

Little Wormwood Scrubs – Gym and Toddler Playground Refurbishment

Consultation report and findings

March 2021

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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Introduction

Background

The Parks Project Team were keen to understand the views on the proposed refurbishment to the outdoor gym area and toddler playground area, from individuals who use Little Wormwood Scrubs. Consultation would be considered ahead of commissioning for the proposed refurbishment.

An online survey was promoted via e-newsletters and social media sites (Nextdoor, Facebook and Twitter). The online survey ran between 25 January 2021 - 7 March 2021.

Methodology and report

There were 112 respondents in total. Not all respondents answered all questions. Where graphs are shown, percentages are used. Base numbers represent the total number of respondents for each question. Some questions were only asked to respondents based on how they answered previous questions, and some have abstained from responding all questions, so numbers will not always add up to 112 responses.

Appendix

The appendix contains details of all themed comments made by respondents in relation to the question about the impact on proposals of a new gym. All other responses and data are in the report. The appendix is available as a separate document.

Equalities

All equalities data is presented on the '**About Respondents: Demographic Breakdown**' section. Due to a survey design error, a total of 20 respondents were not asked the '**About you**' section of the survey, and therefore were unable to provide their demographic information. These responses have been included in the analysis of these responses, and have been counted as no replies.

Acknowledgements

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

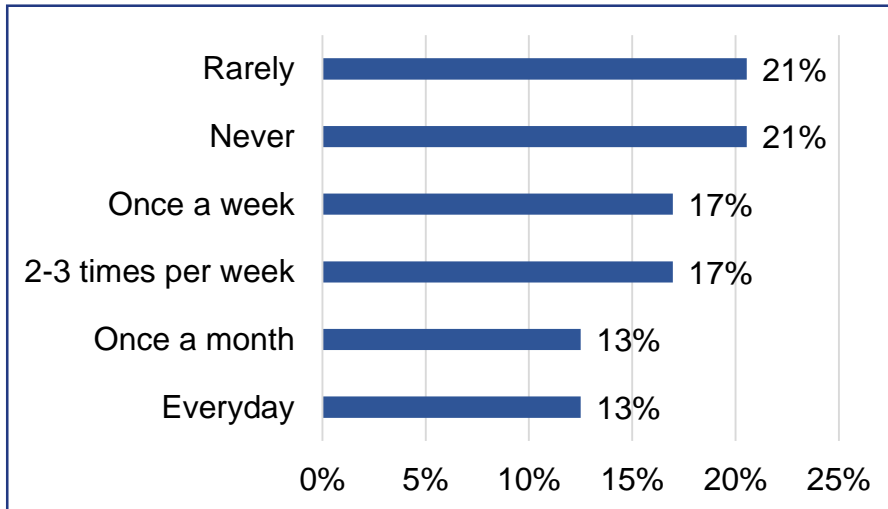


Results at a glance

- A total of 13 per cent of respondents outlined that they use the outdoor gym equipment **'everyday'**. Whilst just over a fifth (21 per cent) of respondents said that they **'rarely'** used the outdoor gym equipment, with the same number of respondents (21 per cent) responding that they **'never'** use the outdoor gym.
- Of the respondents who outlined that they had used the outdoor gym, a total of 36 per cent outlined that, overall, they were **'satisfied'** (six per cent very satisfied, 30 per cent satisfied) with the outdoor gym equipment. Whilst a total of 30 per cent of respondents outlined that, overall, they were **'dissatisfied'** (nine per cent very dissatisfied, 21 per cent dissatisfied) with the outdoor gym equipment.
- A total of 72 per cent of respondents outlined that they used the **'pulldown exerciser'** and the **'chest press'**, whilst a total of 70 per cent used the **'leg press'**.
- A total of 54 per cent of respondents preferred a **'combination of both calisthenics and other fitness equipment'** as part of the refurbishment. A total of 30 per cent selected that they would prefer **'a variety of fitness equipment only'**. Whilst eight per cent of respondents preferred **'Calisthenics (body weight) equipment only'** as part of the refurbishment.
- A total of 15 per cent of respondents outlined that they were **'satisfied'** with the toddler playground area. A total of 63 per cent of respondents outlined that overall, they were **'dissatisfied'** (18 per cent very dissatisfied, 45 per cent dissatisfied) with the toddler playground area.
- A total of 90 per cent of respondents outlined that they, or their children, used the **'swings'** and 80 per cent used the **'slide'**.
- A total of 78 per cent of respondents outlined that the **'Jumper/Trampoline'** should be included in the refurbishment, and 75 per cent felt the **'Seesaw equipment'** should be part of the refurbishment.



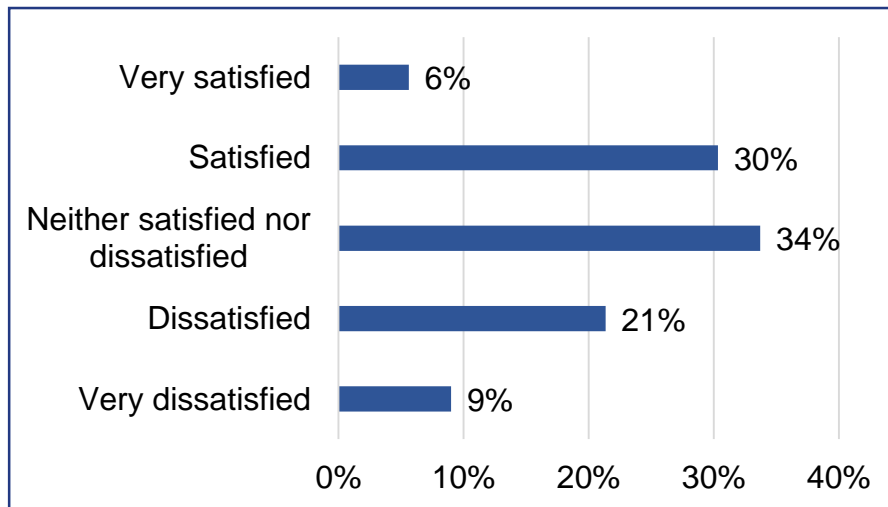
Summary charts – Use and satisfaction of the outdoor gym



Base: 112 (all responses)

Respondents were asked how often they used the outdoor gym equipment:

- Just over a fifth (21 per cent) said that they **'rarely'** used the outdoor gym equipment, with the same number of respondents (21 per cent) responding that they **'never'** use the outdoor gym.
- A total of 13 per cent of respondents outlined that they use the outdoor gym equipment **'everyday'**.



Base: 89 responses

Respondents who outlined that they **had** used the outdoor gym equipment were asked to outline their current satisfaction levels of the current equipment:

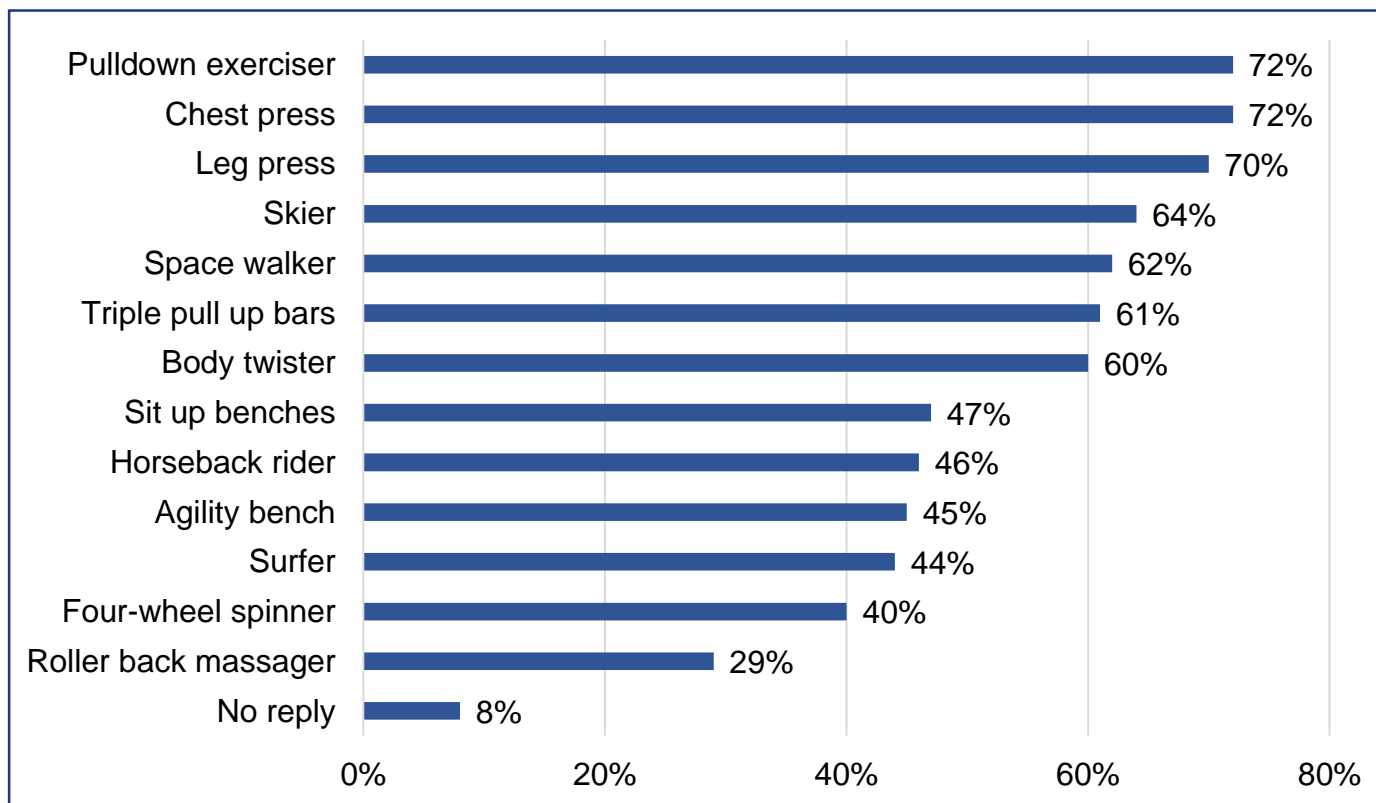
- A total of 36 per cent of respondents outlined that, overall, they were **'satisfied'** (six per cent very satisfied, 30 per cent satisfied) with the outdoor gym equipment.
- A total of 30 per cent of respondents outlined that overall, they were **'dissatisfied'** (nine per cent very dissatisfied, 21 per cent dissatisfied) with the outdoor gym equipment.



Summary charts – Use of the outdoor gym equipment

Respondents were asked to identify which outdoor gym equipment they used:

- A total of 72 per cent of respondents outlined that they used the **'pulldown exerciser'** and the **'chest press'**, whilst a total of 70 per cent used the **'leg press'**.
- Less commonly used, was the **'four-wheel spinner'** (40 per cent) and the **'roller back massager'** (29 per cent).



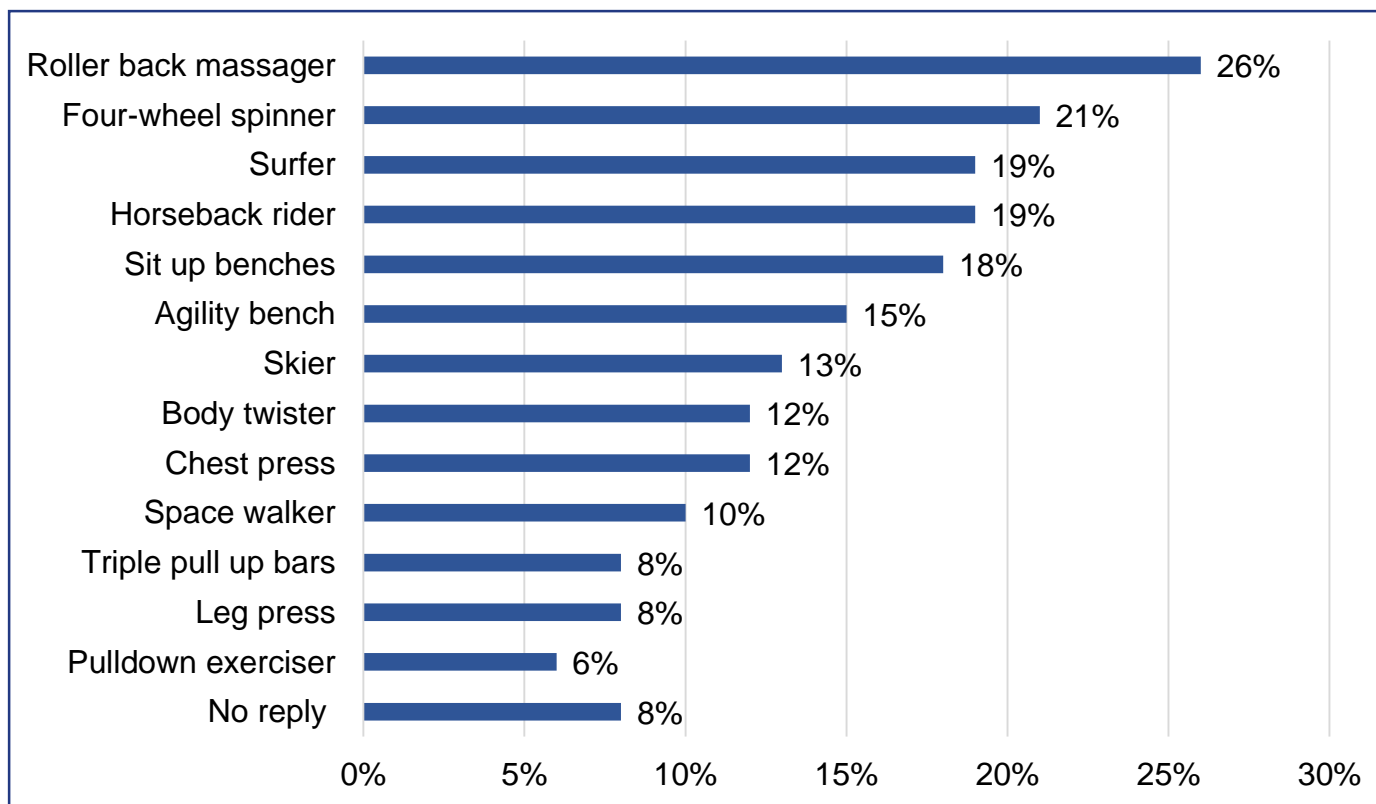
Base: 89 responses



Summary charts – Inclusion in the gym refurbishment

Respondents were asked to identify which outdoor gym equipment should not be included in the refurbishment:

- A total of 26 per cent of respondents outlined that the **'roller back massager'** should not be included in the refurbishment, and 21 per cent felt the **'four-wheel spinner'** should not be part of any refurbishment.
- A total of eight per cent of respondents felt that the **'leg press'** should not be included, and six per cent felt the **'pulldown exerciser'** should not be included in the refurbishment.



Base: 89 responses



Comments - 'Other' options for the outdoor gym area refurbishment

Respondents were asked to identify any other options they would like included in the outdoor gym refurbishment. Comments made have been themed and the themes with two or more comments are summarised in the table below. Examples of comments made can be seen overleaf, with the full list of themes and comments made can be found in appendix two.

Theme	Count
Better surfacing	10
Calisthenics/body-weight area	9
Resistance based machines/cardio machines	7
Other	5
Clearer instructions on how to use the equipment	4
Improved lighting	2

Base: 35 (all comments)



Survey findings: 'Other' options for the outdoor gym area refurbishment

"It would be good to have more surfaced areas as like much of the park it gets very boggy in winter, especially the entrance."

Better surfacing

"I think the muddy floor is a problem, a raised floor with drainage so we can use in the wet weather."

Better surfacing

"Static double height pull up bar frame and parallel bars."

Calisthenics/body-weight area



"Proper pull up bars and dip bars. Also an area at the back which could be used to skip on, or do ground work."

Calisthenics/body-weight area

"Bike. Bicep curl. Shoulder press. More cross trainers. Thigh extension. Leg curl."

Resistance based machines/cardio machines

"Clear information about the equipment and tips for using it."

Clearer instructions on how to use the equipment

"It's a huge health and safety concern that there is no lighting in the park."

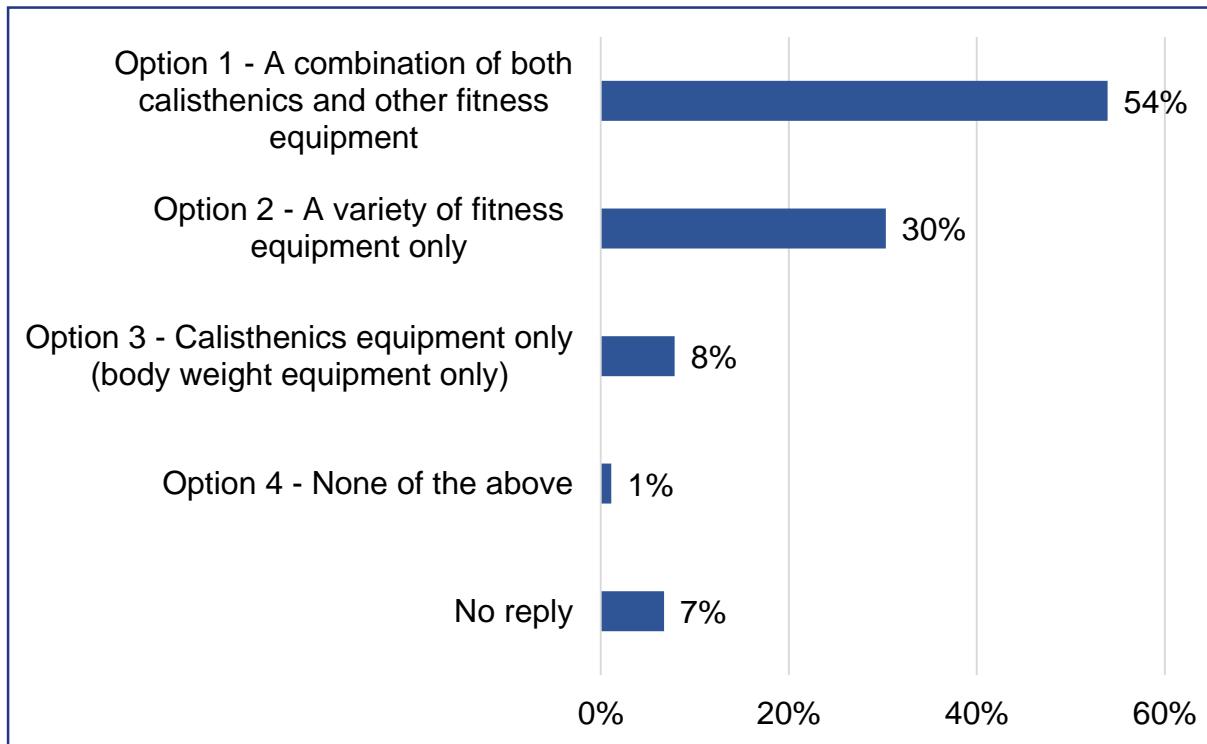
Improved lighting



Summary charts – Preferred refurbishment option

Respondents were asked to identify which type of gym equipment they preferred to be implemented as part of the outdoor gym refurbishment

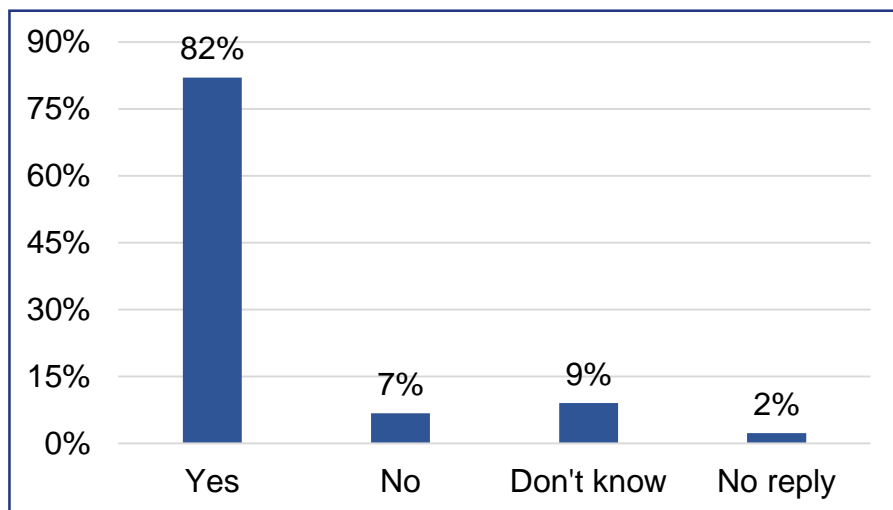
- A total of 54 per cent of respondents preferred a **'combination of both calisthenics and other fitness equipment'** as part of the refurbishment.
- A total of 30 per cent selected that they would prefer **'a variety of fitness equipment only'**.
- Whilst eight per cent of respondents preferred **'Calisthenics (body weight) equipment only'** as part of the refurbishment.



Base: 89 responses



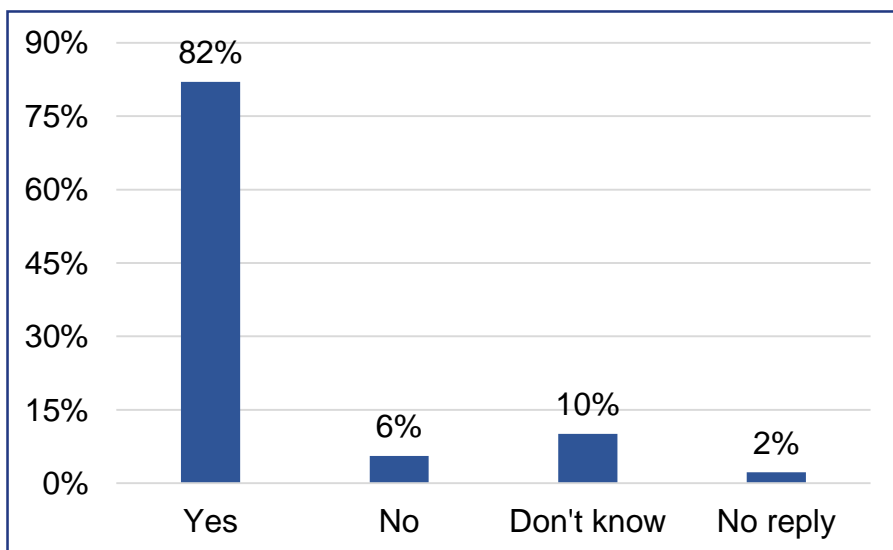
Summary charts – Replacement surfacing and paving



Base: 89 responses

Respondents were asked if they would support the replacement of the current surfacing with a rubber mulch surface:

- A total of 82 per cent of respondents stated that **'Yes'** they would support this.
- A total of seven percent of respondents stated that **'No'** they would not support this.



Base: 89 responses

Respondents were asked if they would like to see a small path which leads people through the gate, included in the refurbishment:

- A total of 82 per cent of respondents stated that **'Yes'** they would like to see this.
- A total of six percent of respondents stated that **'No'** they would not like to see this.



Comments – ‘Other’ comments for the outdoor gym area

Respondents were asked to identify any other comments they had about the outdoor gym refurbishment. Comments made have been themed and the themes with two or more comments are summarised in the table below. Examples of comments made can be seen overleaf, with the full list of themes and comments made can be found in appendix two.

Theme	Count
Improvement of muddy areas	8
Other	6
Improved amenities (water fountain, sanitising station)	3
Surfaced area for stretching/skipping etc	2

Base: 19 (all comments)



Survey findings: 'Other' comments for the outdoor gym area

"It's got very muddy over the years so the ground needs protecting around the Entrance & the Machinery."

Improvement of muddy areas

"It would be good to make both entrances operational with paths leading from the external route through and well into the outdoor gym area."

Improvement of muddy areas

"Please can the water tap outside be fixed, as well as importantly keeping exercisers hydrated, it is used also for dogs."

Improved amenities (water fountain, sanitising station)

"Maybe have small section of astroturfing so people can do stretch's on ground as it dry's out much faster, so could be used often."

Surfaced area for stretching/skipping etc

"I'm glad you're looking at rectifying the muddy patches under the equipment: that is what stops me using it in the wet/winter months."

Improvement of muddy areas

"No unsupervised children under 12 years old. Lighting, so facilities can be used later in the evening to avoid children under 12."

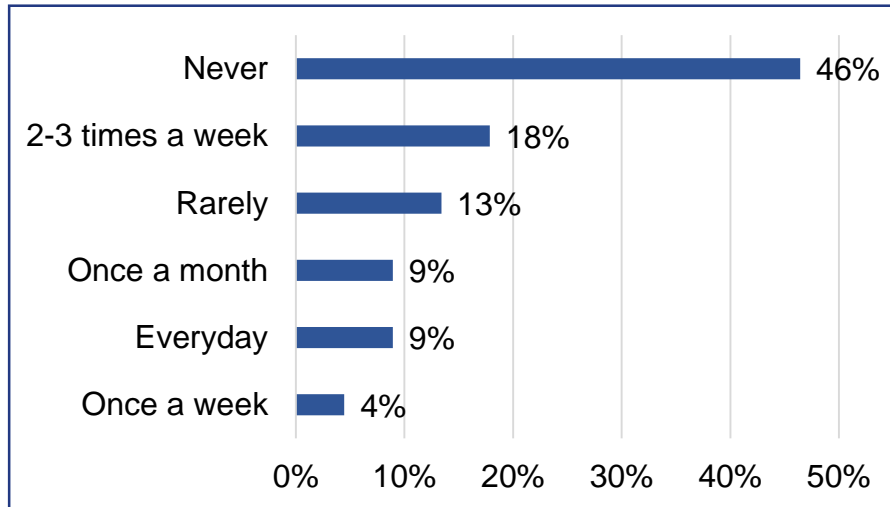
Other

"Phase refurbishment so always some equipment there. So not loose the twister/ turning for waist equipment. I do not see that on new ones and my favourite as older person."

Other



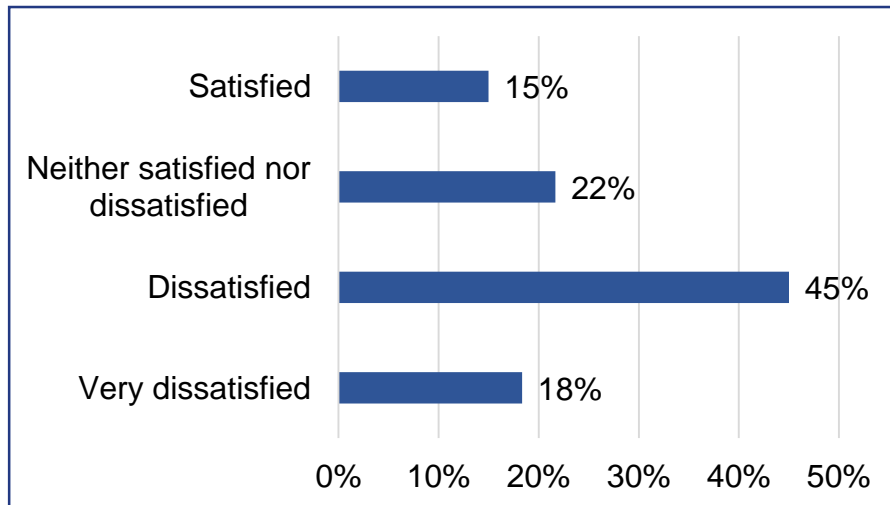
Summary charts – Use and satisfaction of the toddler playground area



Base: 112 (all responses)

Respondents were asked ***'how often do you use the toddler playground area?'***:

- Just under a half (46 per cent) said that they ***'never'*** used the toddler playground area, whilst just under a fifth (18 per cent) responded that they use the toddler playground area ***'2-3 times a week'***.
- A total of nine per cent of respondents outlined that they use the toddler playground area ***'everyday'***.



Base: 60 responses

Respondents who outlined that they **had** used the toddler playground area were asked to outline their current satisfaction levels of the current equipment:

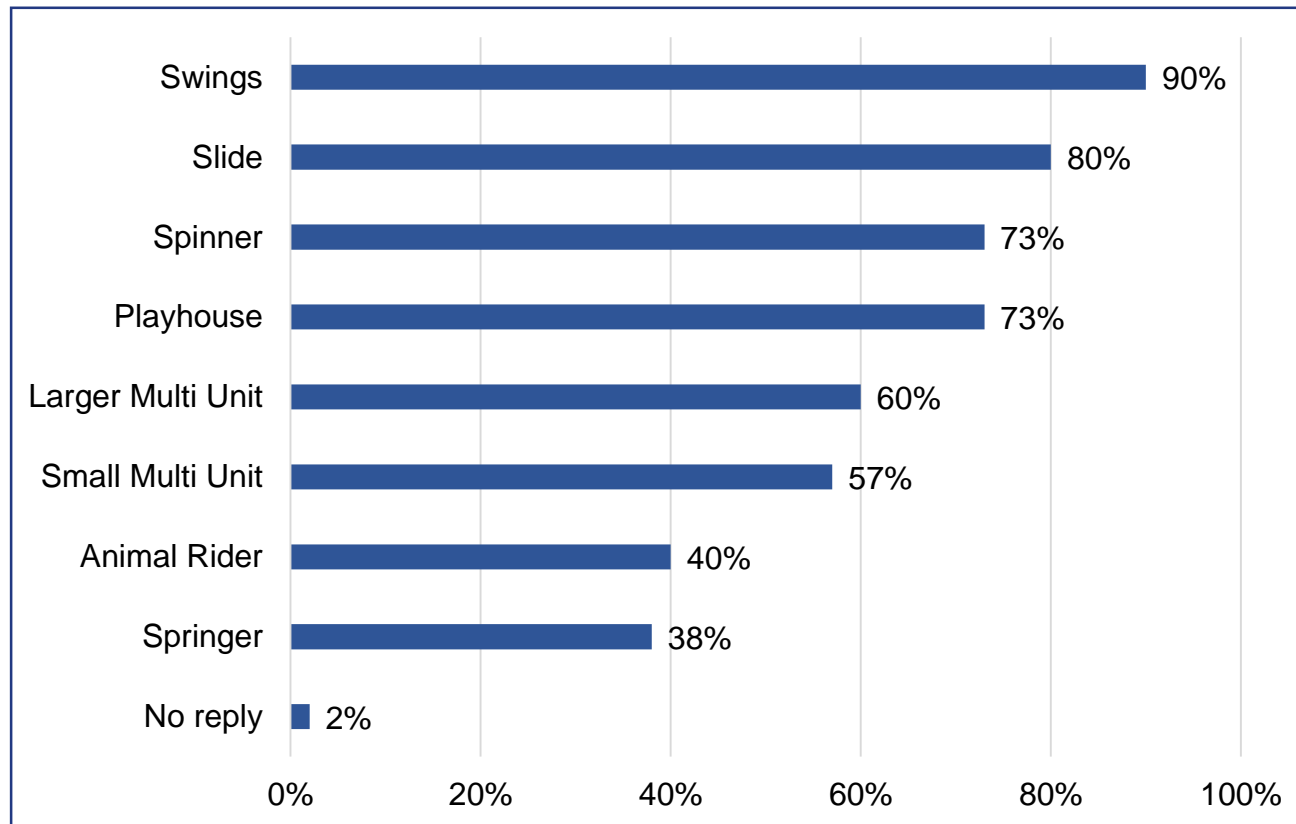
- A total of 15 per cent of respondents outlined that they were satisfied with the toddler playground area.
- A total of 63 per cent of respondents outlined that overall, they were dissatisfied (18 per cent very dissatisfied, 45 per cent dissatisfied) with the toddler playground area.



Summary charts – Use of the toddler playground equipment

Respondents were asked to identify which equipment they, or their children, used in the toddler playground area:

- A total of 90 per cent of respondents outlined that they, or their children, used the '**swings**' and 80 per cent used the '**slide**'.
- Less commonly used, was the '**animal rider**' (40 per cent) and the '**springer**' (38 per cent).



Base: 60 responses



Comments - 'Other' options for inclusion in the toddler playground area

Respondents were asked to identify any other options they would like included in the toddler playground area refurbishment. Comments made have been themed and the themes with two or more comments are summarised in the table below. Examples of comments made can be seen overleaf, with the full list of themes and comments made can be found in appendix two.

Theme	Count
More swings	10
Improved surfacing and maintenance	8
Other	6
More climbing apparatus	5
Seesaw	3
Equipment for older children	3
Zipline	2

Base: 34 (all comments)



Survey findings: 'Other' options for inclusion in the toddler playground area

“Please more baby/toddler swings. Is always the most popular item and there is always a line of toddlers/babies/parents waiting to use it. Seriously, however many baby swings you think may be overdoing it - double that number and it will be perfect.”

More swings

“Soft sponge Astro turf area so safer for the children. More play activities for younger children (toddlers)

Improved surfacing and maintenance

“Some new little riders (like the animal riders) for toddlers, an area for them to practice their trikes/bikes, some outdoor musical instruments perhaps?”

Other



“More swings as the wait can be rather long for a swing sometimes.”

More swings

“The equipment is worn and needs to a refurb. Furthermore, the area could be increased to ensure social distancing.”

Improved surfacing and maintenance

“Larger climbing frame.”

More climbing apparatus

“Expand the equipment for older children.”

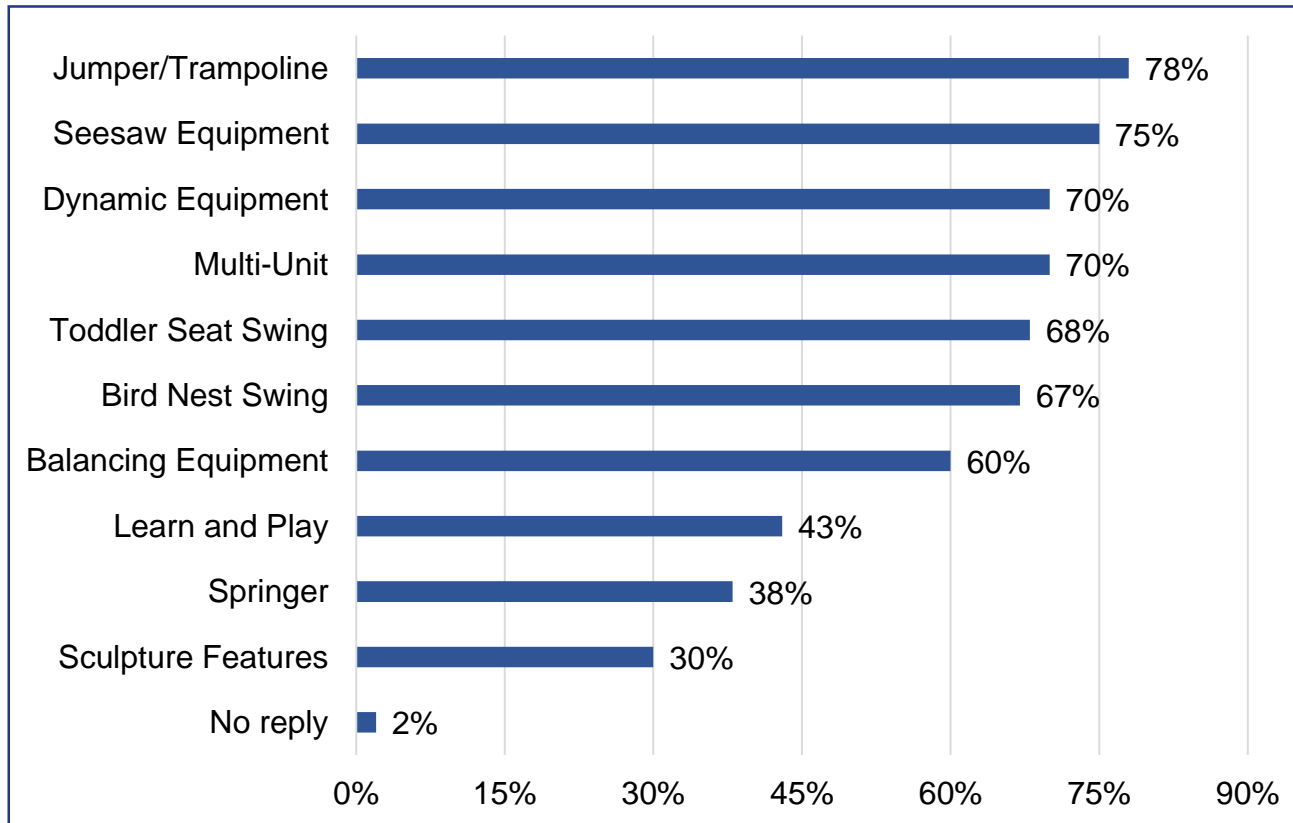
Equipment for older children



Summary charts – Inclusion in the toddler playground refurbishment

Respondents were asked to select which playground equipment they thought should be included in the refurbishment:

- A total of 78 per cent of respondents outlined that the **'Jumper/Trampoline'** should be included in the refurbishment, and 75 per cent felt the **'seesaw equipment'** should be part of the refurbishment.
- A total of 38 per cent of respondents felt that the **'springer'** should be included, and 30 per cent felt the **'sculpture features'** should be included in the refurbishment.



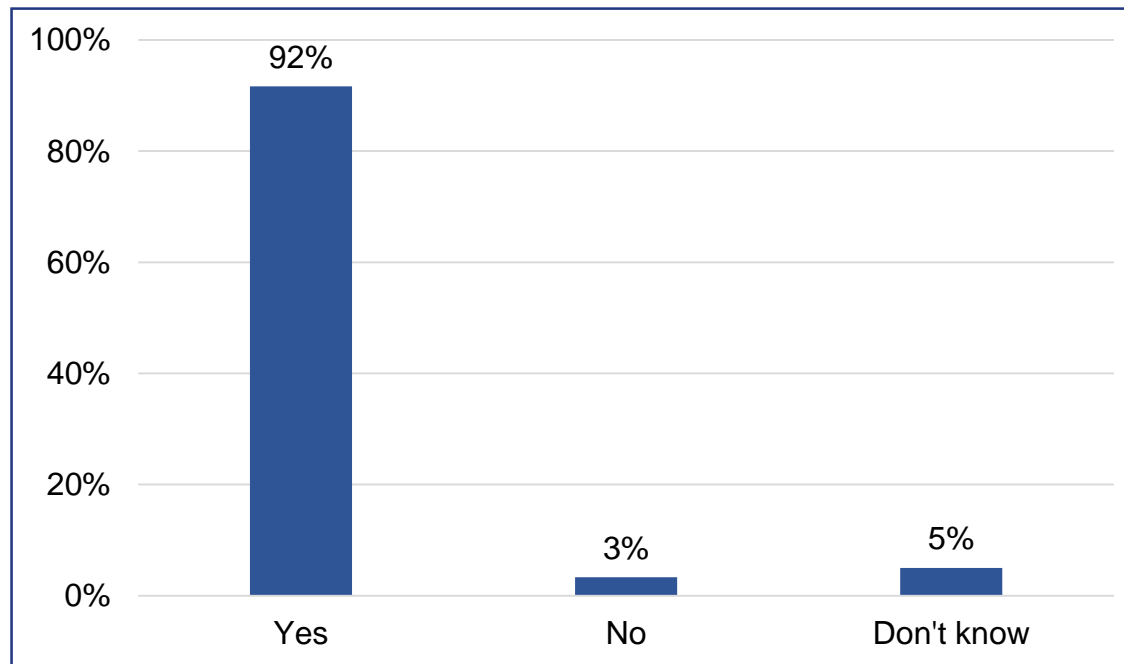
Base: 89 responses



Summary charts – Replacement surfacing

Respondents were asked if they would support the replacement of the current surfacing in the toddler playground area with a rubber mulch surface:

- A total of 92 per cent of respondents stated that **'Yes'** they would support this.
- A total of three percent of respondents stated that **'No'** they would not support this.
- A total of five per cent of respondents stated **'Don't know'** when asked about supporting the replacement of the surfacing.



Base: 60 responses



Comments - 'Other' comments about refurbishment of the toddler playground area

Respondents were asked to identify any other comments they had about the toddler playground area refurbishment. Comments made have been themed and the themes with two or more comments are summarised in the table below. Examples of comments made can be seen overleaf, with the full list of themes and comments made can be found in appendix two.

Theme	Count
Resurfacing needed	6
Other	5
Restaurant air vent concern	4
More equipment (swings, slides)	4
Provision for older children	2

Base: 20 (all comments)



Comments - 'Other' comments about refurbishment of the toddler playground area

"Rubber padding on the ground. I am a childminder & use the park & playground all the time. And the little scrubs play hut outside area needs refurbishing very badly. It's not very safe."

Resurfacing needed

"I think the facility is adequate it just needs to be maintained to a better standard and to be free maintenance free for user I think it's a great facility for the local community because it encourages people to bring their children outdoors and exercise."

Other

"Chatting to people and socialising with whoever is there, reading stories to my daughter and any other kids who want to listen."

Restaurant air vent concern

"Please put slides back in the area, the kids love the slides."

More equipment (swings, slides)

"Rubber surfacing would be amazing. It's so muddy we can't go in the winter so have been using the other playground by the play hut. Which also needs love. Everything broken there and needs lots of cleaning. Thank you!."

Resurfacing needed

"Critical to stop antisocial use of the playground by youths/adults in the evenings. Rubbish/cans/bottles etc left behind is revolting and dangerous for children."

Other

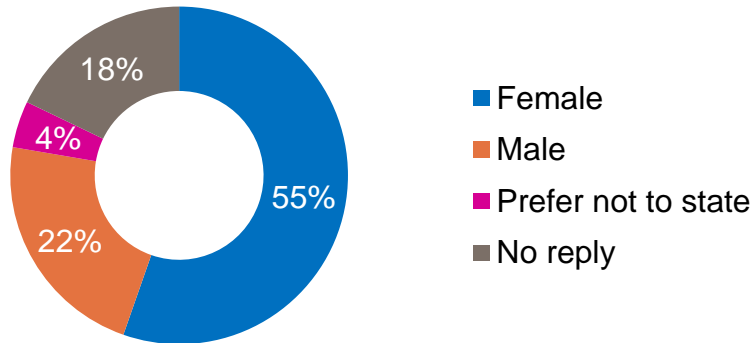
"There is no park for older children, the adventure playground is open at limited times. There needs to be more equipment for 7+ children."

Provision for older children



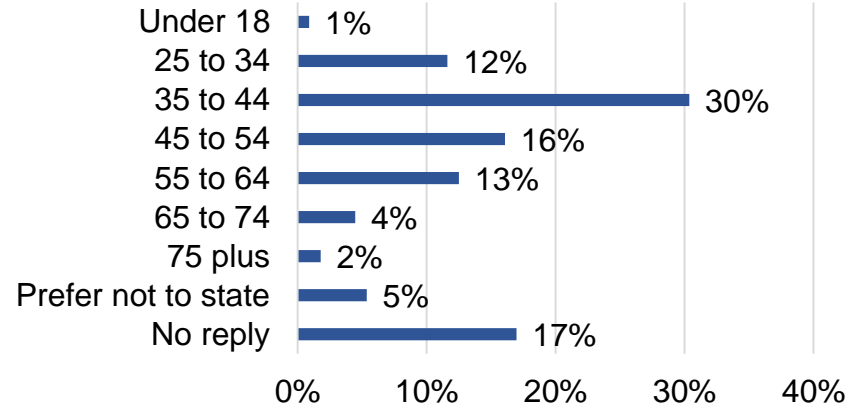
About respondents: Demographic Breakdown

What is your sex?



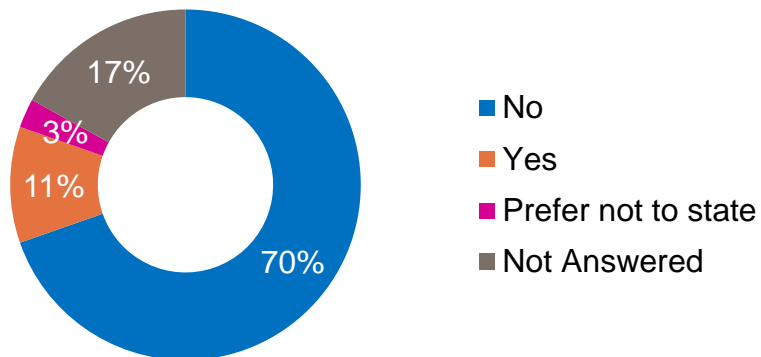
Base: 112 (all responses)

Which age group are you?



Base: 112 (all responses)

Do you have a long term disability or illness?



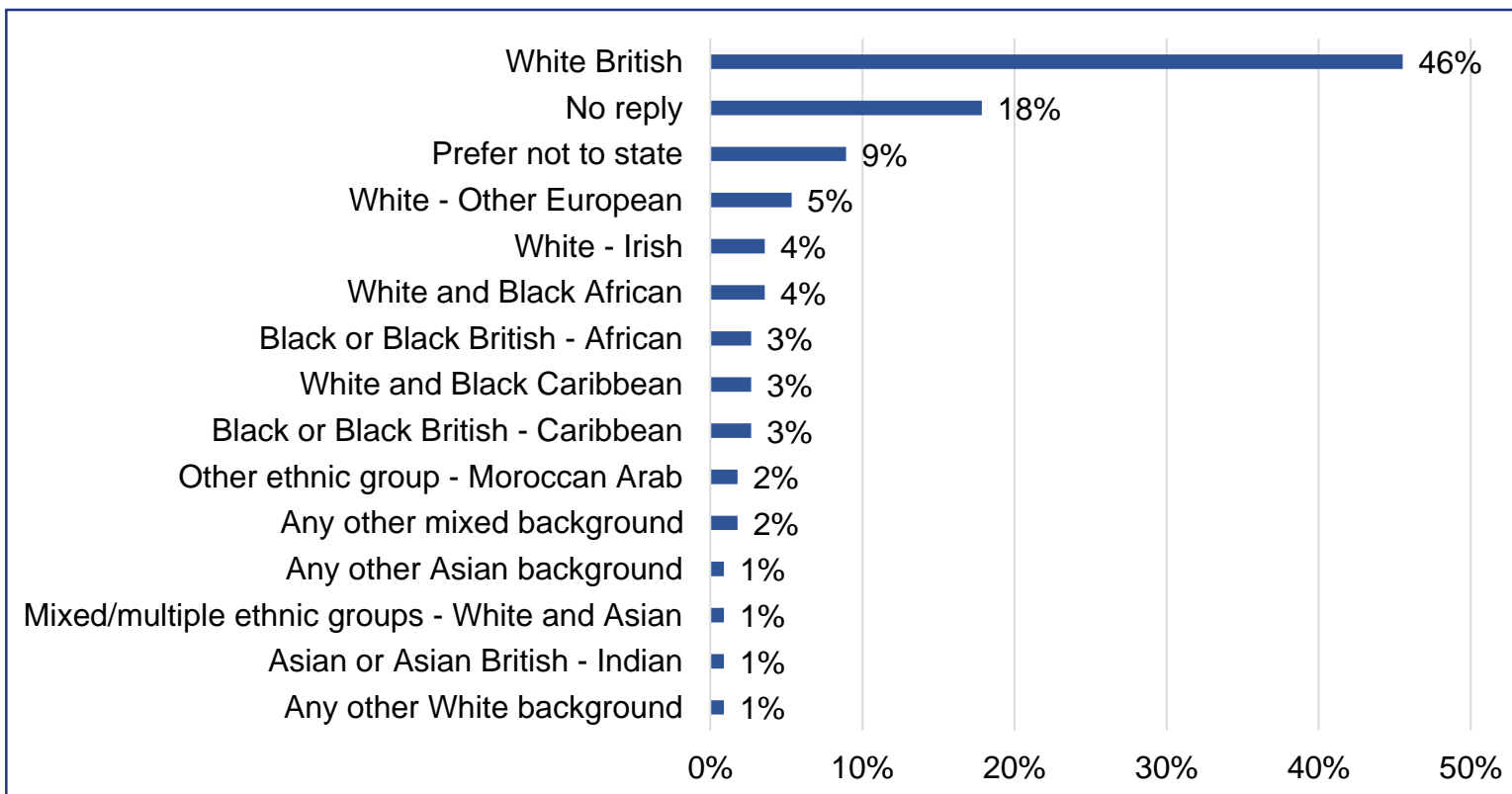
Base: 112 (all responses)



About respondents: Ethnicity Breakdown

Respondents were asked to outline their ethnic group:

- Nearly half (46 per cent) of respondents were **'White British'**.
- The next most common ethnic group was **'White – other European'** (five per cent), followed by **'White – Irish'** (four per cent).
- A total of four per cent of respondents were **'Mixed ethnic groups - White and Black African'** and a total of three per cent were **'Black or Black British – African'**.



Base: 112 (all responses)



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