



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Is there a need to change the existing Lakeside playground (the one located opposite Lakeside café/car park)?

Yes, we strongly believe there is. During the summer 2017, Friends of Roundhay Park charity (FoRP) undertook a public consultation which required responders to complete a short survey about this playground. We received an overwhelmingly positive response of 600 surveys completed in just 24hrs subsequent to the link being made available, and over 1000 responses in total, demonstrating the strength of public feeling with respect to the need for the playground improvements, and the level of interest from park users.

From our survey of park users, we know that:

- Most are frequent visitors with over a third doing so weekly or more often
- 45% live in LS8, 24% are from LS17, the rest are from the wider Leeds area or outside
- Almost three quarters have more than one child with them when they visit the park
- Although a visit to Lakeside playground is a key reason for coming to the park, attitude towards it is poor
- 46% say they do not like anything in the playground, with 88% identifying at least one dislike/area for improvement
- Average rating out of 10 (with 10 being excellent and 1 being very poor) is 4.33

The other Roundhay Park playground (Princes Avenue) is designed for children aged 7+.

2. What is the appeal's target amount?

We need to raise £100,000 to cover the groundworks, new play equipment and other associated costs for the redesign and refurbishment. As the appeal launches publicly in April we have already secured £20,000 of the total.

3. What are the project timelines for completion?

We are aiming to hit the £100k target by the end of Summer 2018. This will then allow the necessary 4-5 months needed to tender and procure the project with suppliers, with the intention of doing the refurbishment in early 2019. The council estimate that this work will take around 4 weeks to complete, so the playground will be shut during this time.

These timings are entirely dependent on having raised the full £100k by end of August as the procurement cannot begin until all funding is secure. If we have not hit our target by August 2018 then the above timings will be pushed later into 2019.

4. Why is there a need to fundraise to upgrade the playground if it's a council facility?

In the light of local authority budget cuts over the past few years, there is currently no budget available within the Leeds City Council for capital spend (i.e. renovation or purchase of new equipment) on playgrounds anywhere in Leeds. Given the continuing budget pressures and rising costs of essential services LCC are unable to give a steer on when/if this might change. You may have heard of new playgrounds being developed in other parts of Leeds – if there is a new development of houses in an area then funds are often made available for the good of that local community (usually referred to as section 106 funding or a community infrastructure levy) by the developer. However, there has not been, and is unlikely to be any substantial development within Roundhay and hence no such funds are available. The local ward councillors also have no available budgets, and due to the upcoming election are all subject to a period of change anyway. So rather than see the playground fall into further disrepair and potentially be closed in the future, a group of local mums who are members of FoRP along with supportive Committee members have taken it upon ourselves to raise the necessary funds, so that young children, including their own, will benefit from an exciting and fit-for-purpose playground as soon as possible.

5. Who is doing the fund-raising and what is being done specifically?

This project has been voluntarily instigated by a small sub-group of members within FoRP, of which 4 are parents of young children themselves. There are several avenues being taken to secure the total funds:

- Applying for various grants, both national and local schemes
- Approaching corporate organisations for awards
- Approaching local businesses within Roundhay for donations
- Offering individuals & families the chance to donate set amounts in exchange for designing a personalised badge for their child which will form part of an installation at the new playground

6. How is Leeds City Council involved?

FoRP have been regularly engaging with LCC since early 2017. This dialogue has ensured that our plans for fundraising ideas are in line with the Council's rules and regulations and we have their full support and assistance in the appeal.

Procurement of the equipment and installation will be carried out by Leeds City Council on our behalf, under public procurement rules. Our project is solely focussed on capital expenses and once installed and updated the ongoing management and maintenance of the new playground will remain the responsibility of Leeds City Council, under the existing parks and countryside budget.

7. What will the new playground look like?

As the procurement of this project will take place once all funds are secure, the final design is not yet available. The current playground will be ripped out entirely. The existing footprint will remain however, and all the current equipment will be replaced with imaginative, fun, exciting and appropriately challenging pieces, encompassing climbing, sliding, spinning, scrambling, swinging, role play and learning and encourage children to interact and enjoy themselves – designed appropriately for children under 7 at which the playground is aimed. This will include equipment for disabled children which is currently not available on the site.

A new safe and colourful rubber surface will be installed, improving the look and feel of the playground, make it more accessible for all.

8. Can I gift aid my donation?

Absolutely, if you are a UK tax payer please follow the prompts when you donate to ensure gift aid is added.

9. How do I get more information on this appeal or offer support?

Information is available on both <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/friendsofroundhaypark> and www.forp.org , but if you have further questions or would like to offer to organise a fundraising event yourself for the appeal please contact us via playground@forp.org.

10. I do not want to purchase a badge and am not a business, can I still donate?

Absolutely, we welcome all donations of any size, please follow the link on <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/friendsofroundhaypark>.