

Trees for Welford

Final report on Playing Field tree-planting consultations with 6 Welford Scouting / Guiding sections

All consultations were held at the Welford Youth and Community Centre, which is located on the Playing Field. Consultations were held with Explorers on Sunday 14 January 2024, with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides on Monday 15 January, and with Cubs and Scouts on Friday 19 January (Beavers was postponed by the leader because of lack of numbers). The length of the consultation ranged from 25 to 45 minutes depending on the age group.

The subject of our consultation was planting trees on the Playing Field in the context of climate change.

The aim was to elicit the collective views of the young users of the Playing Field on planting designs prepared by a professional arboriculturist for Trees for Welford.

The format was based on interactive and participatory activities, adapted to be age-appropriate, starting with tree- and climate change-related conversations and information-sharing. See Appendix 1 for a compilation of the main views the youngsters expressed in response to the questions: What do you like about trees? and Why are trees important in our world?

The youngsters then divided into small groups to each look at one planting design and to adapt it to plot the positions they considered best for planting trees for their Scouting/Guiding section of the future – in 30/50/100 years' time. They circulated to look at the other small group designs. They then voted for the best design. The results were by majority vote, not unanimous. The Rainbows' activity was not paper-based, and the girls acted out a scenario to enable them to make their choice between the two professional designs presented.

The advance preparation we did with the leaders, and their involvement, contributed very much to the success of this endeavour. A total of 80 youngsters from the age of 4 to 17 actively participated in their section consultations. Although many of the older children don't live in Welford, it was made clear that we were looking for their collective view as a group which uses the Playing Field for their group activities. All youngsters took into consideration and discussed the immediate impact of tree-planting on their current activities, as well as trying to think of the future. Their designs reflect that.

All designs were explicitly created to preserve playing / activity space, which differs between age groups. Many of the small group designs evolved as variations on the Tree Trail design. A "woodland" element appeared in several designs.

The Explorers' choice of best design is based on a woodland.

The Guides' choice of best design is based on the Tree Trail design.

The Brownies' choice of best design is based on the Tree Trail design.

The Rainbows chose the Tree Trail design.

The Scouts' choice of best design is based on the Avenue design.

The Cubs' choice of best design is based on a woodland.

See Appendix 2 for photos of all the planting designs.

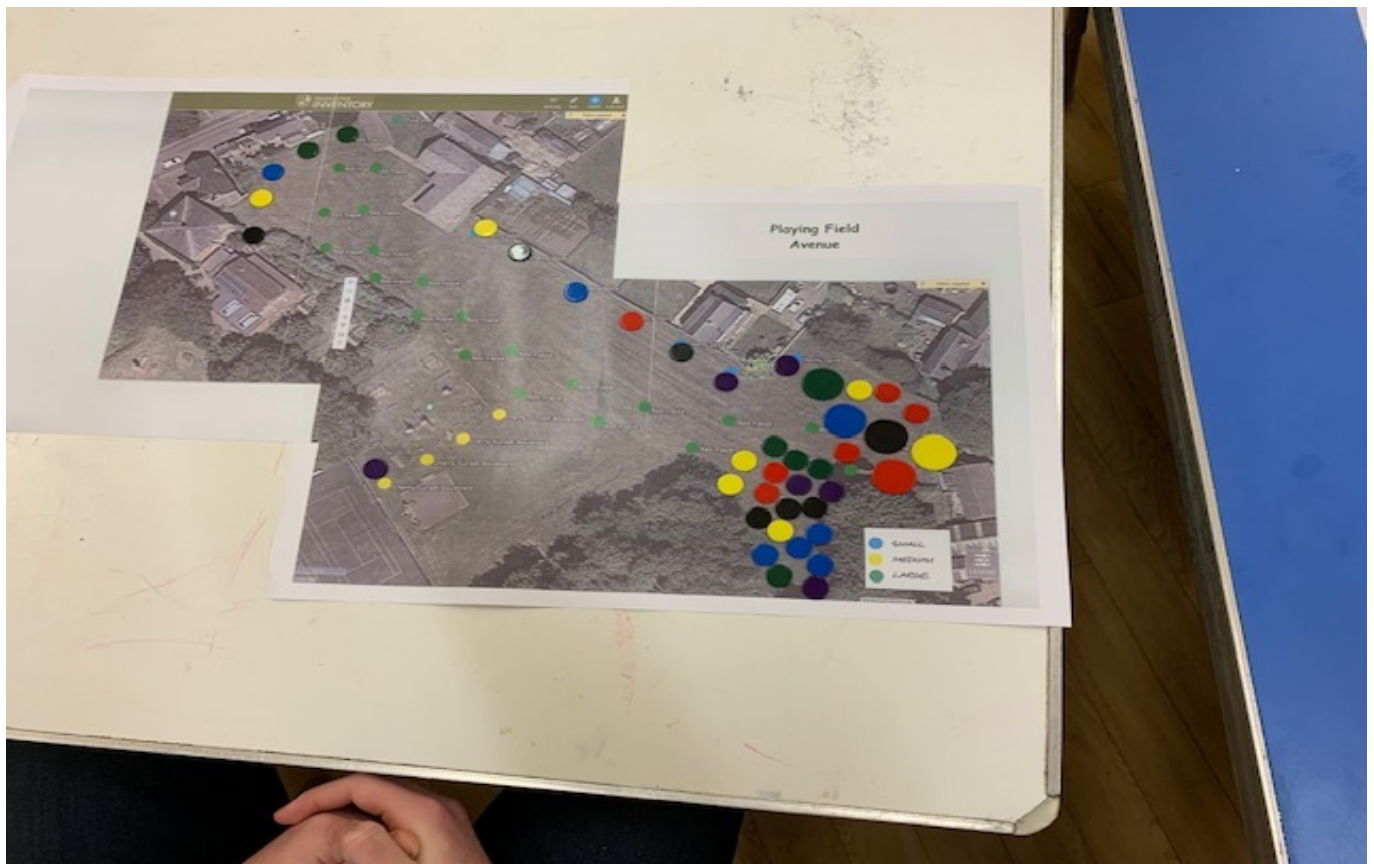
Hilary Hunt, Trees for Welford, 21 January 2024

Appendix 1

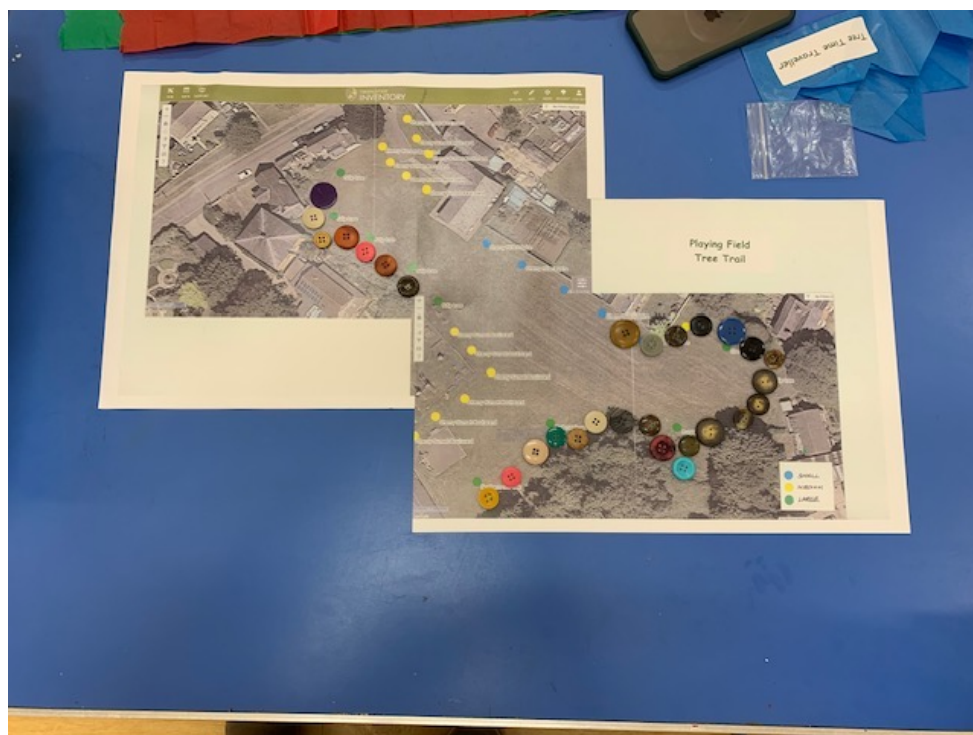
<i>What I like / like best about trees</i>	<i>Why trees are important for us</i>
Breathe out oxygen	Produce oxygen for us to breathe
Breathe in carbon dioxide	We breathe out carbon dioxide which creates global warming and climate change
Absorb other nasty polluting gases eg nitrogen dioxide	Pollution causes global warming and illnesses
Shelter us from the rain	Absorb water from the ground; reduce flooding
Cool – provide shade to shelter us from the sun	Cool – protect us from the heat of the sun
Fruit /nuts for us and animals and birds	We need food, and so do animals and birds
Owls and other birds live there	Provide shelter for the birds we like watching
Squirrels and other animals live there	Provide shelter for the squirrels and other animals we like
Playing: climbing, hiding	To be able to play
Conkers	To play with
Leaves: green; different shapes	Photosynthesis. Give shade; they are pretty (oak – Guides)
Insects live there; bees; butterflies	Insects, specially bees, are important to pollinate plants for flowers and our food
Different shapes – tall and thin, wide and spreading, weeping; round.	
Blossom	They are pretty
Feeling the bark	
	Trees are attractive.

EXPLORER DESIGNS

Winning design

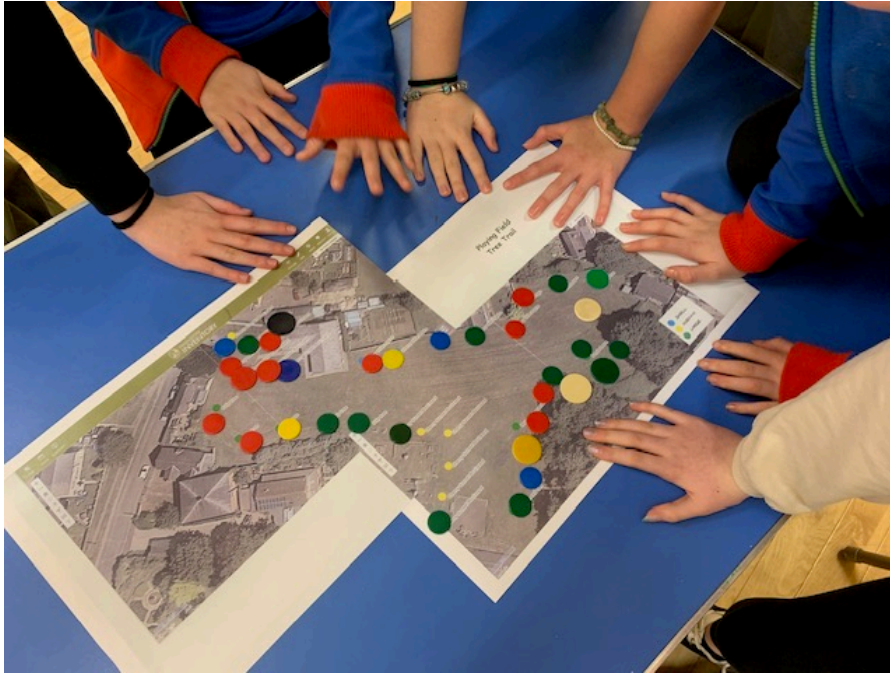


Group 2 design



GUIDE DESIGNS

Winning design



Group 2 design



Group 3 design



BROWNIE DESIGNS

Winning design



Group 2 design

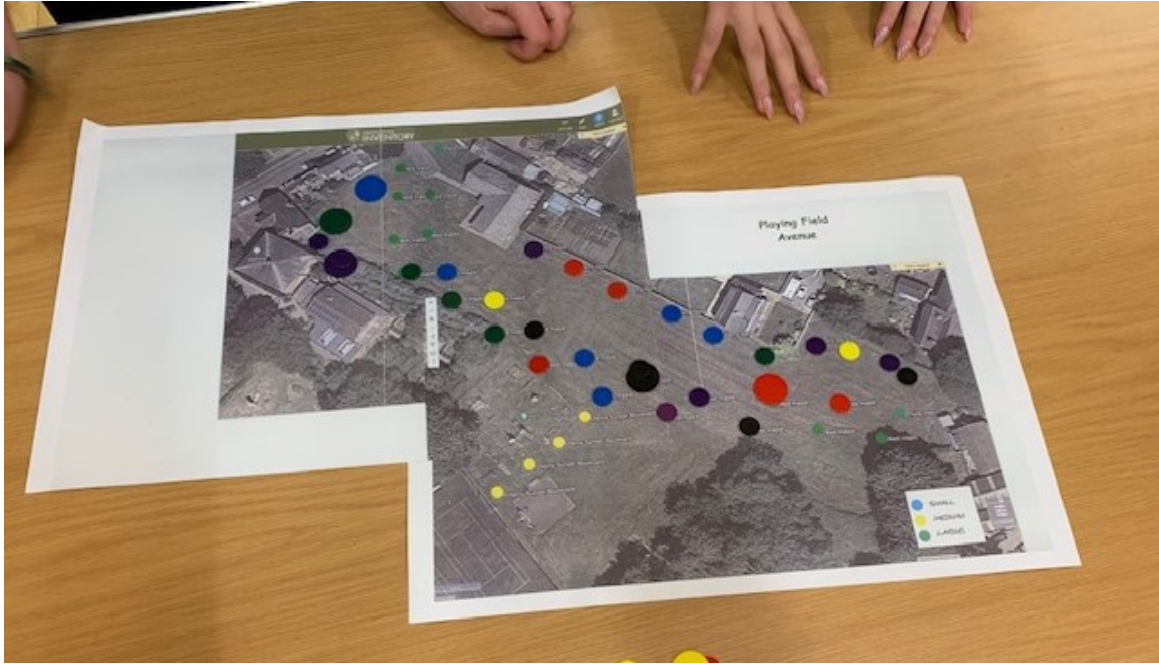


Group 3 design



SCOUT DESIGNS

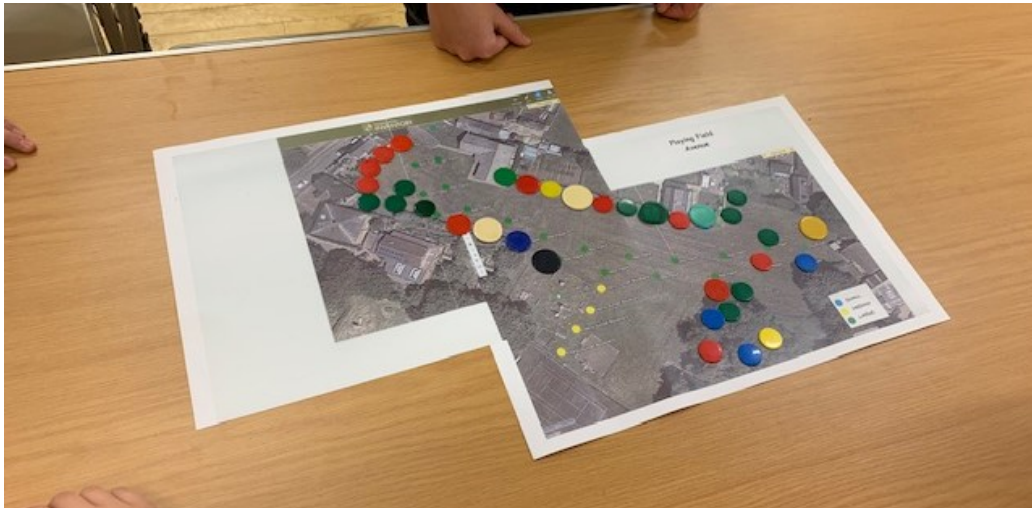
Winning design



Group 2 design

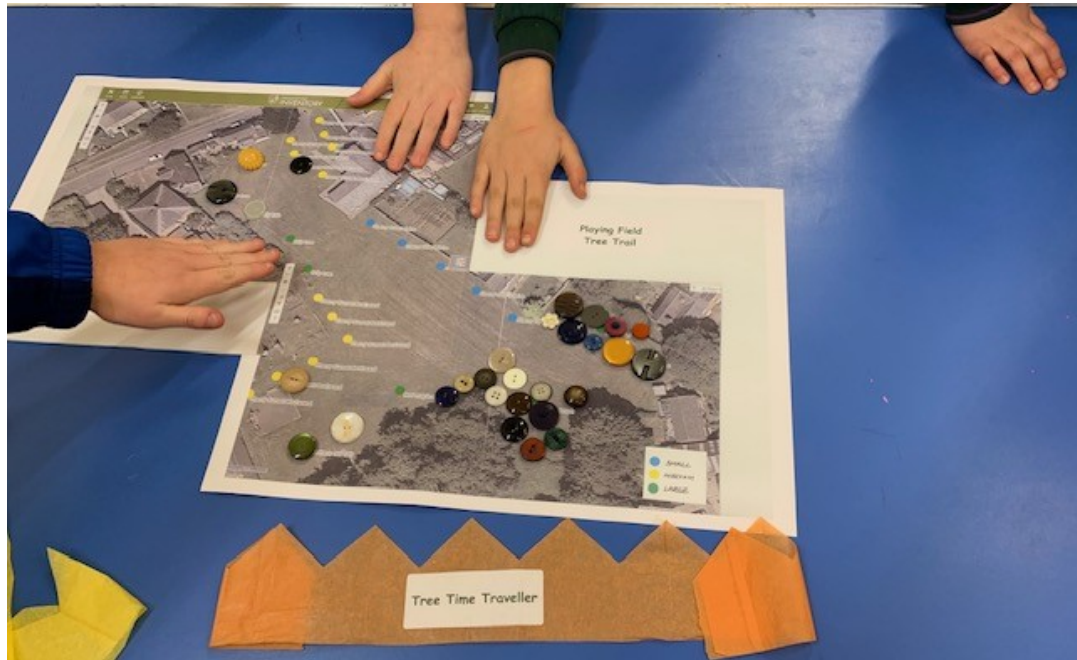


Group 3 design

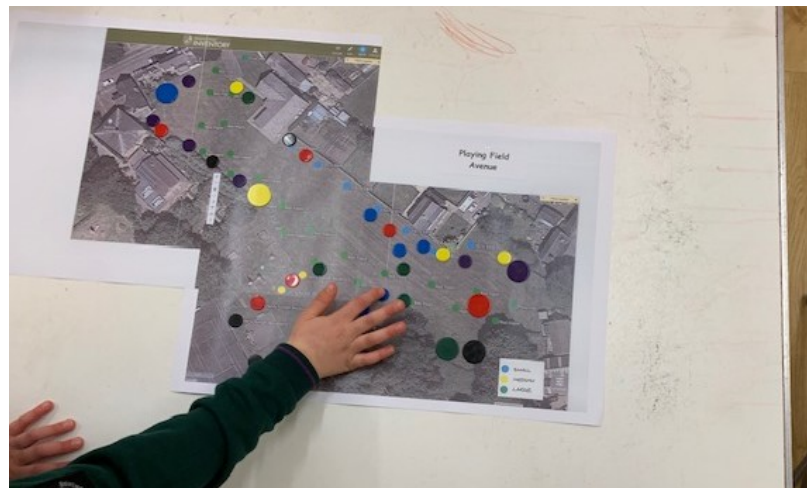


CUB DESIGNS

Winning design



Group 1 design



Group 3 design

