

## What benefits has it brought?

Loudon Wood is a **living** landscape. The new woodland pathways and natural play area have cemented a tradition with local residents to Love Where They Live!

**The natural materials used create a play area that seamlessly merges with the surrounding ancient woodland. A Beautiful playscape.....**

7/7/2015

Kent Messenger Digital Newspapers

### Pupils find woodland ways to play

Pupils from Godinton Primary School helped celebrate the opening of new play equipment inspired by its woodland surroundings.

The equipment and new footpaths were installed in Loudon Wood, within the Godinton housing estate, by the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership.

Swings, slides, climbing frames and other items are made mainly of wood and designed to be sympathetic to the woodland setting while still looking bright and appealing.

Countryside officer Matthew Mordaunt said: "This project has breathed new life into these wonderful woods.

"They are now a place where people of all ages and abilities can relax, enjoy nature and have fun. We would like to thank everyone who helped make the work happen: their efforts, thoughts and funds have been very worthwhile."

The £30,800 scheme was paid for by The Veolia Environmental Trust and the Loudon Management Company.



Youngsters from Godinton Primary School try out the new play area

FM3883506



Kentish Stour partnership officer Diane Comely and Ashford countryside officer Debbie Reynolds, with her children Brock and Sully, were at the opening; right, Year 4s Amelia, Rubisa and Triman

Pictures: Paul Amos FM3883494/FM3883497 Buy pictures from kentonline.co.uk

Printed and distributed by PressReader  
PressReader.com n. +1 604 278 4604  
COPYRIGHT AND PROTECTED BY APPLICABLE LAW.

Local newspaper article demonstrates the value and enjoyment that is being gained from the site.



### The future of this site-

- Ongoing involvement of volunteers
- Voluntary resident warden scheme
- An example to other communities who want to improve their community living space



Our huge thanks goes to The Veolia Environmental Trust for their funding and incredible support which enabled this project to be such a success and Kent Gateway Block Management for providing the vital contribution and community involvement.



## Loudon Wood Play and Explore



*"It is a major aim of the project to get residents, children and families to be inspired, explore and subsequently desire to protect their natural environment."*



New play area



Children from Godinton Primary School, Ashford, Kent



Improved access



## What was the need for the project?



Play area unsafe and hard to access



Loudon play area was overgrown, vandalised and restricted from view by a six foot metal fence with only one access/exit point.

No pathways connected with the play area leaving it isolated and cut off by a shallow muddy ditch.

## What did we actually do?

### 1. Consultation in school



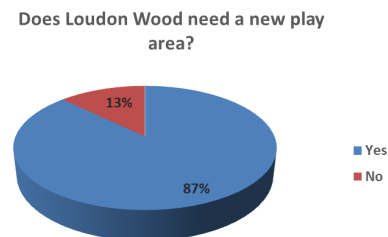
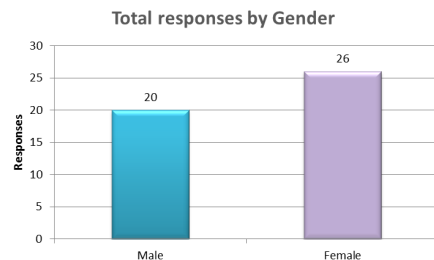
A group of school children 'brainstorming' ideas for the site



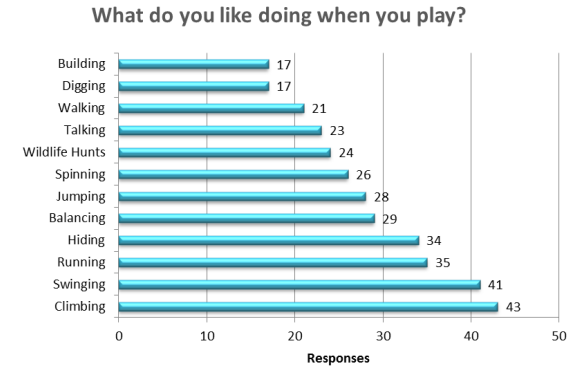
A small sample of the design collages created by Godinton Primary School children

### 2. Consultation on site/door to door

Questionnaires were completed by families and local residents. The results were compelling:



The results highlighted the play aspirations.



Graph demonstrating play preferences

## The results led to the design and construction of Loudon Wood Play and Explore



Loudon Wood Play and Explore pictures of project progress from site clearance to installation of new natural play equipment.

Locally sourced chestnut was used to construct a knee rail around the new play area. Volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure wood bark was spread to the correct safety depth. ROSPA completed an inspection of the site before it was officially launched on 23rd June 2015.