

# Berrycroft Play Area Survey

## REPORT OF THE RESULTS OCTOBER 2024



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# **METHODOLOGY**

## **BACKGROUND**

Vale of White Horse District Council are responsible for several play areas across the district which are open at all times. The Berrycroft Play Area has been locked for many years between dusk and dawn from Monday to Saturday, and all day on Sunday. The council has reviewed the policy and proposed to bring Berrycroft Play Area in line with the other play areas in the district.

## **ENGAGEMENT METHODS**

- Letters were delivered to 41 properties adjacent to and surrounding Berrycroft Play Area.
- Posters were displayed in and around the play area to inform regular users.
- The survey was shared with 14 key stakeholders, such as the local town council and ward members.
- Targeted social media posts were shared on the council's social media accounts (e.g. Facebook, X, Instagram) and via the Nextdoor application to help promote the survey.

## **ABOUT THE SURVEY**

The survey ran for a four- week period from Tuesday 13 August until 11:59pm on Tuesday 10 September 2024. 34 responses were received, with 32 per cent of responses received from residents who identified as 'adjacent to the play area, and a user'.

## **THE REPORT**

A summary of the comments in the survey are included in this report. Any personal information supplied to us within the comments that could identify anyone have been removed. Further information on data protection is available in our general consultation's privacy statement on our [South webpage](#) or [Vale webpage](#).

## KEY FINDINGS

This section of the report provides a summary of the results received to the Berrycroft Play Area survey. A total of 34 responses were received.

### How far do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Berrycroft Play Area to be open at all times?

100 per cent of respondents answered this question. 56 per cent agree with the proposal for Berrycroft Play Area to be open at all times, whilst 32 per cent disagree.

Option	Total	Per cent
Agree	19	56%
Neither agree nor disagree	4	12%
Disagree	11	32%

### Agreement with the proposal

You have agreed with the proposal for Berrycroft Play Area to be open at all times. If you have any comments you would like to make, please provide them below.

Summary	Total	Per cent
Agreement with open on Sundays	6	18%
Important to have access to the play area	6	18%
Potential increase in antisocial behaviour	5	15%
Curfew required	4	12%
Agreement with proposal	2	6%
Equipment revamp required	1	3%
Maintenance is required	1	3%

41 per cent of respondents provided comments to this question which have been summarised in a table below.

18 per cent of the comments agree with the play area being open on Sundays, with some including points around the need for a curfew (3 comments), whilst others raised concerns of the potential increase in antisocial behavior if the park is open during the night (3 comments). Comments received included:

- *At least open on a Sunday. It should be locked at night to prevent vandalism and any anti social behaviour.*
- *I think they should be locked from dusk till dawn but open 7 days a week if it's left open any later then it will attract groups of youths making noise and disturbing the neighbours especially through the summer months, children don't need to be in the play area after dark anyway but they should definitely be allowed access to the play area 7 days a week.*
- *I definitely agree that the area should be open on Sundays for children to use at the weekend. However, I'm a little concerned that leaving it open in the evenings will increase vandalism of the equipment and use by teens/young adults as we have encountered groups hanging around the play equipment and obstructing its use by young children on several occasions.*

18 per cent raised comments around the importance of having access to the play area to allow children and families to spend time outdoors. Some of the comments received were:

- *Children need more opportunities to get outside, engage in play and develop social skills with their peers,*
- *Outdoor play, green spaces and physical exercise are vital to the development of young people and this is a brilliant opportunity to bring our councils in line and help families spend more time outdoors.*

## Disagreement with the proposal

**You have disagreed with the proposal for Berrycroft Play Area to be open at all times, please provide your reason(s) why below.**

32 per cent of respondents provided comments to this question which have been summarised in a table below.

Summary	Total	Per cent
Potential increase in antisocial behaviour	9	26%
Curfew required	3	9%
Agreement with open on Sundays	1	3%
Other	1	3%

Of the 32 per cent that disagreed with the proposal, 26 per cent stated opening the play area all hours of the day has the potential to increase antisocial behaviour due to the remote location of the play area, and it may become an area for older children to congregate. For instance:

- As an out of the way play area & without a great deal of playground equipment it will inevitably become as area of misuse by older children.
- If the park remains open all the time, it will be open throughout the night which encourages teenagers to meet friends there/smoke/drink alcohol.
- Changing the opening hours will not facilitate access for the children for whom the playground is intended, but it will encourage adolescents to congregate at night time, increasing noise and the risk of anti-social behaviour (drinking, smoking, drugs).

The play area requiring a curfew if it's to be open all hours was highlighted in 9 per cent of the comments. Some of the comments received were:

- *Kids use parks, and kids are asleep at night. Hence it makes sense to lock the park when the kids are not using it.*
- *This space is not required to be unlocked 24/7. It is bordered on 3 sides by residents property with the fourth side bordered by a stream with residential gardens on the other side, therefore the play area is too close to residential property be used 24/7.*

- *If the park remains open all the time, it will be open throughout the night which encourages teenagers to meet friends there/smoke/drink alcohol. By having the park shut between certain times, it reduces this and the disruption to properties surrounding the area.*

3 per cent (1 comment) expressed agreement with opening the play area on Sundays *saying it doesn't make sense for it to be closed as it is a playground for children, and they tend to have more time with their parents on the weekend. It should be open on Sunday.*

The remaining 3 per cent (1 comment) was categorised as 'other' as it didn't relate directly to the question asked in the survey.

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**If you have any other comments about this consultation, please provide them below.**

26 per cent of respondents provided comments to this question which have been summarised in a table below.

Summary	Total	Per cent
Potential increase in antisocial behaviour	3	9%
Agreement with open on Sundays	2	6%
Suggest a trial period for proposal before making a decision	2	6%
Equipment revamp required	1	3%
Curfew required	1	3%
Adequate lighting required if open at night	1	3%
Change the use of the play area e.g. parking	1	3%
Ombudsman decision applied to the play area	1	3%
Police presence required	1	3%
Thankful for this consultation	1	3%

9 per cent of the comments received highlighted that opening the play area indefinitely may lead to an increase in antisocial behaviour due to the location of the play area. For instance, *this very hidden site might be used for more illicit purposes after dark - vandalism, fly-tipping and even drug dealing - if it is left unlocked overnight.* Another comment stated the play area will serve no useful purpose being open during the evening as young children won't want to use it at night. Saying it will merely encourage older adolescents increasing the risk of vandalism and anti-social behaviour (1 comment).

6 per cent expressed agreement with opening the play area on Sundays. Comments included being *open to the idea of this area being open on a Sunday* (1 comment) and another saying the *play area does need opening on a Sunday !!* (1 comment).

3 per cent suggest a trial period is undertaken before making a final decision on the proposal. One comment suggested being *consulted in one year to be able to feedback about any problems and whether the trial should be extended.*

## ABOUT THE RESPONDENTS

### Are you responding as

100 per cent of respondents answered this question. 32 per cent are a resident adjacent to the play area, and a user.

Option	Total	Per cent
A resident adjacent to the play area, and a user	11	32%
A resident adjacent to the play area, but not a user	6	18%
A resident living in Abingdon, but not a user of the play area	6	18%
A resident living in Abingdon, and a user of the play area	7	20%
An interested member of the public/individual outside of Abingdon	2	6%
A district, town/parish council representative	2	6%

### What is your main reason for using Berrycroft Play Area?

53 per cent of respondents answered this question. 47 per cent visit the play area with children to use the play equipment.

Option	Total	Per cent
For children to use the play equipment	16	47%
An area to socialise	1	3%
Other (please specify below)	1	3%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Better play equipment for the children as well</i></li><li><i>Closest play area</i></li></ul>		

### How often do you use the play area?

53 per cent of respondents answered this question. 15 per cent use the play area 1-2 times per week, followed by 1-2 times per month (12 per cent).

Option	Total	Per cent
Daily	1	3%
3-4 times per week	2	6%
1-2 times per week	5	15%
3-4 times per month	3	9%
1-2 times per month	4	12%
2-3 every 6 months	3	9%



To help us understand where you live in relation to the Berrycroft Play Area, please provide your street name and/or the first part of your postcode e.g. OX14 4. This question is optional.

### Street Name

85 per cent of respondents provided a street name. 31 per cent of respondents live along Berry Croft, followed by Evelin Road (14 per cent).

Street Name	Total	Per cent
Berry Croft	9	31%
Evelin Road	4	14%
Hazel Close	2	7%
Larkhill Place	2	7%
Buscot Drive	1	3%
Dunmore road	1	3%
Eason Drive	1	3%
Farm Road	1	3%
Fullwell Close	1	3%
Hanson Road	1	3%
Inkerman Close	1	3%
Larkhill	1	3%
Oxford Road	1	3%
The Grove	1	3%
Turnberry Close	1	3%

### First part of your postcode e.g. OX14 4

85 per cent of respondents provided a postcode. 41 per cent live within the OX14 1 area, followed by OX14 (24 per cent).

Postcode	Total	Per cent
OX14 1	12	41%
OX14	7	24%
Ox14 1Jl	2	7%
OX14 1JR	1	3%
OX14 1TL	1	3%
OX14 3	1	3%
OX14 4	1	3%
OX14 1BW	1	3%
OX14 2	1	3%

OX14 2DQ	1	3%
OX26	1	3%

**If you are responding on behalf of a district, town/parish council, business/organisation or other, what is its name?**

6 per cent of respondents answered this question and the organisation names are provided below.

- *Abingdon Town Councillor - Responding in individual capacity*
- *Responding as district ward councillor*

**How did you hear about the Berrycroft Play Area consultation?  
Tick all that apply.**

97 per cent of respondents answered this question. 35 per cent heard about the consultation via letter, followed by other social media accounts (20 per cent), a poster (15 per cent) and via the South and Vale district council social media accounts (15 per cent).

Option	Total	Per cent
Letter	12	35%
Other social media accounts	7	20%
Poster	5	15%
South and Vale district council social media accounts (e.g. Facebook, X, Instagram)	5	15%
Word of mouth	4	12%
South and Vale district council website	1	3%
Other (please specify below)	1	3%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cllr Lay Facebook post.</i></li> <li>• <i>I heard this from my fellow ward Councillors</i></li> </ul>		

## SURVEY

A paper copy of the Berrycroft Play Area: consultation is provided below.



# Berrycroft Play Area: Consultation

## Comment Form

Please complete this survey by 11:59pm on **Tuesday 10 September and** return it to: Freepost SOUTH AND VALE CONSULTATIONS (no other address information or stamp is needed)

As you may be aware, the council is responsible for several play areas across the Vale of White Horse district which are open at all times.

The Berrycroft Play Area has been locked for many years between dusk and dawn between Monday and Saturday, and all day on Sunday.



Image of Berrycroft Play Area, OX14 1JL, Abingdon.

The council are in the process of reviewing this policy and are proposing to bring Berrycroft Play Area in line with the other play areas in the district.

We are proposing that the Berrycroft Play Area gates be unlocked at all times, and we are inviting you to comment on this proposal. This consultation runs from **Tuesday 13 August until 11:59pm on Tuesday 10 September 2024.**

### **What happens next?**

Once the consultation has closed, we will review and consider all the comments raised. A consultation summary report of the results will be produced and published on our website. This report will be shared with the Head of Development and Corporate Landlord, who will make the final decision if appropriate on the outcome of the Berrycroft Play Area.

If you wish to be kept informed about the outcome of the consultation, please provide your email address within the survey.

### **Personal data**

If you are responding as an individual/member of the public, you have the option to provide your street name and the first part of your postcode. If you wish to be kept informed about the outcome of the consultation, please provide your email address. Your personal details will only be used to understand your connection to Berrycroft Play Area, and to inform you of the outcome of the consultation. Your personal details and any personal information you provide to the council within your comments that could identify you will not be published in the consultation summary report.

If you are responding on behalf of a district, town/parish council, business/organisation or other, we ask you to provide its name - the summary report will include this information. Further information on data protection is available in our privacy statement: [whitehorsedc.gov.uk/dataprotection](http://whitehorsedc.gov.uk/dataprotection)

If you have any questions about this consultation or require it in an alternative format (for example large print, Braille, audio, Easy Read and alternative languages), please email [jointheconversation@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:jointheconversation@southandvale.gov.uk) or call 01235 422425.

## About you

### 1. Are you responding as:

*Please select the most appropriate option.*

- ☐ A resident adjacent to the play area, and a user (**skip to Q3**)
- ☐ A resident adjacent to the play area, but not a user (**skip to Q5**)
- ☐ A resident living in Abingdon, but not a user of the play area (**skip to Q5**)
- ☐ A resident living in Abingdon, and a user of the play area (**skip to Q3**)
- ☐ A user of the play area, but not living in Abingdon (**skip Q3**)
- ☐ An interested member of the public/individual outside of Abingdon (**skip to Q5**)
- ☐ A district, town/parish council representative (**continue to Q2, then skip to Q6**)
- ☐ A business/organisation representative (**continue to Q2, then skip to Q6**)
- ☐ Other - please specify below (**continue to Q2, then skip to Q6**)

## About your district, town/parish council, business/organisation or other

### 2. If you are responding on behalf of a district, town/parish council, business/organisation or other, what is its name?

### 3. What is your main reason for using Berrycroft Play Area?

- ☐ For children to use the play equipment
- ☐ An area to exercise
- ☐ An area to socialise
- ☐ Other (please specify below)

**4. How often do you use the play area?**

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ 3-4 times per week
- ☐ 1-2 times per week
- ☐ 3-4 times per month
- ☐ 1-2 times per month
- ☐ 2-3 times every 6 months
- ☐ 2-3 times per year
- ☐ Not applicable

**5. To help us understand where you live in relation to the Berrycroft Play Area, please provide your street name and/or the first part of your postcode e.g. OX14 4. This question is optional.**

**Street name**

**First part of your postcode e.g. OX14 4**

**Berrycroft Play Area proposal**

**6. How far do you agree or disagree with the proposal for Berrycroft Play Area to be open at all times?**

- ☐ Agree (**answer Q7, then skip to Q9**)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (**skip to Q9**)
- ☐ Disagree (**skip to Q8**)
- ☐ I don't know (**skip to Q9**)

## Agreement with the proposal

**7. You have agreed with the proposal for Berrycroft Play Area to be open at all times. If you have any comments you would like to make, please provide them below.**

## Disagreement with the proposal

**8. You have disagreed with the proposal for Berrycroft Play Area to be open at all times, please provide your reason(s) why below.**

## Finally

**9. If you wish to be kept informed about the outcome of this consultation, please consent below and provide us with your email address.**

☐ I wish to be kept informed

Your email address will only be used for the purpose of contacting you about the outcome of the Berrycroft Play Area consultation. For further information about how we use your data, please refer to our privacy policy:  
[whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointheconversation](http://whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointheconversation)

Please provide your email address below

**10. If you have any other comments about this consultation, please provide them below.**

**11. How did you hear about the Berrycroft Play Area consultation? Tick all that apply.**

- ☐ Letter
- ☐ Email
- ☐ South and Vale district council social media accounts (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
- ☐ Other social media accounts
- ☐ Poster
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ South and Vale district council website
- ☐ Another website
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Parish Council
- ☐ Other (please specify below)

**Thank you for your comments.**

**How to send this form back to us**

Please return this comment form to:

**Freepost SOUTH AND VALE CONSULTATIONS** *(no other address information or stamp is needed)*