

An Evaluation of the provision of free to use play facilities and exercise trail on Hastings & St Leonards Seafront

The Play Space and exercise equipment aspiration was included within the Foreshore Trust Business Plan 2011-2016 and was one of the Priorities for the Coastal User Group through the Seafront Action Plan. The development was fully supported by Hastings Borough Council, taking into account distribution of free leisure facilities that currently existed. The development of these facilities took place in Spring/Summer 2012 after funding approval at the Charity Committee meeting in September 2011 .

The aspirations of provision of the equipment were to....

Encourage a better quality family friendly environment to attract new users and create greater access to Foreshore Trust land.

To stimulate physical activity and also support existing facilities for residents and visitors and provide economic benefit.

The budget provided was used to maximise facilities and equipment and internal resources were used wherever possible. The project was tendered as a 'design & build', using a brief put together from the wide public consultation phase that took place to enable children and their families to have their say about coastal play.

The design of the facilities and equipment took into account the harsh seafront environment, the need to minimise maintenance tasks and costs and a desire to ensure the facilities are long lasting and sustainable.

The Play space was opened in June 2012 and has so far received lots of very positive feedback. There have been posts on the Hastings Borough Council website, email messages and comments in passing to councillors and letters of praise sent to Hastings Observer.

Seafront play spaces evaluation – April 2013

Children's evaluation sheets

We asked children to draw or write about what they like about the play on their seafront.....

- Play boat
- Boat
- climbing bars
- seesaw, ship and swing
- I think it's great
- Sand play
- All of it
- Swings
- Baby swings
- slide

We asked the children and families ...Is there anything you would add or change?

- Most said they wouldn't change anything other comments included...
- Bin in play ground would be good
- Indoor play area or shelter in bad weather

- I would change the baby and toddler area because it looks a bit hard for them
- No I think it is fantastic
- Re fill the sand pit please
- I would like to change the slide make it longer and change the swing
- Round-a-bout needs better safety stuff under as mats coming up
- Change swing floor safety zone to make it softer

We asked the adults with the children..... Please tell us what you think about the new seafront leisure facilities

- Great fun, exciting and different things to play on
- Very fresh and clean. Adventures great for children's pretend play
- Pelham – it's nice but a bit too clogged. Also when it's windy all sand blows and there is no sand pit.
- The tunnel is great.
- Warrior Square – its ok, could do with a sand pit
- West St Leonards – it's nice but often I find dog poo
- Great. Lovely free activity, safe, fenced
- Really good
- We thinks its brilliant
- Very good for children, something free for children to do
- Well designed, well maintained
- Fantastic
- Lovely, something different for the kids to do
- Good for all ages, and safe
- OK – well equipped for the age group we had – 1-5
- Think there could be more for children younger than 5 years
- I think its really good here and my kids love it
- First class, such a great place to bring our grandchildren. So much to do and occupy them all day
- Very good, pleasant and enjoyable
- We think this is the best playground we have been to. We travel from Maidstone just to us it. Our son loves it! There has been a long term aspiration to provide free to use play facilities at key locations on the seafront at Hastings & St Leonards and more recently to encourage physical activity for adults by providing fitness equipment and a way-marked exercise route. These have

We asked the adults with the childrenHow often do you use the facilities?

- First time
- Every two weeks
- Once every week
- First time
- A lot in the summer
- First day – on holiday x3
- At least once per week
- A few times a year more in the summer
- Twice a month
- A lot (almost every week)
- Weekly

- About 4-5 times a year
- Once a week
- Mostly when grandchildren visit
- Not often – once a year

Is there anything you would change? Or add to the new facilities?

- Maybe add a zip wire
- Lighting inside the park, some benches for seating, zip wire
- Add sand pits to Warrior Square
- Maybe shelter – from rain & sun
- Brilliant
- Swings for older children ages 6-13, metal fun poles on huts to slide down
- Nothing
- More swings and tunnels, slides of different sizes, trampoline sunk into ground
- Bigger and more – much more! These play spaces have become a real attraction!
- No x 3
- More pebbles added
- More for under 1s
- Picnic table so adults can sit or have something to eat with the kids
- I'd like more of the same

Any other comments?

- It's brilliant how there are lots of different interesting things, but everything works together and goes together
- Thanks for setting up more play places. Hopefully with police being able to control dog owners.
- Good, safe park
- Great for children and people on a low budget
- Keep up the maintenance, keep clean
- Fantastic addition to Hastings – it's made us come back again and again
- Warrior Square is way too small!
- Nothing to add, all good

Do you have children? If so how old are they?

- 6, 2
- 12, 13
- 2
- 2, 3, 6 (grandchildren)
- 1 grandchild
- 1 & 4
- 22 months
- Grandchildren 4
- 10, 3
- 4, 2, 1
- 18 months
- 3, 4
- Grandchildren between 4-18
- 7

Address & postcode

- 20 Snape View, Wadhurst, TN5 6BZ
- 9 Daintons Cottages, Hawkhurst TN18 4BB
- 9 Maize Hill, TN38 0BA
- Burwash TN19 7ER
- TN34 3BJ
- Sean Quail, 25 Godwin Rd, TN35 5DZ
- TN38 8ET
- 14 Bankfields, Headcorn, Kent TN27 9RA
- 66a Warrior Square, TN37 6BP
- On Holiday – NR27 0QA
- Homedane House, Seafront
- On holiday from Poole, Dorset
- 12 Augustines Rd, Delvedere, Kent DA17 5HH
- 31 Brightling Ave, TN35 5EG
- Keepers Cottage, Cottage Lane, Sedlescombe TN33 0RR

*****I have put each of the answers in the same order, so the first answer for each question are all from one form, the second are from the next form etc...in case we need to track it!*****