Kensington Memorial Park Proposed Improvements - Consultation

Consultation report and findings September 2021

Putting Communities First Team
The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
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Introduction

Background

The Council sought the local community's views on improvements to Kensington Memorial Park (St Mark's Park). This consultation follows a number of discussions we have had with the community over the past few years. In 2019, we asked residents for their views on the future of park buildings and in 2020 we asked about the water play area and proposals to install an outdoor gym. In Spring 2021, we held a series of discussion groups, where members of the Parks Projects Team met with local community groups to discuss issues and proposals for the park. The results from these two phases of consultation were used to shape the public consultation survey. This report analyses the findings from the survey to understand the local community's views about the proposed changes at Kensington Memorial Park (St Mark's Park).

Methodology and report

The survey was developed with colleagues from the Parks Projects Team. The survey was promoted via the Council's communication channels, such as e-newsletters and social media, as well as letter drops to the local area. The survey closed on 13 September 2021 and 178 online submissions were received. Where the base number of responses changes, this reflects where respondents have been asked certain questions dependent on their previous response. This was to ensure respondents were answering questions that they were interested in and felt relevant to them. Where graphs are shown, percentages are used. Where questions received a low number of comments, theming was not suitable, however all comments can be found in the appendix document.

Appendix

The appendix contains details of all themed comments made by respondents in relation to the consultation. All other responses and data are in this report. The appendices document is available upon request.

Equalities

Equalities data is presented on the 'About Respondents: Demographic Breakdown' section.

Acknowledgements

The Council would like to thank all respondents and organisations that took the time to take part in the exercise and gave their views.

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Results at a glance – Public survey findings

- ***Preferred option for park buildings:*** Respondents were shown proposed options for the future of the park buildings and asked to outline their preference. Half of respondents (50 per cent) preferred **Option B**. A total of 36 per cent of respondents preferred **Option A**. A total of 13 per cent of respondents selected **None of the options listed.**

- ***Refurbished toilet block:*** A total of 40 per cent of respondents outlined that they **did have** a preferred use for the refurbished toilet block. Whilst nearly two thirds (60 per cent) of respondents outlined that they **did not have** a preferred use for the refurbished toilet block. Of those that had a preferred use, a **well-maintained toilet block**, **transform to a café** and **extension to changing rooms** were the top three themes when analysing comments.

- ***Support for proposals plan:*** A total of 71 per cent of respondents outlined that they **did support** the proposals plan. And a total of 29 per cent of respondents outlined that they **did not support** the proposals plan.

- ***Support for individual proposals:*** A total of 64 per cent of respondents **supported** the **outdoor gym with a mix of calisthenics and machine equipment**, whilst 57 per cent supported **one of the three tennis courts modified to include basketball nets and line markings**. **A new hard surface footpath** had the highest numbers of **do not support** (32 per cent) responses followed by a **dog agility area** (28 per cent).

- ***Satisfaction with playground(s):*** A net total of 44 per cent of respondents were **satisfied** with the current junior playground (nine per cent very satisfied and 35 per cent satisfied); whilst a net total of 22 per cent were **dissatisfied** with the junior playground (19 per cent dissatisfied and three per cent very dissatisfied). A net total of 45 per cent of respondents were **satisfied** with the toddler playground (six per cent very satisfied, 39 per cent satisfied); whilst a net total of 22 per cent were **dissatisfied** with the current toddler playground (19 per cent dissatisfied, three per cent very dissatisfied).

- ***Type of equipment to be included in playground(s):*** For the toddler playground, the top three priorities for equipment were **swings**, **slide** and **climbing.** And for the junior playground, the top three were **zip wire**, **climbing** and **swings**

Section 1: Future of park buildings

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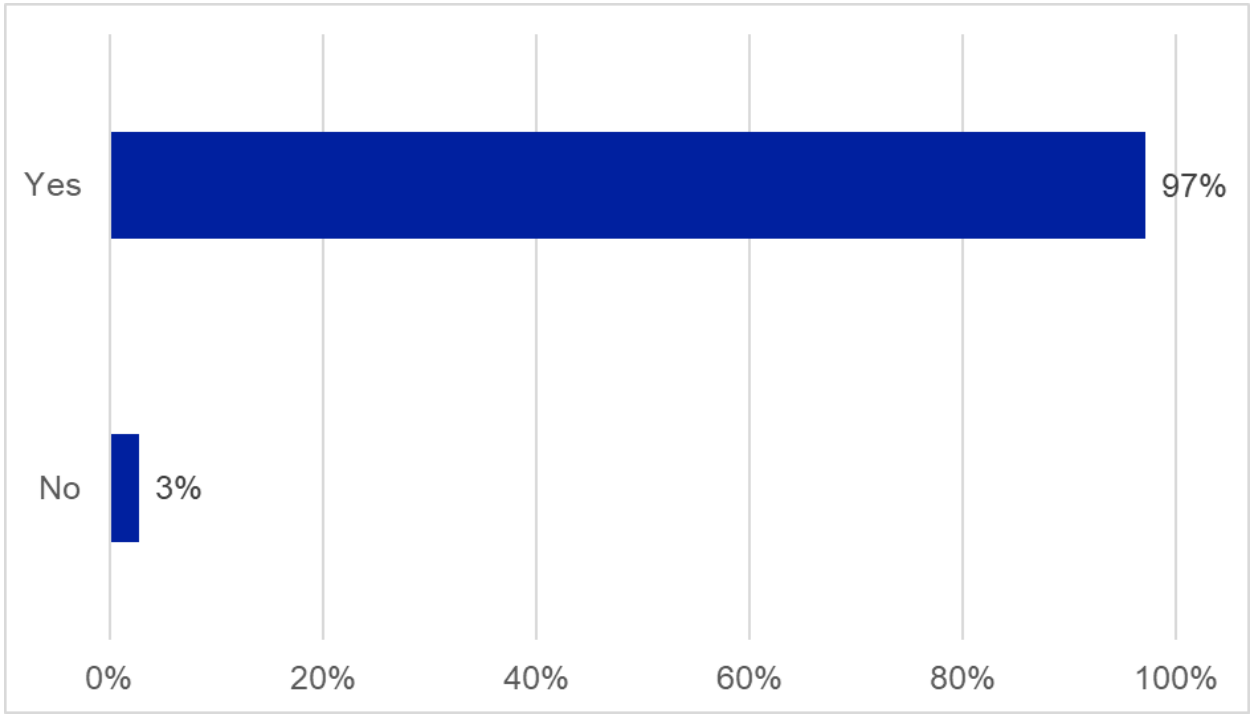
Interested in the future of park buildings

Respondents were asked if they were interested in answering questions about the future of park buildings in Kensington Memorial Park:

- The majority (97 per cent) of respondents outlined that they **were interested** in answering questions about future park buildings.

- A total of three per cent of respondents said that they **were not interested** in answering questions about future park buildings.

- Respondents who answered **yes** were then asked a series of questions related to future park buildings.



Base: 178 (all responses)

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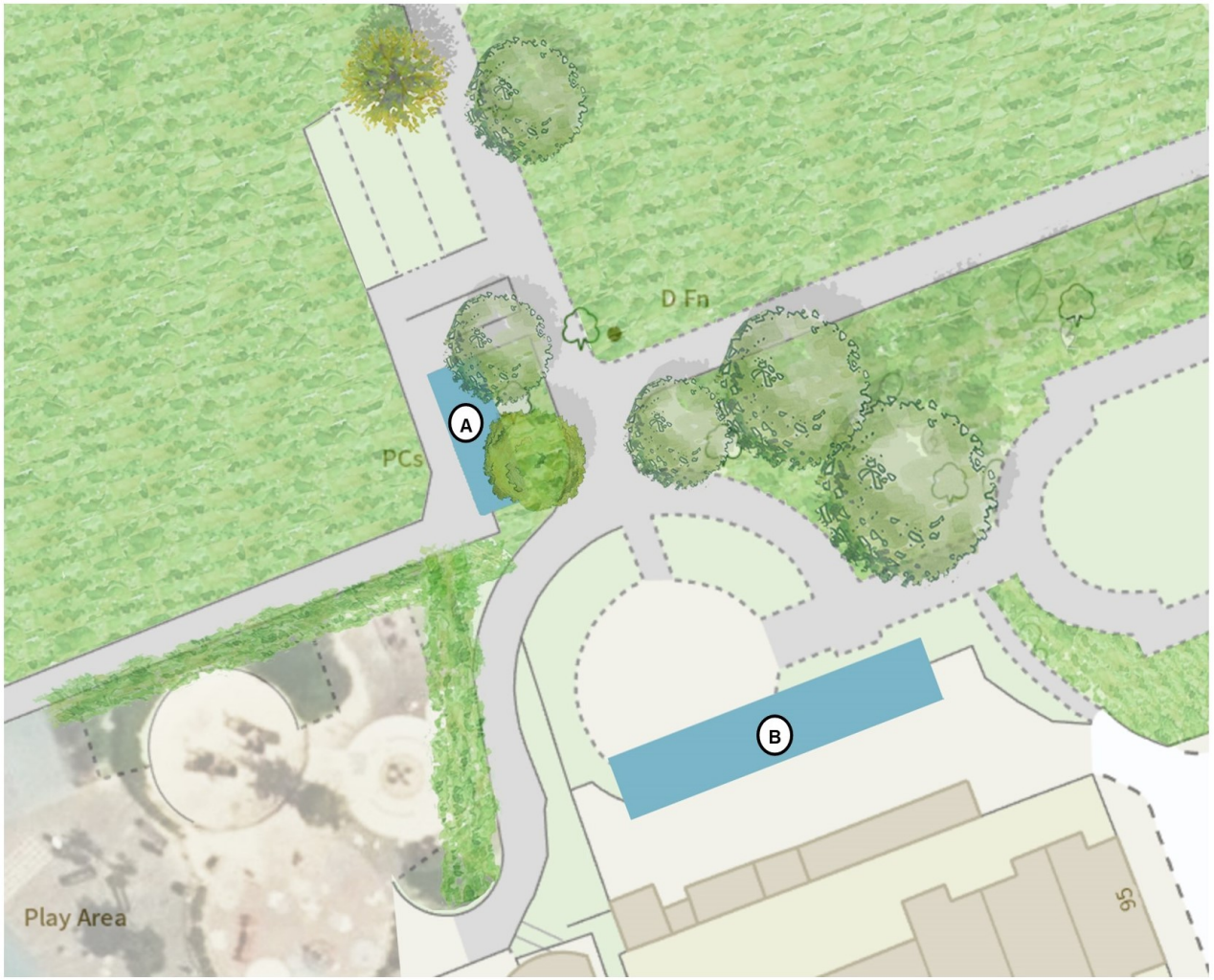
Preferred option for park buildings – Option A

Respondents were provided with outline plans for the future of park buildings in Kensington Memorial Park, Option A can be seen below, and Option B can be seen on the next page.

Option A



A—Public toilet block refurbished into café/kiosk: -

- public toilet block is an original feature of the park
- good views of the park
- To include storage area for other uses

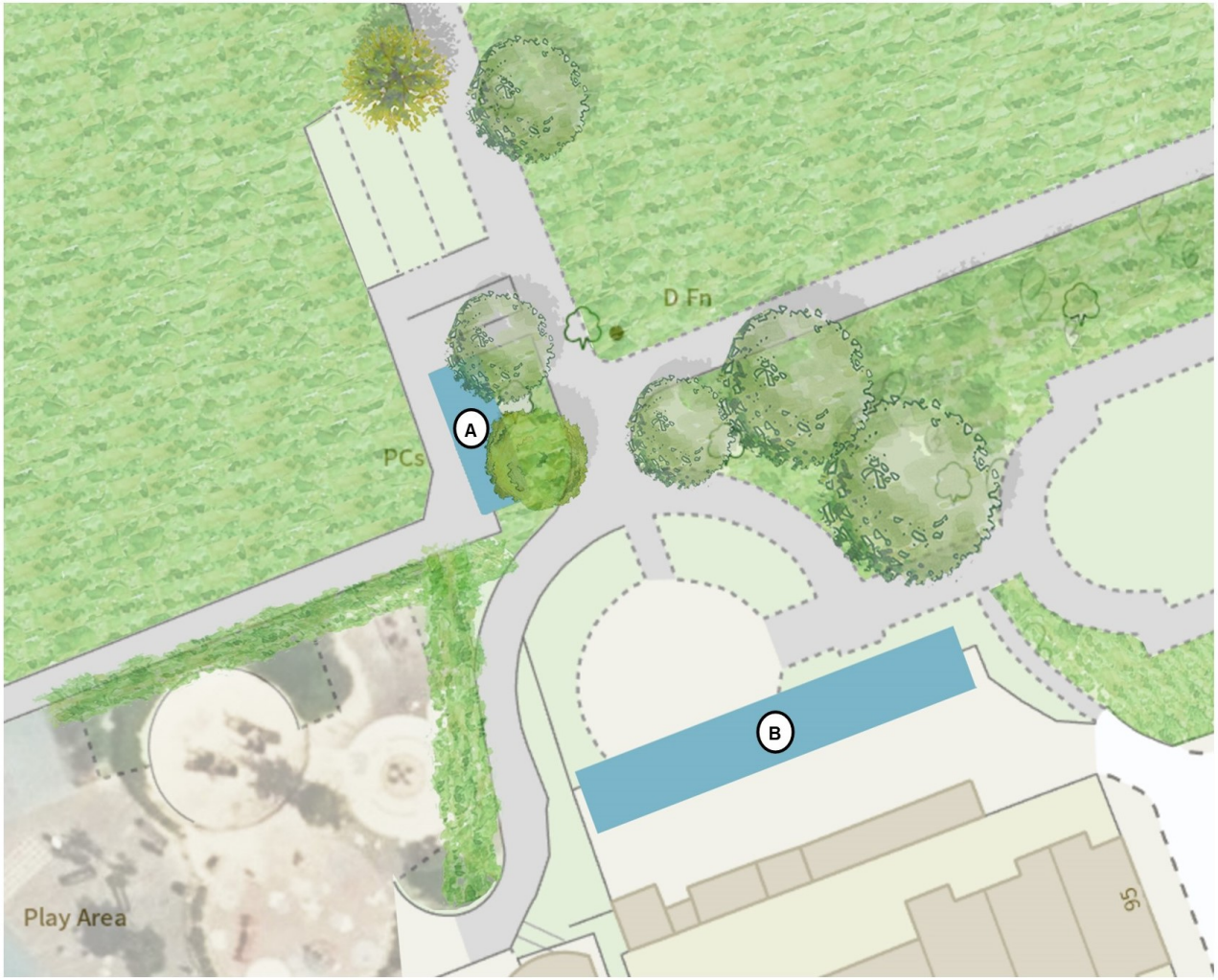
B—New building near location of old café/kiosk to house: -

- sports changing rooms
- public toilets including Changing Places toilet
- grounds maintenance office

Preferred option for park buildings – Option B

Respondents were provided with outline plans for the future of park buildings in Kensington Memorial Park, which can be seen below:

Option B



A—Public toilet block refurbished with use to be determined by community

- public toilet block is an original feature of the park
- good views of the park

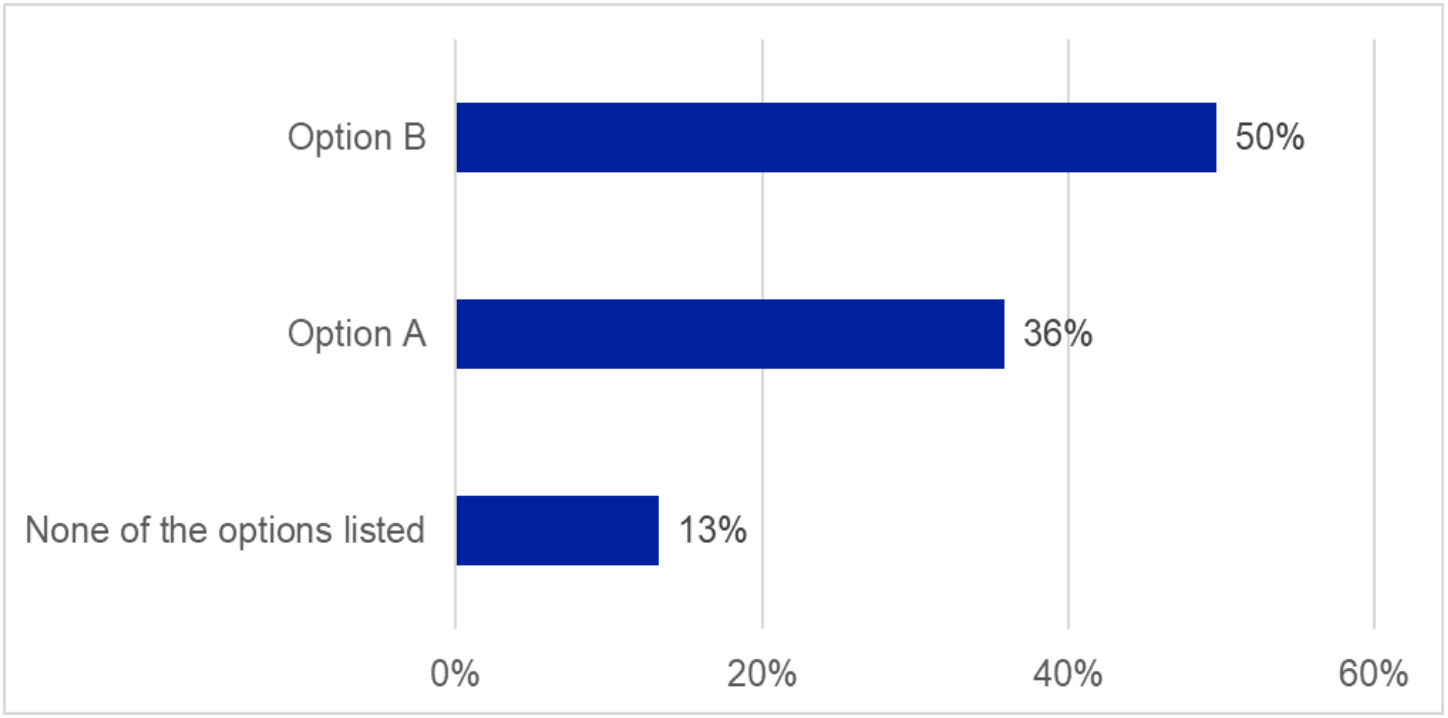
B—New building near location of old café/kiosk to house: -

- Café/kiosk
- Sports changing rooms
- public toilets including Changing Places toilet
- grounds maintenance office

Preferred option for park buildings

Respondents were asked to outline which of the proposed options they preferred for the future of the park buildings:

- Half of respondents (50 per cent) preferred a **Option B.**
- A total of 36 per cent of respondents preferred **Option A.**
- A total of 13 per cent of respondents selected **None of the options listed.**



Base: 171 responses

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Details of alternative options - Comments

Respondents who did not support either Option A or Option B, were asked to provided alternative ideas. Comments made have been themed and are summarised in the table below. Themes with two or more comments have been included in the table below. Examples of comments made can be seen on the next page. The full list of themes and comments are included in the appendix document.

Theme	Count
Changing rooms next to the football pitch	11
Refurbish the toilets	5
Refurbish both buildings but keep uses the same	3
Toilet blocks and changing rooms should be the same building	3
Other	2
Buildings do not need to be made larger	2

Base: 35 (all comments)

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Details of alternative options – Comments

"None of these options take into account the current sport changing rooms next to the pitch. Having grown up playing and coaching in the park, I know the importance of having changing facilities in close proximity to the field. It seems crazy to move something away from the pitch (not even in view) with young children using the facility."

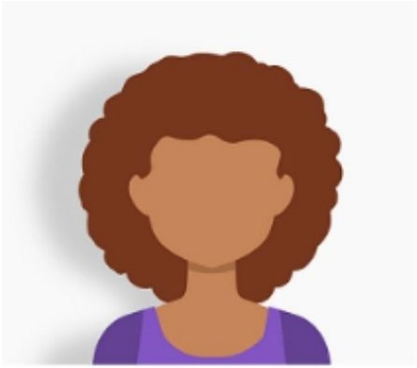
Changing rooms next to the football pitch

"Stationary Bike needed."

Refurbish the toilets

"Toilet block and sports shower facilities should be one single building located on current toilet block site. Refurbishment of existing toilet block and extension in similar architecture to house shower block with additional capacity for extra toilet facilities and better DDA toilet (direct disabled access)."

Toilet blocks and changing rooms should be the same building



"The council only allow younger teams to play football here, so re-locating the changing rooms to the current cafe location would create safeguarding issues- kids would need to be accompanied to use the toilet or get a drink. The changing rooms must be next to the pitch to avoid safeguarding problems. The logical solution is an expanded toilet block to include proper changing rooms."

Changing rooms next to the football pitch

"Maintain existing buildings. No need to replace and increase the size - keep the park original. It's part of its charm."

Refurbish both buildings but keep uses the same

"I don't think that what's there need be any larger, a larger building just encourages more people."

Buildings do not need to be made larger

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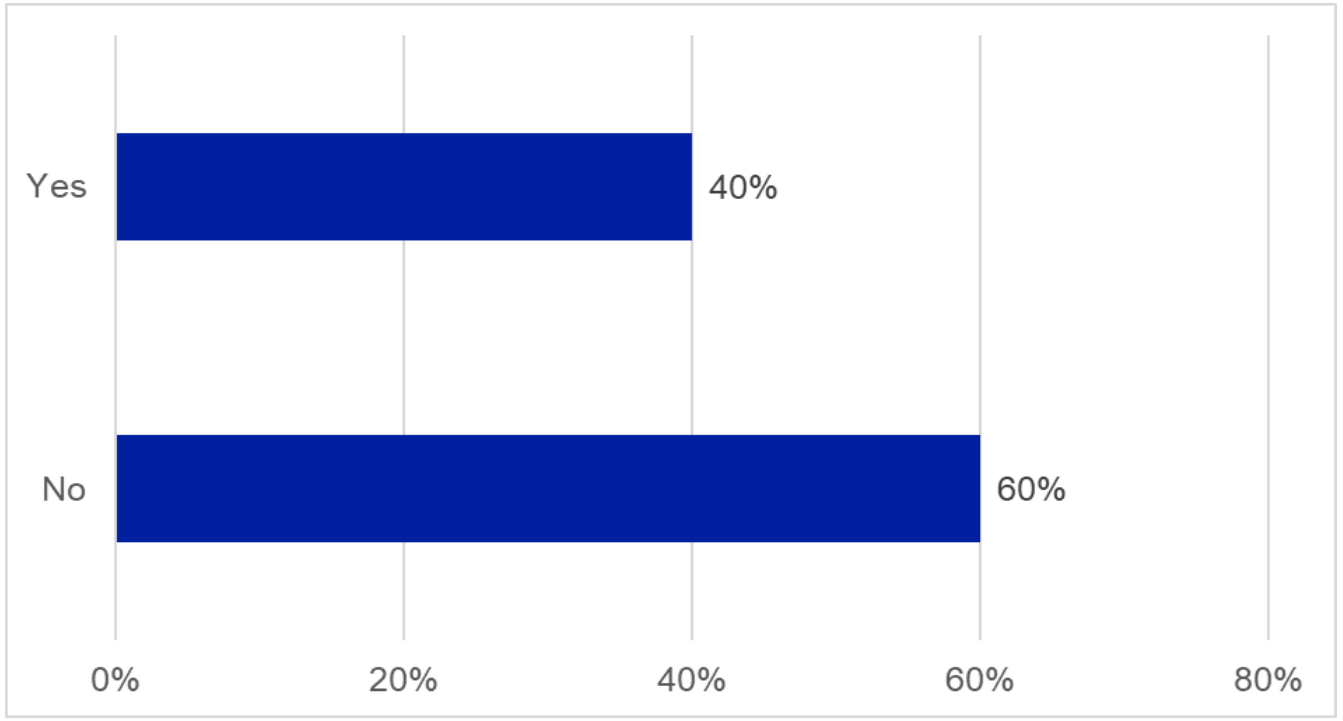
Preferred use for the refurbished toilet block

Respondents were asked if they had a preferred use for the refurbished toilet block:

- A total of 40 per cent of respondents outlined that they **did have** a preferred use for the refurbished toilet block.
- Whilst nearly two thirds (60 per cent) of respondents outlined that they **did not have** a preferred use for the refurbished toilet block.



Base: 141 responses

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Ideas for refurbished toilet block - Comments

Respondents who had a preferred use for the toilet block were asked to provide details of their preference. Comments made have been themed and are summarised in the table below. Themes with two or more comments have been included in the table below. Examples of comments made can be seen on the next page. The full list of themes and comments are included in the appendix document.

Theme	Count
A well maintained toilet block	13
Transform to a café	10
Extension to changing rooms	9
A community building for children/adults (arts/crafts/nature sessions)	6
Improved accessibility	3
Children's space	3
Keep the buildings as they are	2

Base: 58 (all comments)

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Ideas for refurbished toilet block – Comments

"As a public toilet, as there are none in the area. Should be made accessible and also safe for children and families."

A well maintained toilet block

"A toilet block that is kept clean and usable! The current one is a disgrace."

A well maintained toilet block

"The toilet block is an attractive building which could be used as the cafe block to maximise its use and to create a hub for get-togethers, etc."

Transform to a café

"Slightly extend it into a bigger changing room toilet. Ideally, you could split it in small unisex rooms each with it's own entrance/changing room/toilet and a normal sized disabled room, this way you avoid any gender debate."

Extension to changing rooms

"Building should be used for arts and crafts, nature stuff. Local community groups could come and help run classes e.g. HCHA"

A community building for children/adults (arts/crafts/nature sessions)

"People with mental and physical disabilities should be taken into account. Wider doorways, toilets for disabled. Washing basins for adults, children and children should be at a lower height."

Improved accessibility

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Section 2: Additional Park Proposals

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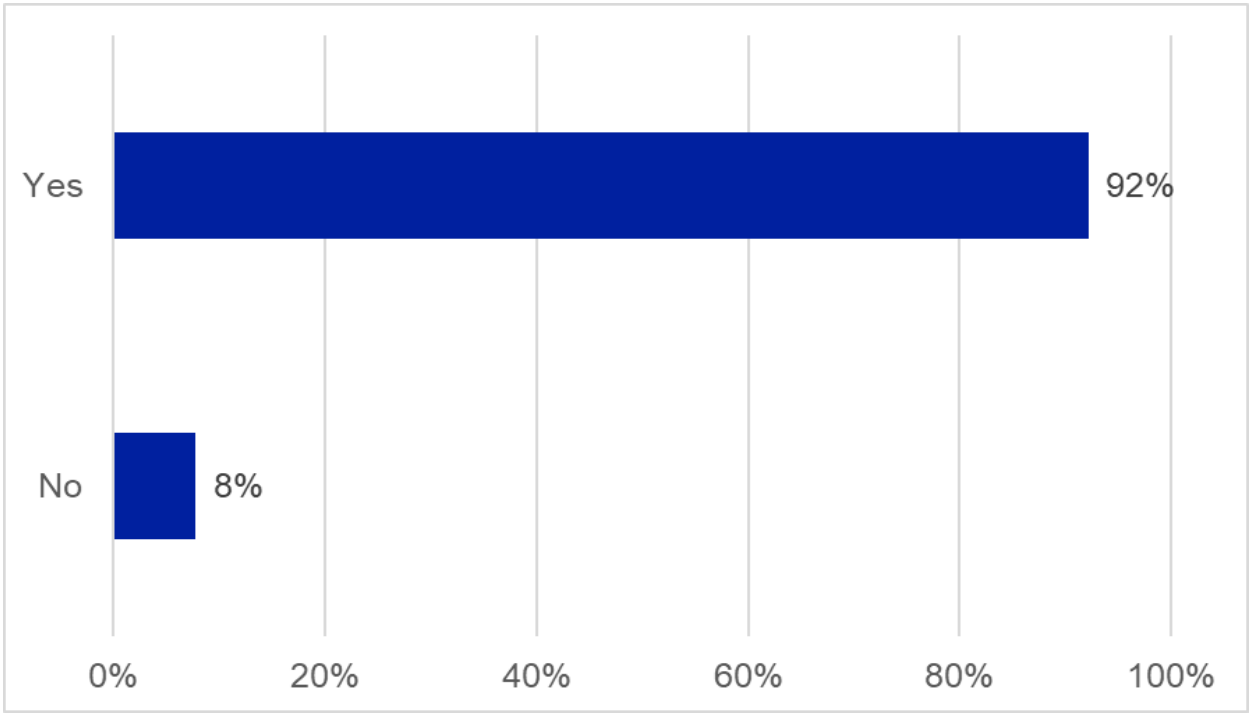
Interested in additional park proposals

Respondents were asked if they were interested in answering questions about additional park proposals in Kensington Memorial Park:

- The majority (92 per cent) of respondents outlined that they **were interested** in answering questions about additional park proposals.
- A total of eight per cent of respondents said that they **were not interested** in answering questions about additional park proposals.
- Respondents who answered **yes** were then asked a series of questions related to additional park proposals.



Base: 178 (all responses)

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Support for the proposals plan – Plan outline

Respondents were provided with outline plans for additional proposals in Kensington Memorial Park. Respondents were then asked whether they supported the proposals plan, and also to outline their support for each of the individual proposals

Additional proposals

A—Old changing room demolished

B—Refurbished public toilet block

C—New building near old café/kiosk

D—New hard surface footpath

- To improve accessibility
- To link up E and F to wider park

E—Junior fitness circuit to replace teenager play items

- Good visibility from St Mark's Road

F—Outdoor gym with mix of calisthenics and machine equipment

- Good visibility from St Mark's Road

G—One of the three tennis court modified to include basketball hoops and line markings

H—Tennis court floodlights (yellow dots on plan)

- Minimal light spillage and glare
- Longer court use

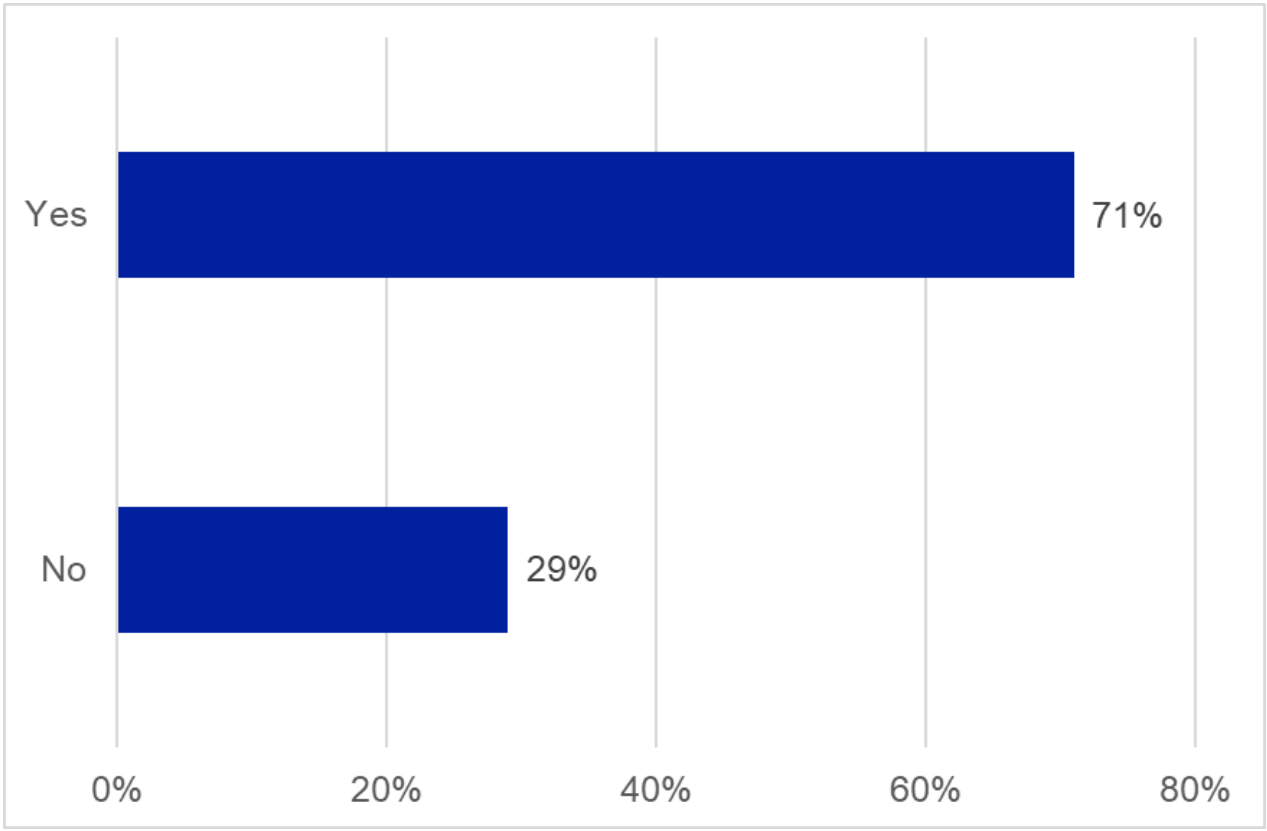
I—Dog agility area

- a designated place for dogs away from other activities

Support for the proposals plan

Respondents were asked if they supported the proposals plan:

- A total of 71 per cent of respondents outlined that they **did support** the proposals plan.
- Whilst 29 per cent of respondents outlined that they **did not support** the proposals plan.



Base: 147 responses

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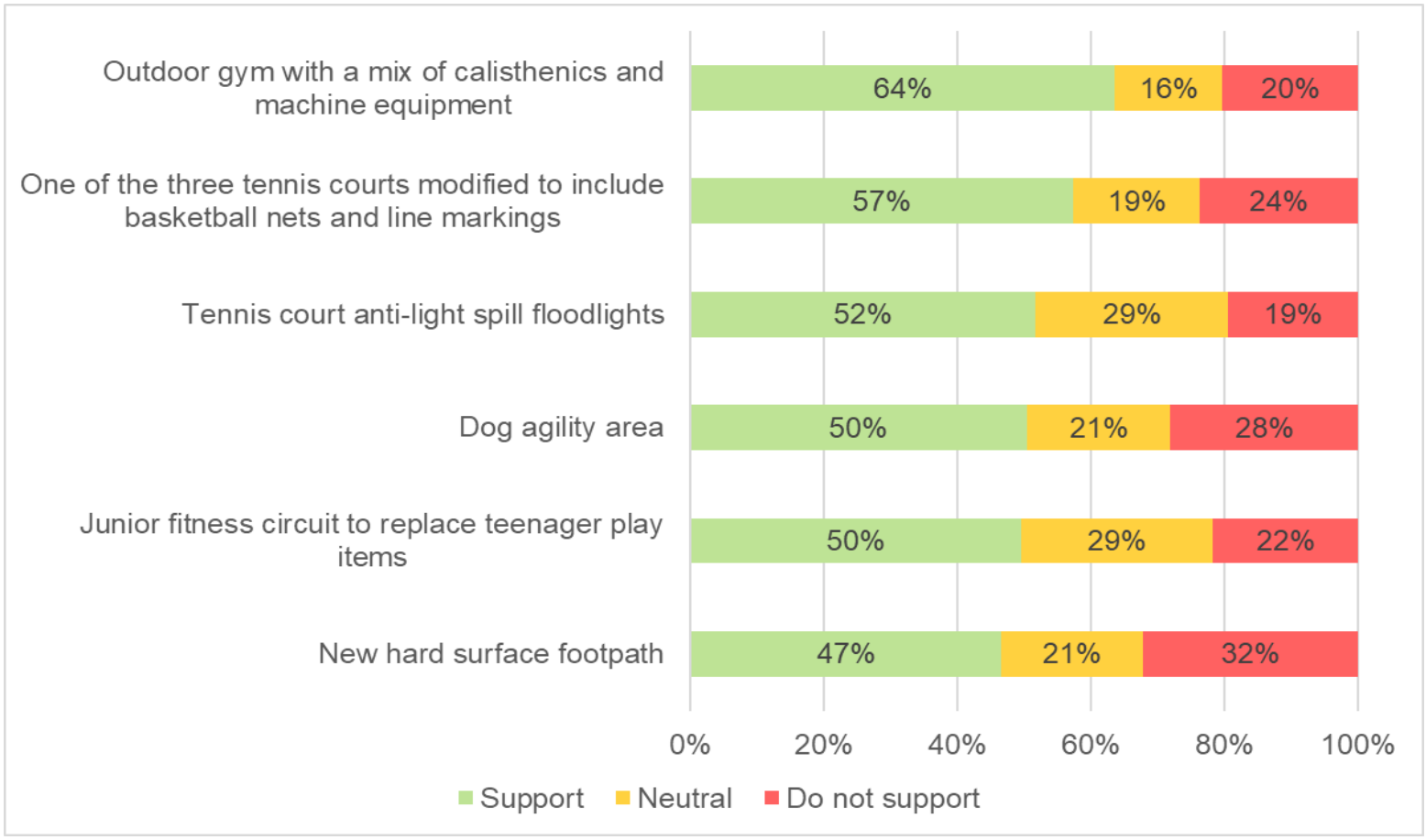
Support the individual proposals

Respondents were asked if they supported the individual proposals included in the overall proposals plan:

- A total of 64 per cent of respondents **supported** the **outdoor gym with a mix of calisthenics and machine equipment**, whilst 57 per cent supported **one of the three tennis courts modified to include basketball nets and line markings**

- **A new hard surface footpath** had the highest number of **do not support** (32 per cent) responses followed by a **dog agility area** (28 per cent).



Base: 122 responses

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Do not support individual proposals - Comments

Respondents who did not support at least one of the proposals were asked to explain why. Comments made have been themed and are summarised in the table below. Themes with three or more comments have been included in the table below. Examples of comments made can be seen on the next page. The full list of themes and comments are included in the appendix document.

Theme	Count
Against hard surface path	17
Dogs need to be able to use all space in the park	14
Outdoor gym not necessary	12
Not in favour of dog-only area	11
Light pollution from floodlights	8
Basketball/tennis courts already busy causing issues	7
Concern of anti-social behaviour	5
Tennis courts should remain	5
Equipment for young people	3
Rennovations are unneccesary	3
Junior fitness circuit optimistic	2
Focus on gardens/plants/green spaces	2

Base: 88 (all comments)

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Do not support individual proposals – Comments

"The girls football teams use the open space where the paths would go and it would likely mean there is not enough room for their pitch. This is one of the few places that girls in the area can play football and I think it's important to continue to encourage this."

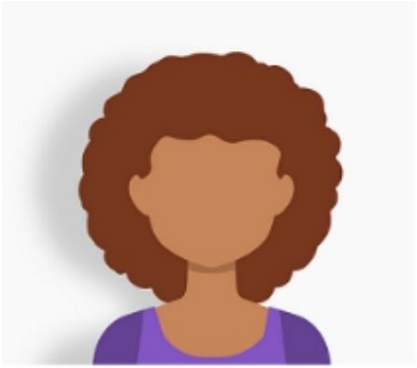
Against hard surface path

"Dogs do not need to be place in a small place, we the community have grown the population of dogs and at least are 30 dogs new owner within the neighbourhood and would prefer the dogs to have access to the use of all the park as currently is."

Dogs need to be able to use all space in the park

"I strongly disagree with this. This small green area is used very often by the local community as more of a private/quiet meeting area away from the main park and has been that way for years. Giving this space solely to dogs takes that away."

Not in favour of dog-only area



"There is no justified need for the hard surface footpath. This would reduce the grass area and its flexibility and use, with little additional amenity."

Against hard surface path

"There is no need for new gym equipment as experience from Little Scrubs shows that is not used and it actually is used as an area for sitting."

Outdoor gym not necessary

"I don't agree with the proposal for floodlights - I am concerned the impact these lights would have on my house which backs onto the park.

Light pollution from floodlights

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Section 3: Improvements on children's playground

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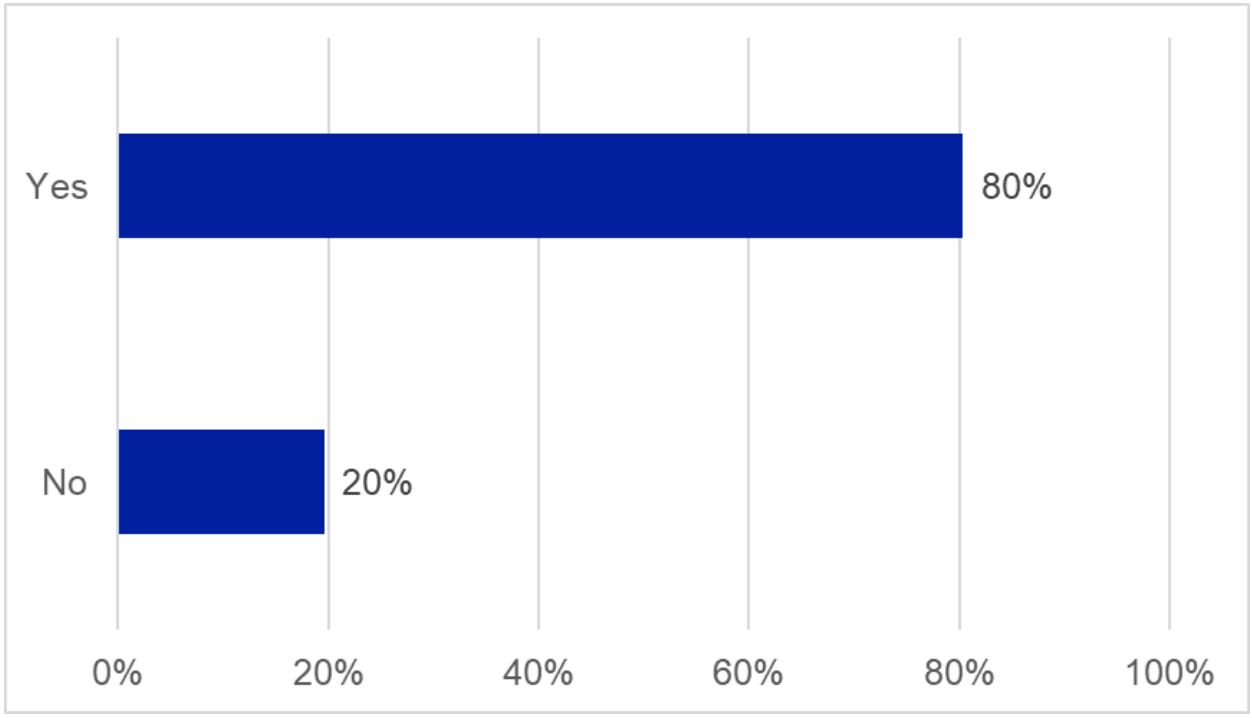
Interested in the improvements to the children's playground

Respondents were asked if they were interested in answering questions about improvements to the children's playground:

- The majority (80 per cent) of respondents outlined that they **were interested** in answering questions about improvements to the children's playground.

- A total of 20 per cent of respondents said that they **were not interested** in answering questions about improvements to the children's playground.

- Respondents who answered **yes** were then asked a series of questions related to improvements to the children's playground.



Base: 178 (all responses)

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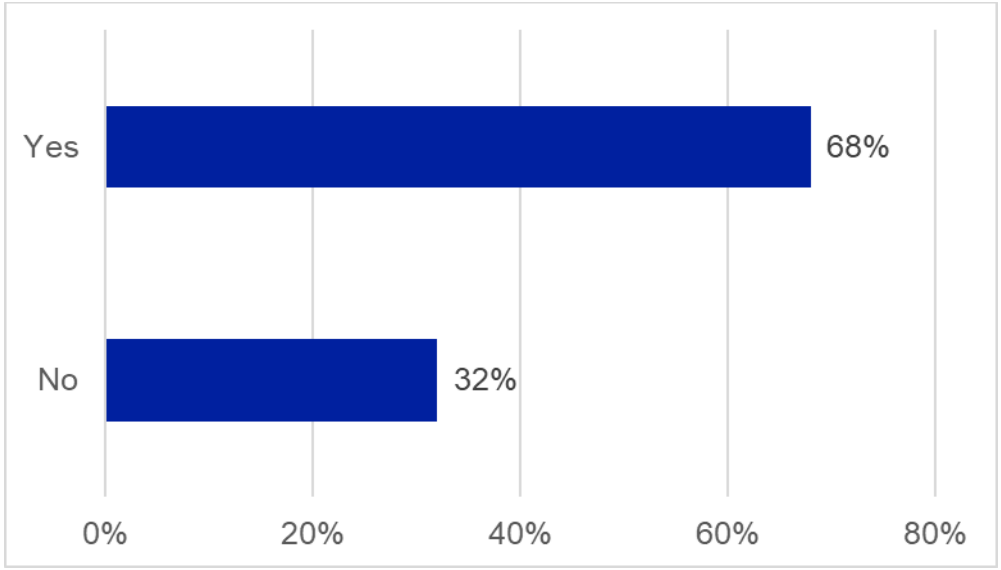
Parent, carer or guardian to any children or young people?

Respondents were asked if they were a parent, carer or guardian to any children or young people:

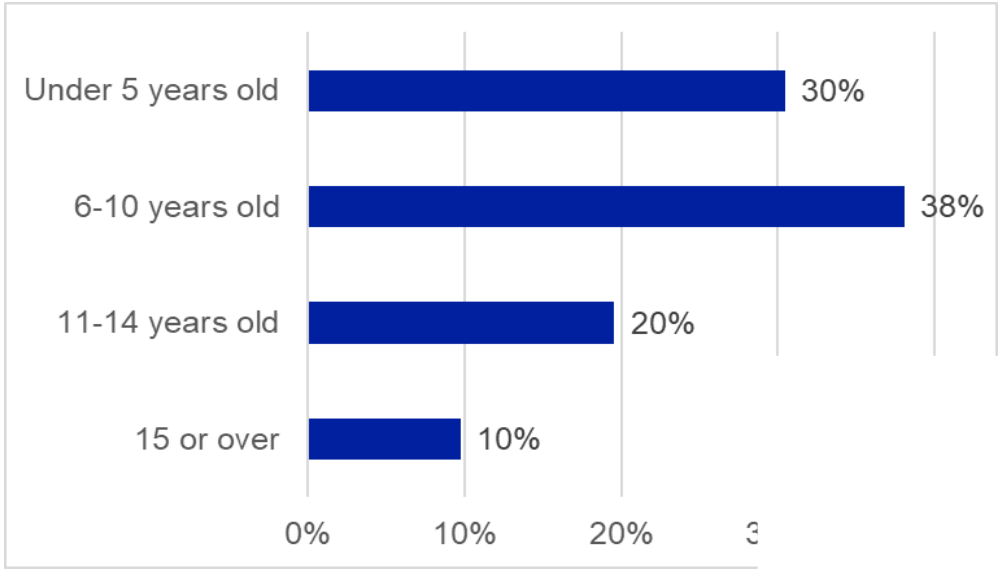
- Over two thirds (68 per cent) of respondents **were** parents, carers or guardians to children/young people.
- Whilst 32 per cent of respondents **were not** parents, carer or guardians to young people.



Base: 135 responses

Respondents who are parents, carers or guardians were asked to outline the age of their children/young people they look after:

- A total of 30 per cent had children/young people **under 5 years old.**
- A total of 38 per cent of had children/young people between **6-10 years old** and a fifth (20 per cent) were **11-14 years old.**
- A total of 10 per cent of respondents had children/young people aged **15 or over.**

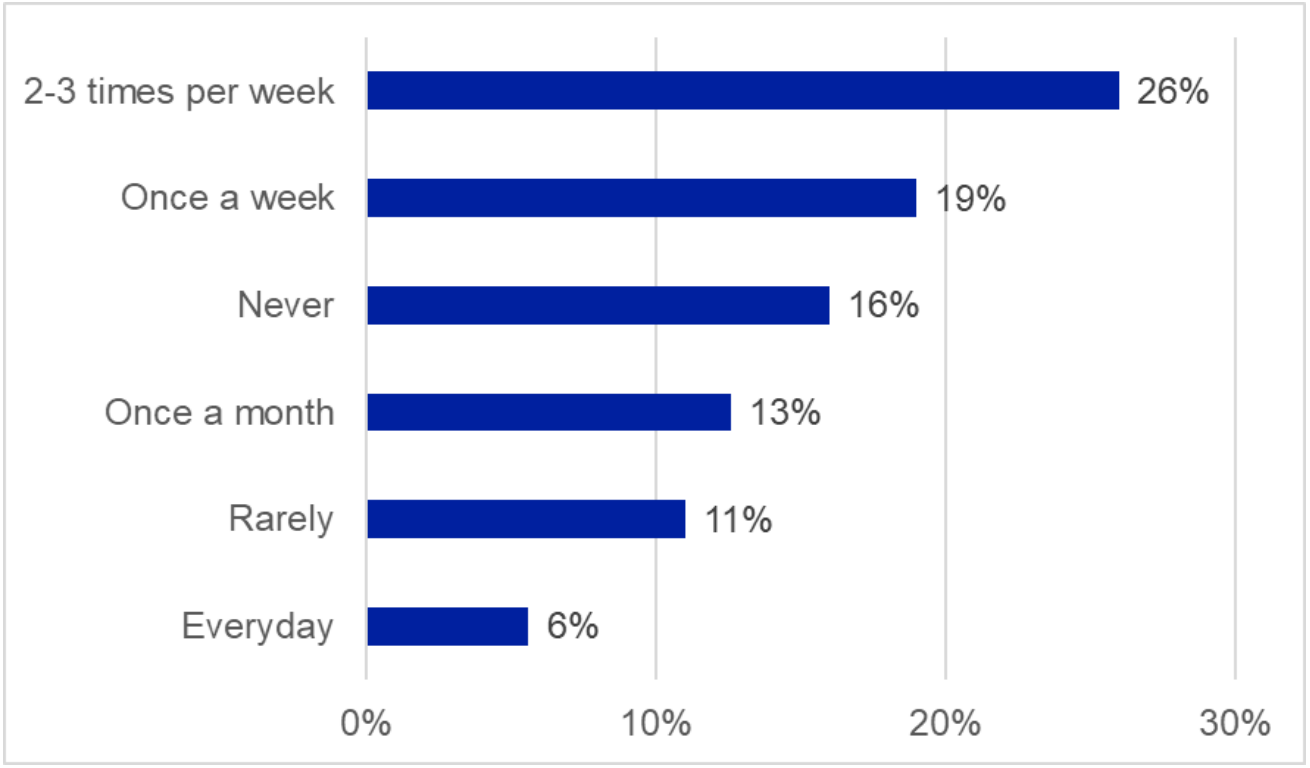


Base: 90 responses

Frequency of using the children's playground

Respondents were asked how often they used the playground in Kensington Memorial Park:

- Over a quarter (26 per cent) of respondents outlined that they use the park **2-3 times per week.**
- A total of 19 per cent of respondents use the park **once a week** whilst 13 per cent said that they use the park **once a month.**
- A total of 16 per cent of respondents outlined that they have **never** used the park.



Base: 123 responses

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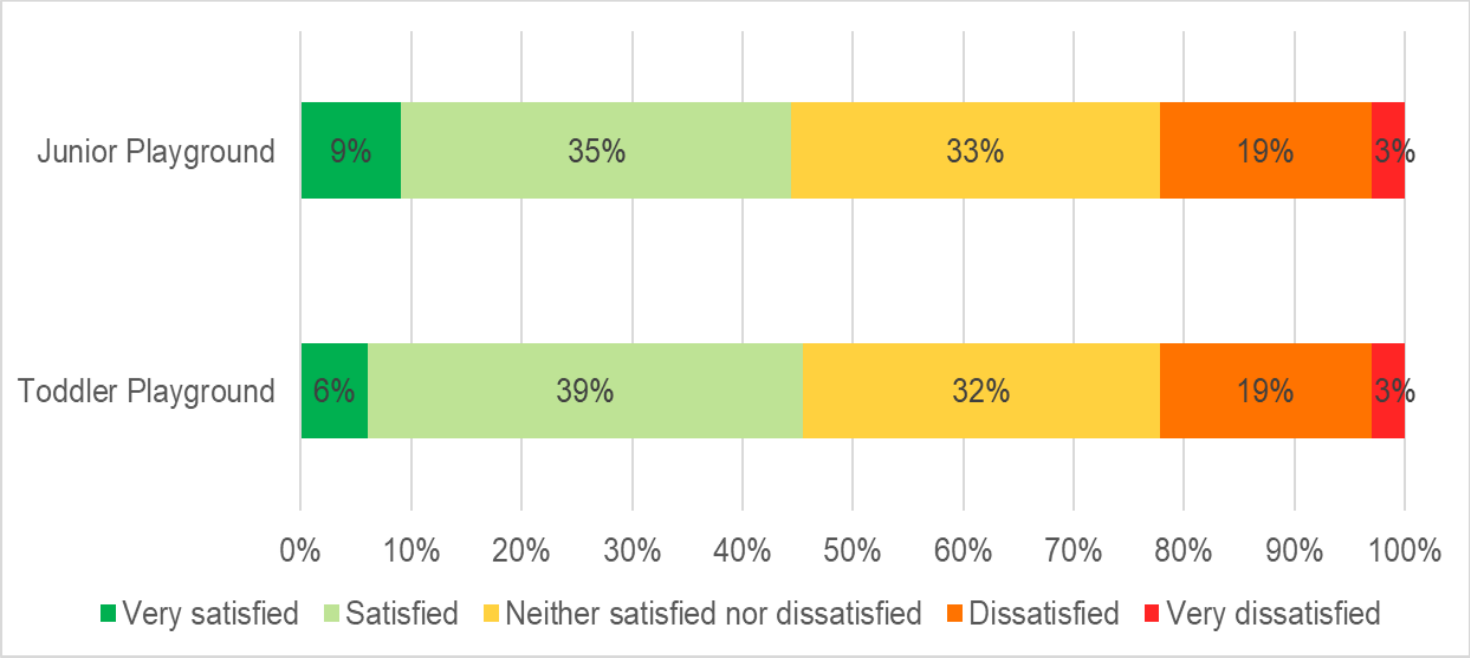
Satisfaction with children's playground

Respondents were asked how satisfied, or dissatisfied, they were with the current junior and toddler playground(s):

- **Junior Playground:** A net total of 44 per cent of respondents were **satisfied** with the junior playground (nine per cent very satisfied, 35 per cent satisfied); whilst a net total of 22 per cent were **dissatisfied** with the current junior playground (19 per cent dissatisfied, three per cent very dissatisfied).

- **Toddler Playground**: A net total of 45 per cent of respondents were **satisfied** with the toddler playground (six per cent very satisfied, 39 per cent satisfied); whilst a net total of 22 per cent were **dissatisfied** with the current toddler playground (19 per cent dissatisfied, three per cent very dissatisfied).



Base: 118 responses

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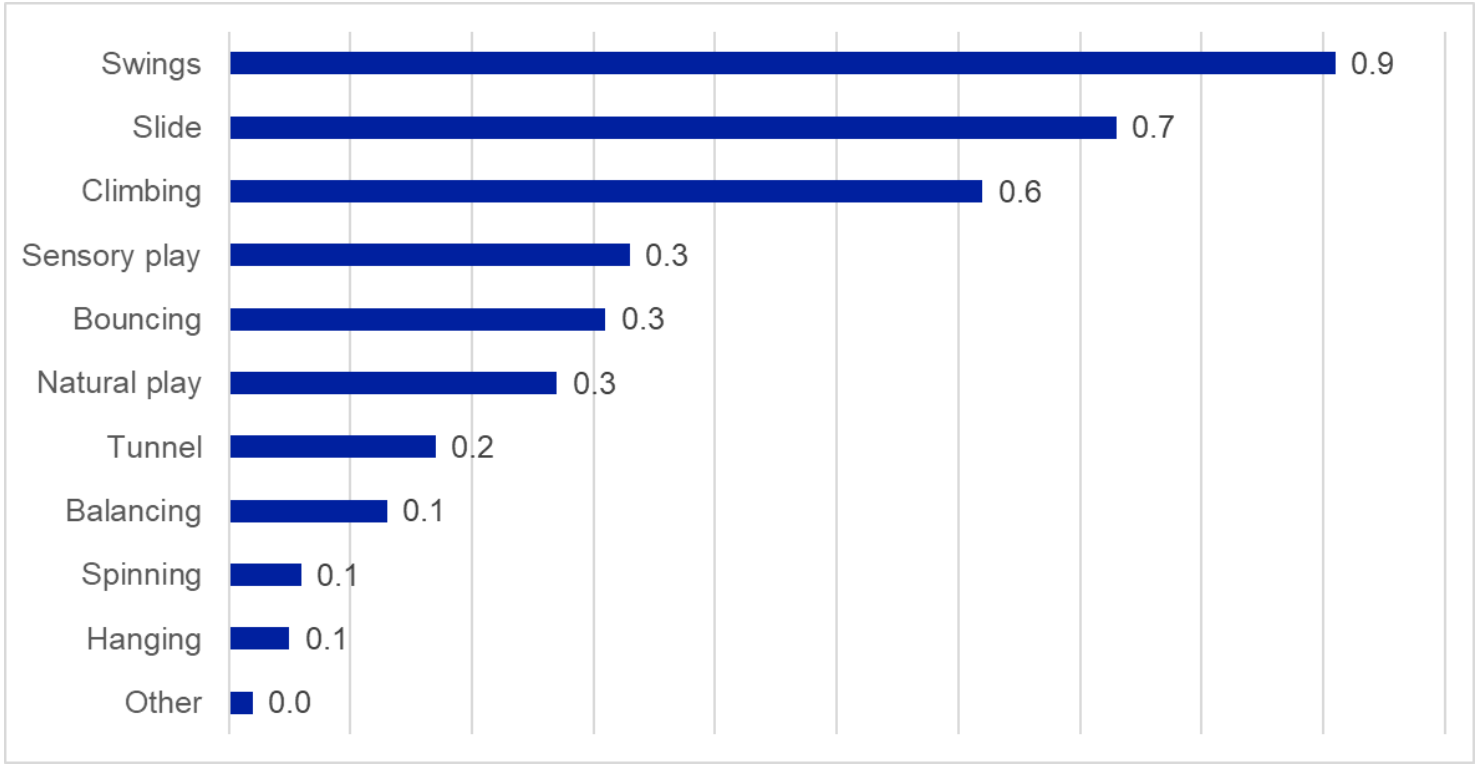
Prioritising equipment in the toddler playground

Respondents were asked to prioritise equipment they/their child would like to see included in the toddler playground. Respondents were asked to rank from one (top priority) to three (lowest priority). These results have been aggregated in the graph below:

- The top three priorities across the respondent base were **swings**, **slide** and **climbing.**
- The least selected option was **hanging equipment**, followed by **spinning equipment** and **balancing equipment**.
- There were 10 comments made as part of the **other** response, and these can be seen in the appendix document.



Base: 98 responses

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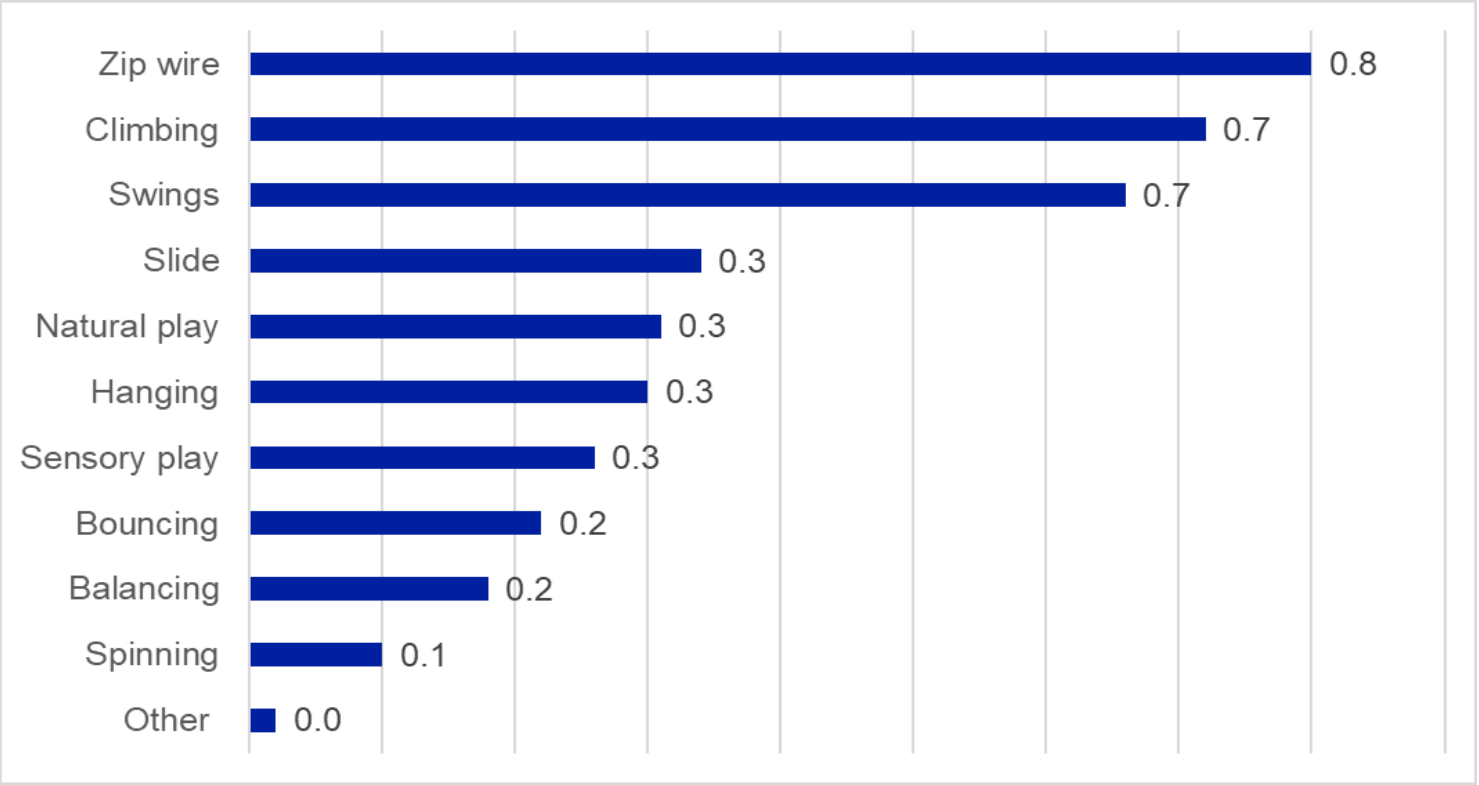
Prioritising equipment in the junior playground

Respondents were asked to prioritise equipment they/their child would like to see included in the junior playground. Respondents were asked to rank from one (top priority) to three (lowest priority). These results have been aggregated in the graph below:

- The top three priorities across the respondent base was **zip wire**, **climbing** and **swings**
- The least selected option was **spinning equipment**, followed by **balancing equipment** and **bouncing equipment**.
- There were 16 comments made as part of the **other** response, and these can be seen in the appendix document.



Base: 106 responses

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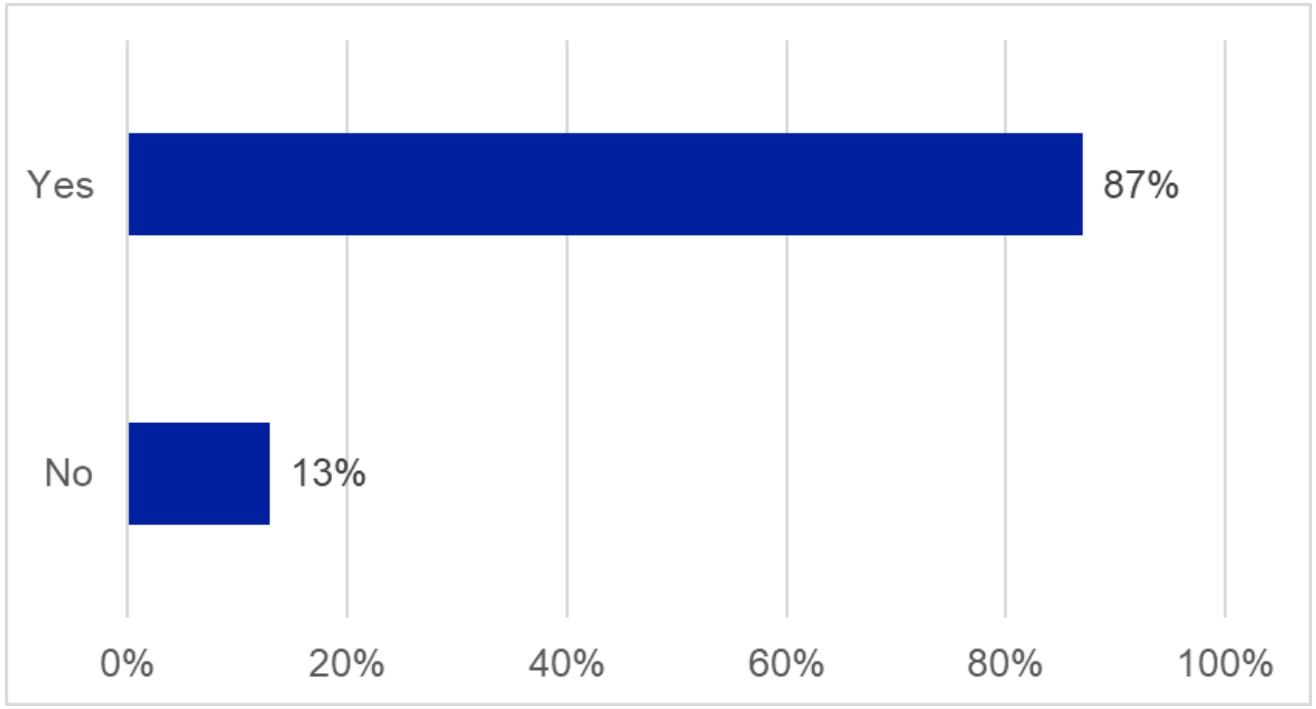
Preference for areas that provide shade and shelter from the elements

Respondents were asked if they would like more areas that provide shade and shelter included in the children's playground:

- The majority (87 per cent) of respondents selected that **they would** like more areas that provide shade and shelter included in the children's playground.

- A total of 13 per cent of respondents outlined that **they would not** like more areas that provide shade and shelter included in the children's playground.



Base: 131 responses

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Alternatives to areas that provide shade and shelter

Respondents who selected no when asked if they preferred areas that provided shade and shelter were asked to provide details on why they did not support this. Due to the low number of comments, theming wasn't suitable. All comments made can be seen below.

- *Because we don't have much sun as it is*
- *Don't take space away from what is / would be used for children*
- *Either trees and/or shelter*
- *Even just sails and not enclosed*
- *I use an umbrella. However, shading the slides would be useful as they get too hot to use in the summer.*
- *If the shelter is in the form of structures, I am not in favour but I would not object to a few more trees*
- *It's a local park for local people - there are trees for shade from the sun. if it's raining then people will just go home. Keeping things open is better - and a pandemic proves it.*
- *Maintenance issues*
- *More seating*
- *More shade and shelter as children use the football grounds a lot and when it rains they have to look for shelter*
- *more trees and plants*
- *People in England are normally prepared for the weather when they go to a park, especially for a playground. If it is rainy, people often stay away. How often is excessive sun a problem? It just means unnecessary furniture/building that will not be used for its intended purpose.*
- *Please replace roof by structure facing tennis courts. No new buildings please.*
- *Provide gazebos*
- *Realistically speaking, you will not be in the park if it rains unless the whole area is covered.*
- *Shade and shelter will take more space area*
- *Shelter in the water park to stop getting splashed*
- *the most important thing is the water-splash area. the other playgrounds are fine, and I'd rather left as they are, otherwise I'll have to miss out a year or so of using them.*
- *The only concern I have, as a resident, is that the playground is well maintained and provides good play for the children. As far as I can tell it is well used and appreciated*
- *Unnecessary spending*
- *When my daughter was young we used to use the playground considerably and I lived in permanent fea hurting herself because there was so much disrepair and dilapidation. So many sharp edges, so much r breakage that was never mended. While my family will not have the benefit of a safe, clean playground, will*

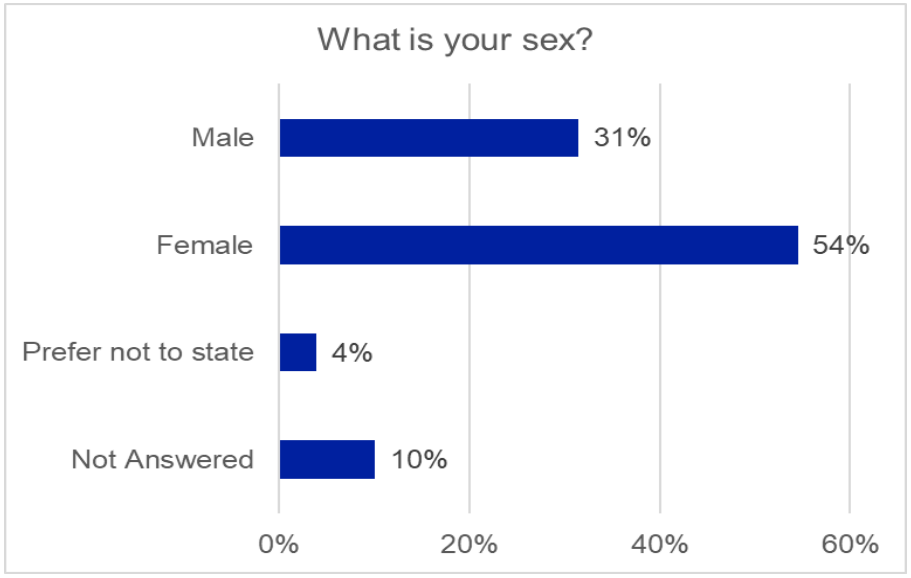
Base: 22 (all comments)

Section 4: About respondents: Demographic information

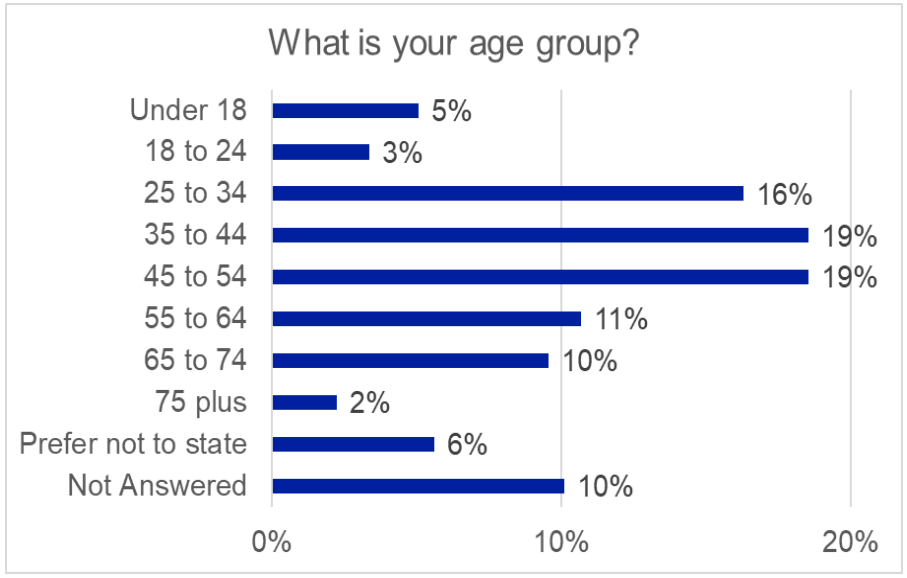
Putting Communities First Team
The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
consult@rbkc.gov.uk

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

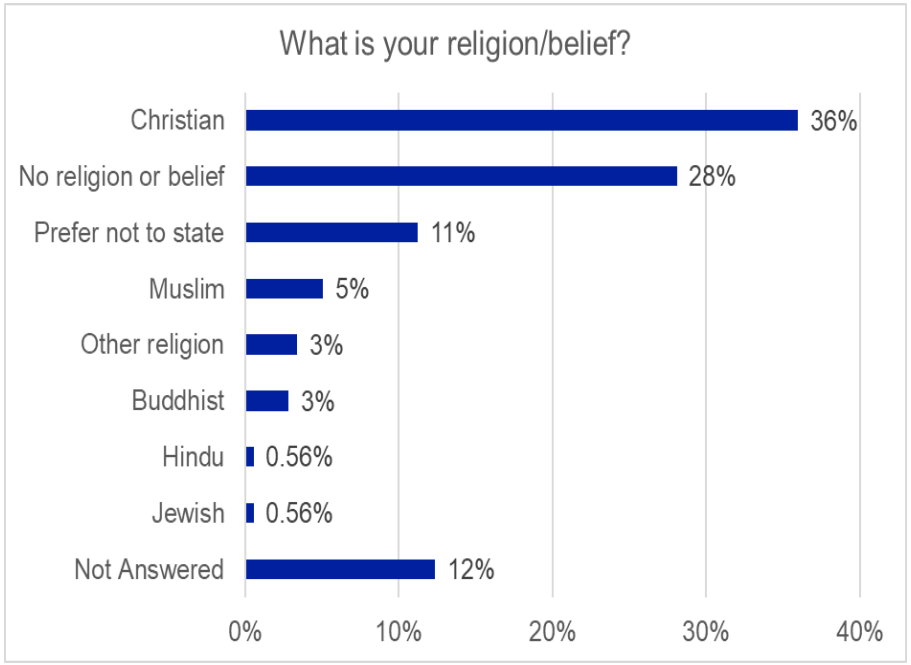
About respondents: Demographic Breakdown



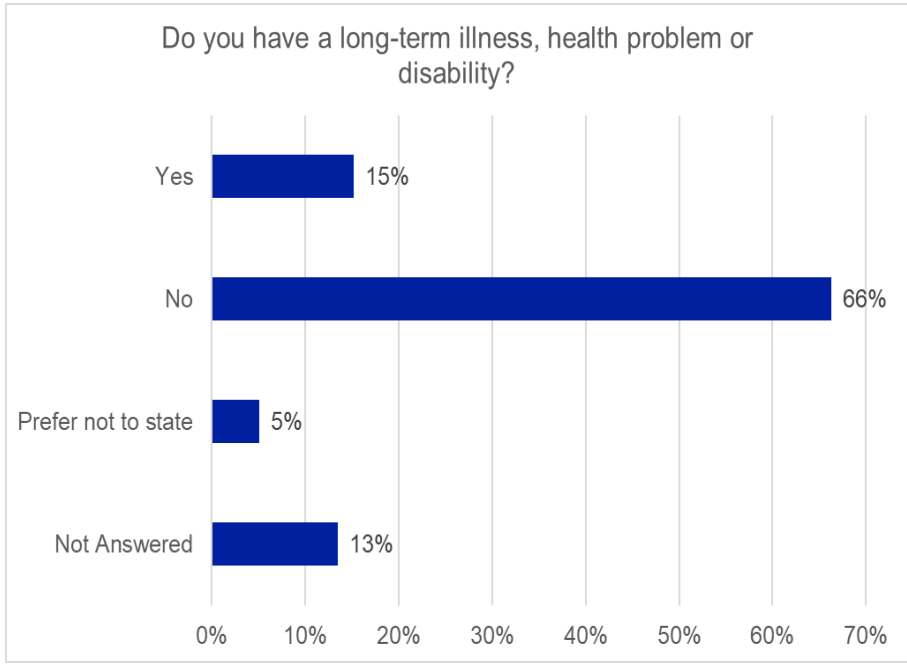
Base: 178 (all responses)



Base: 178 (all responses)

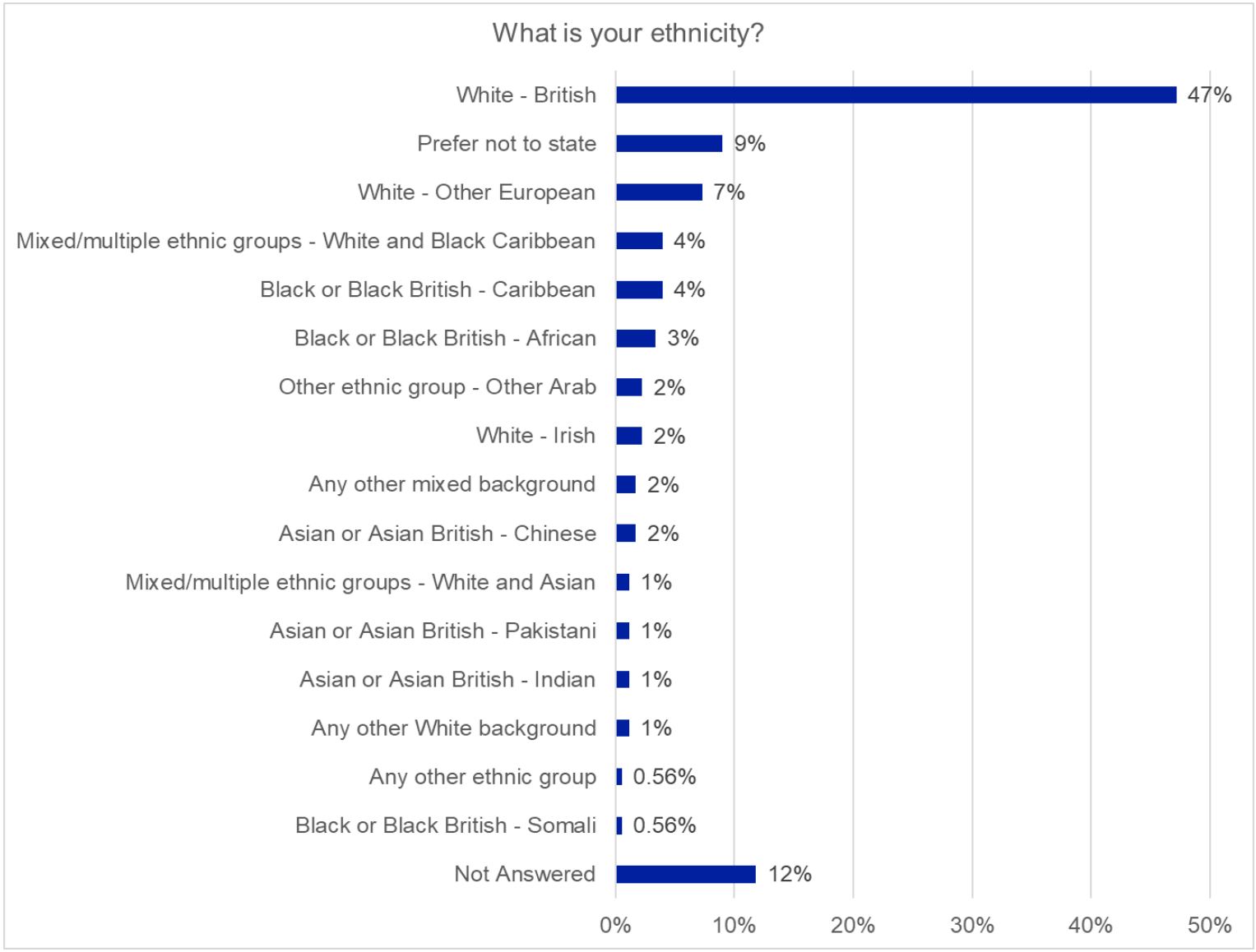


Base: 178 (all responses)



Base: 178 (all responses)

About respondents: Demographic Breakdown



Base: 178 (all responses)

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