# **Avondale Park - Proposed Improvements**

**Consultation report and findings** 

September 2021



#### Introduction

#### **Background**

Over the last few months, the Council has sought the views of the local community about potential improvements to Avondale Park. This was collected through an initial ideas and feedback period, followed by focus groups sessions with internal and external stakeholders. The results from these two previous phases were used to shape the public consultation survey. This report analyses the findings from this survey to understand the local community's views about the proposed changes at Avondale 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 154 online submissions were received. 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.



#### Results at a glance – Public survey findings

- **Support for outdoor gym:** The majority (77 per cent) of respondents **supported** the installation of a new outdoor gym at Avondale Park. A total of 15 per cent of respondents **did not support** the installation of a new outdoor gym.
- Types of equipment to be included in the outdoor gym: A total of 37 per cent of respondents preferred a combination of calisthenics (body weight) and other fitness equipment. A total of 29 per cent preferred calisthenics equipment only, whilst 16 per cent preferred a variety of fitness equipment.
- Support for installation of fencing around the outdoor gym: A total of 46 per cent of respondents supported the idea of installing fencing around the outdoor gym. Whilst 28 per cent of respondents did not support the installation of fencing around the outdoor gym. A total of 14 per cent of respondent selected don't know.
- **Satisfaction with current junior playground:** A net total of 32 per cent (eight per cent very satisfied, 24 per cent satisfied) of respondents were **satisfied** with the current junior playground. A net total of 16 per cent (10 per cent dissatisfied, six per cent very dissatisfied) of respondents were **dissatisfied** with the current junior playground.
- **Preferred theme for junior playground proposals:** A total of 49 per cent of respondents selected **nature/wildlife** theme to be included as part of the junior playground. Whilst 23 per cent of respondent selected both the **jungle** theme and the **space** theme, and 18 per cent selected **underwater/pirate** theme for the junior playground.
- Type of material used for the junior playground proposals: A total of 56 per cent of respondents outlined they
  wanted wood/timber/natural to be used for the junior playground equipment. A total of 12 per cent of respondents
  selected metallic as the material to be used for the junior playground equipment.
- Types of equipment included in junior playground proposals: A total of 45 per cent of respondents selected multi-unit/climbing frames, and 44 per cent of all respondents selected balancing equipment, jumper/trampoline and swings. The least popular options were rocking/springer equipment (27 per cent) and sculpture features (20 per cent).

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### Results at a glance – Public survey findings

- Satisfaction with children's larger play area: A net total of 33 per cent (eight per cent very satisfied, 25 per cent satisfied) of respondents were satisfied with the larger play area. A net total of 23 per cent (18 per cent dissatisfied, five per cent very dissatisfied) of respondents were dissatisfied with the current larger play area.
- **Supporting fencing around the children's larger play area:** A total of 34 per cent of respondents **supported** the idea of installing fencing around the larger play area. Whilst 36 per cent of respondents **did not support** the installation of fencing around the larger play area.
- Views on surfacing the children's larger play area: Nearly half (47 per cent) of respondents preferred to keep the
  current layout of the larger play area. Nearly a quarter (24 per cent) of respondents supported surfacing the whole
  of the larger play area.
- Type of equipment in the children's larger play area: Half (50 per cent) of respondents selected swings, 48 per cent selected multi-unit/climbing frames and 46 per cent selected zip-line. The least popular option was dynamic/spinning equipment (38 per cent), although this is still a high proportion of the survey respondents.
- Views on seating areas in the park: A total of 38 per cent of respondents thought that the existing seating areas in the park were adequate. Whilst 39 per cent of respondents felt that the existing seating areas in the park were not adequate.
- Alternative seating in the park: A total of 36 per cent of respondents would like to see both improvements to the existing seating and the introduction of a new seating area/s. A total of 18 per cent of respondents would like to see improvements to the existing seating areas only. A total of 17 per cent of respondents would like to see the introduction of additional covered seating area/s.
- **Setting up a community garden area:** A total of 43 per cent of respondents were **in favour** of setting up a community garden area which residents would help maintain. Whilst a fifth (20 per cent) of respondents were **not in favour** of setting up a community garden area.

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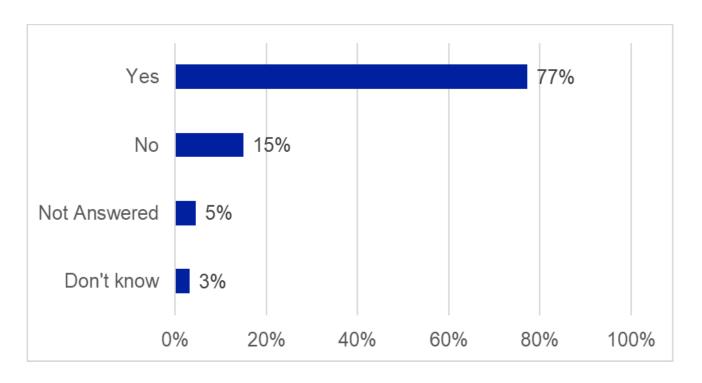
### **Section 1: Outdoor Gym**



### Supporting the installation of a new outdoor gym

Respondents were asked if they supported the installation of a new outdoor gym at Avondale Park.

- The majority (77 per cent) of respondents **supported** the installation of a new outdoor gym at Avondale Park.
- A total of 15 per cent of respondents **did not support** the installation of a new outdoor gym.



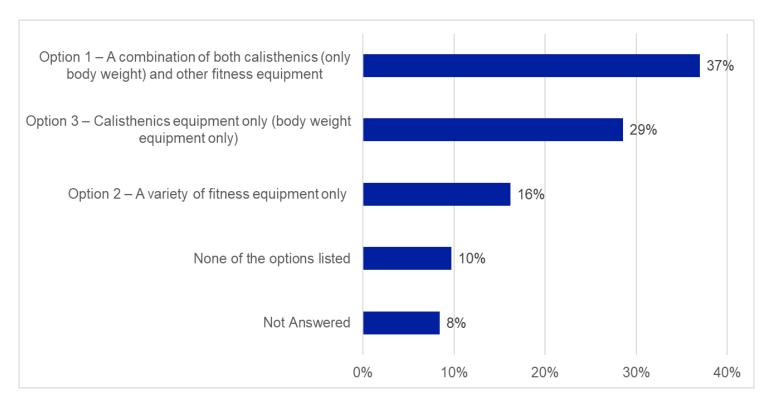




#### Type of equipment included in the outdoor gym

Respondents were asked to outline which type of gym equipment they would like to see included as part of the outdoor gym:

- A total of 37 per cent of respondents preferred a **combination of calisthenics (body weight) and other fitness equipment.**
- A total of 29 per cent preferred **calisthenics equipment only**, whilst 16 per cent preferred a **variety of fitness equipment**. A total of 10 per cent of respondents selected **none of the options listed**.





#### **Specific gym equipment - Comments**

Respondents were asked if they would like to see any specific outdoor gym equipment included in the outdoor gym and were able to provide comments about any other suggestions they had. 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
Calisthenics/bars for bodyweight exercises	10
Bike	4
Rowing machines	3
Outdoor gym should not be included in Avondale	3
Ensure there is enough equipment	3

Base: 42 (all comments)



#### **Specific gym equipment - Comments**

"Pullup bars, dip bars, Swedish bars, gymnastics rings."

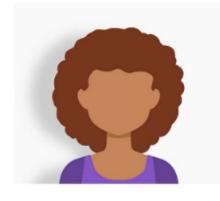
Calisthenics/bars for bodyweight exercises

"Stationary Bike needed."

Bike

"At the very minimum two sets of varying height pullup bars as well as three sets of parallel bars as shown in Option 3. I have been training at calisthenics parks for years and can guarantee that one set of each will not be enough. The downside of having too little equipment is that you tend to get regulars who sit on the equipment or 'hog' it and then not everyone can workout.

Ensure there is enough of equipment



"Parallel bars (x 2 sets at least) and varying height pullup bars (at least 10 as these will get very busy)."

Calisthenics/bars for bodyweight exercises

"Rowing machine also great if there was a soft running circuit."

Rowing machines

"I really think that outdoor gyms become dated so quickly, that there should not be one installed at Avondale. They look like a relic from the 1980's (see Holland Park) and there really isn't the space at Avondale for one."

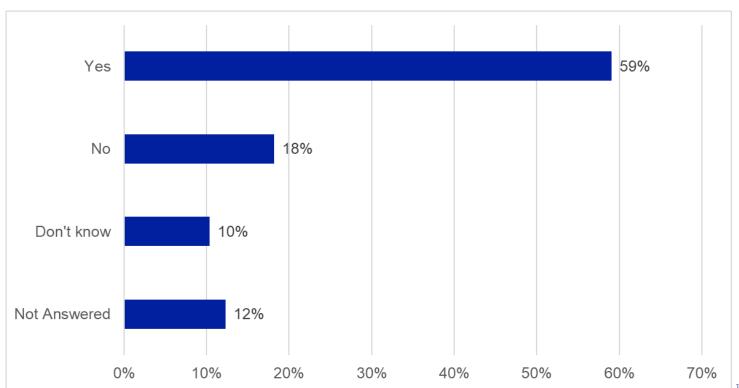
Outdoor gym should not be included in Avondale



### Supporting installation of suitable safety surfacing

Respondents were asked if they supported the idea of installing suitable safety surfacing, such as rubber mulch, or something similar, as part of the outdoor gym:

- A total of 59 per cent of respondents **supported** the idea of installing suitable safety surfacing, such as rubber mulch, as part of the outdoor gym.
- Whilst 18 per cent of respondents did not support the installation of suitable safety surfacing, such as rubber mulch, as part of the outdoor gym.

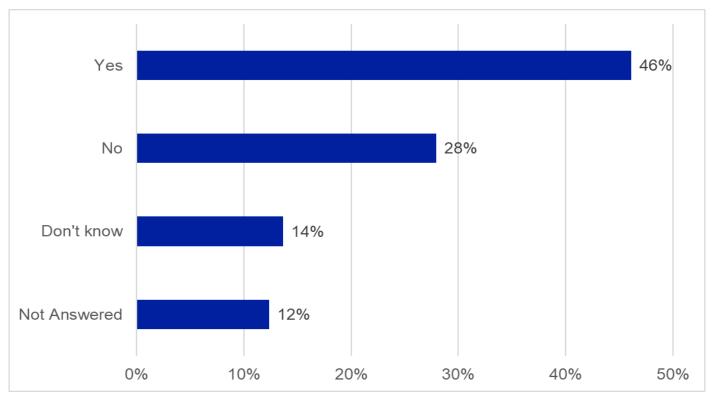




### Supporting installation of fencing around the outdoor gym

Respondents were asked if they supported the idea of installing fencing around the outdoor gym:

- A total of 46 per cent of respondents **supported** the idea of installing fencing around the outdoor gym.
- Whilst 28 per cent of respondents **did not support** the installation of fencing around the outdoor gym.
- A total of 14 per cent of respondents selected don't know.





#### Other comments about the outdoor gym

Respondents were asked to provide any other comments relating to the outdoor gym at Avondale Park. 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
Do not include an outdoor gym at Avondale Park	9
In favour of the project	6
Fence/barrier required to keep it separate	6
Accessible for all residents	5
Important to keep the park open and without fences	4
Outdoor gym will need to be maintained properly	4
Other	3
Engage with community in the design of this project	3

Base: 56 (all comments)



#### Other comments about the outdoor gym

"I do NOT want the Park ruined with a gym of any kind. There is an excellent gym at Little Wormwood Scrubs and I do feel Avondale Park should be kept as a walking park for those of us who are NOT young and active, and love to walk around it and sit on its benches, and sometimes walk the dog there."

Do not include an outdoor gym at Avondale Park

"This would [be] such a great projectimproving the lives and health of the local community. Thank you RBKC."

In favour of the project

"It would be good if this had some kind of low boundary to prevent toddlers, children and dogs wandering over it.

Also, that would keep it clean and dog poo free. It should also be an adult-only area seeing as the rest of the park is dedicated to kids and they have a huge play area."

Fence/barrier required to keep it separate



"I would not like to see an outdoor gym taking up valuable open space in a small local park."

Do not include an outdoor gym at Avondale Park

"I am in favour of all this equipment; can there be specified times for different groups - I am over 80 and would like to exercise with others in my age group."

Accessible for all residents

"Too much fencing as it is, don't want to see anymore fencing added. All day everyday we are surrounded by fencing, I don't go to the park to look at more fencing, I want space and greenery to relax."

Important to keep the park open and without fences



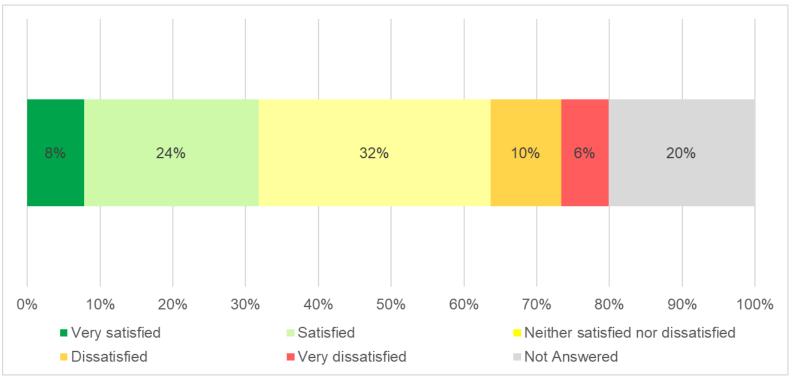
### **Section 2: Junior Playground**



### Satisfaction with current junior playground

Respondents were asked how satisfied, or dissatisfied, they were with the current junior playground in Avondale Park:

- A net total of 32 per cent (eight per cent very satisfied, 24 per cent satisfied) of respondents were **satisfied** with the current junior playground.
- A net total of 16 per cent (10 per cent dissatisfied, six per cent very dissatisfied) of respondents were **dissatisfied** with the current junior playground.
- Around a third (32 per cent) of respondents were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the current junior playground.

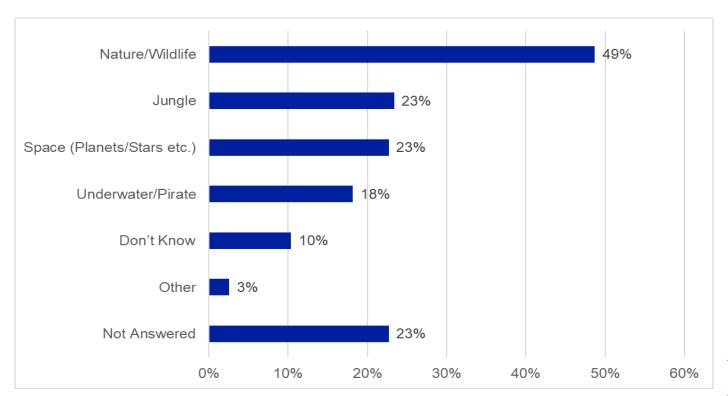




#### Preferred themes to be included in the junior playground

Respondents were asked to select all themes that they would prefer to be included as part of the junior playground proposals:

- A total of 49 per cent of respondents selected **nature/wildlife** theme to be included as part of the junior playground.
- Whilst 23 per cent of respondents selected both the **jungle** theme and the **space** theme, and 18 per cent selected **underwater/pirate** theme for the junior playground.
- A total of 10 per cent of respondents selected **don't know**. There were 11 comments made as part of the **other** response, and these can be seen in the appendix document.

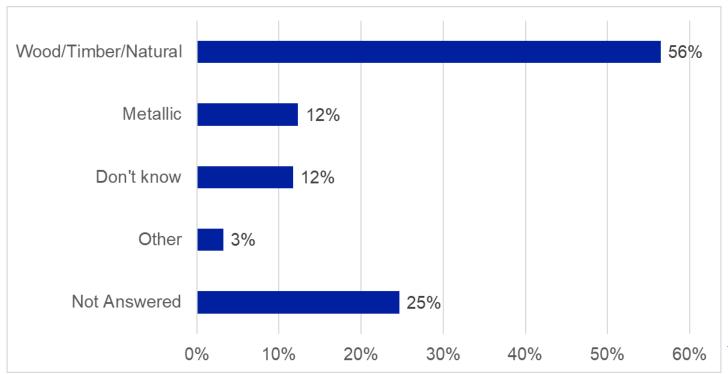




### Type of material the junior playground equipment should be made out of

Respondents were asked to select all types of material they would like the junior playground equipment to be made out of:

- A total of 56 per cent of respondents outlined they wanted **wood/timber/natural** to be used for the junior playground equipment.
- A total of 12 per cent of respondents selected **metallic** as the material to be used for the junior playground equipment.
- A total of 12 per cent of respondents selected **don't know**; there were *13* comments made as part of the **other** response, and these can be seen in the appendix document.

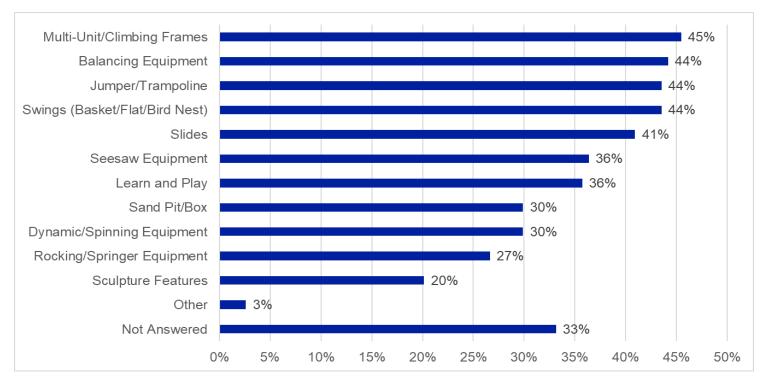




### Types of playground equipment to be included in the junior playground

Respondents were asked to select all options of equipment that they would like to see included in the junior playground:

- A total of 45 per cent of respondents selected **multi-unit/climbing frames**, and 44 per cent of all respondents selected **balancing equipment**, **jumper/trampoline** and **swings**.
- The least popular options were **rocking/springer equipment** (27 per cent) and **sculpture features** (20 per cent).
- There were nine comments made as part of the other response, and these can be seen in the appendix document.

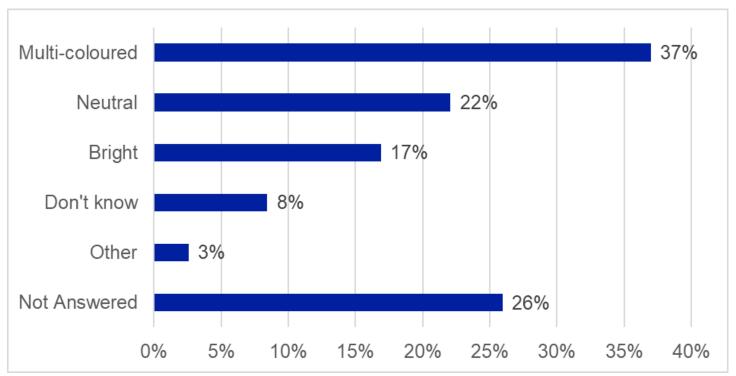




### Types of colours for the equipment and surfacing in the junior playground

Respondents were asked to select all options for the preferred colours that they would like to see included for the equipment and surfacing in the junior playground:

- A total of 37 per cent of respondents selected **multi-coloured**, whilst 22 per cent preferred a **neutral** colour scheme.
- A total of 17 per cent preferred a **bright** colour scheme.
- There were six comments made as part of the other response, and these can be seen in the appendix
  document.





# Section 3: Children's Larger Play Area

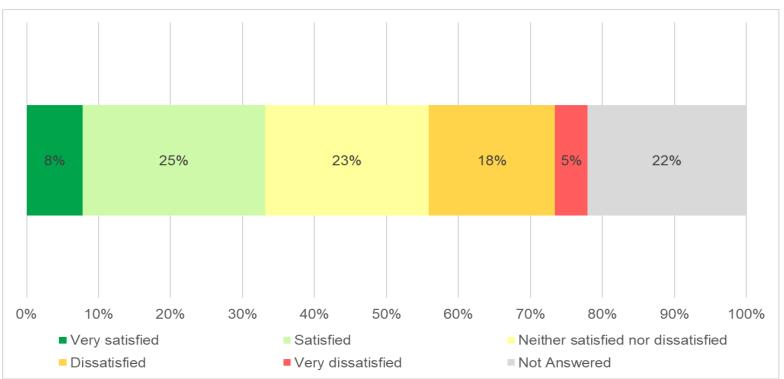




### Satisfaction with children's larger play area

Respondents were asked how satisfied, or dissatisfied, they were with the current larger play area in Avondale Park:

- A net total of 33 per cent (eight per cent very satisfied, 25 per cent satisfied) of respondents were **satisfied** with the larger play area.
- A net total of 23 per cent (18 per cent dissatisfied, five per cent very dissatisfied) of respondents were dissatisfied with the current larger play area.
- Just under a quarter (23 per cent) of respondents were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the current larger play area.

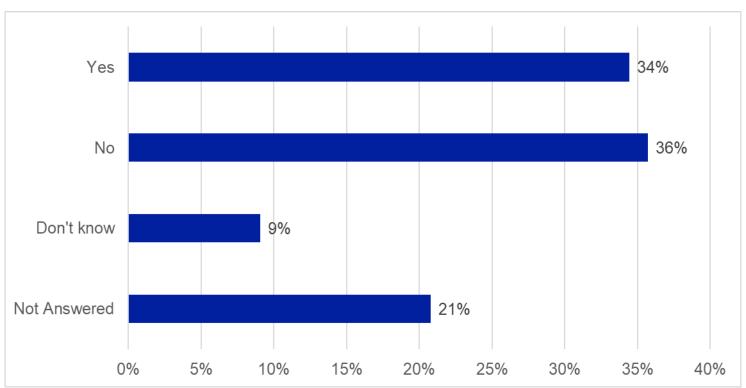




### Supporting installation of fencing around the children's larger play area

Respondents were asked if they supported the idea of installing fencing around the larger play area:

- A total of 34 per cent of respondents **supported** the idea of installing fencing around the larger play area.
- Whilst 36 per cent of respondents did not support the installation of fencing around the larger play area.
- A total of nine per cent of respondents selected don't know.

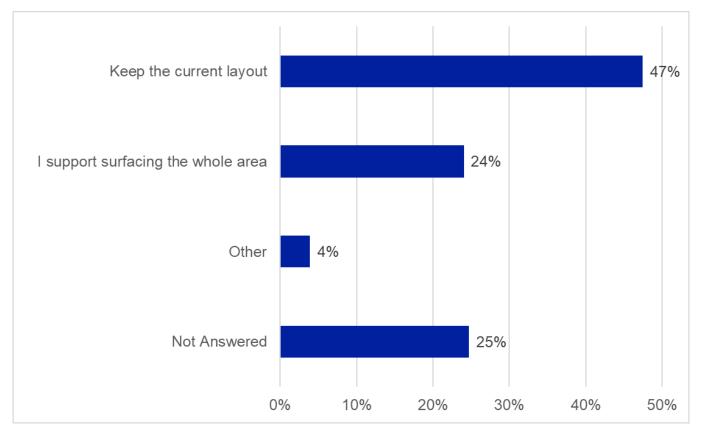




#### Surfacing the whole of the children's larger play area

Respondents were asked if they supported the idea of surfacing the whole of the larger play area or keep the current layout:

- Nearly half (47 per cent) of respondents preferred to keep the current layout of the larger play area.
- Nearly a quarter (24 per cent) of respondents **supported surfacing the whole** of the larger play area.
- There were 14 comments made as part of the **other** response, and these can be seen in the appendix document.

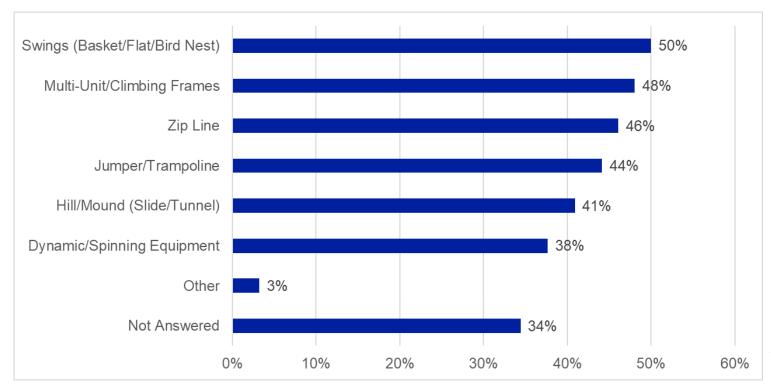




### Types of playground equipment to be included in the children's larger play area

Respondents were asked to select all options of equipment that they would like to see included in the children's larger play area:

- Half (50 per cent) of respondents selected **swings**, 48 per cent selected **multi-unit/climbing frames** and 46 per cent selected **zip-line**.
- The least selected option was **dynamic/spinning equipment** (38 per cent), although this was still a well responded option.
- There were 11 comments made as part of the **other** response, and these can be seen in the appendix document.

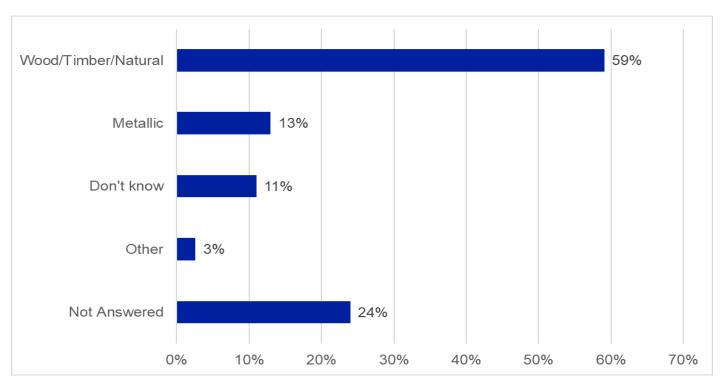




### Type of material the children's larger play area equipment should be made out of

Respondents were asked to select all types of material they would like the children's larger play area equipment to be made out of:

- A total of 59 per cent of respondents outlined they wanted **wood/timber/natural** to be used for the children's larger play area equipment.
- A total of 13 per cent of respondents selected metallic as the material to be used for the children's larger play area equipment.
- A total of 11 per cent of respondents selected **don't know**; there were seven comments made as part of the **other** response, and these can be seen in the appendix document.





#### Other comments about the children's larger play area

Respondents were asked if they had any other comments regarding the children's playground area in Avondale Park. 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
Fence required to keep separate from dogs	9
Should not take space away from rest of the park	5
Other	4
Improve the sandpit	3
Equipment needs to be maintained	3
Important to make the area natural/green	2
Basketball court	2
Group activity equipment	2
Improved/increase seating area	2



Base: 48 (all comments)

#### Other comments about the children's larger play area

"The key here is this area needs to be fenced off from DOGS. There are too many dogs in this area, too many owners that do not pick up dog droppings, and it is dangerous when some very large dogs are so near small children."

Fence required to keep separate from dogs

"The sand pit in the toddlers area is very unsatisfactory as the sand goes everywhere because of the poor design of the retaining wall and a significant amount of time is spent by the keepers using blowers to tidy up the area."

Improve the sandpit

"A lot of the children who use this playground in particular don't have gardens or outdoor areas - so it's extremely important to make this area serene, natural and fun. Grass, water features, flowers, are so important for mental health, as well as fun swings etc."

Important to make the area natural/green



"Essential to fence to keep the place safe and clean from dogs."

Fence required to keep separate from dogs

"This park already has a huge area given over to play equipment - more than any other park I can think of nearby. The play area shouldn't expanded further or fences erected, as there is already limited area for sitting, walking, dog walking etc. If the garish equipment can be replaced with well crafted equipment made from natural materials in neutral colours, that would be a great improvement."

Should not take space away from rest of the park

"I think it is important for the playgrounds to be well maintained, any repairs to be made promptly etc."

Equipment needs to be maintained



# Section 4: Green and Open Spaces

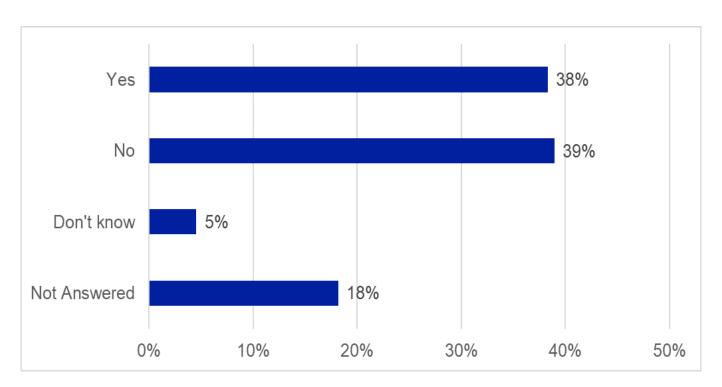




### **Seating areas in the park**

Respondents were asked if they felt the existing seating areas in the park were adequate:

- A total of 38 per cent of respondents thought that the existing seating areas in the park were adequate.
- Whilst 39 per cent of respondents felt that the existing seating areas in the park were not adequate.
- A total of five per cent of respondents selected don't know.

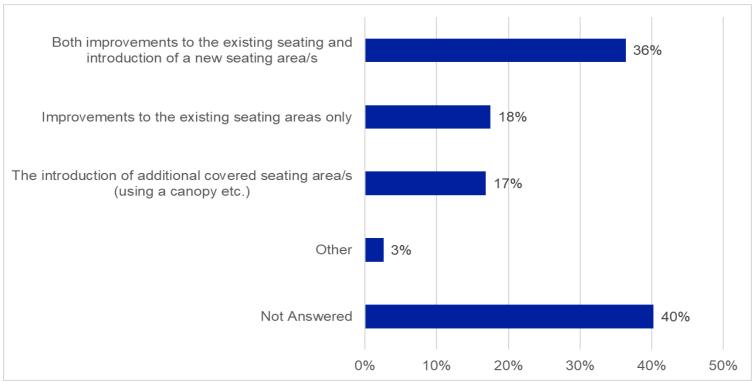




#### Alternative seating options in the park

Respondents who did not think the seating was adequate were asked to select all options they would support for alternative seating options:

- A total of 36 per cent of respondents would like to see **both improvements to the existing seating and introduction of a new seating area/s**.
- A total of 18 per cent of respondents would like to see improvements to the existing seating areas only.
- A total of 17 per cent of respondents would like to see the introduction of additional covered seating area/s; there were 11 comments made as part of the other response, and these can be seen in the appendix document.





### **Alternative seating option in the park – Other comments**

Respondents who selected other, when asked about alternative seating areas in Avondale Park, were able to provide other suggestions. Comments made have been themed and are summarised in the table below. Themes with two of 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
More benches	14
Prioritise easy access for disabled people	3
Prioritise dog area	2
More tables	2

Base: 30 (all comments)



### **Alternative seating option in the park – Other comments**

"More benches near the playground would be appreciated as there are only few benches to seat when children are playing unfortunately."

More benches

"More seats and benches will be welcome overall, with some more in sunny areas."

More benches



"Should not take space away from the open walking area for dogs."

Prioritise dog area

"More/new benches are needed by the playground and wildlife garden."

More benches

"Benches, tables should allow easy access to disabled people and should be for families and children, not for fitness people who think they use anything as their personal gym, there are plenty of indoor gyms around W10 area."

Prioritise easy access for disabled people

"Picnic tables."

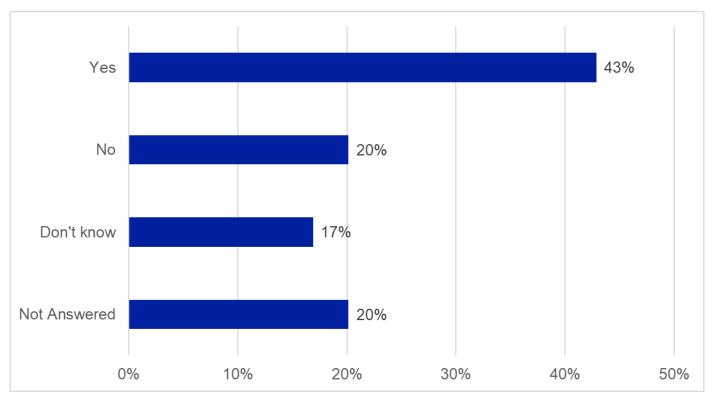
More tables



### Setting up a resident maintained community garden

Respondents were asked if they would be in favour of setting up a community garden area which residents would help maintain:

- A total of 43 per cent of respondents were **in favour** of setting up a community garden area which residents would help maintain.
- Whilst a fifth (20 per cent) of respondents were not in favour of setting up a community garden area.
- A total of 17 per cent of respondents selected **don't know**.





# Preference on the type of potential trees, flowers, or plants included in the park

Respondents were asked if they had any preference on the type of potential trees, flowers or plants that they would like to see included in the park. Comments made have been themed and are summarised in the table below. Themes with four 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
Native flowers/wildflowers	17
Edible plants/fruit trees	13
Flowers/flowering trees	12
Park needs to be properly maintained	4

Base: 55 (all comments)



# Preference on the type of potential trees, flowers, or plants included in the park

"Appropriate native woodland and wildflower species. There is already some beautiful planting in parts of the park - someone in the council's streetscape team clearly knows what they are doing!"

Native flowers/wildflowers

"Edible Plants/fruit trees."

Edible plants/fruit trees

"Ones that attract wildlife, especially bees which are threatened. Combo of more flowers and shrubs which people will be able to enjoy soon, versus trees which will take years to grow and be appreciated."

Flowers/flowering trees



"More wildflowers/areas left to nature. I love the areas that you haven't mowed. Would love more flowers for pollinators, bird houses, owl houses, bird feeders."

Native flowers/wildflowers

"Fruit and nut trees we could harvest?"

Edible plants/fruit trees

"Keep existing landscape and look after trees and plants already in place today."

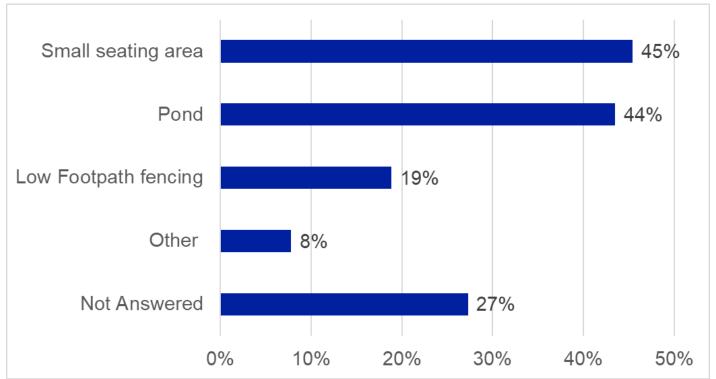
Park needs to be properly maintained



#### Preferred features included in the existing woodland area

Respondents were asked to select all features they would like to see included in the existing woodland area:

- A total of 45 per cent of respondents outlined that they would like to see a **small seating area** included in the existing woodland area.
- A total of 44 per cent of respondents would like to see a **pond**, whilst just under a fifth (19 per cent) of respondents would like to see **low footpath fencing**.
- A total of 17 per cent of respondents selected **don't know**.





## Preferred features included in the existing woodland area – Other comments

Respondents who selected other, when asked to outline their preferred features to be included in the existing woodland area, were able to provide other suggestions. Comments made have been themed and are summarised 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
Improve the plants in the area	5
More inviting signage	3
No fencing	2
Accessibility	2
High fencing to reduce risks of dogs jumping over	2
Concern of anti-social behaviour	2
Seating area	2
Introduce a pond	2

Base: 24 (all comments)



## Preferred features included in the existing woodland area – Other comments

"Better plants it's all just weeds, perhaps it could be a herb and medicinal garden."

Improve the plants in the area

"Leave it open. Perhaps combine with community garden concept so people can weed and prune. Please don't fence. It might end up like Holland Park with fences everywhere."

No fencing

"Fencing not too low because dogs could jump over."

High fencing to reduce risks of dogs jumping over

"Would be great to get the pond going again. Provides habitat for frogs and newts and drinking place for dragonflies (which feed on mosquitos), bees and insects."



"More inviting, signage at the entrance?"

More inviting signage

"Wheel chair accessible."

Accessibility

"I think sadly that the woodland area is a wasted space and the only people that seem to use it are drug dealers and druggies."

Concern of anti-social behaviour

"Seating area with willow surround."

Seating area



Introduce a pond

## Closing comments about improvements to Avondale Park

Respondents were asked to provide any final comments about the proposed improvements to Avondale Park. Comments made have been themed and are summarised in the table below. Themes with three or more comments have be 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
Bespoke fenced area for dogs to keep separate from children/families/non-dog owners	11
Improve maintenance of the park	10
Health and safety concerns (poor quality pathways, escooters, cyclists)	7
Fencing will restrict the park	6
Thank you for this work	5
Dogs on leads	4
Concerns of anti-social behaviour	4
Other	4
Acknowledge the importance of the park to the Grenfell Community	3
Water fountains	3
Makeover of Avondale is needed	3



Base: 77 (all comments)

## Closing comments about improvements to Avondale Park

"Would be better to have a dog enclosure with dog toilet area and enough space for exercise in the park, this helps to keep the park clear of dog mess and keeps children away from roaming dogs."

Bespoke fenced area for dogs to keep separate from children/families/non-dog owners

"More grassy areas sewn with robust and thick grass is key. The bald and patchy areas are what currently makes the park look a bit scruffy and ultimately it is well kept open, green, grassy areas that residents want."

Improve maintenance of the park

"The elderly are limited to the narrow paths and are frequently confronted with youngsters on scooters/electric scooters/bicycles. How can this be resolved."

Health and safety concerns (poor quality pathways, e-scooters, cyclists)



"As a dog owner, it would be great to have more dog bins around the park, and a small enclosed area where little dogs can run off lead."

Bespoke fenced area for dogs to keep separate from children/families/non-dog owners

"Avondale Park is an amazing space where so many different communities can gather. Please avoid fencing areas off, it's openness is a big part of its charm."

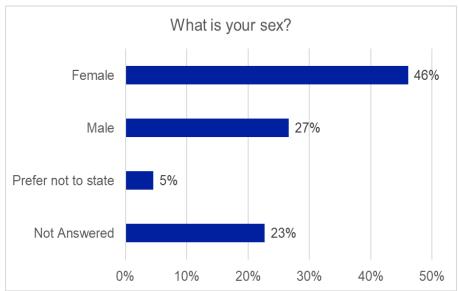
Fencing will restrict the park

"Avondale park is a very important facility for the residents in the immediate vicinity of the Grenfell Tower. As it is the nearest park to Grenfell it is therefore very important to the wellbeing of the local residents all of whom have been deeply affected by such a catastrophe happening in the immediate vicinity of their homes."

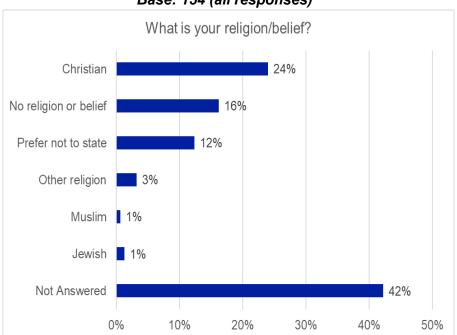




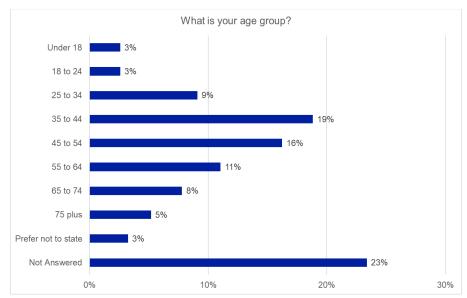
#### **About respondents: Demographic Breakdown**



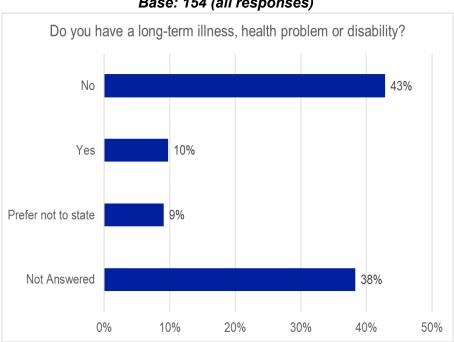




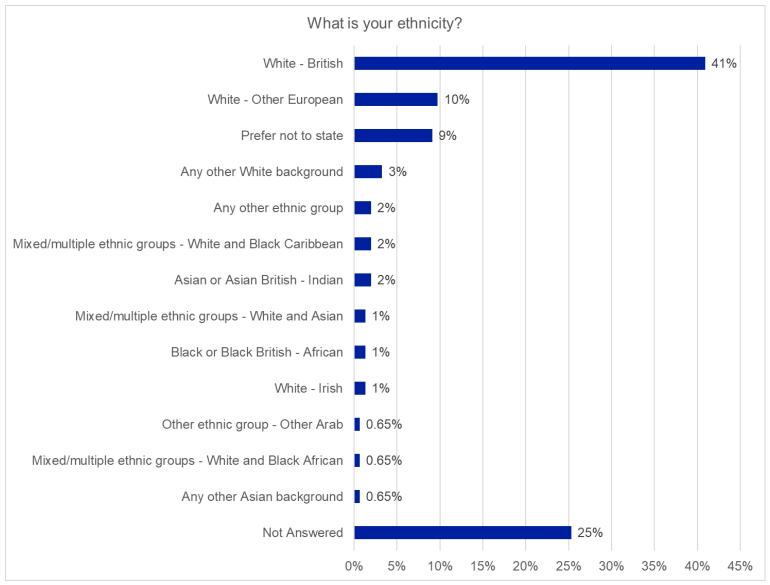
Base: 154 (all responses)



Base: 154 (all responses)



### About respondents: Demographic Breakdown





AND CHELSEA