

Brackley Play-Space Consultation

Brackley Town Council recently adopted a “Children & Young People’s Play Strategy (2009 – 2014)” prepared by the play space working party, aligned with the priorities with the “Children and Young People’s Plan” and the “Change for Children” government agenda to promote delivery of the “Every Child Matters” outcomes for all children:

The aims and outcomes for the strategy are as follows:

- To produce a coherent and co-ordinated plan that will deliver and support children’s play services and facilities.
- To ensure the children and young people in Brackley will experience a stimulating, challenging and improved environment for play in the future.
- To have more play choices available to the children and young people of Brackley.
- To identify that play and its role in a child’s life will be valued and supported.
- To provide more effective use of available resources for play.
- To ensure parents, carers and providers of play opportunities have an increased understanding of the value and importance of play.
- To provide a framework on which to base resource planning with partners including acquiring external funding
- To promote social cohesion within our current communities and new developments by providing opportunities for parents and young children to meet together in appropriate surroundings.

The key areas covered in the adopted strategy being: the Purpose and Scope of the Strategy, Making the Case for Play, Risk Taking and Children’s Resilience, National, Regional and Local Strategic Context, A Profile of Brackley, Local Provision Examined, Mapping of Provision and Services and the Strategic Objectives

Brackley Town Council’s Vision for Play is adapted from Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This was ratified by the UK Government in 1991. “We recognise the right of children and young people to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child or young person and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts”. With the values: To promote play as an essential part of every child’s life, vital to their development, to plan and evaluate play opportunities taking account of children, young people and parents linked to local need and to maximise every opportunity to increase choice for all children to improve social mobility”

There are currently seven equipped play spaces for children in Brackley. These play spaces vary in the age range for which they are intended, their current state of repair and the feasibility of repair where the equipment is aged: Humphries Drive, Brewin Close, Chaffinch Drive, Falcon Way, Brackley Park, Hans Apel, and Swift Way (in planning phase). Seven additional spaces have been identified, some of which have had some form of play equipment in the past which has since been removed: Tudor Way, Oak Road, Wordsworth, Ellesmere Road, Egerton House, Nether Close and Roman Way. Consideration will also be given to the future requirements of residents such as a skate park, outdoor gyms, open spaces and trails.

There is to be consultation meeting held on Saturday 20th February 2010 in Brackley Town Hall from 10am – 12 noon with a view for members of the public and various stakeholders to comment on the proposals for Swift Way play space and to enable further comments on the future requirements for other play spaces within the town.

Brackley Town Council invite you to come along to the consultation to see the types of equipment and facilities that are available for the immediate construction of Swift Way Play Space and to further comment on future requirements for the town. You will be able to meet with members of the Play Space Working Party and other stakeholders.

There will be further opportunities to discuss all of the above at Brackley Town Councils Annual Town Meeting scheduled for 7.30 pm on Monday 8th March 2010 in Brackley Town Hall.