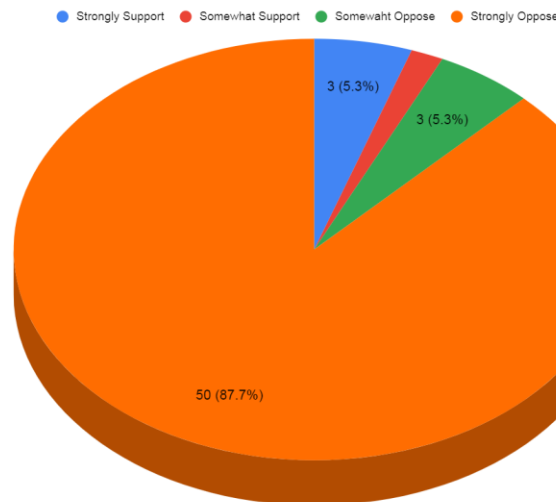


Survey results: Hazelhead and Glen Doll Parks June-August 2021



1. **Background:** Hazelhead Park was closed suddenly in June 2021 with no proper community consultation. Community members who live close to and use the park wanted to challenge this decision and gain a wider picture of community views on the parks. With investment at Glen Doll and possible reinvestment at Hazelhead on the cards, it is important that improvements are designed with the community and that the community is now involved on an ongoing basis with their parks.
2. **Aim of survey:** To gather community views on the future of Hazelhead and Glen Doll parks to inform and improve park design. To maintain wider community involvement and channels of communication so any issues can be resolved or opportunities developed.
3. **Methods:** A survey was set up by local volunteers on SurveyMonkey and this was publicised to around 500 households via a paper flyer but also circulated via social media, email etc. The original survey, can be viewed at www.tinyurl.com/pzced3c6. SurveyMonkey charge for data analysis so to avoid this all the data had to be extracted manually, which increased the time it took to process the results.
4. **Statement on results:** The survey was developed and results collated by the Space to Play campaign members, made up of local residents. We believe all voices should be heard on this and we all need to listen to each other to understand the importance of play and to find solutions to any problems. Therefore all comments are included and no comments have been edited. See full raw results in Appendix A.
5. **Summary of results:**
 - a) The survey was completed by 57 people with 52 of these being from within the G74 postcode. 93% (the vast majority) of these G74 people (48) were strongly or somewhat opposed to the removal of the park and 49 out of 52 G74 people wished to have been consulted.

Do you support removal of the park? (all respondents))



- b) Reasons given for being against removal include: (53 individual comments)
- kids need space to play - it's vital for their physical, mental and social development
 - Parks are a community asset and this was well used by different generations
 - the equipment there was better than nothing and better than surrounding parks
 - it was well used
 - It is close by, easy and safe to get to
 - Lack of other free things for things to do
 - Terrible timing with summer holidays and post covid
 - Many flats nearby without outdoor space
- c) Reasons given for being in favour of removal include: (3 individual comments)
- Some equipment was damaged
 - Foul language, Littering, Vandalism
 - Damage to park equipment and adjacent locks ups
- d) Ideas for improving the Hazelhead space:
- Process - SLC must speak to local residents and assess with them what is needed
 - Ideas from those against park reinstatement: Turn it into a car park
 - Ideas from those for park reinstatement: Modern, anti-vandal items, climbing wall, zip-wire, similar items as we had - large chute, small chute, roundabouts, equipment for all ages, better lighting, new fencing, better ground surface, see adjacent woods as part of play experience, seating and shelter, improved access for safety, inclusion so people with disabilities can use it too (Greenburn school used it), design (and possibly some vegetation management) to improve visibility and safety, better and regular maintenance, gym equipment, lock ups re-roughcasted, CCTV, litter action, action to address dog fouling, neighbourhood watch scheme.

- e) Ideas for improving Glen Doll Play Park
- More equipment, including reinstalling chute that was there
 - Maintenance of equipment
 - Improved access
 - Drainage to address flooding / waterlogging issues
 - Similar to points mentioned in d)
 - Some maintenance of bushy areas to improve visibility
- f) Concerns about Halzehead
- Many have no concerns
 - Busy road nearby
 - Vandalism
 - 'Unruly youth'
 - Need to invest in solutions - e.g. neighbourhood watch, community policing, youth work rather than moving the problem on
 - Concern that the park was closed and there is nothing there now
 - Glass and dog mess but with attention that can be addressed
 - Long timescale now for replacement
 - Move equipment further from locks ups to more visible part of park
- g) Concerns about Glen Doll
- Many had no concerns
 - Lack of maintenance, it's in a terrible state
 - Need for more, safer equipment for different ages
 - Need for improved visibility / move play area
 - Just moving anti-social behaviour on rather than dealing with it
 - Fear this park will be removed too
 - Dog fouling
 - Concern about how long it will take to improve Glen Doll Park
 - Large park - space could be used much better

6. What the Space to Play campaign is asking for:

Decision makers: Please use the info in this survey to inform the reinstatement of Hazelhead and improvement of Glen Doll Parks. Please keep in touch with the Space to Play campaign, local residents, schools and problem solving teams so everyone can enjoy these spaces and work together to address any issues.

Through our petition signatories at [Petition · Space to Play South Lanarkshire · Change.org](https://www.change.org/p/south-lanarkshire-council-space-to-play) we call on: South Lanarkshire Council to commit to formally recognise and act on children's right to play by preparing a South Lanarkshire Play Strategy. We ask that SLC reverse park closures made since May 2021, renew every local play park and work much harder at a community level with youth, community workers and other agencies to bring people together to address any anti-social behaviour.

Contact the campaign at spacetoplaysl@gmail.com

Appendix A: Raw results

Question 1: How much do you support or oppose the removal of the play park?

Question 2. Why do you feel that way?

I have a toddler who loved the park and even though I hated him playing at it due to the state of the ground and the park hardly anything in it and what it did have was older than myself , it was a park that is needed and well used! The park doesn't need removing it needs maintained! I've never walked by hazel head and there's not kids playing in it! Also I'm raging this was done at a time where kids didn't have much else to do!

My nephews live near by and now the closest park is across Calderwood road which is a very busy road and dangerous for children to cross.

Children need somewhere safe to play.

It is a necessity for children to grow together by meeting New friends and old. Communication is paramount to a child's future. It helps why children to be more open and confident to see others playing so that they can join in.

Children need safe places to play

Playparks are an essential community asset.

As a parent of two children 6 and 2 I have noticed that all the parks outside have been getting some of the park equipment took away which I am not happy about. The only reason I have chosen to strongly oppose the removal is I am wondering if the council has took the park activities away to replace them with newer equipment for the children.

As an early years worker, I support outdoor play, which improves children's health and fitness and supports good mental health.

I spent many happy days with my friends in this park as a child and I think it is an important asset for the community

Hazelhead was well used by my children for many years. I rarely visit the park as my children are adults now. However a few weeks before removal I spent a couple of hours there picking up litter and sweeping broken glass from surrounding area. I witnessed the park being well used during this period. Pre school children with parents, primary age kids (who were very enthusiastic about helping to look after their environment), teens meeting up as well as dog walkers passing through. The park had a great community feel that seemed to serve the needs of many. To say I was shocked to see it removed is an understatement- out raged would be more fitting.

Kids need somewhere to play safely. Hazelhead has a fence round it so no worries about chasing after a ball into the road. It is a large play area with plenty of space open for equipment.

Hazelhead Park was the only park in the area for the kids with good equipment, I stay right next to Glen Isla and that park is a disaster, the swings have been chewed by dogs, the spinning thing is too high and too dangerous for kids and the step bouncing thing is a waste of space as it's too heavy for the kids to bounce on, so Hazelhead was great to take the kids for a play, Hazelhead needs to be put back and Glen Isla park really needs to be updated.

The equipment was damaged and in a terrible state that was dangerous to park users which included my children. I myself reported the state of the park to the council. I was consulted with regards the removal of the park.

Because there is nowhere near for my children age 7 and 10 to go play safely.

It's my local park and the kids in this area need a space to play.

The playpark gets children out of the house and away from screens.

Children in the local area need to have a safe play area.

My kids play there.

Children need to play but always get the same excuse about money and resource. Councillors take a cut in your tax free expenses and start listening to your employers that is the tax payers who employ you.

My kids loved playing in this park and a summer holiday without the park at the bottom of the street has spoiled their fun.

I have 3 children and we live close to the park. They have all enjoyed playing there and it is a place they feel safe and close to home where they meet friends and socialise.

The council have removed or put behind closed fences almost all football pitches leaving virtually no play area for children especially during a pandemic and council/government guidance informing parents and education to get children outside. Helping to improve obesity rates and mental health.

Taking away a play park from the kids. While areas such as Lyndseyfield and Hairmyers have had a fortune spent on them.

The children need a place to play. The only antisocial behaviour I saw was from older teenagers drinking later on at night. To punish the younger kids for this is obscene. The only time I heard about needles being found there was on Facebook from 2 people that wanted the park gone. If there were needles found the police and council should have stepped up to stop this. Punishing the children for this is out of order and smacks of people saying that in order to close the park down.

Lack of free facilities and things for young people to do

Brilliant place for play park, could have done with updating rather than taken away all together.

As a local resident (and by this I mean I have a direct line of vision into the park and am able to hear, clearly, what goes on in the park) I have seen a rapid decline in the behaviours of visitors to the park. I would like to be able to say that the worst of the behaviour is from non-local youngsters, after dark, and as a direct result of alcohol consumption. Unfortunately, this is NOT the case. The truth is that the majority of problems are attributable to local youngsters whose one and only aim is to cause destruction, regardless of the time of day. Perhaps if parents popped by and saw for themselves how their children are behaving (foul language, littering and vandalism are part of the non-exhaustive list) they would understand the frustrations and concerns of those of us who have had to raise the issues with SLC and Police Scotland. Not only do the young people cause damage to the park, they have taken to causing direct damage to the garages/lock ups. Some of these then require repair by SLC but some are privately owned and the cost of repair comes straight from the owners pocket.

The park is always full of children and it's lovely to see. It doesn't affect my family now as they are grown but I feel they have stolen the park from the children.

Local authorities should provide safe places for children to play

This was a place many children and families could play. Now there is nothing for children to look forward to doing in a time where outdoor play with their friends is the only thing they can do safely.

Children need places to play and exercise. Especially just now with soft play areas closed.

Play parks are needed. Children need somewhere to play

My children played there regularly and now have nowhere to go

It was always vandalised

The children need a safe space to play for their mental health they have been through so much this last year!

It's the park my grand children play in also I was brought up playing at that park 40yrs ago

We as a society should be encouraging children to play outside. Playing independently in local playgrounds is important to build their social skills, while enjoying outdoor spaces.

The park had been there for over 60 years, had a range of equipment that suited young and older kids alike. The council sites vandalism and budget restraints. As it's been there for so long it would have been vandalised at other times over the years but repairs were always done. Personally I think this is really just budget restraints and I think it's sad that the council would remove a child's play area just because of money. Children really need these playgrounds.

Children need a place to play! There are blocks of flats nearby with young families who need this resource. My own children used this park every day when they were young!

Users not caring for and vandalising costly equipment provided by the council. With no way or preventing this, closure is the correct decision and should be applauded.

Taken away with zero consultation. Our primary age son now has to go too far from our house and out of our sight. We've had to keep him in.

Children need play parks close to home. They need spaces to play. Play parks encourage children to develop gross motor skills, social skills and let children understand risks and safe choices. Children's wellbeing will be improved through outdoor learning and play.

Children need a place to play outdoors in the local community.

My kids loved playing at this park, to just remove it from them is a disgrace.

Children are much healthier and happier with swing parks. It enables them to develop key life skills such as problem solving, making friends, role playing, using their imaginations and risk assessing, to name a few. While covid is still especially prevalent, it's imperative that there's enough swing parks available with space to allow social distancing of adults. It's also a known fact that there's a direct correlation between a lack of swing parks and childhood obesity.

Children need a variety of places to play

Why remove without consultation or good reason. The council can cutback elsewhere instead of destroying fun for our kids

There are less & less places for our children to play. Hardly any remaining local green spaces.

It was removed suddenly, and left my child upset and confused!

Too many play area being removed and built on, children need to play. Why should children suffer because of a minority of teenagers who frequent the parks at night. Solve that problem.... Not punish the children!

Kids have barely anywhere to play safely nowadays and it's one less option especially for vulnerable or underprivileged children who without these don't get much

No local consultation was done. Kids need space-to-play and we should work together to solve any problems not just shut parks.

Removing the park equipment doesn't stop the vandalism. It just moves it and punishes the legitimate users of the park.

Bad as the park was in terms of quality, it was somewhere for kids to play. The closure has as good as left local kids with nothing as Glen Doll is basically useless in the state it is in.

Parks are a life line for families. They allow children to develop their social, physical, emotional, cognitive and language skills.

Question 3: Would you like to have been consulted first on the removal of the park?

Question 4: What improvements if any would you like to see to Hazelhead playpark if and when restored?

I would like to see it turned into a car park and provide much needed spaces that are long overdue for the area.

Same idea of items would be good. Need to tackle the actual problem though.

restored? Large chute and smaller chute Swings Roundabout
Anti vandal play area installed. Play objects that are not over 30 years old.

More for the kids to play on. A zip wire and climbing wall would be good too. Similar to that at James Heritage Park.

The council must speak to the community and assess what equipment is needed. A balance between equipment that will challenge older kids as well as some that will offer a safe learning environment for young toddlers. There's a real lack of play parks that have equipment for all ag

New equipment

Fit for purpose

Decent park equipment with better lighting. The lighting should deter unwanted groups hanging around.

Updated play equipment, new fencing, part of the forest cleared as there's often alcohol and needles left lying around.

Better ground surfaces, safe fun and adventurous play items, more secure fencing and entrances/exits

Stuff for disabled children to use and more stuff for children

Modernisation of the equipment and more equipment suitable for younger children.

Improved fencing, gate access, disability friendly roundabout

Removal of the bushy areas (not trees) and better lighting for better view of the park which should help with antisocial behaviour.

Better/More equipment to play on , it's a huge area that could be something great but only a small part is used and the rest is used for dog pooing I'd like to see more stuff for younger kids aswell as older And finally a new fence / garage walls fixed around the park as the now its an eyesore

move the equipment to the more visible areas of park

Better facilities for the children.

Safety of equipment. New play items

Nicer fencing around the park

Install park benches so that adults (including grandparents) can have a seat.

I would like to see the park been replaced with more modern park activities as the old park rides and roundabouts were very rusty.

More wooden play equipment to support the environment and encourage problem solving in nature, eg climbing frames.

Better and more regularly maintained

Seating area for young and old to enjoy. Equipment suitable for different age groups. Park expanded to make use of adjacent woods. Some sheltered space to offer CYPs a suitable safe space when weather is poor or particularly hot.

Better and more varied equipment.

Some gravel for football and more secure fencing

Similar and more equipment restored

Astro turf or bark. Swings,gym equipment. Or enclosed football/ basketball court.

New equipment - suitable for toddlers & primary age kids. Also better security/lighting to discourage older kids/vandals hanging around there at night.

Better play facilities and equipment. Better lighting and cctv

CCTV and neighbourhood watch

Kept clean and tidy, renovate the lock ups and give us an area we can be proud of.

Litter patrols to collect broken glass that was regularly there and more equipment than what there was previously.

I would like to see the park put back with improved facilities.

Better and safer facilities.

CCTV better lighting

Up to date equipment lose tge mental fencing it looks like a prison a more suitable playing surface

Cctv. That would go a long way to protecting the park and also proving who was doing what.

Basketball court

New modern less easy to damage.

Good quality lighting. Entire perimeter fence renewal CCTV Target age range - baby to 10yr Re-tarmac Appropriate measures to deter climbing on lock ups.

The lockup's are an eyesore. They need re roughcasted.

Modern equipment for the children to play with

More equipment for children to play on

Install play equipment and ensure its wheelchair friendly with no wood chip!

New equipment that is accessible to varying ages and children with varying abilities.

Knock down some of the lock ups and landscape the area then maybe put in some new wooden play equipment

Brand new play facilities

Much the same what's was there but any more play things is a bonus

Better equipment, fenced off to discourage dog fouling, better kept grass area fir football or general playing

Equipment to suit young and older groups. Child safe ground cover and maybe fenced off so that hopefully this may put off those who only want to vandalise.

Question 4: What improvements would you like to see at Glen Doll Park?

Adequate and safe equipment

more stuff for the kids to play on

Again better facilities for the children.

Tidy up the area make sure it is accessible for all areas

Updated equipment with more variety

Re-install the chute that used to on the steep bank. Install park benches so adults (including grandparents) can have a seat.

Wooden play equipment, which encourages climbing skills.

More swings / roundabouts required

Better drainage, slide reinstated, all weather pitch for ball sports, mud kitchen in woods, seating reinstated.

Shute. Roundabout. Climbing frame. Toddler equipment.

Better and updated equipment

Further items added

As above.

The same as for hazelhead swing park

Same as Q.4

A new play area created

More facilities as there is just swings at Glen doll

Better and safer facilities.

Drainage, lighting and CcTV

The same except there is no fencing

Same thing, cctv to protect the children from the older teenagers using the place as a drinking den.

Children only area for no dog fouling

Needing updated too.

More equipment would be good.

Modern equipment installed

Glen Doll play park should be moved to an area with more direct sunlight. In the evening this park rarely sees sunlight resulting in dampness around the play park which isn't suitable when children want to play.

Needs updated

New equipment that is accessible to varying ages and children with varying abilities.

Just want somewhere for the kids to play and have fun

Reinstated chute - built in the hill was brilliant ,safe and nowhere to fall.The area is big enough to be made into a 'park' like the one at Glen Esk - play area along with a community are for everyone.

n addition to the above the ground area will need some work as it's very boggy.

Adequate and safe equipment

With its safe location and vast area, this is ideal for the council to redevelop and maintain giving the local kids an ideal place to play

Drainage. The limited items that are there are in bog like conditions. Oh, and take out the overgrown shrubs so there's some visibility.

restored? Large chute and smaller chute Swings Roundabout

Rejuvenation of play objects/swings.

Again, more for the kids to play on. Maybe a zip wire?

Again speak to the local community and ask what they want. What equipment will encourage more kids to come use the park? What equipment are kids not keen on. Perhaps ask the kids in the schools their opinions.

New equipment

Regular maintenance

Get rid of the 2 rubbish pieces of equipment that serve no purpose & replace with wooden resources, simple stepping stones, log balance beams etc are more effective. Put a slide back in at the hill.

Same as above

Glen doll playpark is quite secluded, and not really visible to the public. I believe there is hardly anything is there now. I stopped taking my grandchildren because of this, also its further away than Hazelhead to us.... Anything would be an improvement

Additional stuff for kids to go on

The chute reinstated, drainage and more equipment including things for younger children. Fenced in play area and benches.

More play equipment, improved surfacing, better drainage, gated fencing to keep out dogs, benches (at least 1) for adult supervision.

Question 5: Do you have any concerns regarding Hazelhead playpark?

Hazelhead is too close to the very busy road and with young children coming and going it is a major concern for safety and an accident waiting to happen. A lot safer location at Glen Doll less than 100 yards away is the ideal place for a safe play area for kids and should be utilised as much as possible for the council.

Yes. Unruly behaviour late on. Youths. Now elsewhere probably with our primary school kids.

If vandalism is being sited as a cause put play objects there that are harder to vandalise.

No

The removal of Hazelhead is major. It puts more pressure on an already small Glen Doll and unfairly penalises younger kids as they will not be able to cross the busy main road to go to Glen Doll instead. I'm furious that rather than tackling the route cause of antisocial behaviour, the council have simply removed the park. They must look at a proper neighbourhood watch scheme, community youth workers or even regular police spot checks to encourage appropriate behaviour.

no

No

The glass & dog mess was always an issue, but with a bit of attention it could be turned around.

No where for young children to play in this area now.

Yes there is nothing there now, nowhere for local younger children to go

No

The fencing should be replaced with a modern safer version and the equipment situated further from the lock ups. Thin the t

Look, it was basically run down and badly needing investment but closure without providing an alternative elsewhere was wrong

No

yeah the visibility not great hence why you should move the equipment to the more visible areas.

Only that the play area should be safe.

No

No concerns.

Yes how long before the council replace the park with a new park as the park was a regular place we would go to therefore my children are missing out in getting out and about to play which feels unfair.

No.

No I pass by going to and from bus stop never witness anti social behaviour.

Only that it is gone!

Kids on garages

The gathering of older children is a concern. They have already damaged one park and I think this could happen again if the park is replaced

No

No

The area will become a dumping ground and end up like the rest of East Kilbride an overgrown dump

No as the park was so convenient for families that maybe don't have access to transport, that could walk to and from the park. Also great for all the children living around the area.

i Would like a new park. There's lots of kids round this area.

Lack of facilities

If its left the way it is. It will bring anti-social behaviour to the area

My concerns are the adults telling fibs in order to close the park down. These people need to seriously look at their lives and strange behaviour. The teenagers or older people using the place for drinking should be observed and reported, taken home to their parents.

Access to lockups. Children are able to climb on top of them

See above

None whatsoever

I want it to remain as a children's play area

Teenagers hanging about.

There was often broken glass left in area. Before equipment was removed it needed upgrades.

No

Playbacks will always attract older kids as a place to hang out. More open area and better community policing might help.

Just disappointed it's been removed. I took my grandchildren there as although the equipment was old it was a better variety than the play park I have on my estate (Gamekeepers Wynd) which caters mainly for small children.

Needs adequate equipment

Question 6: Do you have any concerns regarding Glen Doll play park?

Equipment and groundwork needs upgraded to current safety standards. Ideal location for a play area. Just needs upgraded

It's really seedy. Dull, to be honest if someone was to target kids it would be there. So many places out of sight. A real concern for a parent.

No

If Hazelhead is removed then its likely the antisocial behaviour will simply transfer to Glen Doll. The main road as an access point for many is also a concern.

no

No

No point putting in resources that are not useable / decent. It feels like they have just thrown in a strange looking see saw & a hanging spinner, which was placed on a really muddy part of ground which was rarely dry, so therefore hardly used.

It's further away, too secluded to allow young children to play unsupervised. Not much there now

No

I am concerned that we will be left without a park close by when the improvements are being done. It would be better to improve Hazelhead before working on Glen Doll or vice versa.

Yes, much the same as 6. in fact the current state of it is a disgrace.

No

needs benches like the good old days. Please note my answer to number 3 is really that I think my sister and family should have been consulted as opposed to myself.

Again only that the play area should be safe.

No

No concerns.

Yes there is nothing there apart from a rusty old swing set which is not good enough for southlanarkshire council.

No.

None. My home of 32 years looks into the park. I have never seen or heard any anti social behaviour.

Worry its next. Both these play areas are in safe surroundings. Parents can give their children a bit of freedom but still keep an eye on them.

Unsafe, equipment needs updated

The damage done to hazel head by a group of children could happen at this park also

No

No

Too many children congregating in the same area which will turn into a drugs den that no one will police.

Same as above

No

Lack of facilities

Same as above

The older ones using it for drinking alcohol and not for the purposes it is intended for. It is not well kept and frankly some bits if it are pretty dangerous.

None whatsoever

It may be next to be removed

As sbove

Not suitable for young children/preschoolers. The only thing they can use is baby swing. There is no slide nothing little ones can use.

No

Yes it's a huge area and very little park would like more at that park to

No just the dog walking club who have their dogs running about doing their business where they can't see smile they stand talking

No but if this is where the new play park is to be can it be done ASAP

Needs adequate equipment

No