Survey results:

Bognor Regis Seafront
New Play Area
Survey Report

October 2017
1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Following a seafront survey in 2013 in which 60% of respondents said they wanted more activities for young people on the beach at Bognor Regis, proposals were put forward to construct a new play area on the seafront adjacent to the existing 'Beach on the Beach' sand play area.

1.2 A survey was carried out to collect residents’ views. It was available online on Arun District Council’s website and on ADC’s Facebook page, with links to versions formatted specifically for use with PCs/laptops; tablet computers; and smartphones.

1.3 Posters were put up along Bognor Regis promenade inviting residents to take part in the survey. As well as the link to the website survey, a QR Code allowed access to the survey.

1.4 A printed version of the survey was available in the reception area at Bognor Regis Town Hall and at the Tourist Information Centre.

1.5 The survey ran from 29th August to 25th September inclusive. 401 responses were received.

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1.6 Table 1 illustrates the importance of providing a range of survey formats in order to attract responses from all ages. 94% responded online. Overall, more than a third of the responses were received via a smartphone. This rises to nearly a half for respondents aged 30 to 49. At the other end of the age range, just 12% of over 65 year olds used a smartphone, smaller than the percentage responding using the paper questionnaire.

1 Appendix A shows the proposed position of the new play area.
2 See appendix A.
3 A number of respondents submitted multiple identical responses. Only one response was processed for each of these.
4 This is subject to a maximum standard error of +/-4.9% at the 95% confidence level on an observed statistic of 50%. Thus we can be 95% confident that if the whole population had responded the actual figure would lie between 45.1% and 54.9%.
5 N.B. the QR Code provided access to the survey via the smartphone format only. Some respondents may have captured the QR Code via a tablet computer (e.g. iPad), however this would have been recorded as a smartphone.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 The respondent profile shows a high percentage of females (77%). 45% of the respondents were aged 30-49. This is expected given that mothers of young children are the most likely group of adults to visit outdoor play areas (and most likely to be aware of what children enjoy).

2.2 The overwhelming majority of respondents (83%) are based in the Bognor Regis postcode districts of PO21 and PO22. And nearly three in four respondents visit Bognor Regis seafront once a week (26%) or more often than once a week (47%).

2.3 Of the 153 respondents who visit the ‘Beach on the Beach’ sand play area, 87% are female, 50% are aged 30 – 49, and 64% live in PO21. It is probable that a new play area would attract a similar visitor profile.

2.4 The more frequent visitors are more likely to walk to the seafront whilst less frequent visitors are more likely to travel by car. This is likely to be a function of the distance that they live from the seafront.

2.5 There is overwhelming support for the provision of a range of play equipment for children of different ages and abilities in the play area, with 95% agreeing with this.

2.6 Four themes for the play area were put forward for respondents to consider. ‘Sea creatures’ was the most popular, with just over a third choosing this.

2.7 93% would like to see natural elements such as rocks, sand and wood incorporated into the design.

2.8 Respondents were shown images of nine items of play equipment and invited to say which three they would most likely to see in the new play area. The most popular, selected by 85%, is a climbing frame with slide; second most popular, chosen by 66%, is mini-trail equipment; and third most popular are swings, chosen by 38%. However many respondents commented that they would prefer something other than what was on offer (see 2.9 below).

2.9 The main themes emerging from respondents’ comments are (see section 3.9.2 and appendix B for details):

• B.1: Would like a splash park/water play area [51 responses]
• B.2: Something for disabled/special needs/wheelchair users [31 responses]
• B.3: Provide equipment/areas for different age ranges [25 responses]
• B.4: Suggestions for additional equipment/facilities [20 responses]
• B.5: A seating area [12 responses]
• B.6: Safety/security/durability/maintenance issues [19 responses]
• B.7: Queries regarding the location [18 responses]

2.10 There are also numerous negative comments regarding the sand used in ‘Beach on the Beach’ (see appendix B, section B.12).

2.11 196 respondents would like to be kept up to date on the progress of the project.

6 Pirate; maritime; sea creatures; and tropical island.
3. KEY FINDINGS

3.1.1 The respondent profile (table 2) shows a high concentration of females (77%), and those aged 30-49 (45%). This is expected given that mothers of young children are the most likely group of adults to visit outdoor play areas (and most likely to be aware of what children enjoy).

Table 2 – Age, gender, and location of survey respondents [Base: 398]

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3.1.2 Figure 1 shows the spread of respondents’ postcodes. Whilst there are a handful in outlying areas\(^7\) (not shown), the overwhelming majority (83%) are based in the Bognor Regis postcode districts PO21 and PO22 (table 2).

Figure 1 - What is your home post code? [Base: 346]

3.2.1 Nearly half of the survey respondents are regular visitors to Bognor Regis seafront, visiting it more than once a week. A further quarter say they visit it once a week (see figure 2). Hence almost three in four survey respondents are frequent users and therefore will have an interest in the facilities available on the seafront.

Figure 2 - How often do you visit Bognor Regis seafront? [Base: 396]

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\(^7\) Most non-Arun postcodes were on paper format, suggesting visitors who picked these up at the TIC.
3.2.2 There is little difference in frequency of visit by age or by gender of respondent; however figure 3 highlights large differences by location of respondent. As expected, the closer the postcode, the more likely the respondent visits the seafront more than once a week\(^8\). PO21 covers the seafront area (see figure 4).

**Figure 3 - How often do you visit Bognor Regis seafront? (by respondent postcode) [Base: 396]**

![Figure 3: How often do you visit Bognor Regis seafront? (by respondent postcode)](image)

3.3.1 More than three in four respondents normally use the seafront for “Walking for leisure”; more than half use it for “Access to the beach” (figure 5).

**Figure 5 - What do you normally use the seafront for? (tick all that apply) (Responses sorted by popularity) [Base: 392]**

![Figure 5: What do you normally use the seafront for?](image)

3.3.2 Of special interest is the 28% (153 respondents) who use the ‘Beach on the Beach’ sand play area (figure 5). 87% of these are female, 50% are aged 30 – 49, and 64% live in postcode district PO21. Again, possibly mothers of young children - who are the most likely group of adults to visit outdoor play areas.

\(^8\) Please note that the low bases for postcode districts PO19, PO20, BN17, and BN18 (shown in table 2) make the findings for these districts less reliable than for PO21 and PO22.
3.4.1 Asked which method(s) they normally use to get to the seafront, 67% say that they walk. Car is next most popular method, mentioned by 57%, following by cycling, mentioned by 19% (figure 6). 72% of those living in the closest postcode district of PO21 say they normally walk to the seafront; 52% travel by car.

Figure 6 - How do you normally get to the seafront? (tick all that apply) (Responses sorted by popularity) [Base: 390]

3.4.2 Comparing frequency of visit by method of travel shows that the more frequent visitors are more likely to walk whilst the less frequent visitors are more likely to travel by car (figure 7). This is likely to be a function of the distance they live from the seafront.

Figure 7 - How do you normally get to the seafront? (by frequency of visit) (tick all that apply) [Base: 390]

3.5 There is overwhelming support for the provision of a range of play equipment for children of different ages and abilities in the play area, with 95% agreeing with this proposal (figure 8).

Figure 8 – Would you like to see a range of play equipment for children of different ages and abilities in the play area? [Base: 396]
3.6 Four themes for the play area were put forward for respondents to consider. ‘Sea creatures’ was the most popular, with just over a third choosing this option (figure 9).

Figure 9 - From the following list, which is your preferred theme? (Responses sorted by popularity) [Base: 381]

![Bar chart showing popularity of themes]

3.7 93% would like to see natural elements such as rocks, sand and wood incorporated into the design (figure 10).

Figure 10 - Would you like to see natural elements such as rocks, sand and wood incorporated into the design? [Base: 394]

![Pie chart showing response to natural elements]

3.8.1 Respondents were shown images of nine items of play equipment and invited to say which three they would most like to see in the new play area.

Figure 11 - Which equipment you would most like to see in the new play area on Bognor Regis seafront? (select up to three) (Responses sorted by popularity) [Base: 382]

![Bar chart showing popularity of equipment]

3.8.2 The most popular, selected by 85%, is a climbing frame with slide; second most popular, chosen by 66%, is mini-trail equipment; and third most popular are swings, chosen by 38%. Figure 11 illustrates the choices, sorted by popularity. Please note however that many respondents commented that they would prefer something other than what was on offer. This is covered in the next section of this report.
3.9.1 Respondents were invited to provide comments. The word cloud in figure 12 highlights the main responses received. A number of themes are highlighted here which are addressed in the summary of responses in the next section of this report.

Figure 12 - Do you have any other comments? [Base: 276]

3.9.2 Full verbatim responses are provided in appendix B. The responses have been sorted by key theme. The commentary below shows the themes illustrated by a few sample comments.

**A splash park/water play area [51 responses in total]**

“As much as a play area would be OK, there are parks either side of the beach. I think Bognor would really benefit from a splash park; this would be very popular and something different.”

“How about something more imaginative like a splash park/water play, next to the sand, instead of a few swings and see-saws? I really think what you are suggesting is ‘old hat’.”

“I think a little splash park would be better than a play park. Kids absolutely love them!”

“It would be lovely to have a splash pool with sprinklers and water play, as at the moment we travel to Portsmouth as there’s nothing like this in the area.”

“Would much prefer a splash pad play area as opposed to another park. Something with water features would prove incredibly popular.”
Something for disabled/special needs/wheelchair users [31 responses]
“I would like you to provide play equipment for all abilities including wheelchair accessible play equipment. All children have the right to play.”
“It would be good to have some play items for disabled children too as they are often left out of this kind of development.”
“Please make this inclusive for all. Wheelchair accessible equipment included in the park and suitable access path for those children in wheelchairs.”
“There were no options to select equipment for children with disabilities. Bognor desperately needs a play area that is accessible to ALL. There are plenty of play parks in the area. Nothing for wheelchair users.”

Equipment/areas for different age ranges [25 responses]
“A separate toddler area would be ideal as larger children can accidentally ‘bowl’ over the little ones when charging around.”
“If you have an area for older children please put a barrier so toddlers and older children do not mix.”
“Please include something for older kids as there are so many play areas for toddlers but not much for the older ones.”

Additional equipment/facilities [20 responses]
“A roundabout is not on the list and they are nice.”
“A zip wire would be amazing!”
“Climbing walls are good for older children.”
“I had wondered about a trampoline at ground level (over a pit).”
“What about pulley systems or play wooden play diggers the children can operate?”

Seating area [12 responses]
“I think it is also important to provide a bit of shelter from rain and sun, together with some seating for adults nearby.”

Safety/security/durability/maintenance features [19 responses]
“No dogs in the play area, so a bench just outside for parents with dogs and fully fenced for safety.”
“Please make it easy for it to be kept clean. Litter bins and dog bin nearby.”
“The equipment needs to be regularly maintained, and be hard wearing due to the coastal location.”
Queries regarding the location [18 responses]

“Another site would be better. This would not be used in the winter. The weather, high winds and storms would affect the play area. The sandpit area is closed over winter. This is a great idea but the site is wrong.”

“As there are a lot of elderly people in my block of flats (Mountbatten Court) don’t you think it would be better to put the play area in front of the Regis Pub, rather than in front of us?”

“Will the construction of the play equipment withstand being in such close proximity to salt air? Metal components will be prone to rusting and corrosion. Wood will also need to be heavily treated. It won’t be a particularly fun location through winter months.”

Look at good examples elsewhere [17 responses]

“I would like to see the play area similar to the ones at Worthing beach, Littlehampton Mewsbrook Park, and Littlehampton East beach.”

“Personally, I think the facility at the west end of the Esplanade in Worthing should be virtually copied. It has been up and running several years and proved to be very popular all year round.”

Broadly positive [36 responses]

“Bognor is crying out for facilities like this ... really great to see something happening.”

“I think that the installation of play equipment is a wonderful idea. I usually take my children to Littlehampton seafront play area, as currently Bognor doesn’t compete.”

“It would be lovely to see a play area on the seafront; it is a busy part of the town and would be lovely to have a place for children to stop along the prom and play.”

“This would be amazing. We NEED an eye catching, adventurous playground on the seafront. I already know my three will LOVE it!”

“This would provide a really positive attraction for families on the seafront and increase visitor numbers to the area.”

Broadly negative/critical [13 responses]

“Make kids play on the beaches. That’s what they’re for. Don’t waste money on stuff that kids won’t appreciate and that others will ruin.”

“Not impressed with the survey. The questions are very closed and do not offer the opportunity for any ideas or suggestions as such, but are leading people into their views on a limited, pre-determined choice. I think this will disappoint.”

“Please please please can we get the council to stop wasting money on ridiculous projects such as this? The cost will be astronomic as all modern play areas are. Let’s spend taxpayers’ money more wisely. It’s a beach, let’s keep it as a beach and stop trying to change things all the time.”
Beach on the Beach comments (quality of the sand etc) [17 responses]

“This is a brilliant idea but, if you use sand, please could it be less gritty than that in Beach on the Beach?”

“We don’t play in the ‘beach on the beach’ any more as it’s not proper sand and stained my children’s clothes!”

Access requirements (to the beach) [6 responses]

“Please add disabled access to the beach.”

3.10 The final survey question invited respondents to be kept up to date on the progress of the project. 196 respondents would like to be kept up to date; 189 provided their contact details.
It’s not all swings and roundabouts!

We’re running a consultation from 29 August to 25 September 2017 to find out what you would like to see in a new play area.

Fill in the questionnaire at www.arun.gov.uk/brseafrontplay or find paper copies at the Bognor Regis Town Hall and the Tourist Information Centre.

The new play area will be next to the Beach on the Beach sandpit on Bognor Regis Promenade

For further information please contact parks@arun.gov.uk or 01903 737951
APPENDIX B – VERBATIM RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

Please note: Where a response covers two or more subjects, it has been split and allocated accordingly.

B.1 A splash park/water play area [51 responses]

“"A paddling/fountain area would be great too.”
“"A splash area would also be a very popular attraction.”
“"A splash park area would be amazing for young children!”
“"A splash park or some sort of paddling pool would be good too.”
“"A splash park that incorporates water in the play would be very popular and attract visitors. We’ve been to many towns just because they have a splash park.”
“"A splash park would be a great attraction for the seafront.”
“"A splash park would be a welcome attraction to the front. The one on south bank London is very basic but provides so much fun for children. One in Bognor would be extremely well received!”
“"A splash park would be good too.”
“"A splash park would be much better in this location and these have already proven very popular in other seaside towns such as Brighton/Hove and Southsea.”
“"A splash park would be the best choice.”
“"A splash pool would be fab and would get used so much. Please have a splash pool.”
“"A splash/wet play area would be great.”
“"A water feature would be popular amongst children, either as part of this development or as something to plan into future development.”
“"A water play feature would be good, even if it was just a sprinkler or a way of transporting water from one place to another.”
“"A wet play area or paddling pool.”
“"As much as a play area would be OK, there are parks either side of the beach. I think Bognor would really benefit from a splash park; this would be very popular and something different. Would definitely attract people to visit with kids as at the moment I travel to Hilsea Lido to use the splash park there.”
“"Bognor is crying out for a splash area for young children. Let’s keep up with surrounding towns!”
“"Bognor is crying out for a splash park, similar to one in Gosport. An under-used suitable area for this would be Marine Park Gardens - where the poorly maintained mini golf is currently.”
“"Bognor needs a splash park! These are a great addition to the beach and are especially beneficial for young children and those with disabilities that can't access the sea.”
“"How about including a splash pool?”
“"How about something more imaginative like a splash park/water play, next to the sand, instead of a few swings and see-saws? I really think what you are suggesting is 'old hat'."
“"I believe that we shouldn’t just do the ordinary, let’s make Bognor Regis stand out. An idea such as the water play garden at Darling Harbour, Sydney is what we should be aspiring too. It was so much fun us adults had a play on some things too. Please check it out and give Bognor Regis and our little ones what they deserve. http://www.darlingquarter.com/play/"
“"I feel what would be more beneficial than another play park would be a splash pad; it would be very welcomed to the town by many (judging by social media comments).”
“"I think a little splash park would be better than a play park. Kids absolutely love them!”
“"I think a water/splash park would be much better for the area, like they have at Brighton on the sea front.”
“"I think there should be a splash park section; this would be brilliant for the kids. There are lots of other play parks along the front and in town already; a splash park would really stand out and bring visitors to the town.”
“"I would also like at least one water feature. Whether that is a paddling pool no more than 3 feet deep and/or an interactive water fountains that turn on and off - something similar to the one at London South Bank.”
“"It would also be amazing to think about opening a splash park for summer.”
“"It would also be great if you had a splash pool or water fountains for when it’s high tide for the
smaller children. And what about changing the boating lake into a water park for children?”

“It would be great if there was a splash park as well. It would be good for all ages.”

“It would be great to have a splash park instead of/in addition to. They always seem popular in other towns I’ve visited.”

“It would be lovely to have a splash pool with sprinklers and water play, as at the moment we travel to Portsmouth as there’s nothing like this in the area.”

“It would be lovely to have some water play area as it’s not always easy to get to the sea with small children.”

“Please could we have water play with fountains that come up from the ground?”

“Please install a splash park!”

“Please install a splash pool. The one in Southsea is amazing and it would be such an advantage to have one locally.”

“Some sort of splash play would be lovely too!”

“Splash park would be the best choice.”

“Splash pool or splash area like or better than Worthing’s.”

“The ‘play area’ could then be part of the Regis Centre site development as the Re-invigoration group has indicated; including their shown splash pools!”

“There are a few parks on the beach and children need a variety of things to do. Maybe a splash park would be more suitable as we normally have to leave the area for this.”

“Water feature/fountains would be great, like in Bournemouth.”

“Water jets/splash area.”

“Water splash park is the best idea for kids.”

“We need a splash park.”

“We need something to distinguish Bognor seafront from other local ones. I feel a shallow paddling pool and jumping fountains is just what we need to attract people into the town centre area of the seafront. Something like Southsea and Worthing have.”

“With West Park and Hotham Park nearby, I think a splash park/water play area would be a much better attraction.”

“Would like to see a water splash park.”

“Would much prefer a splash pad play area as opposed to another park. Something with water features would prove incredibly popular.”

“Yes. As it’s on the sea front I would like it to be water based during summer months, e.g. ‘showers’ they can run through, water pumps that take water into chutes with ‘dams’ and Archimedes Screws. There are plenty of examples around e.g. Chatsworth.”

“B.2 Something for disabled/special needs/wheelchair users [31 responses]”

“A disabled play area would be lovely.”

“Access for children with disabilities, wheelchairs etc, need to be catered for.”

“Be good to have equipment that is accessible for children with additional needs i.e. a wheelchair swing and some sensory equipment maybe that makes music/sounds?”

“Disabled access and equipment please.”

“Disabled access and sensory equipment would be amazing as there isn’t anything local and then everyone can enjoy the park.”

“Disabled access should ideally be provided for both children and adults. I have seen playgrounds where a disabled user swing has been provided.”

“Disabled play equipment for children is needed.”

“Facilities should include things that disabled children could enjoy along with children that are not disabled.”

“I don’t have a disabled child; however none of your options are disability friendly which I feel is something Bognor really lacks in comparison to other towns.”

“I would like you to provide play equipment for all abilities including wheelchair accessible play equipment. All children have the right to play.”

“I would love to see a seat swing for additional needs children/teenagers. My son loves to swing but cannot fit into the baby swings and is unable to support himself on a normal swing. Many play areas now focus on wheelchair-accessible swings
which is fantastic, however I feel that children with extra needs that aren't necessarily in a wheelchair are overlooked somewhat. I would love to bring my children here when it's completed; I also know that often Fordwater School brings a bus of special needs children on outings to Bognor seafront. How wonderful to think that they would have a chance to play whilst there.”

“It would be good to have equipment for disabled children.”

“It would be good to have some play items for disabled children too as they are often left out of this kind of development.”

“It would be nice to have sensory equipment and wheelchair accessible equipment.”

“Maybe equipment that disabled children can use? They seem to be left out when planning play areas.”

“Most importantly you need wheelchair accessible play equipment. The items you’ve given as options to tick are all suitable for able people. What about those who can't get out of a wheelchair?”

“Need accessible play equipment such as a swing for wheelchairs and a roundabout that a wheelchair can go on. There are no local beaches offering this.”

“Needs to be entertaining for disabled children too.”

“Please include equipment that is accessible to disabled children.”

“Please make this inclusive for all. Wheelchair accessible equipment included in the park and suitable access path for those children in wheelchairs.”

“Please think about disabled children and use a basket type swing they can lay in. They may not be able to use all other equipment. Also a pad changing area for bigger children with disabilities. Put Bognor on the map for being forward thinking for once.”

“The park needs to have disabled facilities as well as able bodied facilities.”

“There were no options to select equipment for children with disabilities. Bognor desperately needs a play area that is accessible to ALL. There are plenty of play parks in the area. Nothing for wheelchair users.”

“This will be an ideal opportunity to install a swing suitable for disabled children, which accommodates a wheelchair.”

“We need accessible equipment for disabled children also.”

“Wheelchair accessible equipment is really needed, especially in this area as there's nothing locally that our children can use.”

“Wheelchair swing and covered space (shade sail) so it can be used all year round.”

“Wheelchair swing. Wheelchair roundabout!!”

“Why have you not included any equipment for children with physical disabilities or Autism? There was no wheelchair accessible equipment to choose from?”

“Would be good to see equipment for children in wheelchairs as well i.e. like a swing. A roundabout that also allows wheelchair users to use at the same time as able-bodied children.”

“Yes there needs to be access to equipment for disabled children and sensory equipment as well. If Bromsgrove can do it, any town can.”

B.3 Equipment/areas for different age ranges [25 responses]

“A separate area for under 3s would be ideal. There isn't much for toddlers to do in Bognor.”

“A separate toddler area would be ideal as larger children can accidentally 'bowl' over the little ones when charging around.”

“Equipment for smaller kids and for bigger ones would be nice.”

“Equipment should be aimed at under 10s. I have children aged 13, 12, and 5 and feel that older children do not always use equipment appropriately and can deter parents and younger children from entering the play area.”

“I have a baby who is only just learning to walk and I find the only thing suitable in most parks we go to is the baby swing, so anything more aimed towards the one year old age range would be really good.”

“I think it is a good idea for the young children.”

“I think it is vital to include things for older children as we already have a play area on the
sea front (Rock Garden) for very young children but nothing for, say, age 6 and up.”

“I would like to see activities available for all ages. This includes teenagers and activities that adults can have fun on with their kids as well.”

“It is important to install equipment that a number of children of a range of ages can use at the same time. Sometimes in small playgrounds there is a real issue with one or two children occupying all the available equipment e.g. basket swings and spinners where they often stay on for a long time. A greater amount of simple equipment is better than a few more elaborate pieces.”

“It would be great to have some toddler friendly equipment, and natural materials would be great.”

“It would be nice to have an area for younger children aged 1 to 3.”

“It would be nice to have something for the older children. It may be nice to make it interactive and maybe with an educational twist: e.g. facts about the seaside/local area; some kind of construction area for the children to be creative themselves.”

“Mixed age children could lead to accidents. Consider partitions for varying age groups. 0-5, 5-11, 11-16.”

“On the climbing frame, can it be made easy to access for children of a younger age? Like having steps for them to climb instead of a rope which a 2 year old can’t get up, so we have to lift him up to then go down the slide. This is really annoying. Thanks.”

“Perhaps separate areas for different age groups?”

“Play equipment would be amazing especially if it covers lots of age ranges. It will be a great extension to the sand play area.”

“Please include something for older kids as there are so many play areas for toddlers but not much for the older ones.”

“Please keep this area for 5 years and under - mixing older children with toddlers is not good. Please use decent sand not the rubbish you have at present. If you have an area for older children please put a barrier so toddlers and older children do not mix.”

“Site should be designed to cater for older children and even adults (as well as young children) to use and take advantage of fresh air and encourage activity.”

“Something that caters for all ages of children from toddlers to say age 10.”

“The play area needs to cater for older children as well as younger ones. Maybe a split play area for young ones and older ones?”

“The Rock gardens have a playground for little ones, which is rarely used. What about the older children??”

“There should be a range of equipment for all ages.”

“To be suitable for toddlers and children up to 10.”

“We need more leisure facilities for older children and grown-ups to attract people to the area.”

B.4 Additional equipment/facilities [20 responses]

“A cafe open till 9pm in the summer.”

“A roundabout is not on the list and they are nice.”

“A zip wire would be amazing!”

“A zip wire would be amazing.”

“Adding the playhouse, big swing, spinner and educational play panel would make it the perfect play area. Kids of all ages would love this.”

“Basket swing for a range of ages, climbing frame good for all ages.”

“Climbing walls are good for older children.”

“Create an area with large rocks/sand/groin timber.”

“Don’t forget good toilets - essential for kids!”

“I found it very hard to choose just three items of equipment. I would have liked to include a spinning cup as well.”

“I had wondered about a trampoline at ground level (over a pit). I have seen this work very
successfully for children of all ages (and adults!) in St Budeaux Park, Devon.”

“I think natural elements such as wood etc would be a more gentle way in appearance to help ensure the playground doesn’t interrupt the natural flow of the beach.”

“It would be so great to have a playground with a waterproof roof even if the sides were open - my children want to go out in all weathers but I don’t like standing in the rain and they’re soon fed up when they get drenched and inside entertainment is too noisy, bright and expensive.”

“Maybe a sheltered area for parents?”

“My children (aged 8 and 7) would also like monkey bars, adventure trail, and a zip wire.”

“Picnic tables would be a good idea too.”

“Slides. Not skate park equipment.”

“Swings are a must and appeal to a larger age range, tall swings are definitely preferred as some of the shorter ones on the district are hard to push and have less of a thrill. Springs aren’t great and even when used are only used for a brief time.”

“We need more soft play or places to play in bad weather. There’s nothing for babies/crawlers in town except library. Regis pub busy and usually dirty!”

“What about pulley systems or play wooden play diggers the children can operate? Open ended resources rather than themed which can limit. Children will be learning regardless of an educational panel item in the play area.”

B.5 Seating area [12 responses]

“Adequate seating for parents would be wonderful.”

“I think it is also important to provide a bit of shelter from rain and sun, together with some seating for adults nearby.”

“Make sure it has plenty of seating around the edge for adults.”

“Make sure there is shade available and plenty of seating with bins.”

“More seating for parents.”

“Please include seating for parents.”

“Seating for adults and picnic tables would also be a plus.”

“Seats for parents/carers.”

“Seats for the parents, separate area for very young children.”

“Soft seating area. Parents area.”

“There needs to be provision for parents / grandparents to sit while children play. Also some shelter from wind, rain and the sun.”

“Wonderful for the children to have a decent area to play. Hope it will also include some seating for parents/grandparents etc.”

B.6 Safety/security/durability/maintenance features [19 responses]

“A secure area as there's a busy road right outside the sandpit.”

“Also secure fencing so that adults and older children cannot access the area out of hours.”

“Bark on the ground.”

“Build it with purpose and longevity. Make it simple but enjoyable, educational BUT playful.”

“I believe that the upkeep of the park should be important as well because the weather coming off the sea may impact the park as well!”

“I would like the area to be cordoned off to prevent dogs from accessing the play area. Where we lived before moving to Felpham, play
areas were all open as they felt it should be open space for all!!”

“Make it child friendly, no dogs, accessible. Will there be lights? Or will it close at night and in winter?”

“Make it dog free and smoking free zone.”

“Make it large enough for a reasonable number of families and enclose it.”

“No dogs in the play area, so a bench just outside for parents with dogs and fully fenced for safety.”

“Please make it easy for it to be kept clean. Litter bins and dog bin nearby.”

“Quality, natural materials, where possible using recognisable local design to take advantage of photo opportunities and free natural ‘self marketing’ through social media.”

“Rocks could be a danger to children. Swings can be very dangerous to young children.”

“Something that has little chance of getting ruined.”

“The council needs to take into account the abuse this equipment from youths and other during the evenings when the children have gone home.”

“The equipment needs to be regularly maintained, and be hard wearing due to the coastal location.”

“The play area needs to be constructed with easily maintained products. Also needs to stir a child’s imagination.”

“We need better parks (pirate ships, play houses, wooden play areas, sand pits, bike tracks...and less drunks sitting in these places please!!!)"

“You need to have bins that are emptied daily, no alcohol signs, and no smoking signs; maybe a small gated area for young children to play in?”

B.7 Queries regarding the location [18 responses]

“A play area such as this may be better placed at the Rock Gardens?”

“Another site would be better. This would not be used in the winter. The weather, high winds and storms would affect the play area. The sandpit area is closed over winter. This is a great idea but the site is wrong.”

“As for position, knowing there is opposition from the residents of the flats opposite regarding noise, maybe a better location might be next to the Skate Park opposite the Royal Norfolk Hotel? This would help link the West End, Marine Park Gardens, and West Park.”

“As there are a lot of elderly people in my block of flats (Mountbatten Court) don't you think it would be better to put the play area in front of the Regis Pub, rather than in front of us?”

“I am one of the pensioners living in Mountbatten Court in a ground floor flat just opposite the New Play Area - my terrace is lower than part of the green mounds. I worry that a new recreation facility will completely block my view of the sea and make it more noisy.”

“Not wishing to sound negative for the sake of it but would this be the best location for a play area?? Children as a rule are good at entertaining themselves on the beach through the summer. Will the construction of the play equipment withstand being in such close proximity to salt air? Metal components will be prone to rusting and corrosion. Wood will also need to be heavily treated. It won't be a particularly fun location through winter months. Should we have a stormy spell during a high tide it could well be destroyed beyond repair. If there is funding available for a play area, I personally feel this really isn’t the best place to put it for practical and logical reasons.”

“Other areas along the prom should be used = beach huts = play areas.”

“Perhaps a shaded area?”
“Personally I don’t agree with a play area on the beach. Bognor does not have enough decent weather for it to work. Who is going to go to the beach on a rainy, windy day? What happens in the winter to visitors? Oh look, this is where the play area goes son, but it’s been put away due to the bad weather. Let’s not overlook the fact that it would also be next to a night club - play area + merry makers - hmmm. If it goes ahead how many years before the funding runs out and it never goes back, just being kept in storage? As I am sure you have read before - Hotham Park. It is more sheltered, can stay all year round, and is in a beautiful setting. Take some money from the Bognor in Bloom budget and do something worthwhile, and that has some longevity. Stop pouncing on the easy fix, review the budget properly, and do something to make Bognor a town to be proud of. It used to be - it could be again.”

“That section of the beach is currently considered to be ‘stable’, as a natural feature. Will this always be the case following a significant storm? Standard installation costs will be greatly increased due to the shingle and securing some items. If metal equipment is specified, will it be marine grade stainless steel, as much standard equipment will not tolerate the salt laden environment; as we’ve seen with the seafront exercise equipment? Will sand and woodchip get blown across the Promenade? What shade will there be? Will there be fencing as a potential conflict of use in the area between children running around and other users of the Promenade such as cyclists and the elderly? Could the money be better spent improving Longbrook Park where there is more space, an established play area and would encourage people along the seafront? Why have a traditional style of children’s play area, associated with an urban area? Is there an opportunity to take a different or modern approach to what is considered to be an area in which to play, perhaps not on the shingle but next to the Alexander Theatre which would be more sheltered, more closely associated with the town, and get more use throughout the year and not just mainly during the peak holiday season?”

“The location is poor. We need a safe place to take children. How about using some green space?”

“The play area, if an all year round attraction, would obviously have to withstand the elements and the mindless vandalism which seems to be on the increase. To be honest this play area would be better placed elsewhere. Lots of attractions used to be placed on the pier, which used to be quite a destination in its own right.”

“The space you are proposing is tiny?? It’s right on a busy road? We have Hotham Park that could be added to - splash park / bigger skate park / adventure climbing. In general, more free fun for our kids. Even West Park could be added to?”

“This is a dreadful idea. My only real joy in my old age (medically handicapped - cancer and spine) is to enjoy the beach. I am too old to move elsewhere. People visit Bognor for the beach, they have swings/slides/roundabouts adjacent to their various homes. If you must do this, then do it opposite the Regis Centre, not Mountbatten Court.”

“This is a foolish proposal. The sandy areas are excellent BUT totally seasonal, reliant wholly on good weather. To place a fixed equipment play area next to these is plain daft. They would be out of use for several months and not at all likely to be accessed by local families and children in that period.”

“Won’t this just rust away?”

B.8 Look at good examples elsewhere [17 responses]

“Bognor Regis should provide something similar to Hastings beach for children and families.”

“I recently took my son to the play area on Worthing seafront; such a well thought out space! I loved the fact that a lot of the activities encouraged kids to play/work together.”

“I would like to see the play area similar to the ones at Worthing beach, Littlehampton Mewsbrook Park, and Littlehampton East beach.”

“If you want to see how to revive a sea-front and dying seaside town, take some of you hard earned tax revenues and visit Redcar Sea Front. Look at how they have been all inclusive and thought about unique ideas that attract people to the seafront. A dying town now revived by creative thinkers, which this town lacks.”

“In Chichester Priory park they have a climbing frame which incorporates chutes for sand and pulleys. Don’t just go for normal play equipment. Make it a trusted learning experience. From a grandma and teacher.”

“Look at good parks like Southwater, Horsham; Durrington rec; Homefield; Victoria Park; Mewsbrook. These are all parks we attend...
regularly as they are really good, with lots of equipment.”

“Look at the adventure parks and splash parks in Portsmouth/Southsea. The reason we don’t come into town often is because the offering there is weak.”

“Our parks are a joke; we have lots of space to do all sorts of exciting things to take our kids; places like Southsea have so much more!”

“Personally, I think the facility at the west end of the Esplanade in Worthing should be virtually copied. It has been up and running several years and proved to be very popular all year round.”

“Similar theme to Worthing Seafront - good and well used.”

“Something like Littlehampton green play area would be very beneficial.”

“Southampton has a fantastic play park for children, including a wooden ship for climbing

etc. Something similar would be really good. There are lots of play parks around the area so this would need to be different and offer more to be worth it.”

“Take a look at the play park along Worthing beach. It has everything we need for Bognor Regis beach.”

“Take a look at the play park along Worthing beach. That is on point.”

“We love the equipment at West Park - best in Bognor. The beach front play area in West Worthing is great too.”

“We used to live in Aldershot, Hampshire and they’ve recently put in three amazing parks which are well used and very modern. May be worth a look for ideas.”

“Worthing sea front is fantastic with lots to do for children along the whole walk.”

B.9 Broadly positive [36 responses]

“A play area on the beach would be great!!”

“At the moment I drive my son to Littlehampton to play in the sand and park there. It would be so much nicer to be able to have similar in Bognor and keep my money in my home town. Also I wouldn’t have to drive to Littlehampton, so more environmental friendly.”

“Bognor is crying out for facilities like this ...really great to see something happening.”

“Bognor really needs this. We have to drive to take our children to do things.”

“I think it is great that you’re building a new play area, thanks very much!”

“I think it would be a lovely idea. I know my children would love it.”

“I think that the installation of play equipment is a wonderful idea. I usually take my children to Littlehampton seafront play area, as currently Bognor doesn’t compete.”

“I think this is a brilliant idea.”

“I think that this is a really good idea.”

“It is an excellent idea to provide facilities for children and parents of young children. Bognor Regis is a typical family seaside town. The more facilities we can offer to families, the more likely they will be to visit us. My family love visiting us

because there is so much for my grandchildren to do (ages 6 and 3). This would be yet another exciting area for them.”

“It would attract a lot of families when completed.”

“It would be great to have more to do on the sea front. I have three children ages 1, 6 and 9 and think my suggestions of play equipment would cover all their playground needs.”

“It would be lovely to see a play area on the seafront; it is a busy part of the town and would be lovely to have a place for children to stop along the prom and play.”

“It would be nice to have more exercise equipment.”

“It would be so nice to see some regeneration in Bognor as Littlehampton has got lots of play areas and places for visitors to go. We are a lovely seaside town and it would be so nice to be proud of where we live.”

“It’s always good to have something free. Not too much plastic or metal please (too hot).”

“Look forward to seeing an exciting play area for mixed ages to enjoy.”

“Looking forward to this so much. My daughter has just started walking and is going to love this place no matter what :)”

20
“Really hope this happens!”

“Seems like quite a small area; but any addition for children would be well needed.”

“Something like the play area in Littlehampton would be amazing, with picnic tables, kids' toilets. Maybe we need a big area.”

“Sounds good to me.....any chance of a row of palm trees just to finish it off.....in a good way?”

“The more we have on the seafront the better.”

“This is a much needed facility. Lots of other seaside areas have them and it would encourage us to visit Bognor seafront rather than Littlehampton with our grandchildren.”

“This is very good idea.”

“This would be amazing. We NEED an eye catching, adventurous playground on the seafront. I already know my three will LOVE it!”

“This would be really lovely for families with not a lot of money. These families rely on the beach, parks, etc for their children’s social and physical development.”

“Other than consulting with public are you consulting with anyone who understands child development or researching into experiences that benefit children’s physical development?”

“This would provide a really positive attraction for families on the sea front and increase visitor numbers to the area.”

“Very good idea.”

“We live in Littlehampton but visit family regularly in Bognor Regis. We often go to the beach with the children and they would love to have more activities to do.”

“We love coming to the beach with our little one. And love the new ideas!”

“We need a decent play area with all sorts of equipment. Bognor is sadly lacking in facilities.”

“We need to encourage ideas such as this for our amazing seafront; we need to attract people to Bognor Regis and having kids’ attractions is a fabulous start.”

“What a great idea. Kids out all year round and things are very limited in the winter.”

“Will be something nice for children.”

“Would be great to have more free equipment at the seafront, making it a better place to visit all year round.”

“An attraction needed on the seafront e.g. Brighton wheel.”

“As compared to other places, Bognor really lacks good stuff for children.”

“Bognor seafront needs a good revamp.”

“Just make it good, so that people will want to visit.”

“Just put something for the children. It’s needed.”

“Make broader and more exciting play equipment.”

“Make it happen please.”

“Make it look relevant: a seaside theme and smart and long lasting.”

“Make it something terrific so it will be different from the other local seaside’s amenities.”

Other than consulting with public are you consulting with anyone who understands child development or researching into experiences that benefit children’s physical development?”

“The children's beach on the beach is excellent and does not detract from the sea view, but too many children’s rides, slides etc just makes the seafront look naff. Bognor needs quality, it needs restaurants and above all it needs to go upmarket. It certainly doesn’t need toilets blocking the lovely sea view. Any childrens’ play area must be discreet.”

“There is certainly a lack of play for children. I went there yesterday with my 5 year old and not much to do.”

“Try something you can do all year round, as sand pit is closed in winter time.”

“Would it be better to improve surrounding play areas?”
B.11 Broadly negative/critical [13 responses]

“A pirate theme!! If you have spent time at sea you would never make light of these people.”

“Arun Council has neglected Bognor Regis for too long; I think they should think of children as there is nothing at the seafront to amuse them apart from the amusement arcade. Time will tell if the council does anything!!”

“Arun councillors are the least responsive I’ve ever come across. They never bother to respond to emails, even constructive ones, so I don’t suppose they’ll pay a blind bit of notice to this survey.”

“I don’t want to be negative but I can’t help but expect this to be underwhelming. Having just spent a fantastic day with my 9-year-old son on Brighton seafront, it was more apparent than ever to the both of us how lacking Bognor seafront is in just about every way. And that is frankly tragic seeing as my boy is growing up fast. Bognor is being left so far behind by just about every other seaside resort I know, especially when it comes to the provision for children and families. If you want kids like mine to stay around once they are grown up, a lot needs to change.”

“I hope this is not another scam.”

“Make kids play on the beaches. That’s what they’re for. Don’t waste money on stuff that kids won’t appreciate and that others will ruin.”

“Merely copying what is a few miles away, whilst maybe keeping the residents happy, isn’t going to attract visitors from miles around. It would have to be very special indeed. For regeneration generally, we HAVE to stop being blinkered in looking at what will attract adults for leisure. We need to concentrate on what tots and pre-teens would like to do: Create a family facility, and families will come. That is what the Re-invigoration team’s proposal is all about - the family day out!”

“Not impressed with the survey. The questions are very closed and do not offer the opportunity for any ideas or suggestions as such, but are leading people into their views on a limited, pre-determined choice. I think this will disappoint.”

“Play equipment does not need a theme. Play is the theme so why waste money on adding non play elements just to make it fit a theme?”

“PLEASE can we have more free fun play areas for our kids in the Bognor Regis area? It’s constantly being spoken about, yet I’m not seeing much taking place. Our children need more outside play and stimulation and we shouldn’t have to drive to Portsmouth, Worthing or Littlehampton to achieve this. This needs to be done as a priority; I really do not want to spend all summer 2018 in my car to entertain my children.”

“Please please please can we get the council to stop wasting money on ridiculous projects such as this? The cost will be astronomic as all modern play areas are. Let’s spend taxpayers’ money more wisely. Arun councillors all need a kick up the backside, they are build crazy. It’s a beach, let’s keep it as a beach and stop trying to change things all the time.”

“What a load of rubbish! An utter waste of taxpayers’ money.”

B.12 Beach on the Beach comments (quality of the sand etc) [17 responses]

“As much of the seafront does of course need development, the beach on the beach has been welcomed by many who have visited over the 2017 period. There have also been many complaints about the sand that has been used. It would seem that the wrong type of sand has indeed been used in this location, as it does stain clothing. With this in mind, it would be prudent to reflect on the errors of the Beach on the Beach, and rethink the proposed play area.”

“Beach on the beach is great for the young ones. I used it several times last year when I had the care of a young child.”

“Better sand in play area.”

“I think it is about time that the builders sand on the ‘Beach on the Beach’ was replaced with a more natural, gentle child friendly sand as we no longer use this because of the awful sand in there.”
“If you are going to include sand, please make sure it actual play sand.”

“Please change the sand in the beach on the beach, it destroys kids clothes and leaves stains. Thank you.”

“Please make the sand in the beach on the beach usable.”

“Please use high quality play sand so it doesn’t stain the clothes. Thank you.”

“Replace that awful building sand with proper fine washed sand. I’m sick of seeing my grandchildren with yellow knees and elbows. How cheap can you get?”

“The beach on the beach has had a lot of complaints because the wrong type of sand has been used. We need to attract visitors whilst keeping residents happy.

“The sand in the sand pit is awful, stains clothes and children. Really could do with an upgrade of nice soft sand.”

“The sand pit next to the beach is pointless as there is plenty of sand to play with on the beach; it would be nice to see tax money spent on something worthwhile for a change.”

“This is a brilliant idea but, if you use sand, please could it be less gritty than that on Beach on the Beach?”

“We do not use the beach on the beach due to the sand turning the kids yellow! It stains clothing too. I don’t understand how this has happened as I used to work for a company who produced children’s play sand and I understand the stringent screening and standards that it must adhere to. The sand in the play area looks to me like builders’ sand.”

“We don’t play in the ‘beach on the beach’ any more as it’s not proper sand and stained my children’s clothes!”

“Whilst I think this is a brilliant idea and hope it can be implemented, I would just like to have it recorded that the sand which has been put into the new sandpit along the seafront near the pier, is very unsuitable for small children as it is not play sand. It is therefore unsatisfactory for making sand castles etc as it does not cling together. It also has sharp small stones and pieces of shell in it which could cause cuts and lacerations to young eager hands wanting to play in it. It looks to me like builder’s ‘sharp’ sand - is there any possibility it could be replaced with proper play sand? It also stained my grandchildren’s clothing too!”

“We don’t use the beach on the beach due to the sand turning the kids yellow! It stains clothing too. I don’t understand how this has happened as I used to work for a company who produced children’s play sand and I understand the stringent screening and standards that it must adhere to. The sand in the play area looks to me like builders’ sand.”

“Access to the sand and the water is needed. More ramps and the removal of the stones.”

“Additional ramps to the sand like the one at the yacht club would enable access for all.”

“Arun should look first at the Re-invigoration group’s proposal as submitted for the redevelopment of the Regis Centre site. Road closure aside, we should NOT underestimate the value of the disabled pound. Their “wavy prom” allows disabled access right to the water’s edge, and even if it meant a little sea reclamation, this feature in itself, would be beneficial for the town. The design is such that waves are broken up, and the sand shifting is also addressed, albeit with the help of traditional breakwaters.”

“Need an accessible path to get to the water for wheelchair users.”

“Please add disabled access to the beach.”

“The beach needs access for disabled and elderly people to get past the stones and pebbles to reach the sandy area when the tide is out.”

“As a dog walker I’d also like to see more watering stations. My mother would appreciate more benches and shelters - she finds difficulty in walking far without a rest and would like to sit out more at the beach but struggles due to lack of shelter (particularly from the sun).”
“Decking areas east and west of the pier. Introduce a cafe. Removal of the fun-fair rides. The new toilets/foreshore/cafe need to be built near the ramp, with beach-huts installed east of the ramp. Shaded areas are needed.”

“I remember fondly the bandstand being a carousel when I was a child and I loved riding it. It would be great to see this bandstand put to use. I also remember trampolines on the beach which were great fun!”

“It would be great to have more food choice on the seafront.”

“It’s possibly the wrong forum to put this, but we really need to get on and develop the area. The regeneration is taking far too long. I still believe if we really are looking at something different to a cinema etc. we should look at something like the Splashdown complex at Poole - great for all ages and far better than any others in this area.”

“Much more is needed for families living and visiting with young children in Bognor Regis. I grew up here, and enjoyed such amenities as a boating pool in the Queensway, and Hotham Park had lovely Nursery Rhyme themed sculptures dotted about. Also, PLEASE can someone sort out that the new seafront lighting? There remain several lampposts not lit along the road towards Butlins.”

“Perhaps think more about the beach we already have and put this money towards a better sea defence so the sand can return - even in small areas. People do return to a place that has a sandy beach.”

“Please consider an artificial grass area with picnic benches so families can picnic there also.”

“Providing family friendly car parking with larger spaces would be appealing.”

“Rides on the beach are good but the people running them don’t have people skills and don’t want to be there. Needs to be more to do for all ages to attract more people there, otherwise it’ll become a ghost town.”

“Since Arun Council is an obvious anti dog council it would be good to see a few more dog bins around the town. i.e. there are NO bins in Barrack Lane (between shops and roundabout) none along Fish Lane between the High Trees and West Park, and none along the complete length of Aldwick beach between the beach huts and Pagham.”

“The play area at Hothamton is in serious need of safety measures re dog access NOW, this matter MUST NOT be left to an excuse re regeneration and proposed linear park and any money available should go to the upgrade of that area. New equipment could be removed to another area in due course, and one WILL be needed to replace it.”

“We love Bognor and love seeing how it develops. We would really love an ice skating rink! Please.”

“We need attractions that will bring people out of Butlins spending money. We need the pier rejuvenated.”

“What about the rest of the sea front? About time the re-generation went ahead! Never seen such indecision.”

“What about the rest of town!”