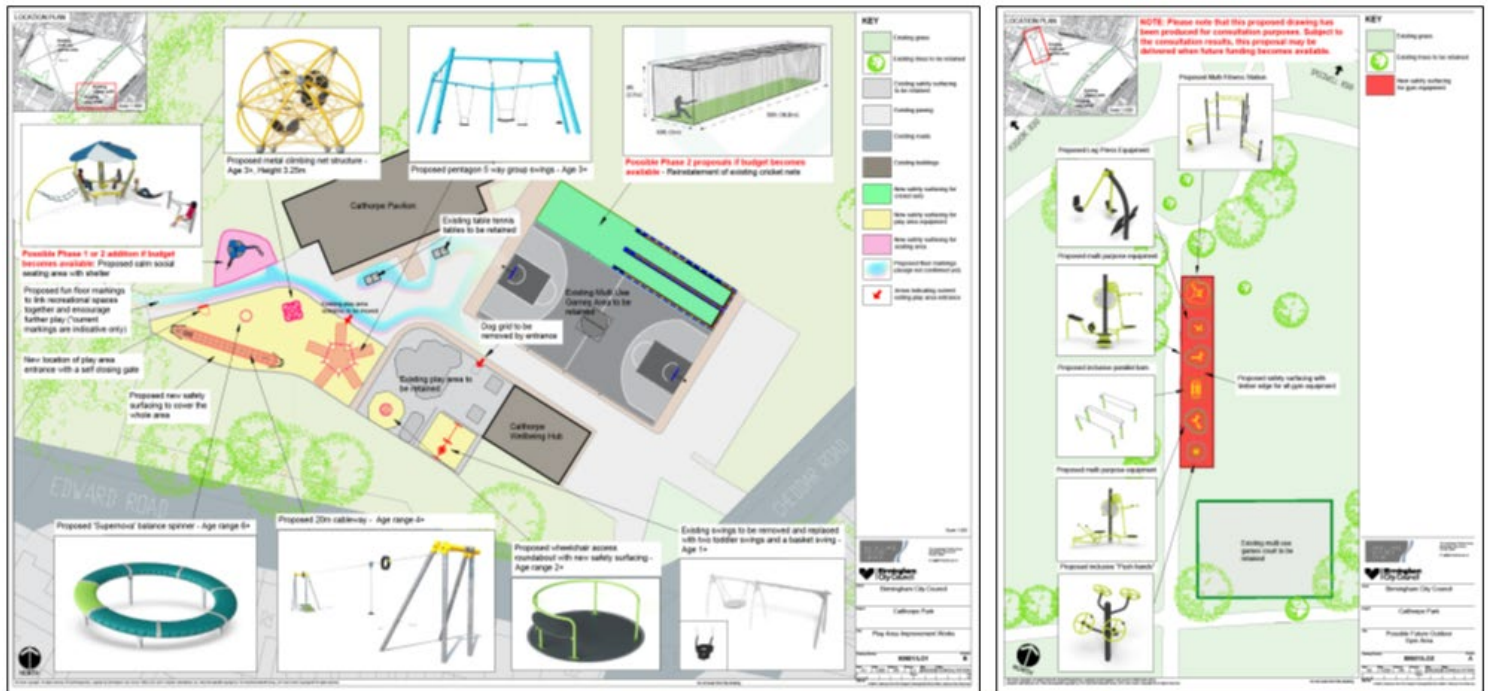


Calthorpe Park Landscape Improvements

Public Consultation Results - July 2025

We have conducted both an online consultation on our platform “Be Heard” and in person consultation which the Friends of Calthorpe Park conducted on the 28th of June 2025, to gather the residents’ opinions on the landscape improvements proposed for Calthorpe Park. Collectively, we have received 70 responses, 68 from Be Heard and 2 paper copies. From the consultation, we have found that 93% of respondents live very locally to the park, within a 1km range, and the other 7% live within a 3km range. Out of those responses, 97% of people agree with the proposed landscape improvements at Calthorpe Park. Please read below for more information and statistics from the consultation.



Design proposals

We have asked the respondents if overall they support all of the design proposals at Calthorpe Park, including the support it. Most are happy with the equipment choices as there is something to cater for every age group and child.

Phase II

We have presented respondents two options for Phase II works if budget allowed, and asked what would be their preferable choice of improvement. The choice was between an outdoor gym or the reinstatement of the existing cricket nets, and 73% of respondents have selected “Outdoor Gym”, while the other 27% opted for “Reinstatement of Cricket Nets”.

Additional comments

Out of all of the respondents, 57% had additional comments to add. Most of the feedback we have received in the additional comments was very positive, ranging from respondents expressing their excitement for improvement in the park and that it has been long awaited. A lot of respondents are very glad the play facilities are getting upgrades, as they want to visit the park with their children. A lot of respondents are also fond of the idea of the outdoor gym and feel like it is needed. Some respondents highlighted that there are a lot of special needs children in the community with disabilities or learning difficulties and asked if we could cater to their needs. Respondents also highlighted there are a lot of toddlers and young kids, and asked we cater the play area to them.

The general summary of the respondents' comments:

Play & Fitness Equipment

- Strong calls for modern, safe play equipment
- Outdoor gym and pull-up bars (some question long-term use/value)
- Splash pad and skatepark
- Need for accessible and inclusive equipment, especially for SEND and autistic children.

Safety, Security and concerns:

- Concerns about general safety in park, space for girls, anti-social behaviour (ASB), and drug activity
- Concerns about littering, travellers parking on fields, leaving mess—calls for a permanent solution, for example additional bins
- Fear of increased congestion on Speedwell Road if visitor numbers grow
- Address graffiti

Community and Family Use

- Desire for more seating, picnic areas, and family-friendly facilities
- Pavilion; requests for it to be reopened for broader community/youth use

Environmental Features

- Requests for Wildflower meadows, forest garden planting
- Sustainable elements like rainwater capture, composting
- Balancing development with biodiversity and green space protection

Conclusion

To conclude, overall there is strong support for the proposed improvements – many residents emphasize how urgently they are needed. Respondents are excited to see change and are looking forward to enjoy the park with their families.

Thank you to everyone who took their time to contribute to the consultation. We will be taking your views into consideration in the next stages.

