

Stevens Park

Schools Consultation responses

Old Park School (special school)

Old Park has a lot of children who are wheelchair users and with other disabilities including visual impairment and the needs of the children and staff are particular to this.

They have good outdoor facilities within the school including a Forest Schools area and outdoor space, however they are keen to get out of the school grounds as much as possible to provide new experiences for the children.

They cannot currently access the park on foot due to a busy road being between them and the park. The car park is helpful but the path from the car park is too steep and makes it impossible to get to the middle of the park if pushing a young adult in a wheelchair.

Things they would like to see in the park include;

- Paths smoothing to take away steep gradients
- Accessible Green Gym
- Manmade sensory equipment- moving parts, noises, sculpture etc
- Natural features and better access to existing features- children like to look at trees but need to be accessible from the path
- Trails to follow
- Shelter so children can still experience the park in wet or changeable weather
- An indoor teaching space if accessible for all
- Horticultural projects

If the park were to be made more accessible use would increase dramatically, each class would visit every week in summer and every few weeks in winter. The school would be very keen to get involved in the project- staff could come on site and talk through the accessibility issues and other requirements. Staff would also be happy to facilitate children contributing to the project.

Mount Pleasant Primary School

Don't currently use the park – use own grounds or Saltwells NR. Barriers to use are lack of toilets, lack of indoor space and lack of somewhere to eat lunch.

Would like to see shelter, indoor / secure bag storage, outdoor teaching area and nature conservation area.

Would use the park if there was also a programme of special projects, also sports activities.

Also would like to see self led discovery / themed trails.

Would possibly use weekly if all facilities and support provided.

Would not be prepared to pay.

Quarry Bank Primary

Also use Saltwells and own grounds plus Mousesweet Brook. Go out of school once per term.

Physical improvement – shelter.

Activity interests – staff to lead activities, local history resources, info on web site, access to natural areas, special projects and self led trails.

Would only use twice per year, would pay £2 to £4 per child per two hour session for staff led educational activities.

Thorns Primary School

Do use Stevens Park for:

- History – WWI, memorial, peace visit to lay wreath
- Geography – local study
- PHSE / Citizenship
- Maths – measurements and area
- Younger children have also used for science, nature trails and to use the play ground

Barrier to greater use is staff resource to meet ratio requirements and risk assessments required each time.

Facilities required – shelter, indoor / secure bag storage, indoor teaching area, outdoor teaching area, safe walking route.

Activity related requirements – education pack, local history resources / activities, information on web site, access to natural areas, programme of special projects, sports activities. Also specifically referred to horticultural projects.

Would use weekly and pay £1 to £2 per head for 2 hour staff led sessions.

Summary

Design considerations

- Specific access requirements from Oak Park both for building and landscape
- Toilets, hand washing
- Shelter and indoor teaching space – most schools
- Secure storage and bag storage
- Outdoor teaching area (possibly linked to horticultural space?)
- Horticultural projects – linked to the growing space so need to consider any specific schools requirements
- Trails – link to interpretation plan?
- Access to natural areas – currently limited opportunities

Activity plan considerations

- Who would lead activities – heritage ranger post or would some combine with EJJF e.g. horticultural projects
- Allow budget for creation of education pack / on line resources
- Trails – link to interpretation plan?
- Local history a common interest
- Sports activities

Business plan considerations

- Subject to suitable indoor teaching space being available how would this fit into an overall programme of building use?
- If EJJF deliver horticultural projects would they take the income? Needs an agreed / combined charging rate across DMBC and EJJF