

Acton Play Session Report May – July 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 47 individual children attend these sessions, with a total attendance of 101 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 the first quarter. We anticipate over the coming months for the project to grow and attendance to increase. The average child attendance during this period is 10 per session.

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, with 100% positive feedback from our evaluation forms, some comments include;

"I wish it was here every week" (child)

"go karts are the most fun here" (child)

"It's just really fun" (child)

In addition to the play sessions, as reported at the last meeting, 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 sessions have been delivered and there are plans for these sessions to run on a regular basis for the children in the community.

Recommendations

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