

Powis Square Gardens Consultation Report

June 2018



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Introduction and methodology

Introduction

Powis Square Gardens is one of three pocket parks, along with Tavistock Gardens and Colville Square Gardens, known collectively as Portobello Squares in the Royal Borough's Parks Strategy. The Council is looking to refurbish and make improvements to Powis Square Gardens and, therefore, wanted to seek the views of local residents on this.

Methodology

An online survey was developed and published. A leaflet drop was made to local streets advertising the consultation and encouraging residents to complete the online survey. The survey was also promoted through posters and by staff being present in Powis Square Gardens. A total of 101 completed surveys were received.

Appendices

Appendix one contains the data tables of results and appendix two the full list of open comments which have been themed.



Survey Results: At a glance

- The majority of respondents were regular visitors to Powis Square Gardens with a third visiting every day (34 per cent) and just over half at least once a week (53 per cent).
- The majority of respondents (60 per cent) were there to use the playground or to supervise children using the playground.
- The facilities respondents felt were most in need of upgrading or improvement were planting (57 per cent) and the play area (56 per cent). However, when asked for their top priority for refurbishment forty three per cent stated the play area.
- When asked about other facilities for the hardcourt area, table tennis was the most popular choice (51 per cent) followed by football goals and outdoor gym (44 per cent each).
- Nine out of ten respondents were in favour of refurbishing the play areas. Key activities they would like to see were swinging (68 per cent) and climbing (65 per cent).



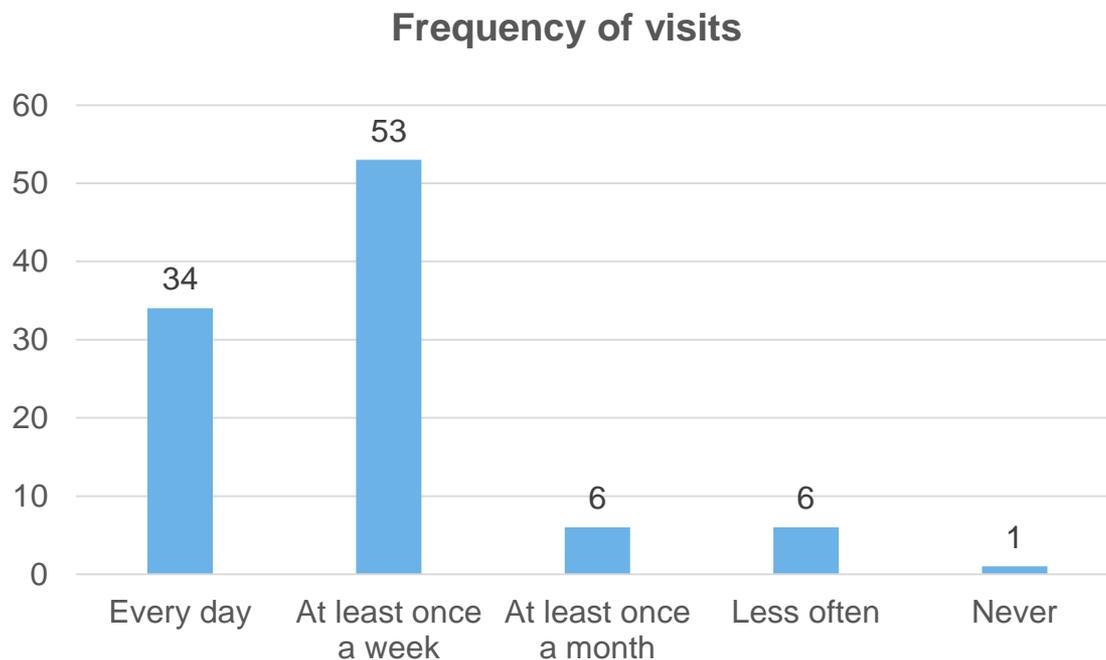
Survey Results: At a glance

- Sixty per cent of respondents were in favour of keeping the current sculpture in the park, with comments about it being part of the park's history. However, some concern was raised about the safety of children climbing on it and some suggested that it could be moved.
- Key comments made about the park refurbishment included concerns about dog fouling and the maintenance of the park, the need for equipment appropriate across the different children's age ranges and improvements to the grass areas and planting. There were also specific comments about existing facilities (such as the basketball hoops) and requests for new facilities (such as a sandpit or water features).



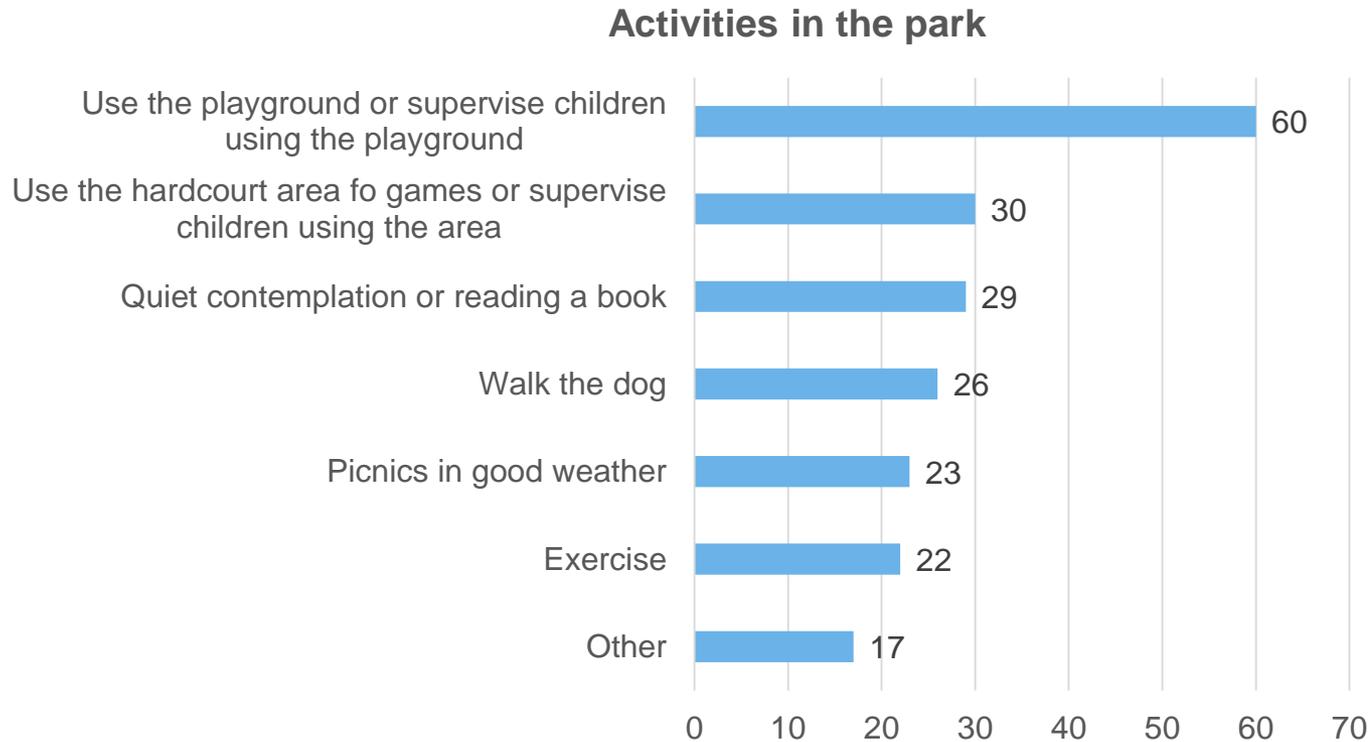
Survey Results: Frequency of visits

In general, respondents were frequent visitors to Powis Square Gardens with over half (53 per cent) visiting at least once a week and around a third (34 per cent) every day. Respondents were also asked if they used any other local parks. Half (50 per cent) stated that they used Colville Square Gardens and 27 per cent Tavistock Gardens. Forty six per cent stated they used neither.



Survey results: What respondents do in the park

The majority of respondents (60 per cent) use the playground or supervise children using it. Other activities included use of the hardcourt area (30 per cent) and quiet contemplation or reading a book (29 per cent). Around a quarter of respondents (26 per cent) used the park to walk a dog.



What respondents use the park for: other

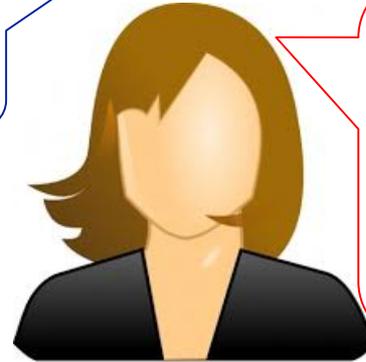
I just walk through it and enjoy

Hanging out with our friends

Lived directly on Powis Square for 26 years. Multi use area, dog walkers very friendly. Dog waste and litter not picked up.

*As my home faces the square it feels like part of my daily living space. I walk through the gardens daily and watch the wonderful variety of people who use this lovely, lively space for such a wide range of activities. It is really very precious and *hope the nature of these gardens does not change too much**

Meeting friends



Meeting friends to chat and meeting other members of the community using the park.

Overlook the gardens from my flat in Powis Square

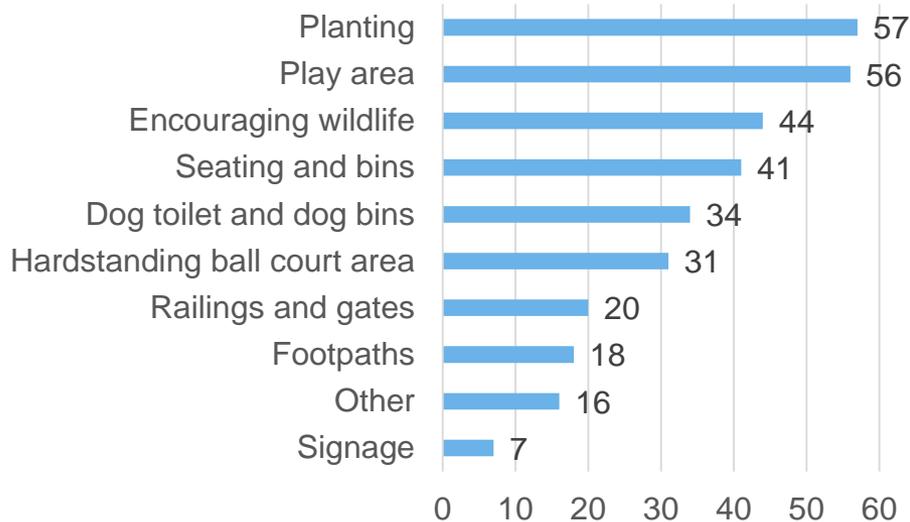
Walking through extended garden. Historic use of play area children now grown up.



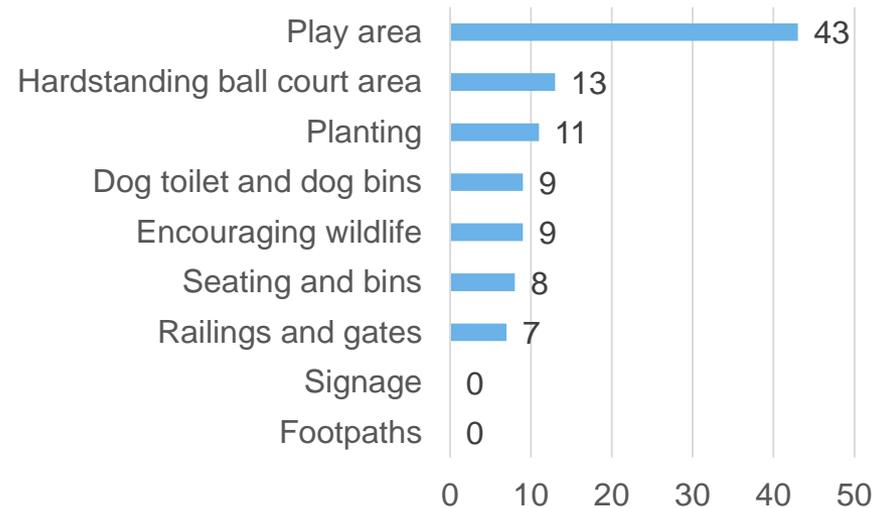
Facilities most in need of upgrading/improvement

Respondents felt that the facilities most in need of upgrading were planting (57 per cent) and the play area (56 per cent). This was followed by encouraging wildlife and seating and bins (44 and 41 per cent respectively). There was less support for the upgrading of footpaths (18 per cent) and signage (seven per cent). Respondents were also asked to choose their top priority for upgrading and this was clearly the play area (43 per cent), with the other options receiving much less support.

Facilities most in need of upgrading



Top priority for upgrading



Facilities most in need of upgrading: other

Dogs

Preferably to have no dogs fouling where children are playing.

Note – dog toilet not used and children use as sandpit. No dog bins in garden.

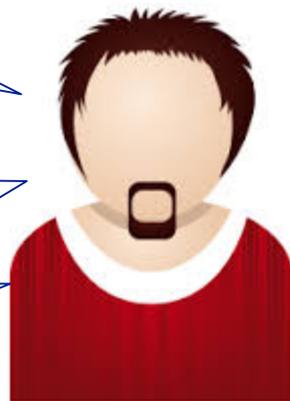
Control over excessive dog droppings on green grass area where children play

The park is not a dog toilet!

Seating

Safety surfacing, more seating outside play area and tables

Hard standing pads under benches



Grass area

Draining the grass area

Grass areas need improving and drainage very muddy in winter

Grass areas need improving and drainage very muddy in winter. Number 1 priority for improvement is other – grass areas

Planting

Plant another interesting tree or two and remove the small dead one

More flowers and plants

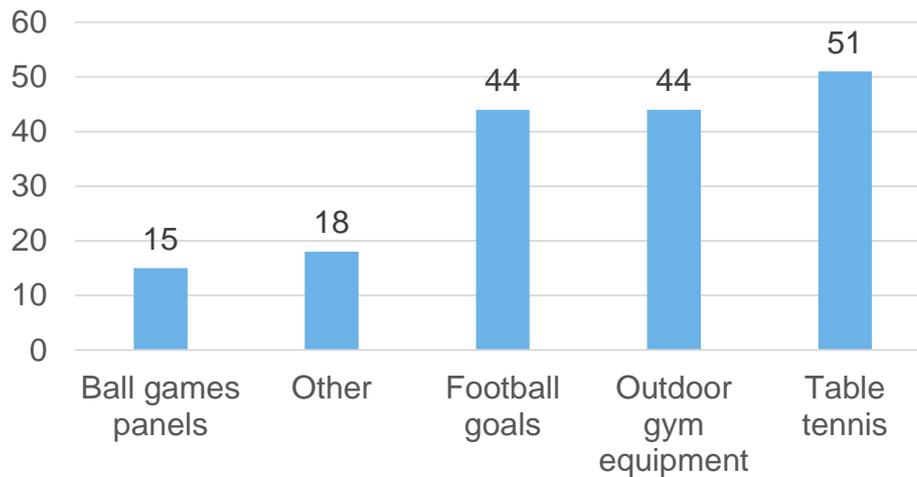
Planting particularly – the grass bare areas



Additional games for hardstanding basketball hoop/goal

Respondents were asked if there were any additional games or facilities they would like added to the existing hardcourt area. Just over half of respondents (51 per cent) would like to see table tennis with 44 per cent each selecting outdoor gym equipment and football goals. A selection of the other comments made can be found below, with full comments in the appendices.

Additional games for hardcourt area



Café, lido and event space

2nd basketball net

Pull up bars and dip bars

Chess board. Hop scotch.

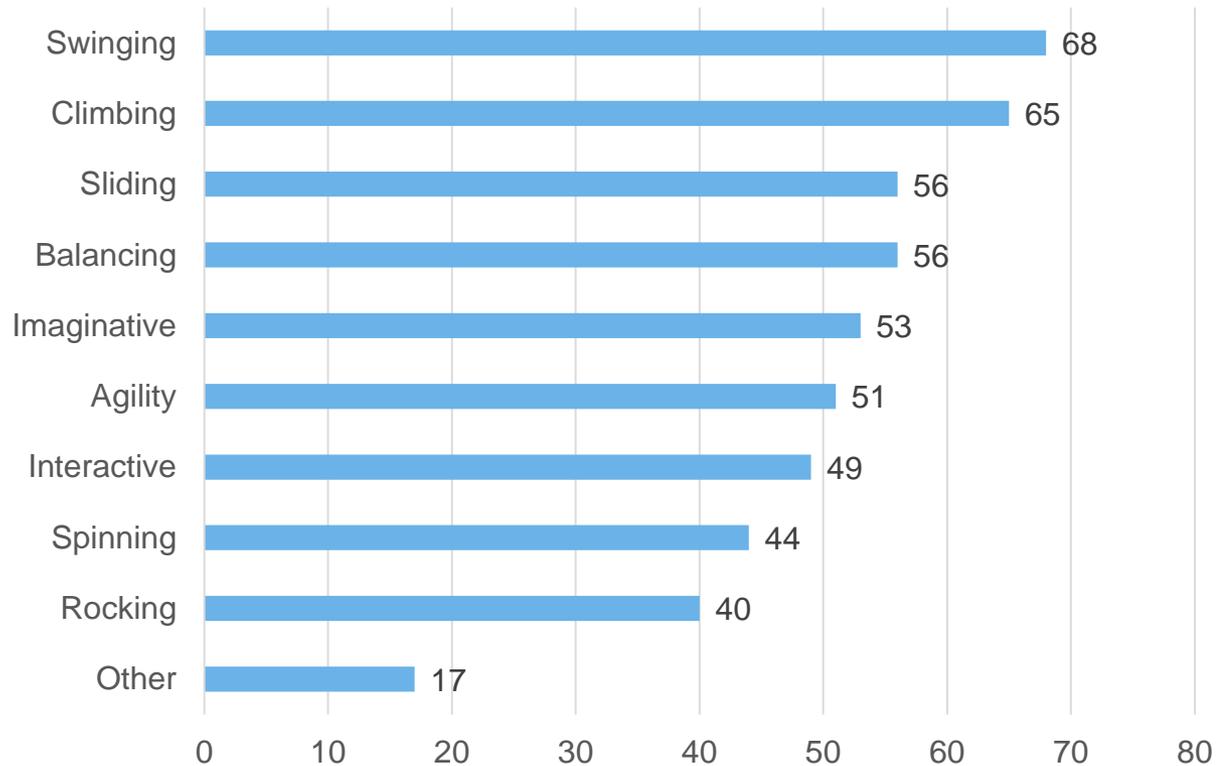
Basketball a top priority please keep. Line markings would also be good.



Refurbishment of play area: types of play activities

Nine out of ten respondents (90 per cent) were in favour of refurbishing the play area. The key activities respondents would like to see were swinging (68 per cent) and climbing (65 per cent) although there was support for the majority of the activities listed. There was least support for rocking (40 per cent).

Play activities for refurbished play area



Play activities for refurbished play area : other

Sandpit and water fountains on floor level so the kids can run through them

All seems rather basic compared to modern playgrounds. Definitely need better swings. Could also accommodate a taller climbing frame. Play areas (like a tension climbing frame) could be extended into

The children love the climbing frame. The wooden logs and features in the open area are fabulous as long as no dog poo near them.

Soft safety surfacing sandpit



Age appropriate equipment

What there is good. Just add a few more things for over 6 years as you have Colville Square close by for little ones.

Equipment suitable for all ages

Needs to cater for older children

Lower slide for smaller children



Should the current sculpture remain in the park

The majority of respondents (60 per cent) were in favour of the current sculpture remaining in the park. Those that said yes were asked for their reasons why. There was a sense that the sculpture was a part of the park's history, although there was some support for moving the sculpture and concerns about children climbing on it.

Yes and no. It takes up space the bronze one. Kids love climbing on the circle rock ones so keep these.

Yes but reposition if space can be used for something better.

It is part of our history and culture and should be left well alone. We love our sculpture. Hands off!

Yes but change positioning so not in play area.

It might not be the most child friendly (sharp metal etc.) but I think it's really important to have art and sculpture in the gardens. The round stone ring is great – more interactive sculpture setups) art designed to climb on) would do nicely.

It is historically valued in the square. It's not great but we all love it!

It's dangerous. Children climb on it. My son has injured himself on it as it has sharp edges. The stone circles are great.



Additional comments or suggestions to improve Powis Square Gardens

Dogs

Ban dogs. Awful to watch dogs foul and then children playing directly on the same place.

Dog fouling is the main issue to address

Ban dogs from area or enclose play area. Dogs fouling and children playing not a good combinations

Put up signs saying dogs not allowed in fenced play area

Refurbishment

Don't shut down all the park whilst works are carried out. Lights coming on at 9.30 pm – 10.15 pm at the moment need to be earlier in the winter.



Existing facilities

Please don't remove the basketball hoop

Monkey bars need fixing

Additional facilities

Fence off ball court area. Include a sandpit for children. Create more natural areas, include trees for climbing. Areas for scooting and biking.

There is currently a gap in play structure for children aged 3-7

Park currently has play equipment for older and younger children. Ages 3-5 missing

Maybe adding more flowers/shrubs and more playground area

