

## Acton Play Sessions Report February – April 2023

The play sessions have continued to run once a week during this period following our pilot sessions. The sessions have alternated between the green, Little Acton and green space off Hinsley Drive as agreed. In total we have had 13 new individual children attend these sessions (43 in total), with a total attendance of 54 children aged between 5-15.

As expected, the figures reflect the time of year for delivery and the start of a new project. The attendance figures are similar to our other year round community projects during Feb - April. We anticipate over the coming months for the project to grow and attendance to increase. This is evident in the most recent session having an attendance of 12 children despite inclement weather.

We have observed that attendance is greater at the green in little Acton although, as mentioned, attendance seems to be increasing. In order to further promote the project we have worked with the Green infrastructure/open spaces team to involve children in tree planting within the green space at Hinsley Drive.



The types of play activities children have engaged in have been; den building, sports games, street games, 'traditional' games such as hide and seek, fire lighting and toasting marshmallows and go-karts to name a few. We have had really positive feedback from children and parents, some comments include;

"I've never toasted a marshmallow before" (child)

"I really enjoy playing with the go karts" (child)

"This is exactly the type of thing kids need these days, give them something to do and get them out of the house" (parent).



In addition to the play sessions, the play and youth development team have been working closely with volunteers to install a play box at Sunken Gardens. Installation of this box has involved strong partnership work between our team, the volunteers and the environment team. We are pleased to report that a volunteer play session has been delivered (8 children and 5 parents) and there are plans for these sessions to run on a regular basis for the children in the community. See play box briefing paper for further information regarding the play boxes in Wrexham.

#### Recommendations

- Continue to fund the project for an initial period of 12 months (1 April – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023).
- Monitor attendance at play sessions and respond to children's requirements in terms of locations.