

Hall Road Play Area – Public Consultation Report

St Dennis Parish Council

Date: February 2026

1. Introduction

St Dennis Parish Council undertook a public consultation between July and December 2025 to gather community views on the condition and future development of the Hall Road Play Area. The purpose of the consultation was to understand how the existing play area is used, what residents value about the site, what improvements are most desired, concerns relating to rejuvenation, and willingness to volunteer. A total of 34 responses were received.

2. Respondent Profile

Most respondents stated they live nearby, with many also regularly passing by or visiting with children. Usage levels were generally low, with “Rarely” being the most common response, followed by “Monthly”, “Weekly”, and “Never”.

3. Key Findings

Residents noted that the green space is valued for being enclosed, local, and suitable for younger children, but positive comments were limited.

Dislikes and areas needing improvement included:

- Outdated or unsafe play equipment
- Poor maintenance, including long grass, litter and dog mess
- Limited seating and amenities
- Park size and layout constraints

Most requested improvements included:

- New play equipment
- Accessible/inclusive features
- Better access/pathways
- New seating and picnic areas
- Planting and natural features
- Improved safety and security

4. Concerns About Rejuvenation

Concerns included vandalism, parking pressures, safety issues, costs to taxpayers, and wider community concerns. Many respondents emphasised the need for anti-vandalism measures and careful planning.

5. Likelihood of Increased Use

The majority of respondents said they would use the play area more if improvements were made, indicating strong community demand.

6. Volunteering Interest

Some respondents expressed interest in volunteering, particularly in planning, planting, or supporting community days.

7. Conclusions

There is strong community support for rejuvenation, with clear priorities including equipment upgrades, safety enhancements, accessibility improvements, and increased maintenance. Concerns regarding vandalism and parking should be considered in the redesign. As well as the targeted age for the play area. It is noted within the responses that some equipment should be aimed at older children (teenagers) the Council objectives for this area should remain clear.

8. Recommendations

- Install modern, safe, inclusive play equipment
- Improve surfacing and accessible pathways
- Increase seating and picnic spaces
- Enhance safety measures (whilst CCTV is not suitable for this area fencing can be improved)
- Establish a regular maintenance programme

Report produced by Lynn Clarke Clerk/RFO to St Dennis Parish Council.