



The Lily Pad

Spring 2007

www.endcliffeplayground.org.uk

You Chirped up a Chorus!

On a lovely February Sunday, nearly 400 people (both grown ups and those still growing) Hopped to it and Chirped Up. That is, they came along to a consultation event which we organised in the park to tell us what they wanted in a new playground at Endcliffe Park.

We heard some great things from you all, and thanks so much if you took part. We asked you to stick stickers (red for adults and yellow for kids) on the sort of equipment you liked. Some of our pictures had so many stickers on them, we had to look carefully to see what was underneath!

Once we've finished the consulting process (we are working together with disability groups over the next few weeks) we will be pulling together all the feedback from the numerous consultations we've held.

This will form the basis for the Terms of Reference for a new playground. Playground suppliers and landscape architects who are interested in designing and installing the new playground will then be invited to tender for the work.

We will ensure that they come up with designs to bring in the themes, great ideas and types of play equipment we all want to see in a new playground at Endcliffe Park.

Delayed Big Lottery Decision

We had hoped to hear if our bid to the Big Lottery for £79,000 was successful by mid March. Unfortunately we've recently been told that we will now not hear until May at the earliest. This means our timetable for starting the build of a new playground (should we be successful) in late Summer 2007 has been pushed back until Spring/Summer 2008. We're working as hard as we can to ensure we have everything in place to get going as soon as we can. Unfortunately, we can't apply any more pressure than we already are.

But there is a little silver lining to this rather grey cloud. The delay means we have plenty of time to raise the profile of the playground and spend a bit more time fundraising £30,000 we hope to raise from businesses in the region.

So, are you part of a business that would like to contribute to a flagship playground at Endcliffe Park? Do you know anyone in a local or regional business that would like to get involved? Financial donations or appropriate 'gifts in kind' are much needed.

Download our business pack at www.endcliffeplayground.org.uk or contact erica.packington@theworkscommunications.com

Thinking Skills

Alongside the public consultation event on 25th February was a more in-depth consultation held with 12 children, ranging in age from 5 - 12 years old. Penny Thompson, who works at Sheffield Hallam University, devised and ran the event.

"The children who took part in the consultation had lots of great thoughts and suggestions. Thanks to them we think we have a good idea of the kind of playground we want." said Penny

In order to get the children thinking about the playground from different points of view, we used an approach developed by Edward de Bono called the 'Thinking Hats'. Ours were glittery red, yellow and purple cowboy hats!

We will be holding an event towards the end of the year when we get the plans finalised and we know what the playground will look like. Keep your eyes peeled!

This is how the process worked...

Wearing the purple hat we thought about what different people might need, such as girls and boys, children in wheelchairs and parents and carers.

"Bright colours everywhere and places to sit and shade from the sun or rain."

"A wheelchair roundabout, a nest swing and notices in Braille."

De Bono's green hat helped us to think creatively about what we want in our new playground.

"A pirate ship!"

"Bugs boxes and a bug vacuum to suck bugs up!"

"An obstacle course with sporty things and a climbing wall."

"Trees for climbing, bird houses, grass and flowers."

When we put on our red hat we looked at the playground as it is now and spoke about how we felt about the park.

"The monkey bars are good fun I want them to stay high."

"The slide is too small I want a bigger one."

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Birthday party

**Hoppy Birthday to us,
Hoppy Birthday to us,
Hoppy Birthday dear
Friends of Endcliffe
Playground, Hoppy
Birthday to US!**

25 children and associated adults helped FoEP celebrate its 1st Birthday at Endcliffe Park Café in October. We all had loads of fun playing lots of noisy games, listening to stories and having a good run around. We then sat down to an amazing birthday tea, kindly provided by Ash.

We sang Hoppy Birthday and blew out the candles on two wonderful froggy cakes made by Viv - one pink and one green to match our tee-shirts! Hoppy Birthday FoEP!

Want to see more pictures of our birthday party? Go to www.endcliffeplayground.org

Local Community Magazine Supports Us

A big thank you to Link Magazine who recently donated £300 to FoEP. Their generous donation co-incided with the relaunch of the magazine - now in colour!

Link is full of information for parents/carers of young children in the area. We are thrilled that they were able to show their support for us in this way.

A View from the Past

We all know what Endcliffe Park looks like now - lovely green spaces, marred by a shabby, outdated playground. We at The Friends of Endcliffe Playground know what we would like to see there in the future - a flagship playground that meets the needs of everyone, whatever their ability levels.

But what was there before we all came along? Well, thanks to some postcards uncovered by Ian Mitchell at Sheffield City Council and Peter Bayliss, from the Friends of Porter Valley, we can see how Endcliffe Park (sometimes called Endcliffe Woods) looked 100 years ago.

Want to see more? Have a look at the full collection of old postcards on our website at www.endcliffeplayground.org



Point Of View: Why I Got Involved with Friends of Endcliffe Playground

I'm surprised that I did get involved. I grew up in communist Bulgaria. Most people only got involved in community projects under threat of punishment. Every Saturday we were required to clean up our communal green space and playground. Nobody cared about it, nobody wanted to do it.

I never noticed any desire in my friends to improve anything around them, only to get the job done as quickly as possible.

My generation was lucky to witness the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of communism. We had the unprecedented opportunity to travel and study abroad and many, like me, took it. I ended up in Sheffield and fell in love with the community here.

Nowadays, when I visit the city where I grew up, Sofia, I feel quite sad. The changes are positive to some extent - lots of shiny new buildings and expensive shops - but the parks and playgrounds have lain abandoned for many years and the drive to maintain them has gone.

So, why did I get involved with the Friends of Endcliffe Playground? Seeing the public spaces in Sofia abandoned made me realise what I'd been taking for granted in Sheffield: the beautiful Endcliffe Park and its playground that are so valuable to me and my family. I am now committed to giving a little bit of effort and free time. True community spirit has won me over.
Lada Price

Want to get involved in the Friends of Endcliffe Playground?
Contact Jo at jclark@fusionprovida.com or visit www.endcliffeplayground.org.uk

Thank you to our donors so far

Many thanks to those who have donated/pledged money to us to date.

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