



CREATING A FUTURE FOR WOKINGHAM TOWN CENTRE

Creating strong communities where residents have the leisure and recreational facilities they need is at the heart of Wokingham Borough Council's Vision for regenerating its town centres.

**ELMS FIELD
PLAY AREA
AUTUMN 2016**

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NEW PLAY AREA: OUR PROPOSALS

Coming up with ideas

The redevelopment of Elms Field is due to start in spring/summer 2017.

In preparing for this, we've been working hard on the detailed designs to make sure the new play area at Elms Field becomes a fantastic space for the town centre.

During the years we've talked to you and you've told us what you'd like to see in the play area.

We've been working with designers to develop these initial ideas into exciting new proposals for what is set to become one of the best play areas in the town.

We're now at the point where we'd like to share these with you and welcome your thoughts and comments about the designs.

Location

The new location for the play area was carefully chosen to make sure it is closely linked to the pedestrian areas surrounding the new shops and restaurants. However, it is also carefully landscaped with planting and fencing to make sure it's secure and that children can play safely and happily in their own space.

We're also making sure there is easy access from the play area into the rest of the park, with several entrances linking to the main routes around the space.

Character and design

With the Elms Field play area set to become a flagship attraction for Wokingham, we want to make sure it is better than anything else in the town and offers something different. This reflects the quality of new spaces we've seen at locations like Dinton Pastures and the FBC Centre.

We want to make sure it meets the needs of a range of people, from young toddlers to older children and families and that it's accessible to a

range of different abilities across the design.

We also want to make the most of its setting in the park, proposing a natural timber feel for the equipment, incorporating tree trunks felled as part of the wider development and using existing landscaping features such as the sloped site and mature trees.



Play experience

The play area has been designed to make the most of the space and offer a wide range of equipment and facilities for different ages.

We've created clusters of equipment for toddlers, junior and older play to make sure there is plenty of access to challenging and stimulating equipment for different abilities. But we have made sure the spaces are integrated together to encourage play as individuals, groups and as families.

We're making sure there are lots of opportunities for play activities like

swinging, spinning, climbing, balancing and sliding across the design. There is also going to be lots of multi-purpose and flexible equipment to encourage creative play and help link the different clusters together.

We've also made sure the play area includes lots of grassed areas to run around, with lots of planting and landscaping throughout, and a special sensory area with tactile and musical play.

It's not just about play

We also know time spent in the play area is not just about children playing but also about families socialising and relaxing.

With this in mind we've made sure to include lots of seating across the play area from benches, and multi-purpose equipment to picnic tables to allow families to make the most of their visit and the proximity to the town centre, cafés and shops.

Maintaining the space

With a popular town centre location it's important what we propose is robust and easy to maintain.

We've given careful consideration to the choice of equipment and the surfacing we use within the designs to make sure the new play area can stay fantastic for years to come.



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Let us know what you think of the new play area by contacting the Regeneration team at: towncentre.regeneration@wokingham.gov.uk by Sunday 13 November 2016.