

Appendix B – General Online Survey Results

Parks and Open Spaces Strategy Questionnaire Report, October 2021

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1. Summary

Questionnaire format: *Web/online*
Responses: *50 Total*
Date range: *7th September 2021 – 12th October 2021*

2. Introduction

Participants were asked to take a few moments to read the proposed Parks and Open Spaces Strategy which has been developed based on previous consultation activity and best practise examples before completing the questionnaire.

We asked for feedback on the draft Strategy which includes four key objectives for the parks and open spaces, each with underpinning actions.

3. Questionnaire results

Please indicate how important you think the actions within the proposed objectives are.

Objective 1: A clear strategy for investment in parks and open spaces										
	Very important		Fairly important		Neutral		Not very important		Not at all important	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Identify key investment priorities	30	63.8%	11	23.4%	5	10.6%	0	0%	1	2.1%
Improve the quality of parks and open spaces at key sites	44	89.8%	3	6.1%	1	2.0%	0	0%	1	2.0%

Any other comments or suggestions about objective 1:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a nation we are supposed to be promoting exercise and healthy eating and exercise amongst children, and yet our play parks are currently very neglected, or were totally removed like our local one There should be more regular consultation and dialogue with local partners, friends groups and sporting clubs that operate within the Borough sites, encouraging and assisting more self-management. Strategies should be constantly reviewed in respect of new house building. Every house will be full of families who need space to breathe, play, keep fit, walk dogs. You can't use up park space to build houses on Many parks appear to be run down and neglected. The parks are then padlocked and removed and not replaced. This impacts on the children, parents and grandparents in the community. Examples include Stanford Way park in Walton and St David's Rise Add coffee, tea where possible and seating As a parent of three children and a dog owner I feel this is so important. We visit parks almost every day. I do believe the children's play areas are lacking interesting and challenging equipment. Often missing equipment and poorly maintained equipment With focus on making parks and open spaces safer for young children. I have taken my two year old son to several parks in Chesterfield with uneven ground, rusty play equipment etc. and this needs to be dealt with. Little parks in Walton need improving, near Stanford Way and top of Foljambe Avenue (currently padlocked up) What is meant by key sites - all sites are important Quality should be improved at all sites and not just selected key sites. How is "key" to be defined? Whilst I agree regarding key sites, I also feel very strongly that smaller parks e.g. the one on my estate Nether Croft Road, Brimington, should not be overlooked. It hasn't been updated since it was built and is now, in my opinion, dangerous. Vital we have a clear strategy so that investment and commitment can be undertaken. Continue to support and advise local friends groups. The [redacted] welcome the council's recognition that parks and open spaces require investment and nurturing and that the council will actively seek funding and income generation opportunities. We then read Appendix A the evidence base, and would like to provide a response to that: The [redacted] read with interest the evidence base enclosed in the consultation pack.

- Given the high levels of voluntary work and the collaboration between the [REDACTED], it is gratifying to read that Holmebrook Valley Park is the highest scoring site (95.6%) for quality, measured as being more attractive due the perceived high levels of maintenance and cleanliness as well as the recreational uses on offer. [REDACTED] are keen to ensure that level of public satisfaction continues, but are concerned about the impact of covid/lockdown and a reduced budget will have on maintenance and provision of equipment.
- The Council asserts that " play sites... allow children to play but also... giving them safe places to learn, for physical and mental activity, to socialise with others and in creating aesthetically pleasing local environments." [REDACTED] a large mosaic art work, created by local schoolchildren and which has been placed beside the play area and cafe to successfully enhance that area. Yet the play area itself is deteriorating for lack of maintenance. Equipment is half removed or tied up with tape, suggesting a lack of 'official' care for the area and encouraging vandalism and anti-social behaviour, as evidenced by the increased litter in the area.
- HVP has two play areas - yet it does not rate as a high scoring site for value, (the 7 highest ranking sites include Poolsbrook Country Park, Queens Park and Inkersall Green). This indicates that the amount/range and role of equipment currently present on site are not extensive or varied enough. Poolsbrook Country Park is cited as having a range of equipment including outdoor gym equipment [REDACTED] that Holmebrook Valley Park also has outdoor gym equipment and previously had a range of play equipment, including two areas which have been taken out of commission and removed. Holmebrook Valley Park is closer to a greater population than Poolsbrook, (87.3% value for catchment as against 72.7% value for Poolsbrook) yet it is clearly ranked much lower by the Council for facilities and maintenance of infrastructure [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for funding allocation than it currently attracts, so that levels of maintenance and replacement equipment reflects the high visitor use of the park.

Objective 2: Using our resources effectively and sustainably

	Very important		Fairly important		Neutral		Not very important		Not at all important	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Rationalise play area provision	15	31.9%	15	31.9%	7	14.9%	3	6.4%	7	14.9%
Maximise income and external funding opportunities	27	57.4%	10	21.3%	3	6.4%	7	14.9%	0	0%
Explore the potential to dispose of or make alternative use of low value and low-quality open space in areas of over provision	5	10.9%	11	23.9%	15	32.6%	7	15.2%	8	17.4%
Review parks management and maintenance regimes to realise efficiencies and maximise climate change benefit	22	47.8%	13	28.3%	7	15.2%	1	2.2%	3	6.5%

Any other comments or suggestions about objective 2:

- Your grounds team do an amazing job given shortages and anti social behaviour. By all means review but give them a well deserved pat on the back. There will always be a developer willing to take the space off you but look at sub-letting land to community groups.
- Do not remove or 'rationalise' any more parks
- There are a few - a few - places where an intended provision is not 'working' and is difficult to maintain, without much apparent benefit. With consultation, economies might be made, but this should go alongside a desire to maximise green spaces of every kind.
- Groups, clubs that use borough facilities should be encouraged and assisted to reduce and share the burden of maintenance of all provisions by providing guidance, equipment and training. Examples, some grass areas could be maintained by groups, litter picking etc.
- Worrying section containing ambiguous language like 'rationalise'. There is no such thing as over provision of open space. Best to renovate and repurpose unused office/ industrial spaces.
- Trial using an adventure playground design. This requires less investment in expensive fixed slides and other fittings.
- I do not think parks should be closed. Open space is at a premium and it is sad to see land sold to developers.
- Massive improvements need to be made on the maintenance of play equipment. Also rubbish collections in some areas don't seem to be adequate. Maybe promote local litter picks? Involve local schools, brownies? Maybe involve local football teams that play on pitches.
- Rationalise play area provision? Sounds like an excuse to close and remove some. Low value? The report states "A high value site is considered to be one that is well used by the local community, well maintained (with a balance for conservation).
- Wildflower planting would be needed if maintenance is reduced to control the nettles
- Let areas re-wild naturally
- Maximising the stream of external funding opportunities is vital. It's essential the council invests in the voluntary sector to support the likes of 'friends of groups' across the borough. When friends of groups and the voluntary sector are supported they can achieve.
- The concern that low value / low quality open space remains a green space is important

Objective 3: Increase the use of our parks and open spaces

	Very important		Fairly important		Neutral		Not very important		Not at all important	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Develop a diverse and attractive programme of events and healthy activities in partnership	25	52.1%	16	33.3%	4	8.3%	2	4.2%	1	2.1%
Promote open space benefits for health, learning and wildlife	34	70.8%	12	25.0%	1	2.1%	0	0%	1	2.1%
Encourage responsible use of sites and take effective action with partners to combat anti-social behaviour	43	89.6%	2	4.2%	3	6.3%	0	0%	0	0%

Any other comments or suggestions about objective 3:

- This summer's events were fantastic, keep it up please
- I am associated with the Whitecotes group, and appreciate hugely the formal and informal spaces there; we noticed at Holmebrook Valley a replica of the destroyed object at Whitecotes. Any chance of another repair/replacement?
- To help reduce the anti social behaviour by Hasland community football club in Eastwood Park, Hasland, as certain groups from Hasland community football club set up their goal areas so they are kicking balls towards the houses on the Calow Lane side of the park
- The more the park / open space is used the less likely the occurrence of vandalism and anti social behaviour.
- What provision is there for teenagers, to engage them and prevent potential anti social behaviour?
- Our local park (Somersall) is great and our children love the play equipment there but it is regularly covered in rubbish, including empty cans and broken glass left by people. It's getting to the point that I worry about their safety if they fall over etc.
- I firmly believe exercising outdoors is beneficial to health. Maybe encourage fitness instructors to run outdoor classes? More cycle path links? When our children's play areas are on grass surfaces in the colder months they become really muddy.
- Does dog poo count as anti social behaviour? Better signage about consequences of not cleaning up after your dog and more dog poo bins?
- The summer play activities were an excellent use of resources and should be continued in future years
- It's essential we make our parks and green spaces as welcoming and as attractive as possible. Communications are needed to ensure residents understand what is happening in places. It's essential the council do things with real people in communities when planning.
- [REDACTED] agree with the range of benefits which our parks and open spaces bring to people's health and social lives in addition to the environmental benefits of rich and varied habitats and wildlife. [REDACTED] seek ways to enhance and improve the experience of visitors to the park, and this year we have secured funding for an artwork which has improved the terrace area and made the space a more pleasant one in which to sit at the tables and benches outside the cafe.

Objective 4: Engage with our community and partners effectively

	Very important		Fairly important		Neutral		Not very important		Not at all important	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Increase engagement with key partners and user groups	22	47.8%	21	45.7%	1	2.2%	1	2.2%	1	2.2%
Develop volunteering opportunities in parks	21	45.7%	14	30.4%	10	21.7%	0	0%	1	2.2%
Seek to promote a local river and tree stewardship scheme in partnership	20	44.4%	14	31.1%	10	22.2%	1	2.2%	0	0%
Support sports clubs and other groups to move to day-to-day management and maintenance of facilities	13	28.3%	15	32.6%	11	23.9%	4	8.7%	3	6.5%

Any other comments or suggestions about objective 4:

- Why should clubs manage maintenance of your council sites?
- We could make much more of the 'middle and lower Hipper'. The Robinson site is still appalling. The stretch east of Boythorpe Road needs more attention, but it is good to see the skateboard area in use again.
- Maintenance should be properly funded and carried out by the council
- Our councils should be responsible not private clubs.
- Asking sports clubs to take over management of facilities will surely lead to closures in poorer areas.
- Encourage sports clubs by all means but they need to be responsible; football groups at Holmebrook have an awful tendency to leave a lot of litter behind
- The parks are public facilities for everyone on an equal basis and are not for "sports clubs and other groups" to manage or maintain. They are an important public facility and should be managed and maintained by the borough council for the benefit of all residents.
- "Seek to promote a local river and tree stewardship scheme in partnership" in partnership with whom?
- Brushcutter training/licences for volunteers and free hire of equipment and PPE for volunteer groups who are trained. Work more closely with DCRT / Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
- Support to the voluntary sector is vital. If the council invested this via a specific officer the return on investment would be ten fold.
- If sports clubs are to oversee the management of facilities the financial implications need to be considered as is the monitoring of this. It could be problematic

Do you have any other suggestions or comments to make about the proposed strategy?

- Keep us all in the loop. Would be great to be on a focus group or whatever as part of a strategic long term plan. Us, as a football club, would love our own venue and have approached private landowners with ideas. They are not very forth coming
- Write it in everyday English so you aren't disguising what you actually mean
- We are well blessed with 'parks' of one sort and another. Long may it continue.
- Get Hasland Community Football Club to pay to train on Eastwood Park, Hasland and contribute to the maintenance, as in wet weather they still come and turn the green area and football pitch into mud and paying users get told not to use the football pitch
- Whilst the council should carry out routine maintenance it should empower Friends groups etc. to provide additional facilities and activities and provide funds to help attract larger grants
- The strategy looks reasonable and achievable, setting unrealistic aims is self-defeating. In the challenging times ahead maximum effective use of all resources, council and private, needs to be a continuous focus point.
- Queen's Park needs more benches on west side near play areas. Also need more litter bins on west side. Could there be an outside gym area in Queen's Park please.
- Needs to be high priority given current mental and physical health needs.
- The Borough Council owns Cobnar Wood, this is a very pleasant area but is blighted by anti social activities like motorcycles and mountain bikes, also it is being increasingly used to exercise dangerous dogs and hunting dogs.
- Important to protect biodiversity and ensure that climate and biodiversity is the number one priority. Ban balloon releases and sky lanterns on council owned land. Only allow plastic free events to take place within parks.

- This is not an easy questionnaire for a member of the public to fill in, even having read the documents which most people will not have time for. It would be better to have context before the questions and phrase them in a simpler style.
- Yes, playgrounds for children and families are so important. It seems to fall to communities to have to replace them which is a shame. They are often closed with no replacement. I am a health care professional working with children locally and see fitness levels decreased
- Continue to support all Friends of Groups and encourage them to 'set up' as they are a real benefit to their local public green spaces
- Keep doing the excellent job being done, I have the pleasure of walking in several borough parks regularly
- I feel that huge improvement is key to improve the health of the community. For people to want to spend time outside we need to have areas which appeal. I feel in Chesterfield we have lots of beautiful areas which appeal to adults.
- There are a number of really well used, valued play spaces within the borough which have not had the investment to maintain them. Holmebrook play area near the pavilion has been largely out of use for the past six months
- As our local park is of huge importance to myself and my family, I'm glad to see provisions put in place to improve and secure their future. Somersall park has many diverse areas and so various wildlife inhabit the park. Recent play area improvement has been very welcome
- Lack of outdoor play facilities in Walton is concerning and is not represented correctly in council documentation. Four parks are listed in Walton, however, two have had their equipment removed and another has been permanently closed. The park in Stanford Way is the only one left
- If funding is limited, it is important that quality of open spaces is maintained across our town, and not restricted to specific areas.
- Sign up all parks to Fields in Trust and Green Flag Community Award
- I would like to see more capacity in the green spaces team. A specific officer to support the 'friends of groups' and to tap into external funding would be an amazing use of funds. You could monitor the outcomes of this over a three year period to see if it would pay for the officer time.
- Plant more trees like oak. Make more parks around the borough on current wasteland to drive up nearby land value.
- Ensure that play spaces are maintained and if they need replacing that there is the support to enable this to happen and no area loses their play space . I would have liked the area to the rear of the Queen's park sports centre included in the list of spaces
- [REDACTED] note that the strategy's policy statement acknowledges the significant role played by the Friends of Parks groups. The statement also reflects that in 2019/20, public satisfaction with local parks and open spaces was high, with 83% of residents reporting they were satisfied or very satisfied with provision. However, it must be noted that this survey was completed pre-covid, before the ensuing effect of staffing cut backs and redeployment which has clearly impacted on parks and local spaces e.g. maintenance programmes. Therefore, [REDACTED] are particularly interested in how priorities for improving and investing in parks and open spaces will be determined in future.
- Strategy aims: [REDACTED] agree in principle with the Strategy's aims, but would seek further clarification on the last aim "to develop a hierarchy of parks and open spaces with a framework for prioritisation and resource allocation for management and improvement".
- The Council's role: [REDACTED] are pleased to know that the Council sees itself as an advocate and custodian of parks and open spaces. [REDACTED] look forward to continuing to work with the Council to support reviews, maintenance and improvements to existing parks and open spaces, and in particular [REDACTED]. We welcome the opportunity to meet park staff

regularly and regard our role as acting as intermediary between the public and the parks team as important and valuable.

- Vision and key themes [REDACTED] welcome the following priorities in particular:
 - the recognition of the need to review play area provision,
 - to develop a diverse and attractive programme of events and healthy activities,
 - to encourage responsible use of sites and take effective action with partners to combat anti social behaviour ,
 - to increase engagement with key partners and
 - to develop volunteering opportunities.
- Key priorities: [REDACTED] are pleased to note that the Council has highlighted the quality of play provision as an area of concern and are interested in the proposal to "develop a 5 year plan which identifies those sites for which investment is required. The plan will provide the framework for a long term strategic view to be taken to ensure we have a robust and affordable range of play opportunities across the borough. In developing this plan consideration will be given to providing more natural play through creative landscaping. This will be in response to the higher proportion of survey respondents who cited preferring natural play opportunities as opposed to traditional play equipment."
- [REDACTED] could not find reference to this survey and do not agree that most park users would prefer 'creative landscaping' over play equipment. Therefore we would like to request clarification about this point. Feedback from our own members and the public have continually highlighted the need to upgrade [REDACTED] existing 'traditional' play equipment and to replace that which has been recently taken out of action. Families visit [REDACTED] and other parks for the play equipment which cannot be provided in domestic gardens or on countryside walks. This means the need for slides, swings, seesaws, zip wires and climbing frames is paramount - more so than grass slopes, carved tree trunks and 'stepping stones' of tree stumps. This is a topic which generates a great deal of correspondence from members of the public to our email address and to the Facebook group.
- In conclusion, [REDACTED] hope that this response to the consultation is useful for future planning. [REDACTED] greatly value the park and its contribution to the physical and mental wellbeing of the population as well as providing wildlife habitats encouraging biodiversity. We spend time and energy fulfilling our aim of working with the council to enhance visitor experience to the park. Over time, the FHVP members have contributed a great deal to improve and enhance the park. We therefore request that the council recognises the importance of Holmebrook Valley Park when it is making decisions about funding and resource allocations.

4. Social Media

Summary of social media impressions/engagements/engagement rate etc

- Impressions - the amount of times our content is displayed. One person could have multiple impressions for a single piece of content.
- Engagement - the amount of comments, likes, post clicks and shares our content gets

Social media platform	Impressions	Engagements	Engagement rate
Facebook	7247	219	3.02%
Twitter	1573	23	1.46%
LinkedIn	244	10	4.09%
Instagram	84	3	3.57%
Total	9148	255	2.79%

5. Equality monitoring

Q1 What is your gender?

Q15: What is your gender?		
	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Male	12	31.6%
Female	25	65.8%
Prefer not to say	1	2.6%
Base number	38	

Q2 Is your gender identity the same gender you were assigned at birth?

Is your gender identity the same gender you were assigned at birth?		
	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Yes	39	100%
No	0	0%
Prefer not to say	0	0%
Base number	39	

Q3 How old are you?

Q16: How old are you?		
	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Under 16 years	0	0%
16 to 24 years	1	2.6%
25 to 34 years	2	5.1%
35 to 44 years	11	28.2%
45 to 54 years	7	17.9%
55 to 64 years	1	2.6%
65 to 74 years	10	25.6%
75 years and over	3	7.7%
Prefer not to say	4	10.3%
Base Number	39	

Q4 Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Q17: Do you consider yourself to have a disability?		
	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
No	32	82.1%
Yes	5	12.8%
Prefer not to say	2	5.1%
Base number	39	

Q5 What is your ethnicity?

Q18: What is your ethnicity?		
	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
White British	35	89.7%
Black or Black British	0	0%
Asian or Asian British	0	0%
Mixed ethnic group	1	2.6%
Any other ethnic group	1	2.6%
Prefer not to say	2	5.1%
Base number	39	