

Bingham Park Community Group - Consultation responses summary

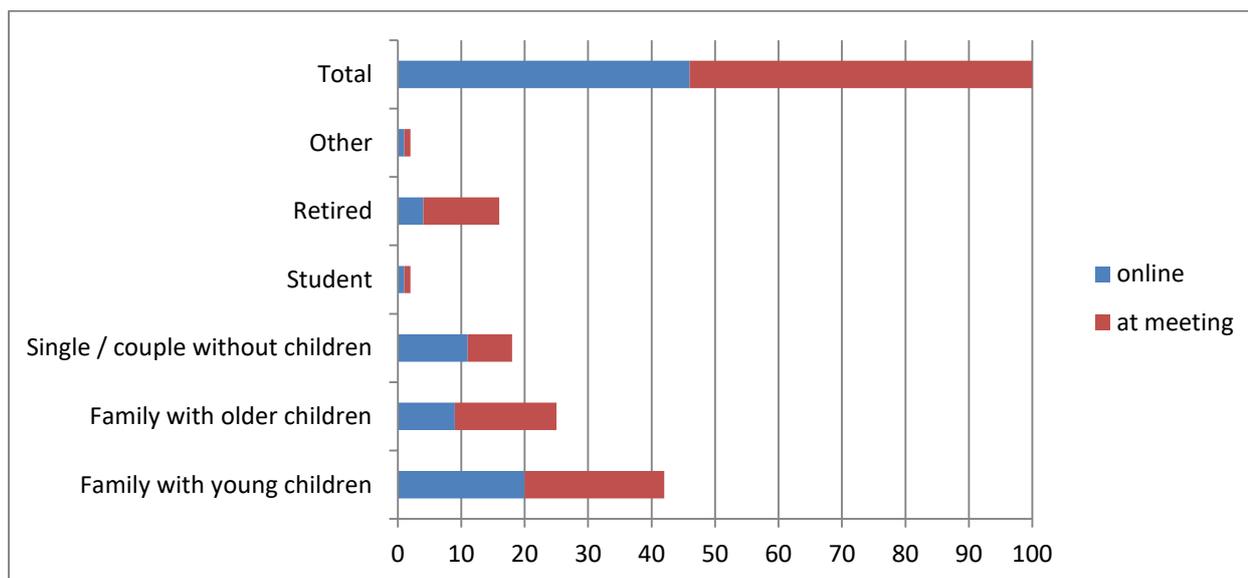
Approximately 70 people attended the consultation meeting about the facilities in Bingham Park / Whiteley Woods on 12 November.

54 questionnaires were filled in at the meeting. An additional 46 questionnaires were submitted online after the meeting. In total 100 responses were submitted; several responses were on behalf of households rather than individuals.

The main findings of the survey are summarised below.

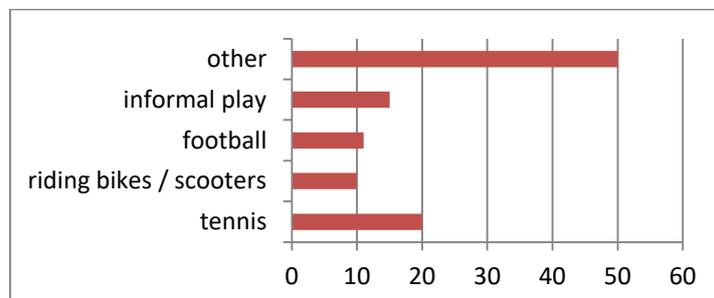
1. Current use

- Respondents included families with children (both young and older children), people without children, retired people.



- Most people who responded use the facilities frequently - often weekly or monthly and they use the facilities throughout the year.

Activities people take part in include tennis, informal play, football, other ball games, riding scooters and bikes, roller-blading, tai chi. More than 90% of respondents who filled in questionnaires at the meeting use the park daily for walking (including dog walking), running, commuting to and from school and work.

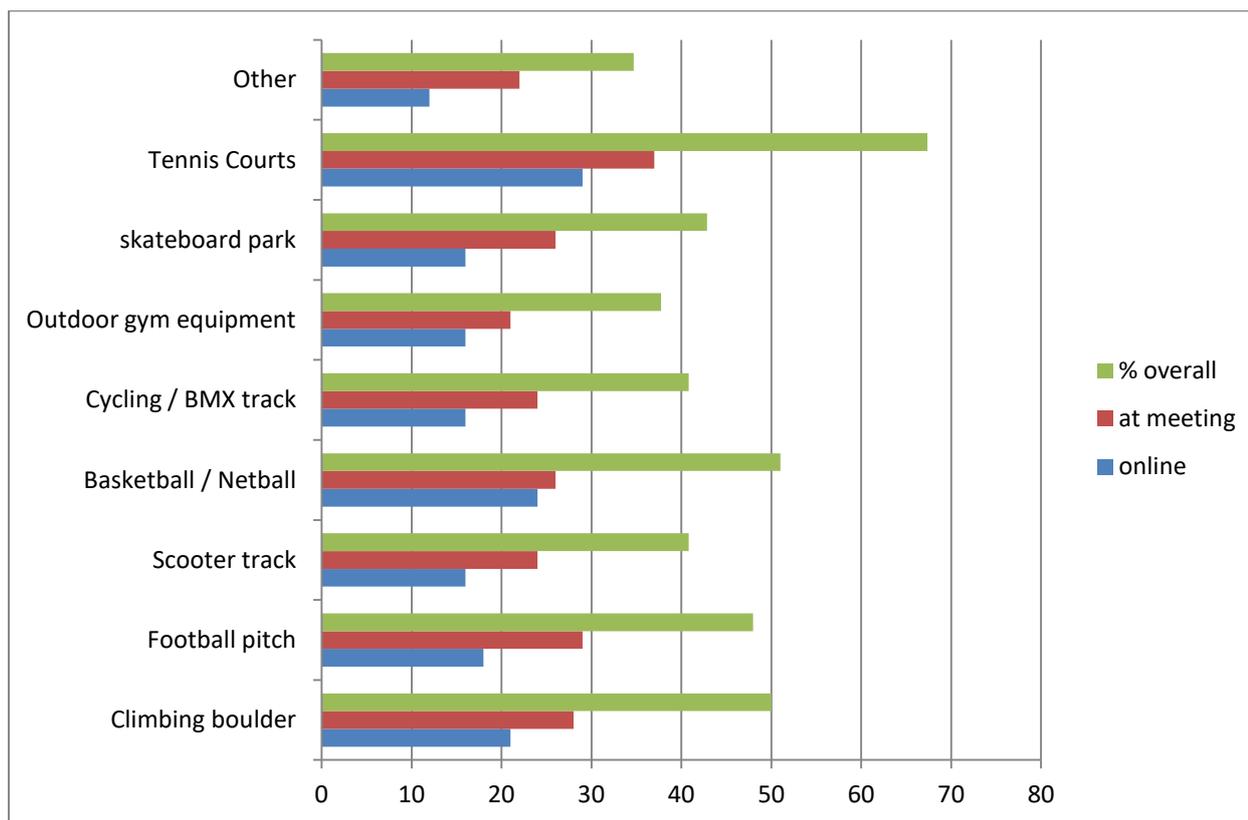


People are keen to retain the whole area for recreational purposes.

As well as tennis and football facilities, people value the free access to several flat, hard surfaced areas, some with fencing.

2. Facilities people would like to see at Bingham Park

People would like to see a range of facilities appealing to people of all ages.



The overall response shows that **tennis courts, netball** and a **climbing boulder** are the most popular options.

However, people would like to see the football area retained and there is also strong support for scooter, skateboard facilities and bike trails.

Popular suggestions for 'other' included **all weather table tennis, trim trails, seating, picnic tables and barbecue facilities, basic play equipment for young children** and **natural play** areas.

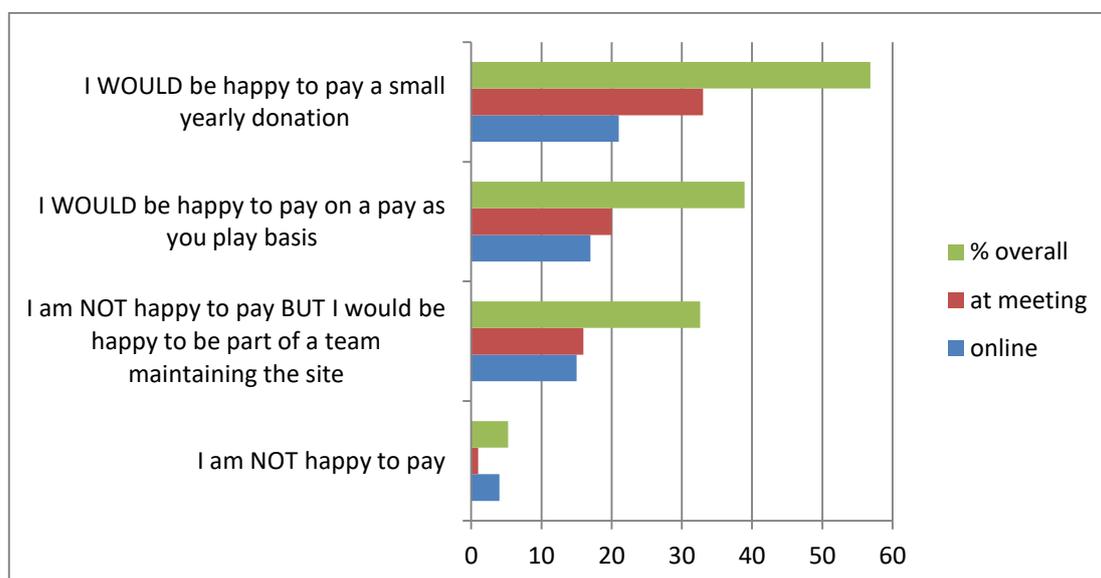
Many people are supportive of part of the area being a **bike skills track** and incorporating a **small skateboard and scooter park**, although there is also concern about this amongst some of the local residents. Most skateboard parks attract spray can art / graffiti - this could be good or bad - having a space where it is tolerated may reduce tagging and graffiti in other areas.

Several people also wrote in free text that they would like free access to multi-purpose flat spaces and they would like to see the whole area smartened up and made structurally safe without the loss of any of the area to grass, trees, brambles etc.

Most people would like access to low-key, easy to maintain, free access areas, for a variety of activities, including multipurpose spaces; but many people also recognise that it would be good to also have some smart tennis facilities that could be booked and paid for online.

3. Fees and maintenance

Most people indicated that they would be happy to pay a small yearly donation for the use and upkeep of the facilities. Several people would also be happy to pay per use for tennis, but there are also many respondents who do not want to pay but would be prepared to help with upkeep as part of a community group. In free text many people expressed a wish for most of the area to be freely accessible.



5. Vandalism

Vandalism is an issue in the area and most people accept that it will occur from time to time.

Suggestions for tackling vandalism mainly highlighted the need to get the community more involved in using and looking after the facilities.

People also suggested encouraging groups to use the facilities (eg schools, scouts, guides).

Installing robust hard surfaces and fencing and fittings. The netball court had been well used until the hoops had come loose, and had then been broken off, but whether more robust fittings are available, or whether the damage could have been repaired before the hoops were broken, is not known.

Surfaces and fittings need to be robust, fire-proof.

Some people mentioned better lighting could deter vandalism, but others felt that might attract more use of the area at night.

6. Support

Many people offered their support to the group - people appreciate the facilities and want to see them retained and improved.

Some people offered specific knowledge and skills eg. in bike park creation, skate park design and fundraising, general ideas for sources of funding.

Thanks to all who attended the meeting and responded to the questionnaire.

Please keep posting your ideas and photos on **Facebook** and **Twitter** and email binghamparkcommunitygroup@gmail.com
If you offered help with specific skills, we will be in contact soon.