

Beach – Update on Consultation with Children and Young People

AUGUST COMMITTEE 2023 – CYP ENGAGEMENT APPENDIX

Dave Brown

STREET-UK | SUITE 411 BALTIC CHAMBERS | 50 WELLINGTON STREET | GLASGOW G2 6HJ

Beach Park, Events Park and Broadhill Development

Engagement with Children and Young People since Councilors approved the next stage of work in the first phase in the transformation of Aberdeen’s beachfront in May 2023

As outlined in previous reports to Councilors, significant engagement has taken place with children and young people during the development of the proposals over the last 18 months. This engagement helped shape the designs approved for progression in May.

Additional engagement has taken place since then, aimed at both updating young consultees on how their previous involvement has shaped the current plans and to sense-check the detailed proposals in terms of accessibility and inclusion and the role of Young People.

14th to 19th June - Youth Ambassador Development Trip to Regensburg, Germany

6 young people identified from 56 young people.

Hub North Scotland’s supply chain involved in the Masterplan funded a trip to Regensburg for 6 young consultees who have been heavily involved in the consultation process. The Aberdeen school pupils, who ranged from 10 to 15 years old, have taken part in applied theatre and film workshops as well as presented at World Children’s Day and deputations to full Committee.

The trip allowed them to see how young people influence place-making in a UNESCO World Heritage city as well as how the city transforms for its annual Burgerfest. The busy itinerary included discussions on place-making with pupils at a secondary school, tours of co-designed, inclusive play parks and a youth centre, a briefing session on ‘mini’ Regensburg – a 3-week ‘city’ run by children, and a workshop with members of the local youth parliament.

The children gained a huge amount from the trip.

“I think the streets would feel a lot safer if there was more youth and teens involved in city planning. I have learned that the environment impacts a lot on young peoples growth and development, because safer streets, cleaner environment and colour helps create safe and positive feelings in young people.” Agnes Brock participant

“Tobechi came back from the trip buzzing with enthusiasm, the trip had a positive impact on her confidence, broadened her horizons. The visit has enabled Tobechi to envisage new possibilities to empower young people to be heard that result in positive change to their communities.” Esther Legunsen parent

This knowledge and enthusiasm is to be put to good use as the young people are aiming to become ambassadors for place-making in the City, ‘Young Creative Consultants’, encouraging their peers to engage with the issues affecting them in the city planning process. The young people felt the trip had helped develop the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to support future planning and place-making exercises.



28th June - Lochside Academy Nurture Room – 13 students

Op-en gave a presentation, 'Our Journey to the Beach', updating the students previously involved on where things have got to in terms of the detailed layout of the Park and the increased detail around the play factory.

The students in the Nurture Room then had a 1-hour creative feedback session led by Creative Learning. The session started with questions around 'Are you happy with the plans overall?', 'Do you think everyone should be able to get everywhere?', 'Is there anything you think isn't so great about the design?' and 'Do you think the Park has everything you need?'.

Feedback – There were several repeated points made;

Getting about – safety, treasure trail, bike lanes, bike hire, little river and bridge

Facilities – more toilets, multiple quiet places, stepping stones, art areas and drawing, area for dogs and pets, reading area

Play Factory – slides seem scary, hidden things, rope floor, a lift, ball pit, music buttons

28th June - Bucksburn Academy ASN Wing – 15 students and support staff

Due to limited time available, this session was restricted to the presentation from Op-en and streets-UK, 'Our Journey to the Beach', as detailed above.

The subsequent conversation with the students, most of whom had taken part in previous consultation exercises in Autumn 2022, highlighted the excitement around the proposals and also raised issues around overall safety, availability of quieter, calmer spaces and opportunity for projected artwork.

18th to 20th July - Orchard Brae ASN, Summer in the City

107 families/caregivers and children over 3 days

Creative Learning, Streets UK and Soundplay Project welcomed children with additional support needs, plus their families and caregivers, to Orchard Brae School. As well as engaging through play with SoundPlay's interactive music and light installations, the participants found out more about the

detailed plans for the Beach Park and discussed what is important to them in terms of play and learning.

Detailed feedback is provided as footnote, however key themes that emerged from the conversations included;

- Adequate changing facilities in size and number
- Extended opening times to allow visits when quieter
- Wheelchair accessibility through paths and to play activities but also seating and picnic benches and the beach
- Sensory play and water play
- Play equipment big enough for large children (and adults!)

The families really appreciated the SoundPlay offer, which greatly engaged the young people and allowed the adults/carers time to reflect and discuss what would work best for them.



SOundplay video
clip 1.mp4

24th to 28th July

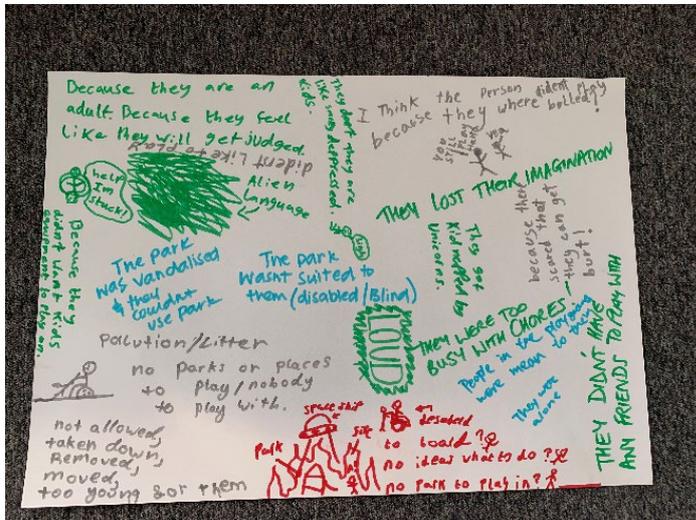
Beach Ballroom, Summer in the City

Average 20 children each day

Creative Learning and streets-UK continued the use of applied theatre and film-making techniques to explore key themes around the Beach Masterplan. The 5- day workshop at the Beach Ballroom considered how the Beach Park in general, and the Rope Factory in particular, can provide multiple and progressive levels of play within the new designs that can be challenging and educational but also accessible and fun. The group involved young people that have already provided their input on several occasions as well as newcomers who discovered the satisfaction of having their voices heard in the fine-tuning of the Beach Park proposals.

Detailed feedback is provided as footnote, however key themes that emerged from the workshop included;

- Ability to explore and play without adult supervision
- Barriers to play that may be circumstantial and/or societal
- The relevance (or otherwise) of local history to play
- Importance to everyone of accessibility and inclusivity, including ability and age
- Desire for different levels of risk but also areas for quiet and imagination



Footnote 1 Orchard Brae ASN Feedback

Tuesday AM	Comments	Key themes
1	<p>Mentally fully capable – wants to do same stuff as pals but needs more room for chair, extendable materials to reach chair etc.</p> <p>Big changing area needed for full family, especially if only one parent/carer there. Also needs a lot of time so several areas a benefit.</p> <p>Beach wheel chairs a big plus</p>	<p>Full access to able-bodied materials</p> <p>Good changing facilities</p> <p>Access to beach and sand</p>
2	<p>Interactive and sensory is great – tubular, spin, light,, art installations, sculpture, colour. Also historical, previous generations use of beach (planes and easter egg rolling!)</p> <p>Plenty areas for short walks and picnics for families</p> <p>Night-time access, winter access – views of sea from sheltered/protected/more private spots.</p> <p>Encourage positive risk-taking – could be challenged this enables, empowers and is hopeful.</p>	<p>Interactive & sensory</p> <p>Picnic spaces</p> <p>Wider access times</p> <p>Protected viewpoints</p> <p>Positive risk taking</p>
3	<p>Family with 3 children all autistic, fully mobile. We go to the beach about 3 times a week. We enjoy playing in water.</p>	<p>Interactive water play, sensory play</p> <p>Safe spaces</p> <p>Lots of room to play</p>
4	<p>Parent with Child in Powerchair.</p> <p>Room for powerchair to turn on ramps pass another chair on path,</p> <p>How do you get on and off ramped access, pavement, walkways. Not all chairs work the same way.</p> <p>Child is harnessed into chair so cannot reach and touch things. Picnic benches don't allow for chair to fit, things need to be movable different heights.</p> <p>Why only roundabouts- every park has roundabouts not all roundabouts are chair safe. Child can't do spinning or bouncing due to medical condition.</p> <p>Some equipment can exasperate conditions. Child is an active and intelligent young boy who happens to be in a chair and wants to play like all children his age.</p> <p>No Latex</p> <p>SITC- is it accessible – activities for able children in wheelchairs. Not all children need specialist care and equipment access and space to move around. Family 2 children one in motorised chair. Access and travel can be difficult not all taxis accommodate motorised chairs need a ramp not 2 wheel tracks. Stupid bark stuff don't use it! Chairs don't work on this surface.</p>	<p>Beach chairs – Balmedie chairs are good.</p> <p>Ramps with space for motorised chairs to turn.</p> <p>Accessible surfaces.</p> <p>Access for 2 powerchairs to pass each other or travel together on path.</p> <p>Ramps without steps!</p> <p>Beach access ramps eg Australia</p> <p>NO Latex.</p> <p>Adjustable picnic benches – height and moving parts.</p> <p>Consult with Charlies house</p> <p>SITC - is it accessible for able children in chairs?</p>

Cate staff	Relative providing care for 3months to support sister. This has been fantastic – “ I feel nurtured by this event today.”	
Tuesday PM		
5	Interactive is good. They want to explore and learn at their own pace Balance between safety and independent play	Interactive Explore and learn Safety and independence
6	Like playing on own or with a familiar group. Could sessions be given over to specific groups such as LSN dance group?	Private sessions
7	Young boy– severe autistic profile has technology preference (enjoyed LEGOLAND tech elements Different hours would be good. Set up ‘early intervention charity’ – would be keen to continue dialogue. Loves big chute, monkey bard, water spraying	Technology Wider access times Active play
8	Good changing facilities Walkway deep onto beach Keep in touch with wider user group (Charlie House)	Good changing facilities Walkway onto sand
9	Play parks often very busy lots of equipment in one place attracting a lot of people. Good if there is a sheltered area to go to for picnic no matter of the weather. Covered areas	Space out equipment to avoid crowding in one place.
10	Changing facilities shouldn’t be unwelcoming – not at the back of building. Welcoming, clean – safe – changing facilities for older kids and adults,	Welcoming changing facilities for families,
11	Montrose Splash Park – really good -sprinklers. More gentle play areas, good toilet facilities and good snacks that are not expensive. Enclosed parks worry about running away, don’t like enclosed by shrubs and trees.	Shallow pools, benches, soft flooring sprinklers, water pistols. More gentle play. Affordable good snacks. Enclosed areas.
12	Montrose Splash Park is brilliant! Not always accessible. Park at Balmedie is good instruments and accessible Accessibility to Balmedie- wheelchair accessible walkways are important. Accessible play equipment Hospital park at children’s hospital is excellent , accessibility is key Wheelchair friendly trampoline (non Motorised) Option to include everyone in play facilities Smooth ground spongy and safe	Montrose splash park. Marischal college water fountains in pavement fantastic. Balmedie park is good Musical instruments Top priority changing places Hospital Park @ children’s hospital excellent Smooth ground

Wednesday AM		
13	Loves climbing frames but wants whole frame to be accessible – alternative route if difficult bit e.g. monkey bars Plenty space Bigger play kit – suitable for older kids with lower mental age Sunken trampolines Mindful of mobility issues e.g., height restriction bars on a chute Lady who works at Bucksburn ASN – happy to contribute and stay in touch	Whole circuit accessible Space Bigger versions of play kit Active play Avoid restrictive barriers etc
14	Love a splash park (Montrose is great although changing facilities poor) Cleanliness and upkeep of materials eg tunnels important for some ASN kids	Splash Park Cleanliness
15	Activities build into trail would be good. Need to consider deaf signage – not just BSN but maybe Makaton. Kensington Gardens were great. Trust at Seaton Park also looking to install ASN play equipment – should coordinate.	Trail activities Deaf signage Seaton Park
16	Likes relaxed pace, less noise. Longer hours so could go when quiet Variety important – enjoys physical and tactile & music but at different times dependant on mood	Quiet spaces Wider access times Variety
17	Variety as easily bored Likes a wide range of materials and finishes to experience	Variety Tactile range
18	Lots of benches needed Need attractions but also need quiet spaces	Benches Quiet spaces
19	Spread out facilities, Circular play system Sensory garden . Water fountains – gentle and can be small and fall into small ponds to touch. Need for rubbish bins	Spread out facilities Art gallery has sensory spaces + touch Water play Rubbish bins
20	Too busy is not good, struggle with sand texture. Swings are really popular. Slides are really popular. Chair swings are good and ring swings .	Quiet spaces Variety of swings
21	Organise online meeting with parents to discuss Accessible surfacing at Lossiemouth – Moray Coast park – can we do this in Aberdeen. PAMIS- fully registered on app – For changing facilities – help to design changing facilities, Moray Sports Centre have one, Christies, Sports Village. Changing facilities problem for older kids – in Aberdeen Union Square – Art Gallery (Not Great) –	Follow up Lossiemouth play park surfacing Registered changing facilities Changing facilities for older children/ adults

	Science Centre – Rosemount Community Centre. All closed in the evening so cant go out	Changing facilities open in the evening.
22	Waterplay in ground. Don't put everything in the same place spread it out Reason to go out – walk to shop – if on walks there were activities to do, it would be better than all in one place.	Spread out play, interactive play e.g. for when on walks
Wednesday PM		
23	Mother, grandmother and child - has complex multiple support need. Child has 2 older teenage brothers one with ASN. Has trouble with breathing so cannot go out in windy weather. Changing facilities are important and need to be maintained. Sensory glow in the dark spaces sensory lights at night time- I take my boys out in the evening. Impact of vandalism on accessible play equipment. Vandalised play equipment is not replaced Child needs 1:1 care 24/7 Child needs meds administered so picnic benches that are in sheltered private area with seating and picnic benches that can fit wheelchair. Secluded private and sheltered area with seating close to parking and emergency vehicle access are very important.	Sensory – glow in the dark. Interactive lights for night time. More accessible play equipment Vandalism of accessible play equipment – maintaining equipment Tarlair in McDuff sheltered, scenic view, picnic areas, grass Sheltered areas near car parking. Picnic benches for administering meds. Emergency vehicle access for site. Enclosed shelter for privacy. Adjustable picnic benches. Moving parts for trays.
24	Safe enclosed spaces my sons are flight risks, runners. Space where children can be watched and monitored – safety boundary. Natural space – made with natural products. My home is restricted by space this is large open space but needs to be safe and enclosed to support parents. Public transport needs to be close not miles from place to play Beech wheelchairs, ramps that are moveable to create paths and walkways Motorised wheelchairs struggle with dropped kerbs. Equipment attractions for Very able and very unable but nothing in between	Safe enclosed space with room to run safely. Good public transport close to attractions Beech wheelchairs Moveable ramps
25	Family 3 children all autistic – we go to Footdee park. Walk along beach. Love going in sand and water. More interactive music things on beach from walk. A trail eg. Bunny, oor wullie etc.	Interactive things for walk along sea front. Sensory touch small colours Walking trails Way markers – trail maps Footdee park

Thursday AM		
26	Calm peaceful. And natural place to play. Trees to look up at. Sand, sea and beach accessible for wheelchairs with accessible changing areas for families with space for equipment and seating. Picnic tables that can fit wheelchairs	Safe space Accessible changing areas Picnic tables that fit wheelchairs under
27	Space to walk in a calm environment, Splash park sensory sand play, sensory and inclusive space Swings- disability swings, wheelchair accessible swings like at ARI. Swimming pool – we need one at the beach with facilities waves, rapids/ slides	Splash park Sensory and interactive play
28	Sand should be more accessible totally wheelchair accessible. Accessible changing spaces positive experience/ rooms. Small paddling pool without sand. Wheelchair accessible roundabouts and swings	Water play Clean accessible changing areas with space.
29	Can be stressful for families to go out on a visit. Stress involved in planning a trip and a visit somewhere. Don't get a disabled plan, will a child be able to access this plan. Attendee – vision sensory support services – part time ACC education 38years of experience she should be consulted. Sick kids waiting area in Edinburgh is great Glasgow cant access stuff as its on the walls and child in a chair. Cost of café's for families.	Emergency vehicle access. Sick kids Edinburgh waiting areas good. Affordable cafes for families.
Thursday PM		
30	Wave machine – miss the beach pool used to go every Saturday. No jaggy surfaces especially for feet Make sure sensory (stand on things) work for lighter smaller children. Union Terrace gardens one don't work for my larger child. Need for lifts, safe climbing things, wheel chair swing same as the one next to Alford Ski Slope. 1 Billion likes to Soundplay and today	Union Terrace interactive play
31	Parent with 17yr old boy with Downs Syndrome with 13 year old sibling. Relaxed sessions in spaces to avoid other families stares and expectations. I need parking close by my son doesn't like walking, needs visual attractions at intervals to support walking. what can I gain from visiting beach? If he has to walk far I wont get very far. He will just stop other families stop and stare. He needs distractions. Cant read so signposts waste of time. Kinetic things visual signs.	Kinetic things Visual attractions Access to climbing for those older children less able with steps.

	At 17 not much for him to play on but he wants to play. Not a good climber, steps are difficult. 13 yr old brother is very able and can support but sometimes they need to play on their own. 17 yr old shouldn't always need help to access equipment that is suitable for his size/age, as this brings embarrassment for him as he gets older.	
32	Parent of 14yr old child and siblings . Water play paddling pools a lido? Fountains with shallow water. Montrose splash pool interactive water park. Play equipment in parks too small, larger versions and adult versions of play equipment so we can all play. Changing places/ spaces- maintenance- out of order hoists equipment seating. Sensory spaces in nature should be different to inside spaces, outside should be natural, with natural tactile things	Montrose splash park Natural non manufactured tactile/ sensory things outdoors. Union terrace gardens low maintenance play equipment
33	Changing areas don't need to cater for everyone so keep some simple for those who just need a little bit more space. Ramps in Union Terrace gardens are fantastic. I used to have access Union Terrace gardens via HMT. Great that I can access the park now. It's maintaining the space and keeping it safe.	Changing areas.
34	Mum from Wee Too with sons both autistic, The beach is my favourite place. It is nice to come(to this event) somewhere that I feel listened to . Planting and trees- be more natural using natural not imported. Natural species and wildflowers. Surface for Longboards and safe spaces to do longboarding – Victoria park is favourite at the moment for this activity. Cove and Cults skate parks- small space and not much else there. Natural Soundplay- park in Altens has big tubes Smugglers cove can't always keep a track on where children are. Giant "pop it" walls sensory Blowing into tubes, sound play and stretchy things and sand play	Enclosed areas within large areas. Longboarding- Victoria Park Interactive play things Altens big tubes for sound play "Pop It" walls sensory play Stretchy things Sound play Sand play

Footnote 2 Beach Ballroom Summer in the City Feedback

Over 5 days young people explored the Play Factory designs using a range of different exploration techniques. Young people were asked to consider the importance of history, accessibility, playfulness and risk in regard to the structure they were presented with.



During the first session participants were invited to explore the idea of play as work through the visual metaphor of a factory setting. Through doing so and via the construction of a Ru-Goldberg inspired machine (comparing and contrasting “machinery” and items found in a play park) they highlighted that play should be something that they should be able to concentrate on and get on without being interrupted by adult intervention. It was “their time to use” and it didn't always require an outcome and output, it was more an exploration until “boredom” set in. Through this exercise the young people were also able to articulate that through play they should be able to use their energy up, sometimes physical and sometimes mental and creative energy.

Beyond this through a narrative based exercise on “The Person That Didn't Play”. In which the young people were asked to create film suggestions for a film based on play. The young people were able to articulate a broad range of suggestions over “Why someone didn't play?” which included money, time, space and fear. As well as suggestions to “what would happen if the person didn't play” this included idea's of “not making friends”, “not learning how to partake in sports and group activities”, “achy and stiff bodies” as well as fear of injuring themselves. What was interesting from a facilitation perspective was the initial challenge too enable young people to reflect from an external perspective on the concept of play and playing, this potential due to its often child led nature and rareness for it to be reflected upon or for adults to give attention to it or indeed take their activity seriously.





Conversations were sparked around how much impact the history of rope making in Aberdeen will have on playing within the new structure ideas. The majority of the young people did not feel that the history behind the new structure was important or had an impact on them playing or learning. "I think young people of Aberdeen don't really know about the history of Aberdeen and I think changing parks to relate to the history is pointless. It's hard to imagine something that one might not know. It limits the possibilities of imagination sparking and growing whilst interacting with the thing you are playing with." (Child, age 12).

During the consultation it became evident that the young people want a space that is inclusive and accessible to everyone of all ages and abilities. After spending time exploring and examining the play equipment at the beach it was noted that the current design is targeted towards young children and that the new equipment needs to have areas specially for a younger and older audience. Although the ideas of risk and playing were explored continually throughout the week the young people felt it was important to ensure that there is an area away from all of the noise and energy for people to relax whilst still engaging with the park. They want a space that allows risks to be taken (however thorough a scaffolded approach) and explored within the Rope Factory that also allows people to use their imagination.