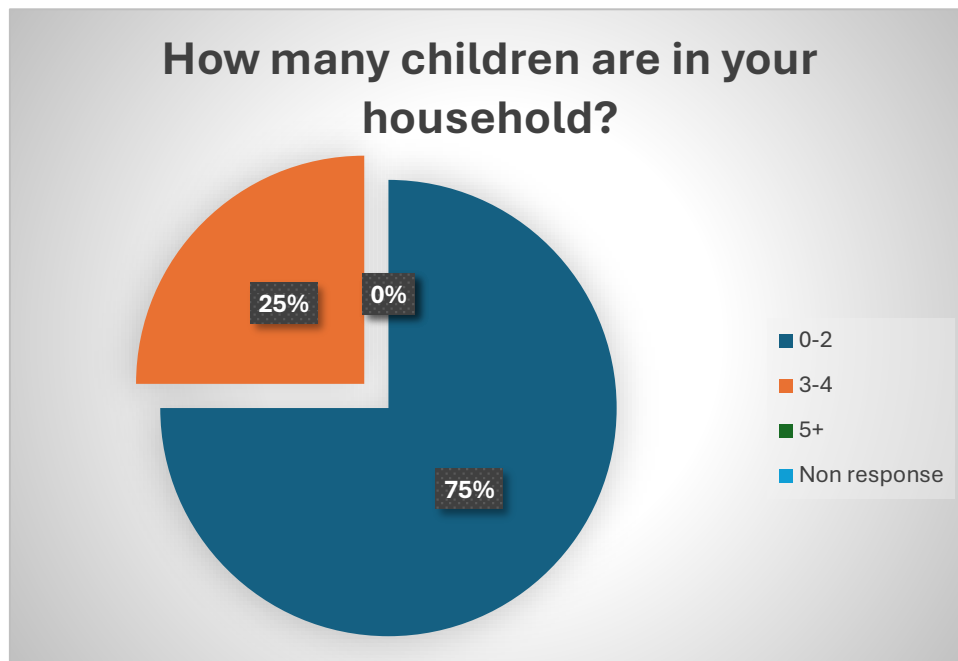
The consultation aimed to understand satisfaction levels, refurbishment priorities, accessibility concerns, and preferred equipment types to inform future decision-making.

2. Participation Overview

A total of **21** households responded, representing 2.9% of the 725 households with access to the questionnaire. Two children also returned their questionnaires, from the school survey.

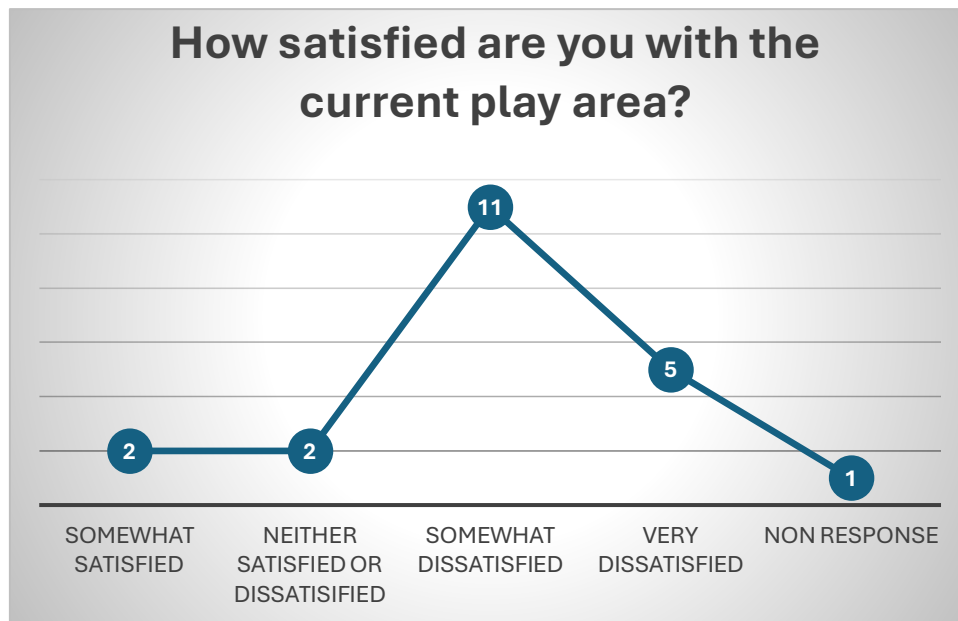
While participation was low, the responses provide valuable insight into the needs and expectations of families who actively use or wish to use the play area.

3. Household and Age Profile



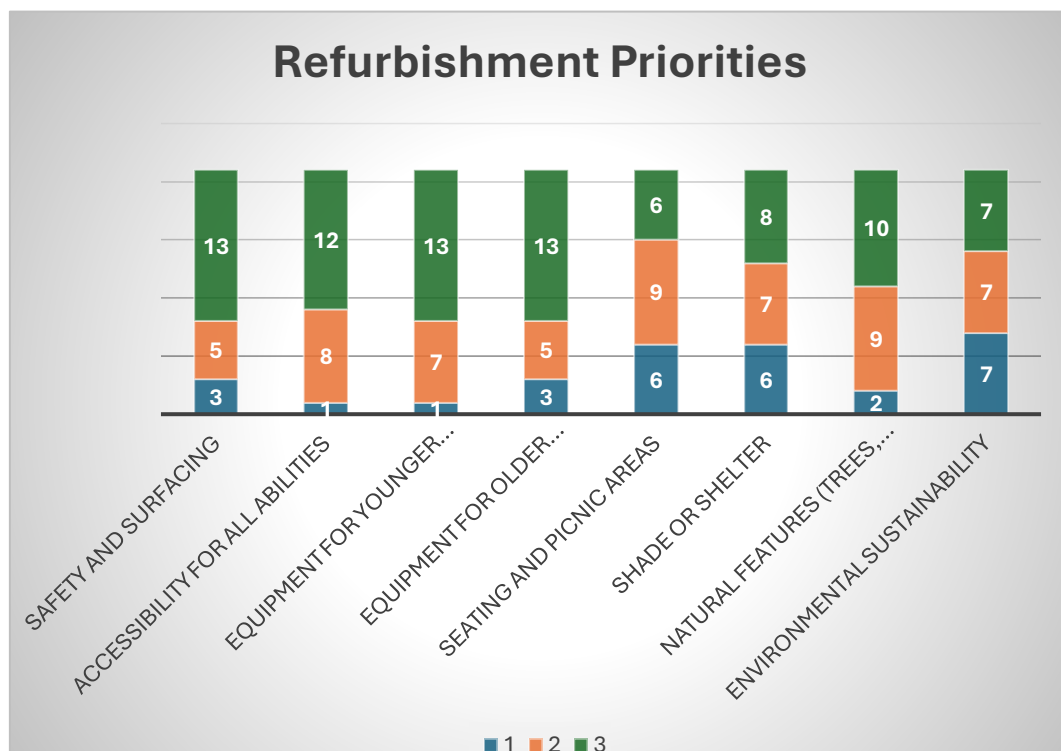
The majority of children represented are aged 5–10, followed by under-5s. Equipment suitable for these age groups should be prioritised.

4. Satisfaction with the Current Play Area



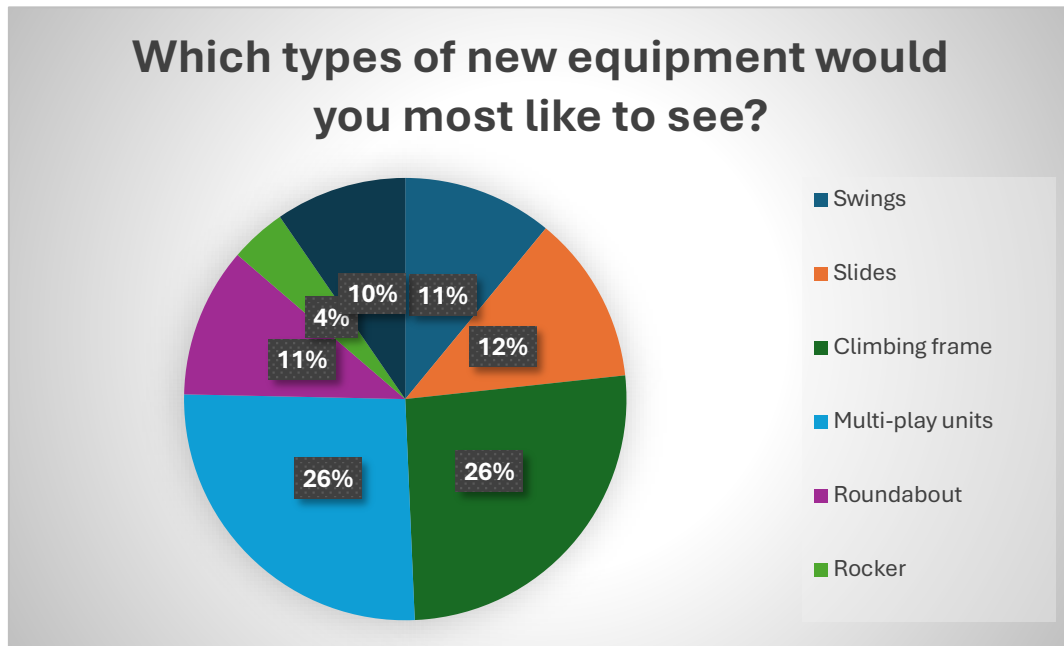
No respondents were “Very Satisfied”. The dominant response was neutral, but dissatisfaction outweighs satisfaction. This indicates a clear need for improvement.

5. Refurbishment Priorities



Safety, accessibility and equipment for all ages should be the main focus when considering the refurbishment.

6. Preferred New Equipment



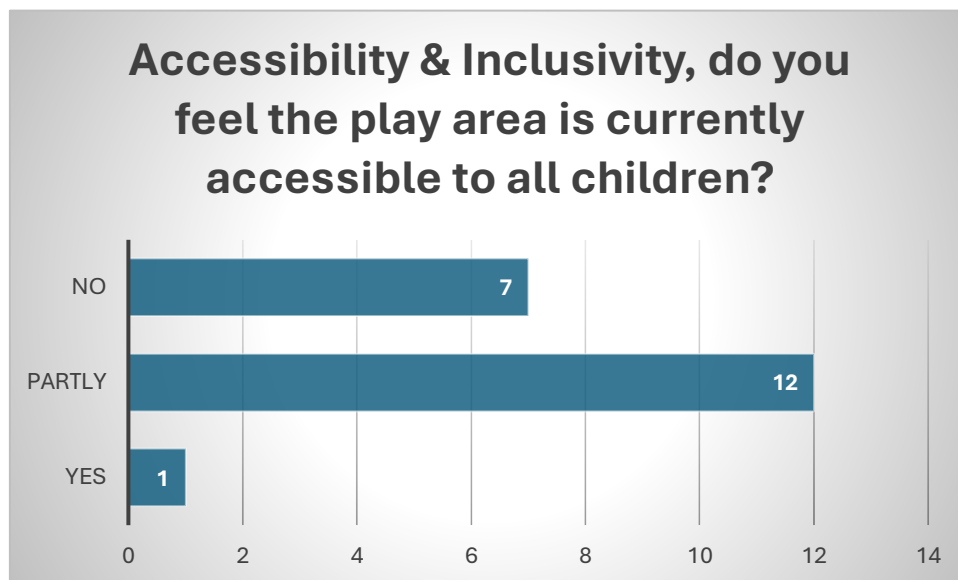
There is strong demand for multi-functional, physically engaging equipment, alongside inclusive and sensory options.

7. Safety & Maintenance Perception

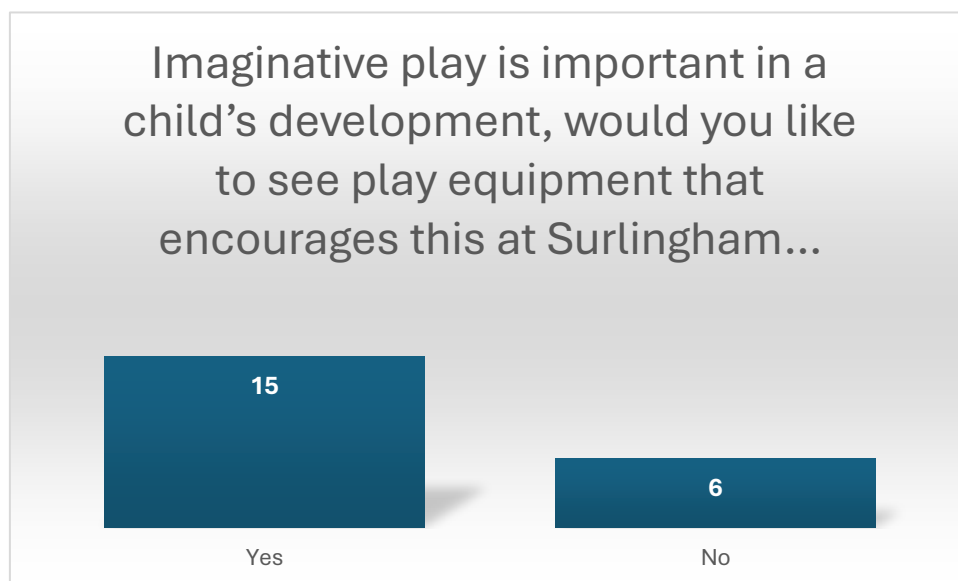


Safety perceptions are mixed, with equal numbers at both ends of the scale. This reinforces the priority placed on surfacing, maintenance, and equipment condition.

8. Accessibility & Inclusivity



9. Imaginative Play



Strong support exists for imaginative and creative play features, such as themed structures, natural play elements, or role-play equipment.

10. Key Findings

- I. The play area is not meeting expectations for safety, accessibility, or equipment variety.
- II. No respondents are fully satisfied with the current provision.
- III. Families want modern, multi-functional equipment suitable for both younger and older children.
- IV. Safety and surfacing improvements are essential.
- V. Accessibility is a major concern.
- VI. There is strong interest in natural features, shade, and environmentally sustainable design.
- VII. Imaginative play is valued and should be incorporated.

Although response numbers were low, the consultation provides clear direction for the future of Surlingham Play Area. The community's priorities are consistent and actionable: safety, accessibility, modern equipment, natural features, and imaginative play. By addressing these areas, SPC can deliver a play space that is safer, more inclusive, and better suited to the needs of local families.

11. Recommendations

N.B. These are all subject to permission being granted by the landowner - Surlingham Church and Poors Trust.

- Address safety concerns
- Install multi-play units and climbing structures, incorporating imaginative play
- Introduce natural and sensory features (work with Community Orchard?)
- Add seating and picnic areas