Old Showfield Engagement Development and Access

Stage 1

In March 2022, 80 Year 8 students at the Make It Happen Youth Conference participated in a series of creative workshops with Children's Scrapstore to develop ideas for the adaptation of the Old Showfield play park. Their most popular 15 ideas were then shared with students at Critchill School.



Stage 2

In May 2022, 7 Critchill students then chose from those 15 items:

- More lighting
- Skate ramps
- Basketball hoops
- Extension of the climbing frames
- Talking poles
- Football nets
- Benches/picnic tables for socialising
- A higher zip wire
- A shelter

- A hamster wheel
- Replacement bucket swing
- Pizza oven
- A dog agility space
- A bandstand
- A new roundabout

The students also added:

- More slides on the slope
- Ground trampolines
- A sandpit
- More flowers

The items that were most popular with the class at Critchill were slides, a replacement bucket swing, sand, and a dog agility space. The bandstand was rejected as they felt the space was too small and the town already had one.

With regards to accessibility, 2 students from Critchill supported a site visit to the Old Showfield to highlight access issues from their personal perspective, and also from the perspective of their Disabled peers.

Gates

The gates were wide enough for wheelchair/pushchair access and easy to open. There was suggestion that there should be safety latches on the tops of the gates to avoid young children being able to run off. The students felt that there were enough gates and in the right places, all accessible from the paths.



Terrain

The uneven grass in the play park may make it difficult for visually impaired people or wheelchair/pushchair users to navigate.

Paths

The paths are wide enough and flat enough, both inside, and for access into the park. The students also felt that the steps up to the higher part of the park were okay as there were multiple choices in accessing that space (the path/desire lines/slope and slide).

Seating

More seating is needed at the outdoor gym and inside the playpark. There needs to be a selection of benches with backs, picnic tables and wheelchair accessible seating.

Equipment

Some equipment in the outdoor gym needs fixing.

In the play park:

- the roundabout needs replacing as it is slow and hard to push
- The basket swing needs replacing where it used to be
- The wooden roundabout should be kept
- The small bucket spinner is limited in what it offers, and the space could be better used (see development recommendations below)
- The top swing is broken and needs replacing
- The zip wire is too close to the ground, and could be relocated to use the natural slope of the park



Areas for development

- A graffiti wall to allow graffiti art, to reduce it being on the play equipment
- A ground level trampoline
- A sandpit

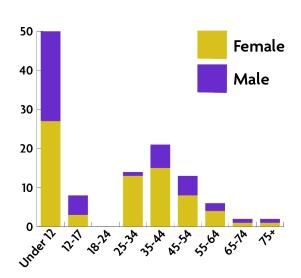
- More stuff added to the existing climbing frame
- A shelter for when it rains
- Shade for when it is hot
- Water fountain

The students liked the fact that the grass was not mown and that there were flowers.

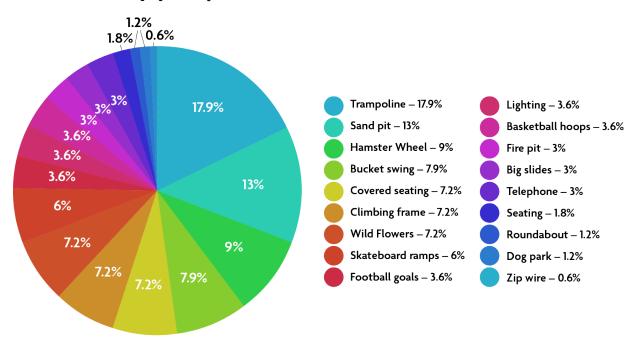
Stage 3

The 18 most popular items from Year 8 and Critchill students were then shared at the Old Showfield Jubilee Event on June 02 2022, 2-4pm.

116 people engaged overall and were shown images of the 18 items chosen by children and young people to which they were invited to dot vote.



Items in order of popularity:



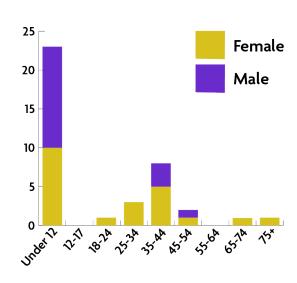
Other observations:

- A swing set for all ages
- Rocks to climb on
- CCTV
- Anything for teenagers

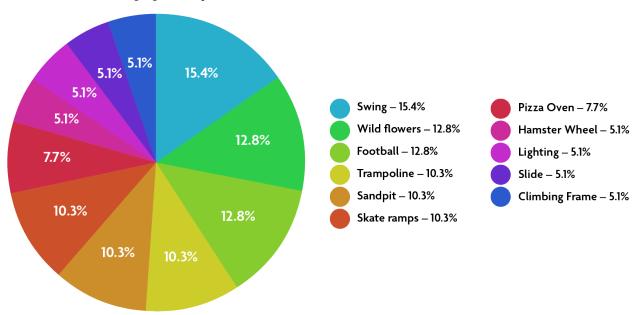
Stage 4

The same images were taken to Park Run and Pop-Up Play session at the Old Showfield on June 11 2022, 9.30-12.30pm

39 people engaged with the dot voting



Items in order of popularity:



Other observations:

• Space for water play

Taking into consideration the views of 242 people, the order of popularity of items are as follows:

- 1. Trampolines
- 2. (JOINT) Sandpit and bucket swing
- 3. Wildflowers
- 4. Football nets
- 5. Skate ramps
- 6. Hamster wheel
- 7. Climbing frame
- 8. Firepit
- 9. Lighting
- 10. Slides
- 11. Covered seating
- 12. Basketball hoops
- 13. Telephone
- 14. Seating
- 15. Roundabout
- 16. Dog park
- 17. Zip wire