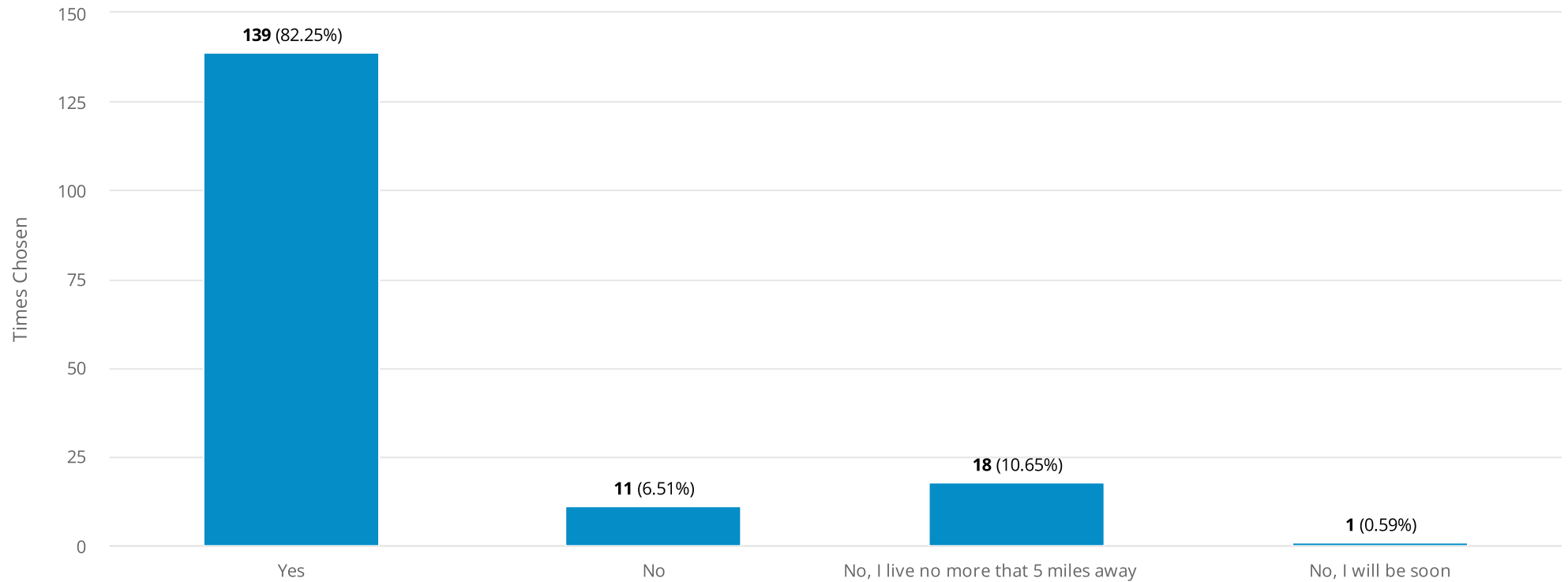


# Ditchling Playground Project

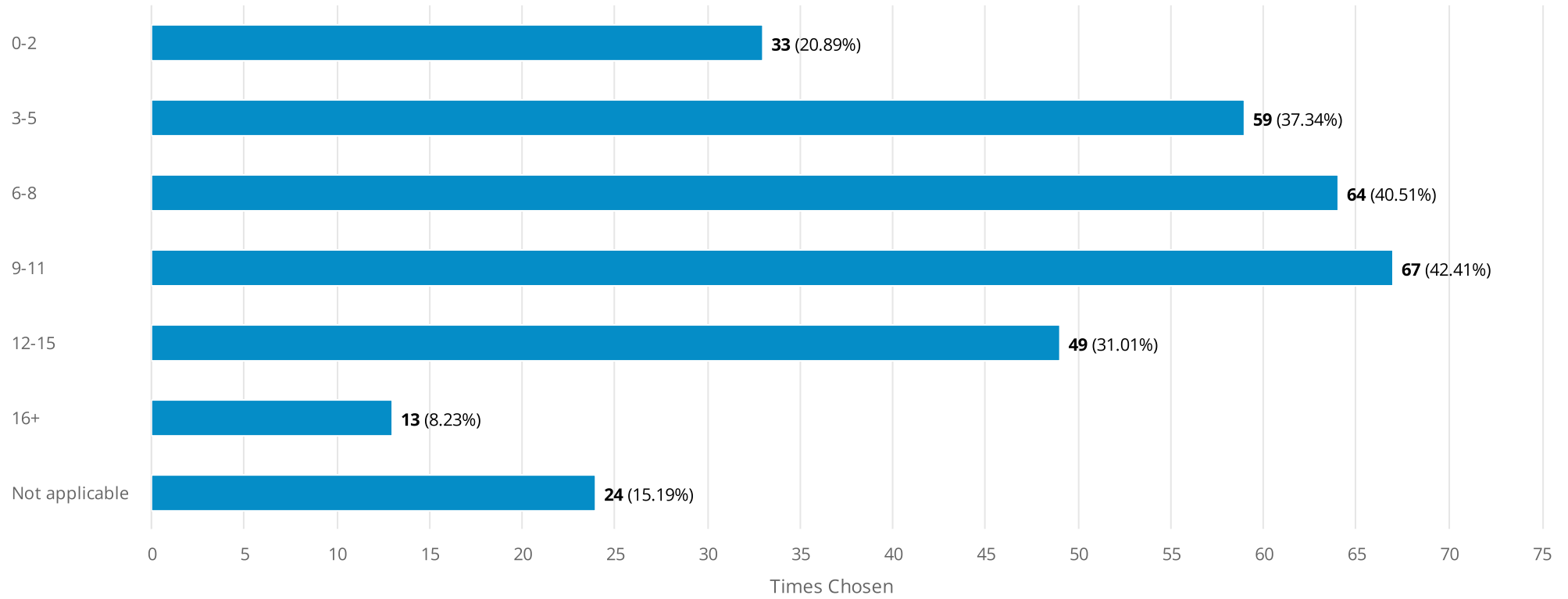
## Are you a Ditchling Resident?

Number of responses: 169



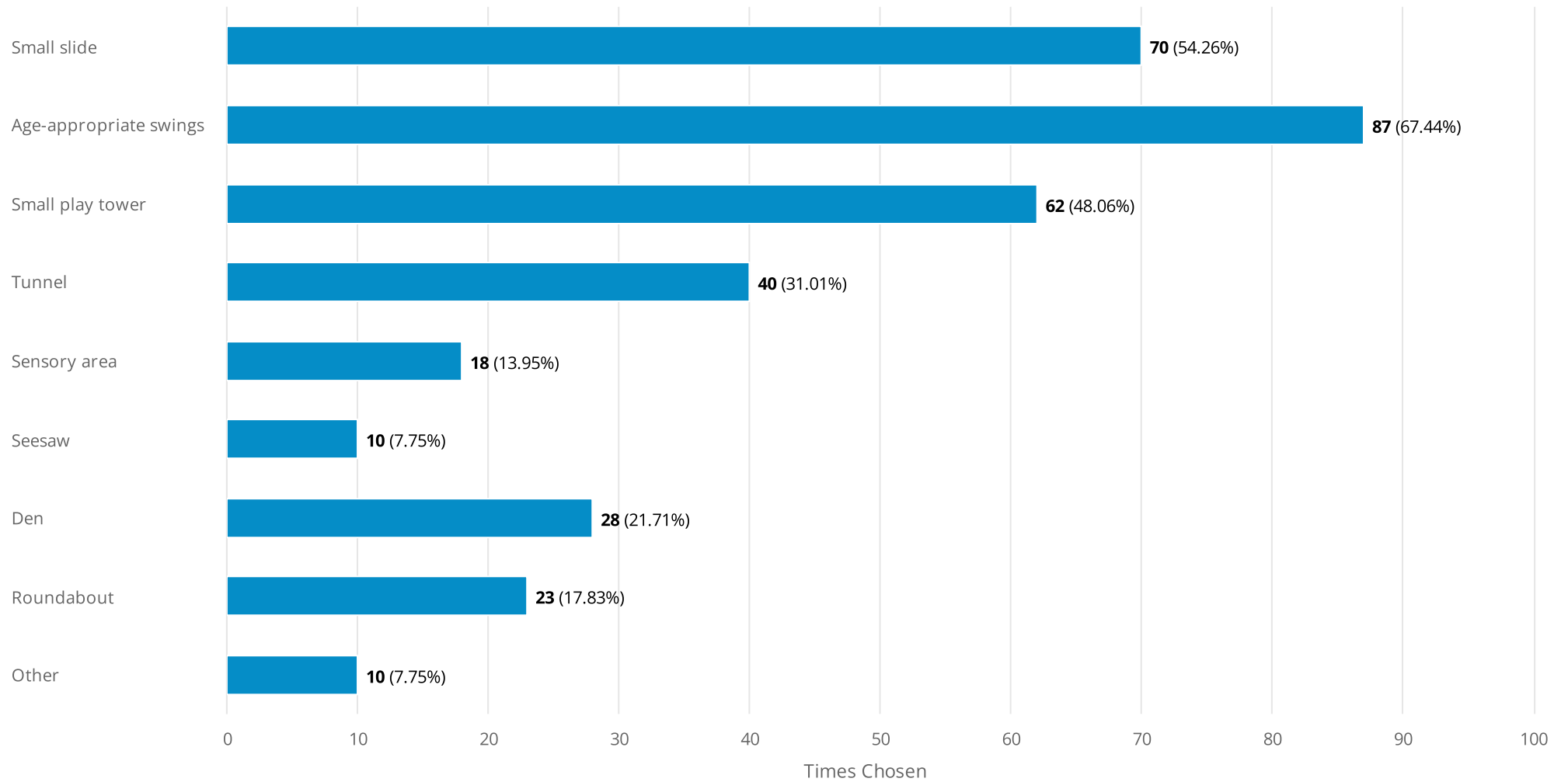
# Please tell us the age of child(ren) currently using Ditchling Playground?

Number of responses: 158



# Which types of equipment would you like to see for children aged between 1-4?

Number of responses: 129



"Other" text answers:

A wall for tennis...cricket...football etc. My father [REDACTED] ex groundsman and cricket captain tried over 40 years ago to get a "wall" built for the kids (and adults ) i personally would love a wall to hit tennis balls againsts)

Table tennis, climbing wall, padel court

All weather football pitch

Scatepark

There is a small park already

Skateboard

Lido

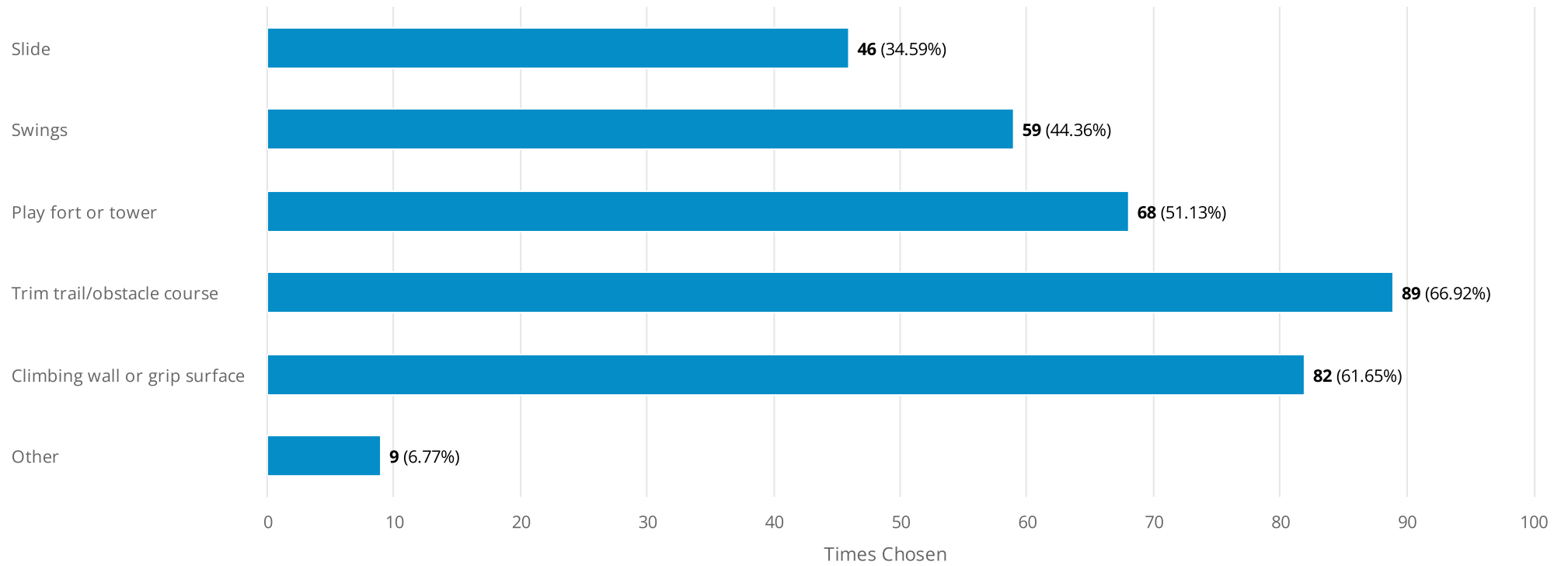
Sandpit,

Climbing tower

Typo missing p in equipment on this question and does not include word play unlike next page

# Which types of play equipment would you like to see for children aged between 5-10?

Number of responses: 133



"Other" text answers:

Large Rope Net Climbing frame.

zip wire

Scatepark

Rope swing

outdoor gym equipment

There is a small park already

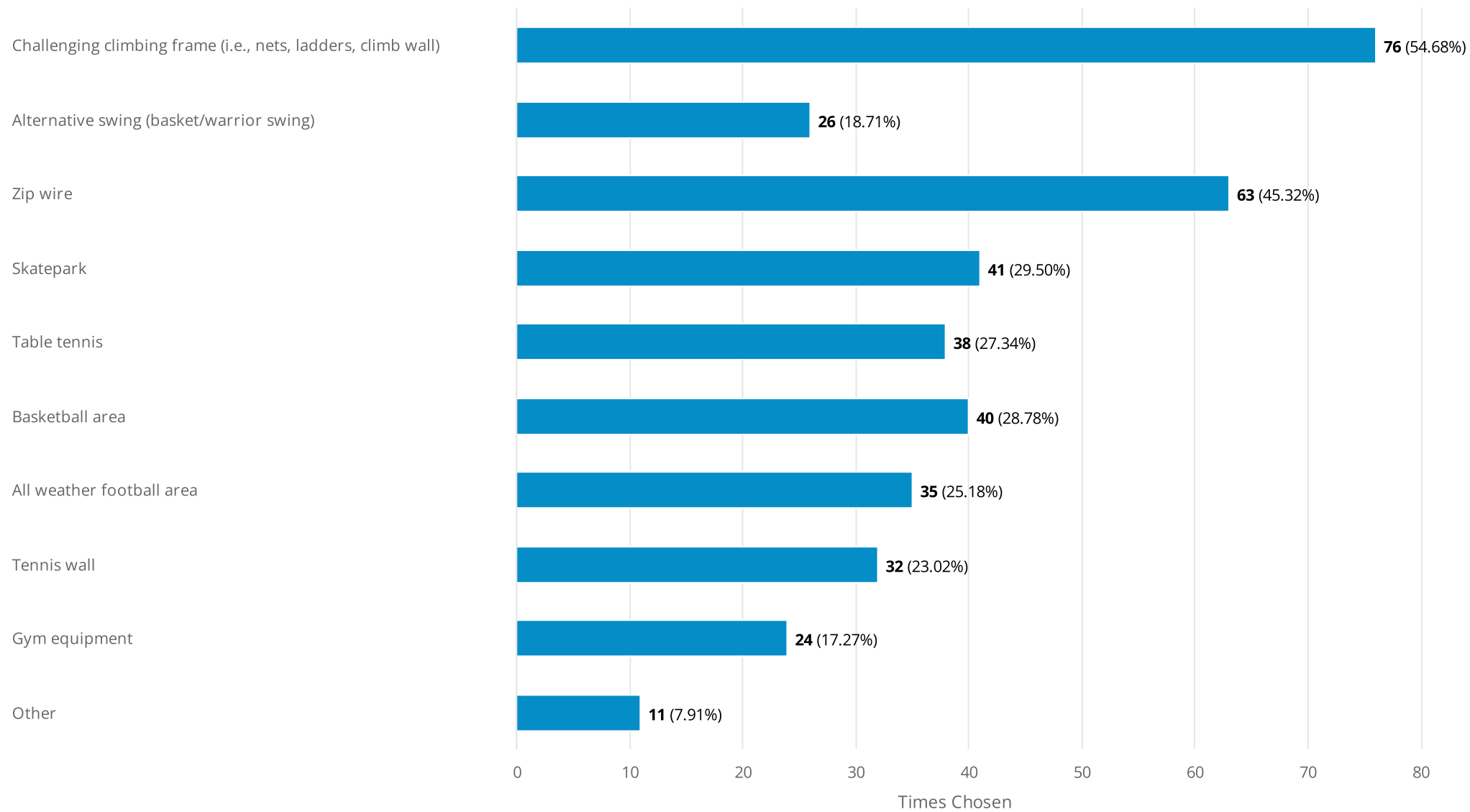
Would really like equipment that is suitable for the 8-10 year olds but doesn't attract teenagers who will come and distort the playground as I have seen in numerous other playgrounds

Nest swing, rotating spring see saw,

skateboard area

## Which types of equipment would you like to see for children aged 11+/adults?

Number of responses: 139



"Other" text answers:

All weather track around the edge of the whole site to be used by all generations from a measured running distance to an accessible walk for the elderly during wet weather with possibly a timed slot for children learning to ride bikes

climbing boulders (e.g similar hove park)

This play area is for younger children. Older children and adults can use the skate park in Hassocks. There are already tennis courts. Teenagers naturally want to go to Brighton and other, larger places anyway. We shouldn't over develop this play area and lose its real value for the community. This should not be a large urban style playground, this is a small village with a play area for the young children to enjoy often with parents/ carers. A large, inappropriate redevelopment risks encouraging anti social behaviour and ruining the area for the families it is aimed at.

Football pitch all weather

Pull up bar

None

Padel court

Would need to make sure that the areas for older children isn't going to interfere with the actual playground as I have seen so many playgrounds that just get destroyed by teenagers ! The playground needs to remain a safe place for young children and their accompanying adult to go to

Strongly recommend no activity area for children over 11, given the risk of antisocial behaviour - as seen at Adastra

Padel court



see earlier comment about play. maybe miss out of the one with it as two don't have it

## Are there any good local parks you think we should take a look at and what makes them stand out?

Number of responses: 77

Text answers:

Carden Park (Old boat corner)

Lewes Priory - really good mix of equipment for younger and older children. Design of the main climbing frame has castle elements, reflecting its location. Plumpton - sand, buckets, tunnels, very simple. Swinging rope horse always popular. Ardingly park- the bouncy swinger is fun and the zip wire (some of the other equipment at this park doesn't work so well eg the climbing wall, the equipment you have to climb up to get into the slides)...

Water area with sprinklers and sand - in Victoria park London is wonderful

Stoneham park in hove

There is one in Hurstpierpoint village.

The Level

cuckfield, worlds end

horsham recreation park

Hassocks skate park

Peacehaven Big Park

Hassocks

The level brighton

Brockwell Park, London

Worlds end burgess hill

Beechwood lane rec or Lindfield

Big Parks Project in Peacehaven - by far the best multi-age park we have been to UK wide

Hurstpierpoint

Not known

Adastra Park Hassocks.....much greater variety of play equipment

Dyke Rd Park in Brighton

Hassocks

Plumpton all of it, cooksbridge zip wire and outdoor gym, hurst climbing pyramid

hove park, the big rock, big park peace haven

No

Cooksbridge, this was crowd funded

Burgess hill

Hurstpierpoint

need some equipment, eg roundabout, swing that is good for children with disability, eg basket swing and wheelchair roundabout. Anything to safely challenge each age group & allow imaginative play as well, eg the den. my children/grandchildren spent happy times underneath the current slide playing imaginatively.

Natural play grounds where they uses logs look at Ruskins Tree and landscapes for design ideas

Preston park

No all the parks in this area need updating you will need to head down to Brighton and Hove

Carden Park

Hove Park. Excellent climbing wall on West side

Adastra park, Ringmer, Beechwood...

Barcombe is excellent. Big park in Peacehaven. Pycombe

Parks with a focus on younger children. This is a rural setting too so nature should be respected.

Preston park- it's has a great tower and ropes wooden obstacle course

Wivelsfield green/cooksbridge. They have lots of great apparatus for all ages

Alfriston

Haywards Heath

Cooksbridge

Nah just a all weather football pitch

Hove park

Plumpton park

Southwater, horsham

Wivelsfield Green is excellent for all ages

Adastra

Hassocks skate park

Southwater country park - the play park

Plumpton Park. Excellent range of equipment done in a really lovely natural way. With the skate park and basket ball court just beside there's something to please everyone.

Adastra park in Hassocks has redeveloped the play areas very well. There are two separate zones, one for smaller children which is fully gated and an open area for older children. This consists of a skate park and a swing zone. The new equipment is really popular. It would however be invaluable to have an all weather surface for football as this is lacking across Ditchling/Hassocks/Hurst and would be highly valued by both boys and girls.

Young teenager children would definitely use age appropriate facilities such as table tennis - there is nothing at all for this age group in Ditchling currently .

Plumpton has a small park with equipment that is used by a range of ages. The Level in Brighton has equipment, such as the spider net climbing frame that can be used by under tens and those older. Hove Park has a good climbing bolder/rock. Adastra's skate park is also good for ideas for all ages.

Folders Meadow Park with its soft spongy ground

Adastra

Plumpton, new equipment, great sand play, climbing and swings for older kids. Burgess hill park near train station ha great zip wire

The Level at Brighton (appreciate this is a city play area so on a smaller scale/budget). Designed nicely into landscape.

Adastra Park has something for all ages

Hove Park

Hassocks

The level Brighton

The Level

The tower / climbing frame play equipment for the little ones in the Victoria Park in Haywards Heath is good - perfect for 1yrs to 3yrs. There is also a fantastic playground on Teignmouth beach front that has just been re done which is a great example of fitting in with environment and having suitable play equipment for both toddlers and children.

South water

Plumpton,

Southwater dino park. Adventurous, great variety and theme.

I think the toddler playground at Adastra is a good example, but NOT the larger playground and skate park by the car park there. These have been a magnet for teenage groups, with issues of vandalism, arson and antisocial behaviour

Snoxhall Fields - lots of grass, lots of space between equipment and lots of shrubs loosely sectioning off areas - perfect for hide and seek

The Level is brilliant for variety and for feeling like there's loads to explore, the sandpit/tunnel/slide combination at plumpton is great, as are the willow dens

Southwater Country Park

Hove park

Hurspierpoint

Horsham behind leisure centre - good for multiple ages

The playground at the level in Brighton is great as it has a varied range of play equipment for all ages and includes some more open ended play options (ie Wendy house, landscaped hill area for children to run over but also equipment for older kids including a challenging climbing course). Plumpton playground has a great sand area.

Adastra Park, Peter Pan Playground - Marine Drive,

Peacehaven Big Park, it's natural it inspires play. King George V has a super park with sand play and a brilliant basketball court

Preston Park Playground & Southwater Country Park: Dinosaur Island (not because of the dinosaurs, just lots of exciting equipment to play with!)

## Is there anything you would like us to consider when planning the new playground area?

Number of responses: 79

Text answers:

Benches in play area. No dogs in any play areas.

Ditchling park as it is seems to work really well for lots of ages up to a certain age (not sure what she!) - now if the equipment is too young/old so it's fairly relaxing as a parent. Some parks are too young so hard to keep children of different ages happy as there's not enough interest for the older ages. We think Hassocks is a good example of what not to do - seating in the middle which beaks up the playing and makes for lots of running back and forth between the sections; feels harder to keep an eye on different children. It then has a really challenging park at the top. The enclosed park is very young. My 5 year old is bored in the bottom park and too young for the top park. Also can't keep an eye on different ages children if some are in the bottom and some at the top.

Consider water area with sand

Consider all ages of children

Installation of security cameras to protect children and equipment.

having access to loos; better drainage or paths for muddier/flooded conditions



low maintenance equipment and proper future maintenance

A tennis/cricket/football wall is the answer, then I could have a go, at my age a tennis wall would be fantastic!

Enough rubbish bins.

Suitable year round floor surfacing

Longevity of obstacles so that older children challenged too.

Sand pit

Picnic bench's / seating for groups to picnic while kids play

Roundabouts are a massive pain for parents to monitor and do not suit all ages, swings/slides/trim trail like objects can be used in different ways depending on the child's age. Skateparks are flexible for scooting as well as skate boarding

A tennis wall would be great for adults and children.

Make it unappealing for night time use

Safety

Tennis wall & outside gym

Smooth path for access for wheelchairs, pushchairs, scooters etc

Allow use of the cricket club facilities when not in use eg water tap being available

Toilet facilities for those enjoying the playground and tennis court.

Benches for adults, picnic tables, not gearing it to one specific age group but something for everyone

Cooperation with other clubs, e.g Tennis Club to have joint use of facilities and possible source of additional funding.

Activities should be quiet, skatepark probably not suitable

Easily maintained equipment.

make it accessible for disabled children and children with sensory and other neurodiverse needs. I've seen older children there (eg early teens) they'd probably like gym / keep fit equipment and table tennis as would I (age 74!)

Ensure local trees and taken into the design

Flat even ground as my toddler often trips on the bumpy ground

I think you need to take into account equipment that can withstand vandalism and anti social behaviour otherwise you are wasting your money

Something for adult fitness please

Something for older kids/teenagers

Be good to improve the net/goal area also

Would like to keep grass areas and trees for shade very important. Natural materials. Swings and climbing areas, beams and nets. Sandpit. Area for scooting/ small skate area/ basketball/ football wall.

lighting, safety, toilet facilities, noise

Do not overdevelop what is a small village play area. Older children and adults have other options locally. This is also in the boundary of the cricket ground so over development risks interfering with the boundary and there will be a danger of people being hit by balls if it encroaches too much. Do not ruin the play area by forgetting that it is aimed at younger children for a good reason, older children and adults can go to other skate parks for example and have far more freedom than younger children to use the environment around them for leisure activities. If you over develop this area it will ruin what is a semi rural space and encourage anti social behaviour in that area which will ruin it for the majority of its users - younger children.

Please make sure the equipment is accessible to younger children- with steps to climb up and not just complex ways to climb up, a lot of play areas make getting onto the play equipment too difficult! It's fine to have a climbing wall to get up etc, but just some steps on one side would be wise to add! I think a lot of play equipment is not designed by people with young children!! :)

A new toilet would be great too!

All weather football pitch for children

Environmental factors, plus the equipment should be as visually pleasing as possible

Lots of info done 15 yrs ago for village plan !!

A new all weather football pitch

A pull up bar

role play houses

Wheelchair and disabled friendly

Use natural materials like wood instead of hard plastic. Don't put rubber/plastic ground down.

Twirly slide. Appropriate bouncy tarmac or bark

There is a large demand in the village for a padel Court

Remaining empathic to environment eg avoiding bright yellow gates

The rec already has a park. I am concerned for the houses that surround the rec. I'm sure this is not what they had in mind when they bought their houses and I certainly don't think adult equipment is appropriate.

Accesibility

Older children also want to go there as well as younger ones

Appropriate for Teenagers

An all weather surface for football/netball/basketball would meet the needs of many and would be invaluable as the grass is too wet to play on for a high proportion of the year. It would incentivise local children and teens to meet friends and play sport outside the summer months .

The large number of young teenagers who live in Ditchling. The number has grown significantly - you only need to see how many children walk every morning to Downlands to realise the number in this age group has increased and there are absolutely no facilities and not many age appropriate clubs for them locally. .

Having equipment for a range of ages. A track around the edge of the field would also be good for buggies/learning to ride a bike/wheelchair users.

For me, the current playground is lovely and what I value most is that it's always clean, well maintained and litter free

An outdoor table tennis table is great for all ages and generations!

Padel Court

A solar light over basketball court so some light in evenings for teens please

A sport area for when grass is waterlogged

Please please please have something for older children eg table tennis. There was nothing for them during lockdowns.

Biggest concern is making sure that the playground remains a safe place for children and their guardians to come and visit. I have been to a few playgrounds recently (not Ditchling) where youths have been hanging out drinking and I didn't feel safe taking my children in there. We do not want a new playground ruined by young adults. It would be amazing to have suitable equipment for toddlers and separately young children (up to 8/9 years) ! And more importantly ... Ditchling does not need or want a skate park. This is a small, peaceful village and we want it to remain as such.

Adult equipment (outdoor gym) would be an excellent addition for the village.

safety and cleaning of park

Adequate seating for older carers or grandparents

Shade for summer

Creating shade, seating for parents, variety and some really challenging equipment. Toilets!

As mentioned - please don't add in new facilities that are likely to attract older children and young adults. There are already increasing issues with teenagers hanging out at the playground in the evening shouting, throwing glass bottles and intimidating young children. As a neighbour to the playground I know we don't have the capacity as a village to patrol and deal with this. It would be great to just modernise and update the facilities and keep them firmly focused at very young and young children.

Please please a loo

There's a park in Falmouth in Cornwall that has interactive artists' sculptures that are real fun and the kids are coming into contact with art. It would also be nice to have a quiet and maybe sensory/den area separate to the play equipment as there are a few autistic children in the village.

I don't think there are toilets there and that would be a good addition

Trim trail/cycle path

Seating for parents/carers

It is important to include all ages of children, from small babies up to teenagers. I think it would be lovely to include some things that would interest teenagers a bit more (eg skatepark area, proper basketball area, zip wire)

Seating spaces for parents to watch, natural landscaping, secure gates, shade for summer time!!

Longboarding trails not just skate park as there is a distinct lack of smooth paths for this which is also helpful for skating and learning to cycle

A padel court On a pay per use basis adjacent to the tennis court would be hugely popular

Something for all ages please especially age 11+ who have to travel out of the village. Landscaping in the park area is important - could planting and new trees be considered. Also better seating within the park area for picnicing families

Yes it should be net zero carbon emissions, which will be tricky