



Report on the findings from feedback received during a public engagement on the proposed changes to Lepton Recreation Ground, Huddersfield.

Lepton Recreation Ground

Summary

- The Lepton play area consultation took place from 20th October 2021 to 4th January 2022.
- The purpose of the consultation was to communicate the draft proposals for a new play area directly with the public and gather feedback.
- The methodology used was a short online survey.
- The survey involved sharing the draft plans and asking for views via several closed and open questions.
- Overall, 99 respondents completed the online survey.

Headline Results

- The **majority of respondents (61%)** visited the park **monthly or more frequently**.
- The **majority of respondents (63%)** described themselves as a **'parent/carer or guardian who visits the park with children'**.
- Playing in the **playground, walking, relaxing and enjoying nature** were selected as the **most popular activities** undertaken in the park.
- The **majority of respondents agreed** with **every key feature** of the plans, with some concern expressed over the **community orchard**.
- There was generally a **high level of support** emerging for the plans from within the open comments.
- The **main concerns** to emerge were **the risk of vandalism and anti-social behaviour**, the need to ensure plenty of **equipment suitable for older children**, and the need to ensure the area was **properly maintained** and looked after following the refurbishments.
- Other **popular suggestions** included **extra litter bins, dog waste bins and good lighting**.

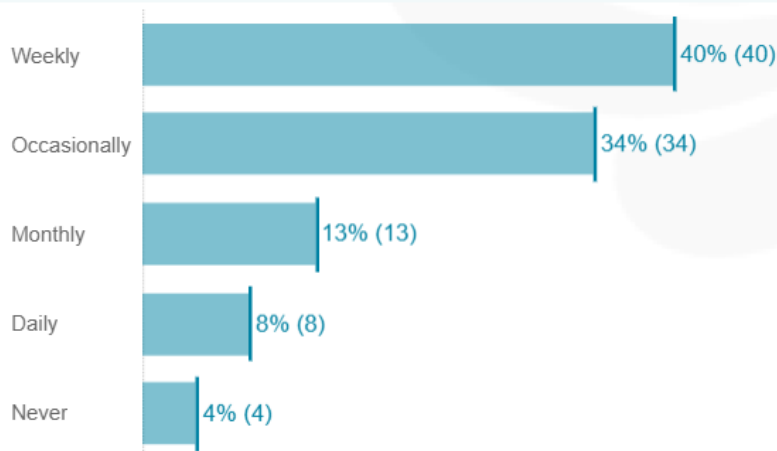
Results

A summary of results for each question as it appeared in the survey is detailed below.

Please note percentages may not always total 100%, due to rounding.

Firstly, respondents were asked three 'About You' questions:

How often do you visit Lepton Recreation Ground?

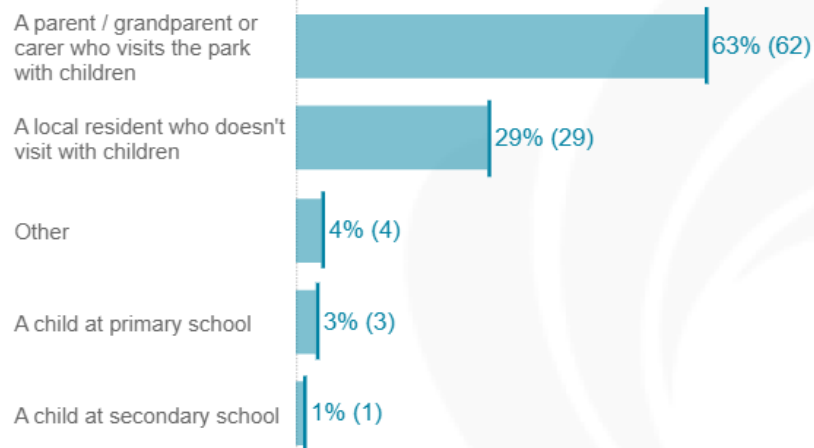


The majority of respondents were regular visitors to Lepton recreation ground.

61% visited the park either monthly or more frequently, with 40% being weekly visitors.

34% said they visited occasionally, and 4% said they had never visited.

How would you describe yourself?



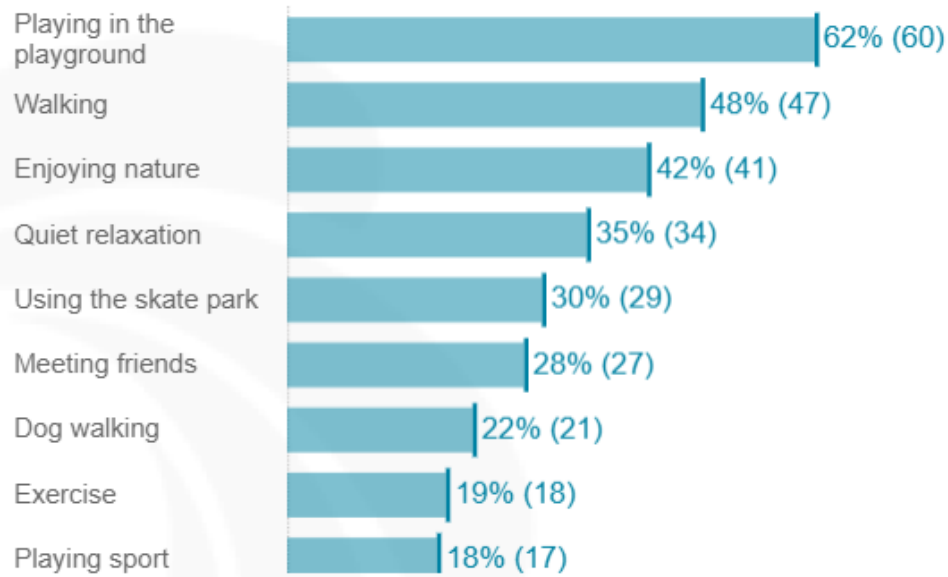
The majority of respondents described themselves as a parent/grandparent or carer who visited the park with children (63%).

The second largest group of respondents described themselves as a local resident who didn't visit with children (29%).

7% described themselves as a child (3% primary school age and 1% secondary school age).

4% of respondents described themselves as 'other'. When asked to specify, the majority commented that they visited the park to walk their dog(s).

What do you do at the park?

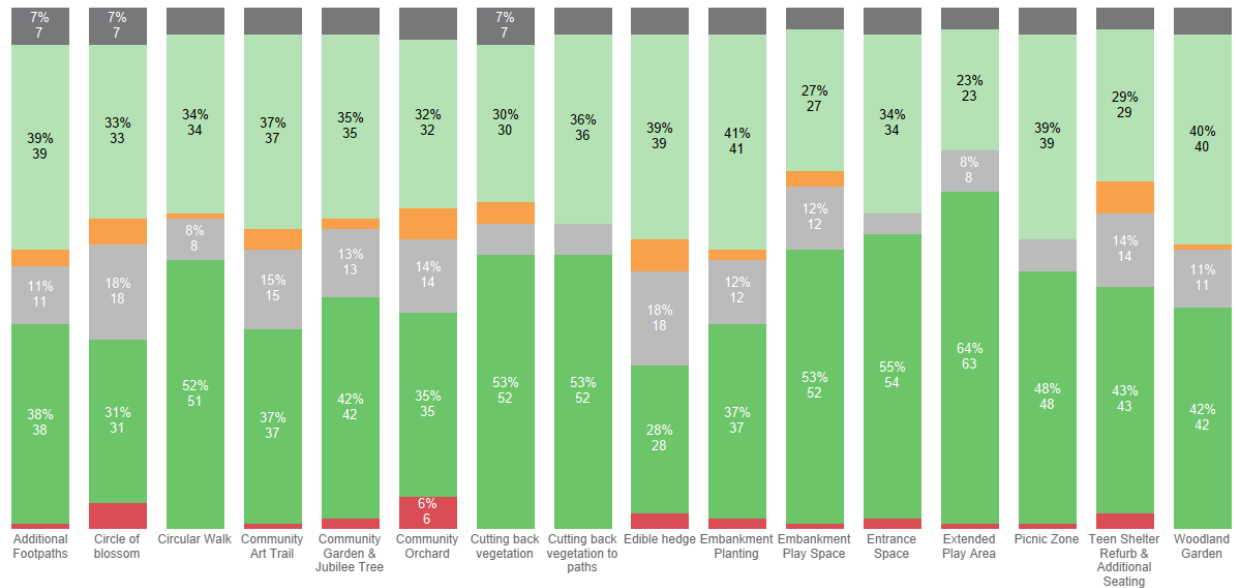


This was a multiple choice question, respondents chose as many activities as applied to them.

Playing in the playground was the most popular activity to be selected, and was primarily chosen by respondents who described themselves as a 'parent/grandparent or carer who visits the park with children', and also by children themselves.

Local residents who didn't visit the park with children mostly selected walking, quiet relaxation and enjoying nature.

Respondents were then asked to what extent they agreed with the 16 key features of the proposed plan:



(To zoom in, press and hold Ctrl and use the scroll button on your mouse)

As you can see, the majority of respondents agreed with every key feature of the plan.

The features with the highest percentage of approval were the proposal to cut back the vegetation to the paths with 89% agreeing / strongly agreeing, and the proposed improvements to the entrance space also with 89% agreeing / strongly agreeing.

The feature with the lowest percentage of approval was the community orchard with 67% agreeing / strongly agreeing.

Respondents were then asked 2 open questions.

Do you have any general comments or concerns about any aspects of these proposals?

This was an open question and received 62 comments.

- Support for the plans was the biggest theme to emerge. Respondents commented that the plans looked great, and that they couldn't wait for the refurbishments to be completed.
- Concerns about the refurbishments attracting vandalism and anti-social behaviour / drug use was the second biggest theme, both in relation to the community orchard and, primarily, the teen shelter. Improved lighting was suggested as a deterrent.
- Including more for the older children also emerged as a key theme within the comments. Suggestions included a cycle track, a climbing wall and an extended / improved skatepark.
- Maintenance of the park and play area was another key theme – respondents commented on the importance of keeping the grass cut, maintaining the community orchard (including making use of the fruit), litter disposal and making extra funding available for park staff.
- The plan being overly complicated also emerged as a theme. Respondents commented that the area would potentially look too crowded with so many features being proposed, that the flat space needed to be large enough to accommodate the Lepton Gala, and that the path through the field was unnecessary due to there being many other places to walk in the area, such as through the woods.
- Other smaller concerns and suggestions were to ensure accessibility for wheelchairs and pushchairs, include more dog waste and litter bins, retain the wildflower areas, and ensure the park remained dog-friendly.

Do you have any other suggestions of ways we could improve this area?

This was this final question. It was an open question and received 54 comments.

- Requests for extra litter bins and dog waste bins was the biggest theme to emerge.
- Ensuring the park was properly maintained was the second biggest theme, including keeping the grass cut short, the community orchard attended to, and the park kept clean and free from graffiti.
- Equipment suitable for older children and teenagers was another key theme – suggestions included outdoor gym equipment, a zip wire, a climbing wall / large frame, football nets and a hard court for sports.
- Involving local people (including children and young people) in decision making was mentioned by several respondents.
- The need for improved lighting as a deterrent for anti-social behaviour was also reiterated here.
- Other smaller suggestions included extra seating, bollards to prevent off-road vehicle access, improving the drainage of the field, a café or tea/coffee hut, and ensuring wheelchair access was provided.

Please see <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/countryside-parks-and-open-spaces/playable-spaces.aspx> for information about our next steps going forward following this consultation.