

DOGGETTS PLAYSPACE

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. At the meeting of full Council held on 18 April, it was agreed that:-
1. Extensive consultation be undertaken on the possibilities for resiting the aerial runway within the vicinity of the Stambridge Road Recreation Area, consultees to include local residents, equipment users, Parish and Ward Councillors and the Chairman of the Community Services Committee.
 2. That the outcome of the consultation be reported to the Council's Community Services Committee for decision.
- 1.2. This report advises Members of the consultation process undertaken and the results achieved.

2 THE PROCESS

- 2.1. The Chairman of the Community Services Committee and Ward Members met with the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) and agreed the options that would be put before the residents.
- 2.2. The Corporate Director was asked to draft and circulate proposed consultation documentation to all Members in order to receive any views prior to the consultation taking place.
- 2.3. A letter was sent to all Members, advising them of the proposals on 8 May. One verbal response was received.
- 2.4. A letter was also sent to Rochford Parish Council, advising them of the process and requesting their views in relation to the consultation exercise and which option they supported.
- 2.5. The Parish Council requested that the consultation letter should be expanded to give more explanation regarding the screening proposed to obscure the view of the aerial runway towers from residences. The Parish also stated that they would support the proposals for re-alignment within the playspace.

- 2.6. Letters were sent to 1,549 residents on 30/31 May with a request that they return the forms by 9 June. Prepaid envelopes were provided. A copy of the final consultation papers are attached at Appendix 1 of this report.

3 RESULTS OF CONSULTATION

- 3.1. Responses were received from 307 residents, which equates to a return rate of 19.8%. In addition one response was received from outside the consultation area.
- 3.2. As Members will see from Appendix 2, a number of those people consulted wished the equipment to stay in its current position with, perhaps, some additional screening. Taking these views into account, the results were:
- Resite equipment within playspace: 249
Remove equipment: 39
No change but with additional screening: 24
- 3.3. A number of comments were received and these are summarised at Appendix 2 of the report.
- 3.4. A verbal update will be given at the meeting of responses received after the closing date.

4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. It is generally accepted that provision of good quality play facilities reduces problems associated with children. The Rochford Roche Ward has been identified as having a high percentage of young people, some of whom have benefited from the facility.
- 4.2. At the present time, the site has not been the subject of logged police complaints.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. It is not considered that the refurbishment has had any environmental effect on the area, although the additional planting of trees will be of benefit in the longer term as there is a lack of trees in the immediate vicinity.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The cost of the two options will range between £6,000 and £8,000. Provision for this has already been agreed by Council in that the sum is to be funded from the 2000/2001 playspace rolling programme.

7 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The site is situated within Rochford Parish. As mentioned earlier in the report, the Parish has been consulted and would support the relocation of the equipment within the playspace.

9 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) that the results of the consultation be noted.
- (2) to determine which option to take in respect of the aerial runway.

Roger Crofts

Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)

For further information please contact Roger Crofts on (01702) 546366

ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

APPENDIX 1

R. Crofts, CPFA
Corporate Director
(Finance and External Services)



My Ref: RC/LMH
Your Ref:

Ask for:
Ext: 3630
Direct Dial:

Council Offices South Street
Rochford Essex SS4 1BW

Telephone: 01702 546366
DX 39751 Rochford
Facsimile: 01702 545737

Email: roger.crofts@rochford.gov.uk
Website: www.rochford.gov.uk

Date: May 2000

Dear Resident,

Doggetts Playspace

As you may be aware, the Council has recently upgraded and refurbished the children's playspace situated within the Stambridge Road Recreation Ground.

One piece of equipment, the aerial runway, has caused some concerns with regard to its situation. A photograph of this particular piece of equipment is attached.

The Council has agreed to resite this piece of equipment, but only after engaging in full consultation with residents who live close to the playspace or who live close enough for their children to use the equipment.

I am therefore writing to all residents in the area to seek views on the best way forward. I would be grateful if you would study the information attached and send me your views in the prepaid envelope provided.

There are constraints in respect of the location of the equipment, in that it should be along one of the boundaries. This is to ensure there is no encouragement for children to run near the equipment when it is in use.

It would also be inappropriate to site the equipment outside of the play area. There are two main reasons for this. Firstly, it should form part of a variety of equipment for the children to play on. Secondly, if it is situated anywhere else in the recreation ground, we would have to lose a sports pitch and they are currently well used.

D. Danks, CPFA
Head of Financial Services

G. Woodhouse, BSc(Hons), MCIEH,
DMS
Head of Housing, Health and
Community Care

T. Galloway, BSc(Hons), MFLAM
Head of Leisure and Client Services

S. Clarkson, IRRV
Head of Revenue and
Housing Management

1 1 4

At present, it would appear that we only have two options. One would be to turn this aerial runway at right angles to where it is now situated and put up some screen fencing so that the two steel towers are shielded from view from the road. The second option would be to remove the equipment entirely and relocate it in another playground elsewhere in the District.

I shall be reporting to Council Members in the summer and would ask you to return the questionnaire by 9 June 2000.

Please accept my thanks for taking the time to put your views forward in order to assist the Council in making its final decision.

Yours sincerely,


Corporate Director
(Finance and External Services)

DOGGETT'S PLAYSPACE

OPTIONS FOR AERIAL RUNWAY

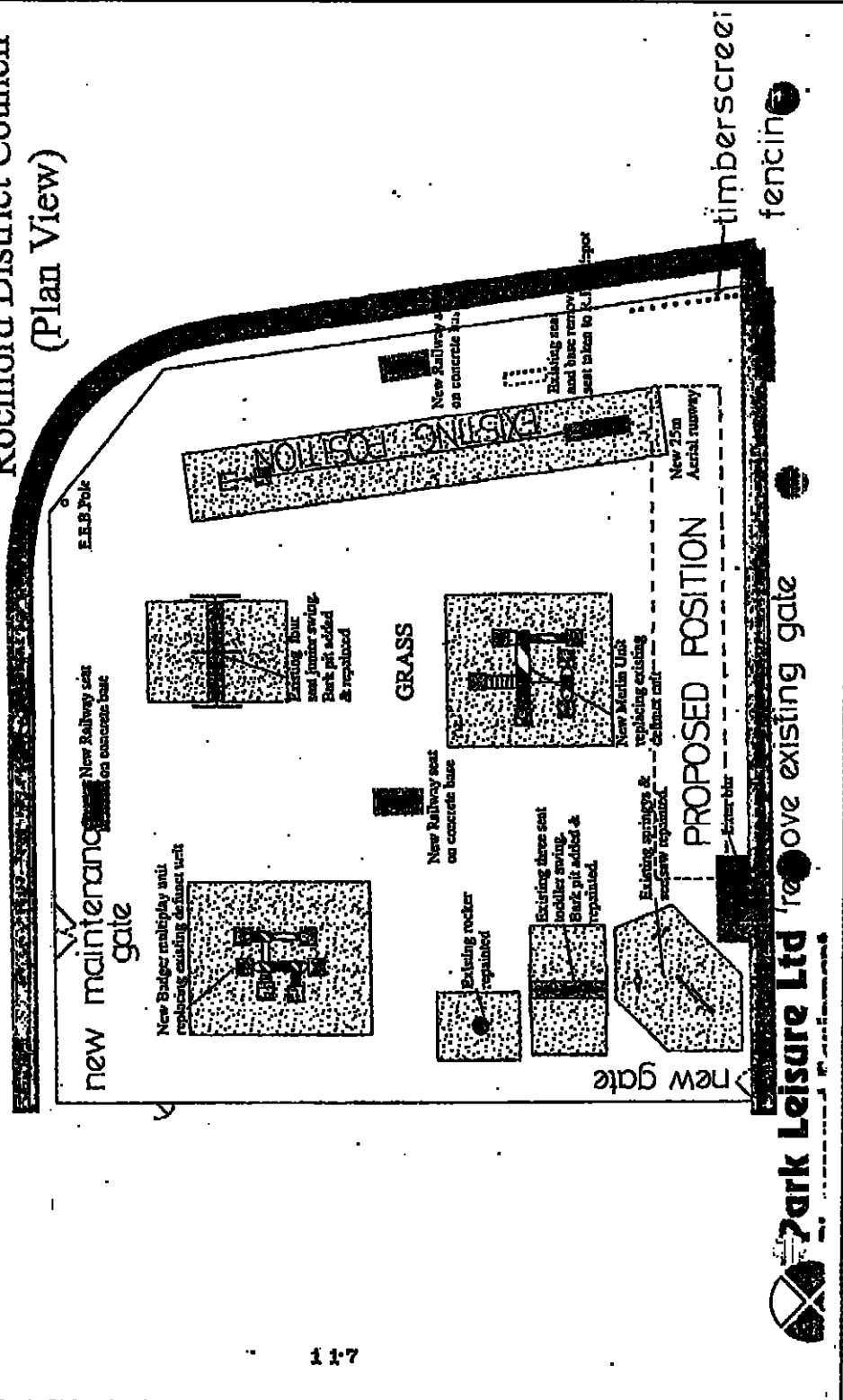
Please tick the box relating to your preferred option

1. Resite in position shown in the plan and provide
 Screen fencing. ☐

2. Remove from site and relocate in another
 Playspace elsewhere in the District ☐

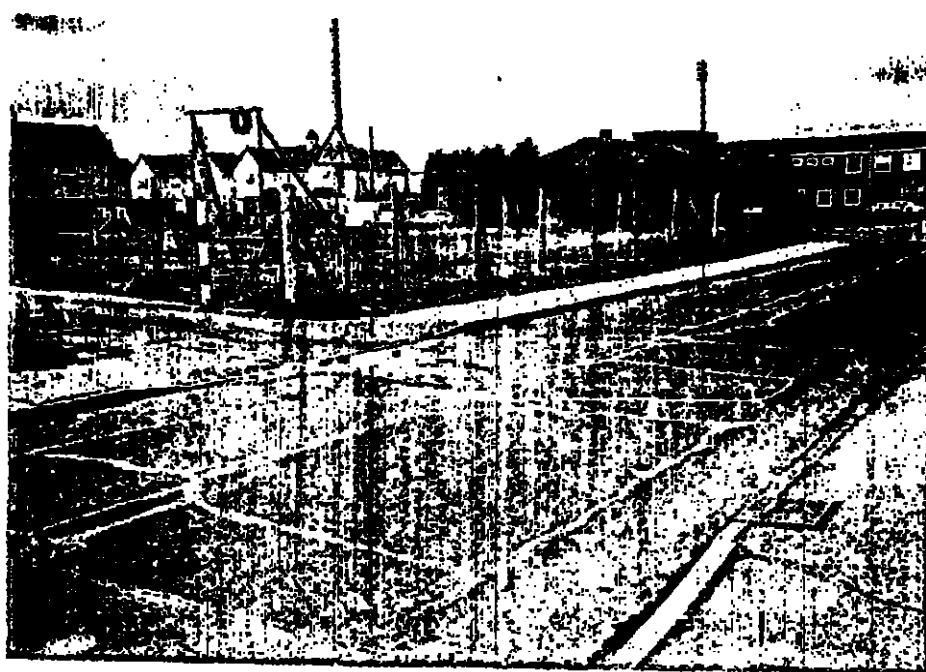
If you have any comments to make in respect of this issue, please set them out in the space below.

**Doggetts Close
Rochford District Council
(Plan View)**



DOGGETTS PLAYSPACE

LOOKING TOWARDS THE PLAYSPACE FROM
STILWELLS



11.8

RESULTS OF CONSULTATION - DOGETTS PLAYSPACE

APPENDIX 2

Option Selected	
Option 1 - 226	
Option 2 - 36	
Comment	No. of Respondents
1. Children are safe	4
2. Children enjoy the equipment (especially the aerial runway and especially since the playspace was refurbished)	31
3. Children need somewhere to play	11
4. Leave the runway where it is	22
5. The playspace was there long before the residential properties	23
6. Screen with conifers/shrubs	6
7. Why not consult before equipment installed?	6
8. Objectors should pay for equipment to be moved/consultation	2
9. Remove to unused tennis court area	1
10. Area should be locked at night.	2
11. Consultation is a waste of money	5
12. Older children often use the playspace	5
13. Fence would provide a target for vandals	2
14. Ramps for rollerbladers	1
15. Resite to Ashington Recreation Ground - more space and unseen from the road and there are few facilities for young children	2
16. Screens should not be sufficient to hide children using the equipment from view	1
17. Playspace has been there for years with no problems.	1
18. Should be further away from residential properties	3
19. Employ Play Supervisor/Warden	3
20. Should never have been installed there in the first place. Committee has already agreed to its removal	3
21. Glad that people are being consulted.	7
22. No disturbance caused to residential home opposite playspace	1
23. If cannot be completely fenced off from other equipment, should be removed altogether.	1
24. Frequent but random patrols to ensure only used by children of appropriate age.	2
25. Install floodlight to discourage youths from gathering at night.	1
26. Is the number of objectors sufficient to warrant moving equipment?	1
27. More police patrols needed	2
28. Runway too big for size of playspace	1
29. If noise is the problem, resiting a few feet won't make any difference.	3
30. Close park at 8p.m.	1
31. Resite runway along side of playspace opposite nursing home	1
32. Will any more equipment be provided in the space vacated if the runway is moved within the playspace?	1

No. of forms sent - 1,549

No. of forms returned - 807

(some respondents did not select either option)

11-9