



## **Waterloo Park – consultation on improving water play**

### **Questions and answers**

A number of people supported the proposal but had questions. These questions and our responses are below.

#### **Q. Will the interactive area be sturdy enough to cope with vandalism?**

A. Yes – based on experiences from other sites across the country, the suppliers we spoke to are confident their equipment is sturdy enough to withstand vandalism. During the winter months when the equipment is not in use, it will be removed and stored off site.

#### **Q. Will the sand continue to cause drainage problems?**

A. No – the new drainage system can filter the sand as the water drains away. Also, the dish effect of the new water play area will help wash sand away during the course of the day which will help prevent it gathering on the surface.

#### **Q. Will the design still include some element of paddling?**

A. Yes – the combination of the dish shaped floor and slow drainage of water will allow some water to gather for paddling and splashing. We anticipate this will be a maximum depth of approximately three inches. It isn't feasible to make this deeper without reducing the size of the play area, which would mean being able to accommodate less children.

#### **Q. Will there be enough water jets to accommodate all the children in mid summer?**

A. As the park is listed as a Heritage Park we are unable to make the water play area any bigger than the existing paddling area. The design does aim to encourage children to interact together. Each point can accommodate several children and encourages imaginative free play. The area has been designed with zoned areas having lower spray jet levels at the outer edge to create a safer environment for younger children.

#### **Q. We are concerned the area will be misused at night, are you able to limit this?**

A. Yes – the water is controlled automatically by a timer with daily start and finish times so we can make sure it is not on at night. This method will allow us to easily extend the water play season, if the weather allows.

#### **Q. Will you be adding an additional shade as part of the design?**

A. No – we would encourage families to make the most of the beautiful large mature plane and lime trees which provide great shade in the summer.

**Q. The old pool surface was quite dangerous; will you be including a non slip surface?**

A. Yes – the new surface will be a non-slip wet pour surface, which is safer.

**Q. Will you be able to reinstate the black rubber mat for bouncing?**

A. We had to remove this some months ago due to wear and tear. When discussing this project with residents, this came out as a really popular piece of equipment and so we have been trying to find something to replace it. We have finally found something, which we will install – a bridge with a rubber surface for wobbling and bouncing on.