

Shoreditch Park Improvement Project

Consultation Report

Report Date: January 2020

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1. Executive Summary

The **Shoreditch Park Improvement Project** commenced in August 2019 and will be completed in Spring 2021, when we will deliver an improved park for the local community.

This report provides a summary of responses received during the first phase of public consultation. During October 2019 local people and park users were asked how they use Shoreditch Park, what they currently like and dislike about the Park, and the improvements they would like to see made to the Park.

In total **1600** people shared their views, ideas and visions for the Park with us by participating in focus groups, filling in online questionnaires, or taking part in face to face surveys conducted in the Park and surrounding area.

557 people responded online or via face to face questionnaires (conducted in the park and surrounding area) providing us with the following quantitative data. *Not all respondents answered every question (meaning some of the totals are lower than 557) and some questions were multiple choice where respondents were asked to tick all that apply (meaning some of the totals are higher than 557).*

- The majority of respondents described their main connection to Shoreditch Park as **living nearby** 51% (382), followed by **using it for fitness or sports** 15% (114) and **using it for socialising or play** 13% (103). *This was a multiple choice question where respondents were asked to tick all that apply.*
- The majority of respondents **lived in a Hackney postcode** 97% (345)
- The highest number of respondents had been a resident in the Shoreditch Park area for **1-4 years** 39% (64), followed by respondents that had been a resident **for 10 or more years** 36% (60). Of this 36%, the number of respondents that had been a resident for **20+ years** was 11% (19)
- A very high percentage of respondents use the Park **several times a week or more** 89% (389), and out of these, most **visit the Park daily** 31% (143).
- The highest percentage of respondents use the Park for **30 mins - 1 hour** 31% (140), followed by people who use the park for **1-2 hours** 30% (132) and those who use it for **30 mins or less** 26% (115)
- On the Quick Pin Map most people commented on the **open grassed areas** 23% (22) followed by **sports areas and facilities** 19% (18)

A further **1043** local residents shared their views, ideas and visions for the Park with us by participating in focus groups. The key findings and recommendations across all platforms are as follows:

Improved Grassed Area - Overwhelmingly respondents disliked the condition of the grass on the informal sports pitches and open grassed areas. Many respondents would like to see the quality of the grassed areas improved. Specific requests were received to remove potholes and ensure regular maintenance so the area is safe to play, walk and run on.

Sport and Fitness - A high number of respondents use the Park for some form of physical activity. The main problem is the condition of the informal sports pitch area and lack of outdoor gym equipment. Many people would like to see an increase in sports facilities available including a running track, outdoor gym equipment, improved sports pitches and courts to accommodate a variety of popular sports.

Wildlife, nature and biodiversity - Wildlife was amongst the more popular attractions to the Park with respondents commenting on the trees, wild grass areas, Dorothy Thurtle Gardens and the range of flowers in the Park. The majority of respondents would increase the number of trees and planting on site to improve biodiversity, absorb pollution, create shady quiet areas, assist with climate change, and soundproof noise from New North Road.

Community and Gathering - A high number of respondents commented on the diverse activities and events currently available in the Park, that provide an opportunity for communities and families to gather. There is a desire to make improvements to the Park to enhance the sense of community for the surrounding area, by creating better communal facilities and spaces to facilitate community events.

Requests for Facilities, Seating, Benches and Bins - There were a high number of requests for toilet facilities. Many people would like to be able to access healthy food and drink options within the Park as well as having picnic areas and extra seating and benches. A high number told us that litter was a problem in the Park and they would like to see more recycling facilities and more bins to help with maintenance of the Park.

Play Area - A high number of respondents included the play area as one of their favourite things about the Park. Respondents told us they would like to see the playground equipment upgraded and that some of the structure felt dated and in need of modernising and many told us they wanted more play equipment for older children. There is also a desire for facilities such as toilets and a cafe to be close to the play area.

Safety - Respondents have concerns and issues around crime and safety in the Park and provided ideas for how issues could be resolved or improved, including additional lighting and the presence of maintenance staff on site.

Requests for Management of Dogs - People told us they loved being able to walk their dogs in the Park, but others told us their experience of the Park was impacted negatively by the presence of dogs for a number of reasons including dogs mess, dogs running freely off the lead, and dogs that were not adequately controlled by their owners. There were a number of requests for a separate dog area and solutions to clean up the dog mess on site.

Cycling - People told us they enjoyed being able to cycle and hire bikes in the Park, but a high number also expressed concern about the speed and poor attitude of cyclists using the Park as a cut through and commuter route. Some suggested designated cycle/pedestrian paths and pedestrian only paths and some people made a point about there being adequate cycle paths either side of the Park for commuters.

Events and Activities - People told us they enjoyed attending fun fairs, sports days and the play bus, and about how they used the Park for family picnics and playing games, but people also told us about the negative impact of official and unofficial events and activities in the Park causing litter,

antisocial behaviour and noise for local residents. Some suggested specific events and activities they would like to be able to do in the Park in the future including attending musical performances, theatre, outdoor cinemas, school productions and community events within the Park.

Boundaries and Entrances - Some people told us that specific entrances felt unwelcoming and how specific boundaries would benefit from being blurred with the road. Many people dislike the Park's current relationship with the surrounding area, saying they didn't like the air pollution or being able to see or hear the traffic on New North Road from the Park, and that the Park needed better protection.

Main Themes from Meetings and Focus Groups - In focus groups the main recurring themes discussed were dogs, litter, play, the environment, and safety. A high number of primary school children and parents of preschool age children told us they were concerned about dogs running freely and the amount of dog mess. They also told us they wanted the Park to feel wilder, have an increased sense of discovery, and to have more trees and wildlife. Primary and secondary school children really care about the environment and people's behaviour in the Park, and provided ideas about better public education and signage, and solutions to smoking and litter. Young people have concerns around safety in the Park due to how dark it is and a lack of CCTV. A high number of young people also told us there was nothing for them to do in the Park and they would like to see more informal sports facilities and social areas. Older people, and the people we spoke to in health and wellbeing groups, told us the Park needed more benches, improved footpaths and outdoor gym equipment. Many also told us the Park didn't feel safe after dark and about cyclists riding too fast. Most participants of focus groups would like to see more trees, more planting and sensory elements, more things for young people to do and more signage both directional and informational.

2. Background

Shoreditch Park is one of the Borough's largest Parks at 7.1 hectares and serves the south of Hackney. It's already well used, offers a wide variety of facilities (including an Adventure Playground) and holds a Green Flag award - an award given annually to the best Parks in the country.

In 2019, the Council agreed to allocate a budget of £2m to deliver a number of improvements to the Park. It was noted that these improvements were likely to focus on the following areas, but would ultimately be subject to public consultation:

- Gateways into the Park
- Green infrastructure
- Park furniture and finishes
- Play facilities
- Sports pitches

This report provides a summary of the consultation responses received to the public consultation on the Improvements to Shoreditch Park, during October 2019.

3. Consultation Approach

Hackney Council set out to conduct a blank page consultation with the public to gather views and feedback on their likes and dislikes about Shoreditch Park and their ideas for improving the Park.

3.1 Audiences:

The following groups were identified to be consulted:

- **Existing users** - people who informally use the Park daily/weekly for leisure, fitness or as a means of commuting, or who attend organised events, activities and provision.
- **Non users** - people who aren't aware of the Park, who feel the Park isn't for them, or who face barriers accessing the Park.
- **Potential users** - groups and/or individuals who could be reached via stakeholders and may need more support and relationship building to feel comfortable accessing the Park.

3.2 Approach:

The public consultation was divided into two stages to ensure the design proposals developed following stage one, and the improvement works that would take place following stage two, would respond to the ideas, requests and feedback from local communities. Contact was made with local community networks and stakeholders to ensure the views of non-users and potential users were included, and we provided opportunities to engage in a range of formats and locations to suit a range of audiences.

3.2.1 Stage One (October - November 2019):

Starting with no preconceptions, proposals or limitations (beyond budget, certain pre-conditions and the requirements outlined above) the community was consulted on what they wanted the Park to look like in the future through a series of blank page and targeted / themed workshops, drop-in events, surveys and online consultation. The feedback from these events will inform and influence the development of a master plan and proposed improvements for the Park.

3.2.2 Stage Two (May/June 2020):

A series of follow up workshops, drop-in events and an online consultation will be organised to review the draft master plan / proposals for the Park, with a willingness and commitment to change the proposals if they are not what the community want / expect.

This report will focus on the results of the **Stage One Consultation**.

4. Consultation Methodology

4.1 Consultation Dates:

Stage One of the consultation commenced on **1 October 2019** and closed on **1 November 2019**.

4.2 Project delivery team:

A dedicated Senior Consultation Officer was responsible for the design and delivery of the consultation with the support of the Council's Consultation Team, a Graduate Trainee, a Project Search Intern, the Libraries, Leisure and Green Space team, volunteers, and the Shoreditch Park Development Board consisting of Council Officers, Councillors, an Ecology Expert and Landscape Architects who met on a regular basis to shape and deliver the consultation.

4.3 Promotion:

The [online consultation](#) and public event day was advertised by installing 10 x A0 banners on the Park railings, by distributing 2000 leaflets and posters to surrounding residential properties, local businesses, and community centres, and through articles in Hackney Life (23 Aug 2019), the Council's Facebook page, the Council's Staff Update emails, stakeholder mailing lists and the Hackney Gazette (24 Aug 2019).

Stakeholders were provided with the opportunity to have their say through the following ways:

- **Online questionnaire and Pin Map hosted by Commonplace**
- **Paper questionnaire**
- **Face to face surveys in and around the Park and local area (using questionnaires)**
- **Blank page design & visioning sessions & activities (with the project team and LUC architects)**
- **Focus groups to discuss key themes**
- **A consultation event day**

5. Summary of Results

5.1 How did people respond?

1600 people took part in the consultation. A summary of the number of responses to the different consultation methods is tabled below:

Consultation Method	Respondents
Online Commonplace questionnaire https://shoreditchPark.commonplace.is	212
Paper questionnaire A printed version of the online questionnaire and brochure was sent to 5886 residents who lived within 500m from the centre of the Park. 177 questionnaires were returned. 73 questionnaires were completed face to face with people in and around the Park and entered into Commonplace.	177 73
Online Commonplace Quick Pin Map https://shoreditchParkmap.commonplace.is	95
Face to Face Consultation We conducted 25 x Focus Groups in community centres, schools, children's centre, the Adventure Playground; Hoxton Hall, Hoxton Trust, Shoreditch Trust, and with street artists, local police and local residents; businesses, and at an advertised public drop in consultation event day.	1043 (number of people that attended sessions)

5.2 Engagement

5886 households were identified in our target consultation area and we heard from **1600** people. Given that we didn't find any instances of people providing feedback twice, this represents **27%** of households.

462 respondents took part in the questionnaire, with **256** signing up to **the Shoreditch Park Project Newsletter** to keep updated about the consultation.

5.3 Confidence level - Representative sample

Based on the total population of **5886** (households which received a paper survey through the post), the 95% confidence level is **±4.3%**. To explain, an accuracy level of **±4.3%** means that if 50% of respondents answer “yes” to a yes/no question, then we know that if we were to carry out the same survey again between 45.7% and 54.3% of all households would give the same response, including those who did not participate in the research.

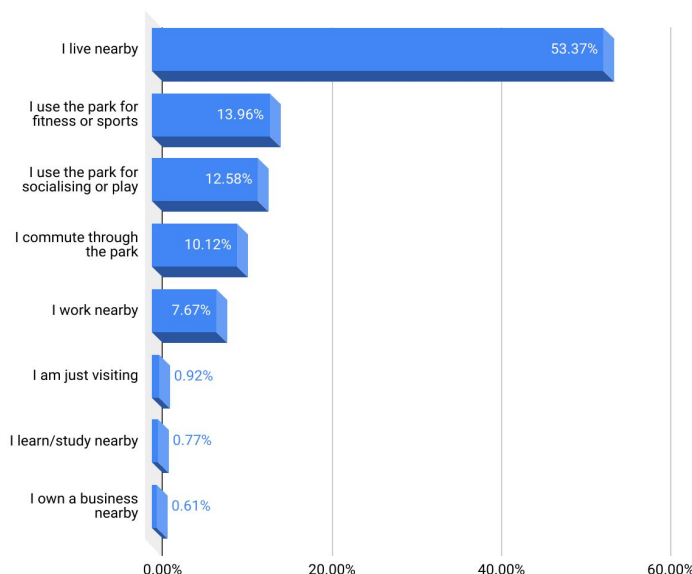
We always aim to achieve a confidence level of **±5.0%** to make sure the overall sample of respondents is representative of the entire population, in this case those in the locality of Shoreditch Park. Being within 5% means that this has been achieved.

5.4 Highlights from questionnaire

Below are the results of the responses received from both the **paper questionnaire** and **online questionnaire**. **462** responses to the questionnaire were received.

What is your connection to Shoreditch Park?

(Base 462)

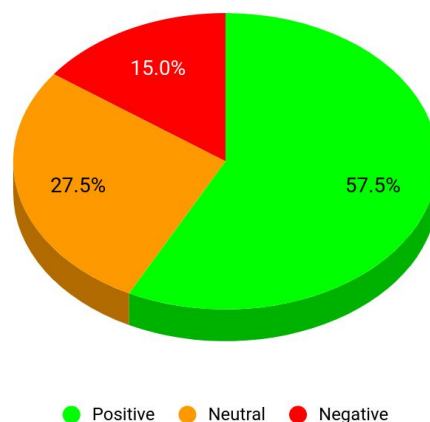


How do you feel about Shoreditch Park?

(Base 461)

To begin, respondents were asked to rate how they felt about the Park.

58% responded with positive feelings towards the Park and **15%** responded negatively.



Respondents to the questionnaire used the longer survey to comment on the Park generally, to tell us in detail how they use the Park, why it is important to them, and how they would like to see it improved for themselves, their family and the local community. They identified issues, problems and areas for improvement, but also told us in detail why they love their local Park, how they use it and why it is an important community asset.

Respondents to the questionnaire were provided with the opportunity to comment on the following:

- What is your favourite thing about Shoreditch Park and why?
- What is your least favourite thing about Shoreditch Park and why?
- If you could improve Shoreditch Park what would you do?
- Any other comments?

A summary of responses to each question follows below.

What is your favourite thing about Shoreditch Park and why?



Most respondents used this question to tell us they liked the open and green space for a variety of reasons from sports to dog walking to just being able to feel a sense of space in the city. One resident referred to the Park as an '*oasis in a heavily populated urban area*'.

Both the adventure playground and the children's play area were heavily praised by local residents who said they felt safe allowing their children to attend the play areas and that the staff that run the adventure playground were amazing and supportive to their children.

Dog walkers also love the Park and told us how they regularly use the Park for dog walking, they enjoy the dog walking community and the open feel of the Park.

Respondents told us they love the diversity of activities within the Park, including funfairs, sports days and the play bus that runs through the summer months.

The Park is heavily used for sports and this is reflected in the results, with a significant number of respondents telling us they use the Park for some form of physical activity. This includes running, rugby and football, many use the Park for exercise on a daily basis.

People told us they also value the wildlife in the Park and many commented on the trees, wildlife, Dorothy Thurtle Gardens, and the range of flowers in the Park. Many respondents told us that the trees offer a sense of calmness and are the main reason they enjoy going to the Park.

The benches, footpaths and children's play area were identified as areas needing an uplift. Some respondents suggested the relocation of the children's play area to a different space in the Park.

People told us they disliked the lack of toilets, cafe, bins, water fountain, picnic benches and gym equipment and facilities for young people.

A high number of respondents told us that dog poo and dogs running freely in the Park ruined their experience of the Park. A significant number of respondents highlighted cycling, litter and poor lighting as current problems needing solutions. Antisocial behaviour and safety at night concerned a great deal of respondents and some told us about specific locations and incidents where antisocial behaviour and crime had taken place.

Most disliked features of Shoreditch Park (Base: 391 respondents to this question)	Comments
The condition of the playing field and area currently used for dog walking	80
The condition of the grassed areas across the Park	38
The litter and how dirty it feels	34
Dog poo	33
The lack of toilets	28
The lack of trees	22
Poor lighting across the Park	21

If you could improve Shoreditch Park what would you do?



The majority of respondents would like to increase the planting of trees and flowers throughout the Park as well as improvements to the condition of the grassed areas / the playing field. There were a high number of requests for outdoor gym equipment and sporting facilities. Many of the respondents provided a large variety of improvement suggestions, indicating that the majority of people like to use the Park for a number of reasons including sport, play, running, entertainment and relaxation. There is a desire to have more community events and space allocated to encourage community gatherings and performances. A high number of responses requested additional seating, picnic areas and cafe/kiosk facilities.

There is a desire to improve security and lighting throughout the Park. A number of respondents requested an increase in maintenance staff on site for both security and general maintenance purposes. A number of respondents requested a separate area for dogs (some suggested near the current play area), in order to prevent them running around the Park.

Most Requested Improvements to Shoreditch Park (Base: 413 respondents to this question)	Comments
Improve the grassed areas and surface of the playing field	96
More trees	92
Requests for an outdoor gym and additional sports facilities	58
Toilet facilities	44
More Flowers	43
Water Fountain and Water Feature	41
Biodiversity	39
Play area upgraded	38
Request for a cafe or coffee/tea provision.	37
Improve Safety and Security with more staff and CCTV	33
Increase Lighting	32
More Seating and Benches	31
Requests for a separate area for dogs.	23
Requests for a Running Track and Wider Footways to accommodate traffic.	22

Any other comments?



In addition to using this section to reiterate their likes and dislikes, respondents also used this section to tell us how much they love and need the Park. Some told us it was '*the best Park in Hackney*' and others how pleased they were to be consulted. Some told us the staff did a good job and were happy money was being invested in their local Park. Some respondents used this space to highlight the negative impact of regeneration in the area on local residents. These included general and specific comments about gentrification in the area, the noise and disruption caused by building works, the removal of trees and reduction in the size of the Park due to the Britannia Development.

A significant number used this space to highlight how important it was that the new Park prioritised and catered for the established community, many of whom don't have gardens and need the green space. The most popular topics people commented on in this section were; wildlife, environment, biodiversity, safety and crime, sports and fitness.

Most frequent comments in the 'Any Other Comments?' section (Base: 122 respondents to this question)	Comments
The improvement project must prioritise the needs of local and established communities	15
I love Shoreditch Park / We need Shoreditch Park / It's the best Park in Hackney	11
The impact of development around the Park has been disruptive to local residents	10
Good use of money / Thank you for investing in our Park / Thank you for consulting local people	8
Don't add too much, it's great as it is with a few minor improvements, keep the big green space, important in urban areas	7

5.5 Highlights from Commonplace Quick Pin Map

The **Quick Pin Map** gave people the option to comment quickly and simply on the specific themes and areas of the Park. Respondents used a drop down menu to select the theme they were commenting on and were asked to provide more written detail. There was also an option to select 'other' and choose another theme or area if they wished. They could also pin more than one comment, but as a respondent they were only counted once.

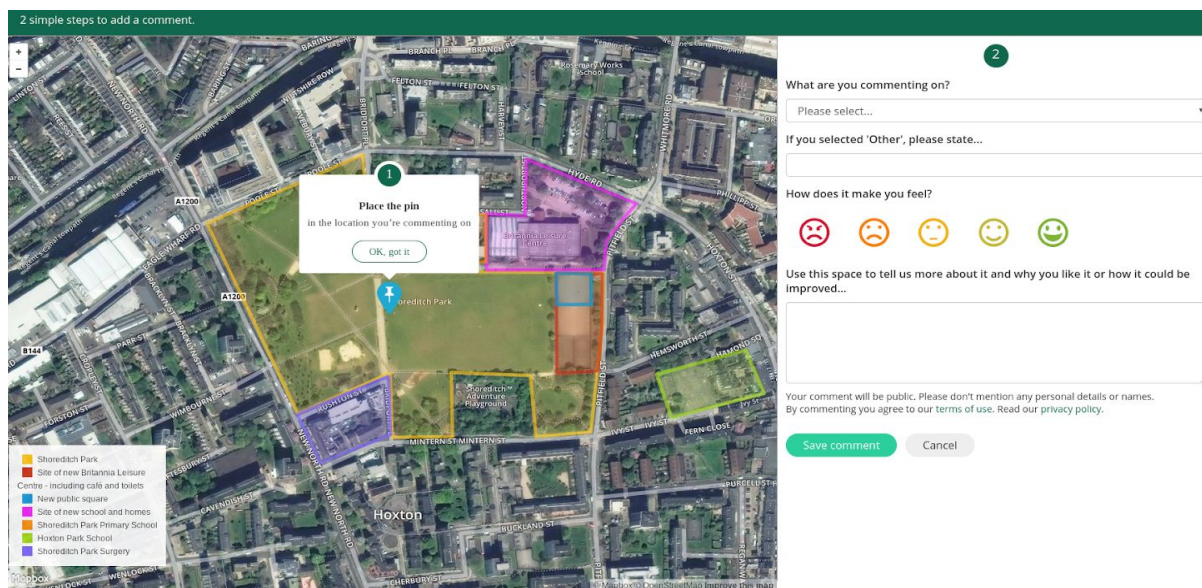


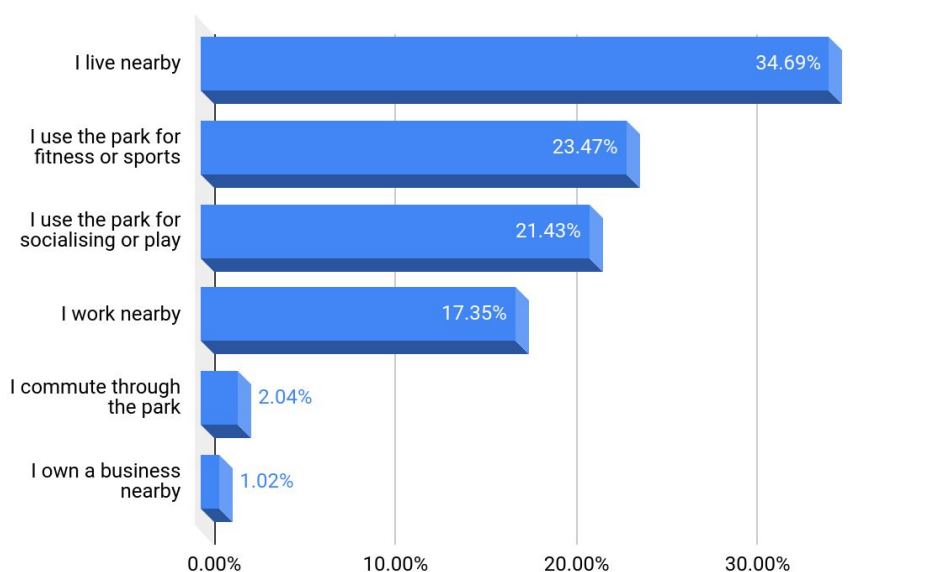
Image: Shoreditch Park Commonplace Quick Pin Map survey page

Below are the results of the comments pinned on the Commonplace Quick Pin Map. **95** responses were received.

What is your connection to Shoreditch Park?

Respondents were asked about their connection to the Park.

(Base 95)

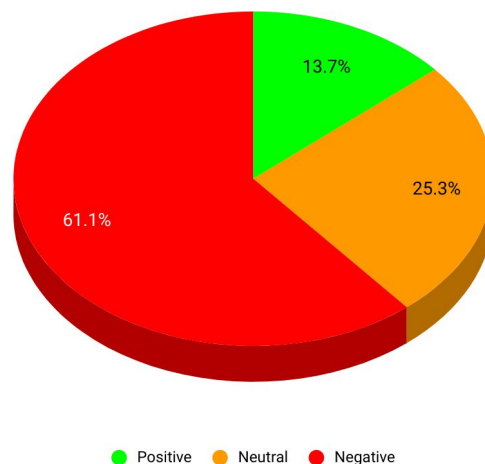


How do you feel about Shoreditch Park?

Respondents were asked to rate how they felt about the Park.

(Base 95)

A low proportion of respondents to the **Quick Pin Map** lived nearby. Out of these **95** respondents **61%** responded with negative feelings towards the Park, with only **14%** responding positively.

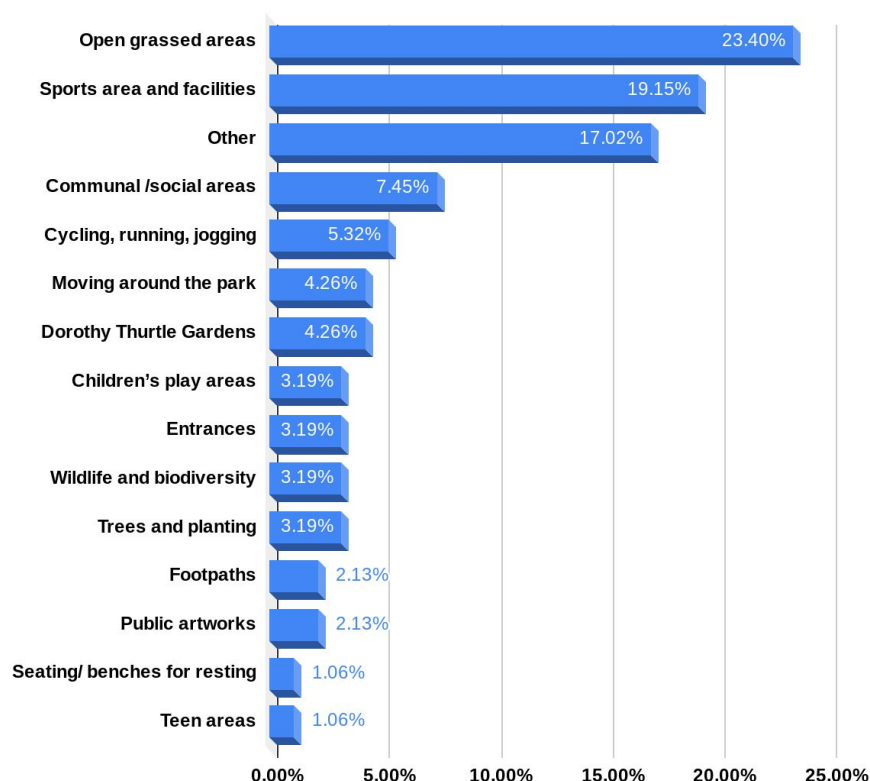


What are you commenting on?

The **Quick Pin Map** prompted people to comment on the specific themes/areas.

Respondents were asked to select a theme using a drop down menu.

(Base 94)



Respondents were also given the option to select 'other' and choose another theme or area if they wished. **17%** of respondents selected 'other' to tell us about the following:

- Railings
- The big rock
- BBQ
- Cafe and other facilities
- Out-door exercise machines
- WC
- Footpath over the hill
- Dog enclosed area
- Construction
- Safety & crime

- Drug dealing

The most popular comments were about the bad condition of the grass, the lack of facilities for older young people, the lack of sports facilities (basketball, football and tennis) and the need for more trees, biodiversity, planting and wildlife.

Tell us more about the thing you are commenting on...



Most frequently occurring comments on the Quick Pin Map	Comments
Bad condition of the sports pitches and open grassed area	24
The Park lacks benches, we need more benches generally and in specific areas	10
The Park lacks trees, we need more trees generally and in specific areas	9
The Park lacks flowers and planting, we need more flowers and planting	8
Bad condition of the grass in particular areas and across the Park	8
We need more for older young people to do and more diverse play	7
The Park lacks outdoor gym equipment, we need outdoor gym equipment	7
The Park is poorly lit, we need better lighting for the sports pitches, along footpaths and to feel safer	7

Where did respondents drop pins and comments?



Shoreditch Park Commonplace Quick Pin Map results page

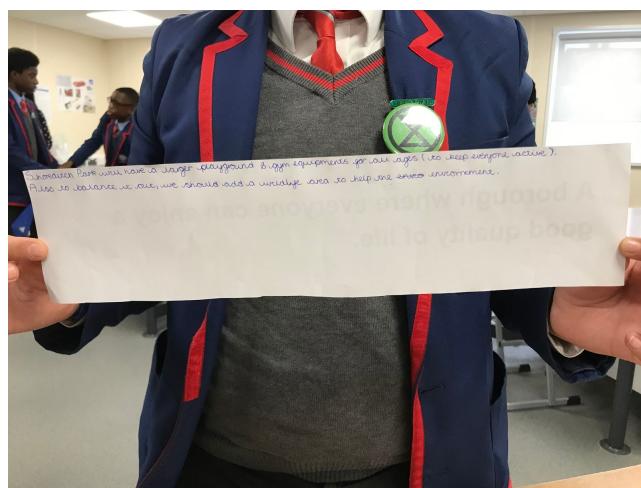
5.6 Focus Groups

Focus groups and discussions were conducted with **1043** local people in **25** sessions. During these targeted sessions with local groups we explored in greater detail the themes and issues we have touched on above and how they affect them as groups of children, young people, older people, local residents, and people who have access needs. We used a range of methods to gather the views and opinions of participants, using large scale maps of the Park, post its and co-design methods to come up with designs and mission statements for the project. Links to the full transcripts of focus group views and feedback are included in the **Thematic Analysis** which follows in section 6, but here are some of the highlights:

Focus Groups with secondary school students

Shoreditch Park Academy School Council: Priorities for the Project

At Shoreditch Park Academy the project team and landscape architects worked with a class of **38** young people (aged 11-14) from the School Council to explore how the Park could help meet the Mayor's priorities for the borough.



In teams they explored their likes and dislikes and ideas for how they would improve the Park, which are reflected in the visions they created for the Park based on the Mayor's priorities around health, growth, sustainability, and creating safer and more supportive communities:

'Shoreditch Park will have a bigger playground and gym equipment for all ages to keep everyone active. Also to balance it out we should add a wildlife area to help the environment.'

'Shoreditch Park will be more child friendly and one of the most safest Parks in Hackney.'

'Shoreditch Park will be an environmentally friendly and sustainable area where animals and people of all ages can be in harmony together, with many trees (reducing carbon emissions), a nature area, solar panelled lights, wildflower areas and fruit trees to promote bees, cat's eye lights (like on a plane), neutral waste collection (compost and recycling), with a green picnic area, a water fountain, pond and bug trail.'

‘Shoreditch Park will be a safe, fun and entertaining space. It would be a social space and welcoming to all.’

‘Shoreditch Park will be a beneficial place for everyone. For people who want sporting opportunities, a place to walk your dog, a place for young kids to play and a calm area to take a walk, a place to bring everyone together in our community.’

Focus groups with ELAAT College Students

17 young people aged 16-19, and **15** aged 18-21 (many with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and **2** tutors took part in two hour-long focus groups, which were co-facilitated by our Project Search Intern.

Participants used maps and photographs of the Park to tell us their likes and dislikes and how they would like to see the Park improved for young people.



Focus Groups in community venues

4 drop in events were organised with community partners in venues around the Park to reach and hear the views and ideas of children, young people, local residents, parents and carers.



Comet Children's Centre staff, parents and carers



Adventure playground staff, children, parents and carers

Presentations and Q&A sessions

Presentations were delivered to give an overview of the project and hear from stakeholders and key groups around key issues and emerging themes.



Shoreditch Park Academy Assemblies



Hackney Business Network Forum

Focus groups with children

Hoxton Garden Primary School

12 children from the Student Council (aged 8-11 from Year 3 - Year 6) took part in 2 sessions with the team and our graduate trainee. In between the sessions each pupil surveyed their class to gain opinions and feedback about how the Park could be improved. In the follow up session they presented their findings to us and provided us with copies of the surveys they had conducted with **334** children in their school.



Shoreditch Park Primary School

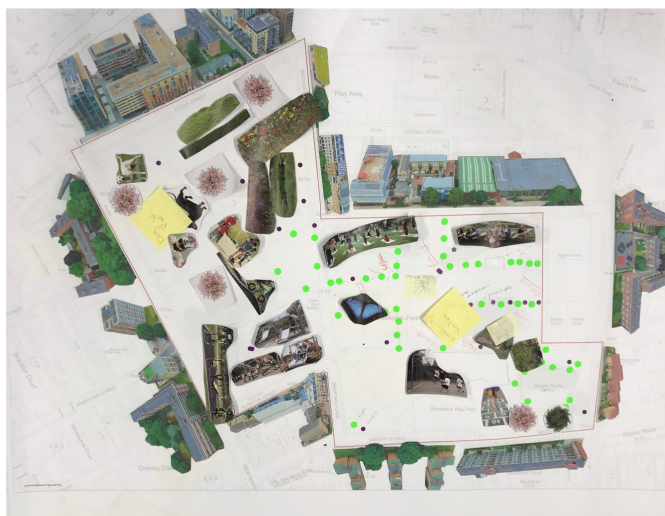
16 children (aged 8-11 from Year 3 - Year 6) took part in a 90 minute site visit and follow up focus group session with the team and our graduate trainee. They visited key areas of the Park (open grassed areas, footpaths, public art, play areas and cycle path) making notes on their likes and dislikes. Back at school they worked in teams to identify the key areas for improvement and came up with solutions for improving the children and their families.



Co-Design workshops

Shoreditch Park Academy Art and Design

29 Year 7 Art and Design students (aged 11-12) took part in a 2 hour co-design workshop with LUC architects. After taking part in the full school assembly, a short presentation from LUC and a discussion about co-design the class was divided into 5 groups and given an assortment of cut-outs representing different features that they may like to see on site in the future. As a group they discussed the options for the site according to the Mayor's priorities for Hackney.



Group 1

- Formal garden with pathways and a water feature at the centre
- Orchard trees
- Areas for active recreation
- A designated dog exercise area or 'dog Park'
- A community garden
- Enhanced play area
- Natural area created to the north, with pond, wildflower area and landforms
- Ball court shown near Adventure Playground



Group 2

- Formal paths created through the football pitch area, with community growing area
- 'Cafe for adults'
- Dog area in the north of the site
- Pond in Dorothy Thurtle Gardens
- Outdoor gym adjacent to play area
- Picnic area and outdoor chess at Mintern St entrance
- Area designated for homeless people to live in the north west of the site



Group 3

- 'Pirate playground' with ship
- Shelter structure from rain
- 'Disabled swing'
- Pond
- Yoga area
- Dog area by Mintern St entrance
- Chess tables for old people
- SkatePark
- Formal water fountain



Group 4

- Wildflower meadow and orchard in location of the football pitches, along with landform and a pond
- Heart sculpture in the middle of the Park, along with cafe
- New enclosed play area
- Football net in play area
- Dog area at the north of the site
- Pollinator and wildflower area to the north west of the site
- Lights for nighttime



Group 5

- BBQ Area at the north of the Park
- Skate Park
- Water feature in the centre of football pitches
- Art installation in Dorothy Thurtle Gardens
- Exercise space near to playground
- Area for flowerbeds
- Woodland with treehouses at west of the site
- Baby play area at the Mintern st entrance
- Heart sculpture
- Animal farm
- Picnic tables and wildlife zone

6. Thematic Analysis

In this section you will find summaries of all online and focus group responses gathered into the key themes emerging from the consultation.

The following recurring themes came up in most focus group discussions:

- **The general feel/atmosphere**
- **Cycling**
- **Dogs**
- **Footpaths**
- **Safety and crime**
- **Open grassed areas**
- **Public art**
- **Communities and gathering**
- **Play**
- **Features and facilities**
- **Wildlife, nature and biodiversity**
- **Trees**
- **Sports and fitness**
- **Boundaries and entrances**
- **Events and activities**
- **Design and navigation**

Each group consulted had their own perspective on each theme and tended to propose improvements according to the age of participants in the group, their connection to the Park, and whether they were users or non-users. The following groups, stakeholders and individuals put forward ideas either by sending proposals or taking part in focus groups with the project team and landscape architects.

Young People <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoreditch Park Academy School Council • Shoreditch Park Academy Art and Design Students • ELAAT College SEND Students Focus Groups • Adventure Playground Staff, Children and Parents/Carers 	Interest Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street Artists Focus Group • Local Police Focus Group • London Beach Volleyball Options Appraisal • Hackney BMX Proposal • Open Letter with Ideas from Local Artist
Children under 11 and Under 5s <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comet Children's Centre staff and Under 5s Parents/Carers • Hoxton Garden Primary School Council • Shoreditch Park Primary School Site Visit 	Wellbeing Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendship Group at Shoreditch Trust • Walking Group at Shoreditch Trust • Stroke Recovery Communications Group at Shoreditch Trust
Internal Insight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoreditch Park Ground Staff SWOT Analysis • Parks Events Team Focus Group • Parks Events Team Map 	Public Drop In Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Advice Drop In at Hoxton Trust • Shoreditch Park Public Consultation Event • Public Consultation Co-Design Workshop
Stakeholders and Businesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Board Focus Group • Shoreditch Business Forum Focus Group 	

6.1 Feel of the Park and atmosphere

178 people told us they loved the space and the open grassed areas, with **8** telling us they loved the landscape and **10** telling us it felt comfortable and welcoming and friendly. **19** told us it felt relaxing and **10** told us they found the Park to be clean. In the **Any Other Comments** question, **2** respondents thought the Park was 'clean' and 'well kept'.

15 people said the Park was 'boring' and 'didn't really feel like a Park' and **12** used the words 'ugly, bleak, barren, sparse, basic, isolating, sterile' to describe the Park currently. **10** said they felt the Park didn't have a 'heart' or 'focal point' and was poorly designed and another **10** said the Park was 'too open, flat and/or exposed'. **3** described it as just a walk through. **9** told us it wasn't diverse enough or lacked imagination. **7** told us it wasn't big enough. **9** people told us the Park didn't need adding to, that it's great as it is.

In focus groups at the **Adventure Playground, Shoreditch Park Academy Secondary and ELAAT College**, young people told us they liked the sense of space, the greenery and trees, and how the Park felt in the daytime. They told us they liked the art, wild environment, leisure centre, the rock, benches, cycle paths, volleyball court and trees we all mentioned as good features of the Park.

At the **Hoxton Trust Free Legal Advice Drop-In** local residents suggested more hidden areas, relaxing areas to sit, and the need for more shelter from the rain and the road. In a focus group with local street artists, the artists discussed what makes a Park have a heart and how art in Shoreditch Park should be a focal point. They got excited talking about undulations and mounds and variations in ground levels and sightlines.

Improvements:

Suggested improvements included creating an atmosphere with energy and colourful, beautiful, quality areas. One respondent requested an '*Urban version of Clissold Park*'.

4 respondents requested a central focal point / heart within the Park.

There is a desire to have a mixture of separate areas within the Park, for play, relaxation, picnics, wilderness and sport.

Improvement requests	Comments
Picnic Area	15
Prettier - Colour, Beautiful	5
Young people area	2
Sections Quite Spaces for Adults, character areas	2
Create a Central Focus / Heart	4

6.2 Features of the Park (Amphitheatre, Public Art, Boulder, Dorothy Thurtle Gdns)

16 people told us their favourite thing about the Park was the public art and **6** people told us they loved the amphitheatre. **2** people used the **Quick Pin Map** to tell us they liked the public art in the Park. People generally like the rock to climb on and to meet people at - during a site visit with a wellbeing walking group the walk leader commented on the rock, saying *'it's here now, it's the main thing people mention about Shoreditch Park'*.

In focus groups at **Hoxton Garden** and **Shoreditch Park Primary** schools the children tended to like the public art because they had grown up with it, it felt familiar, and it has memories, but many told us they want to know what it means. One said they liked the sculpture because it is *"creative and the heart of the Park"* and another told us *"I dislike the cross because it is just a cross in a field"*.

7 people dislike the public art in the Park with one describing the art as being *'foisted'* on the Park and unwanted. The amphitheatre was described as run down or tired by **3** people and **1** respondent said it was lacking a performance area. A participant in the stroke recovery group we spoke to told us *"I don't like the big stone, it stands alone with no history"*

On the **Quick Pin Map** Dorothy Thurtle Gardens was mentioned **3** times as something people liked about the Park, one described it as a 'really good place to sit and relax and read a book' and another suggested it would make a good performance area. People like the mound, but all suggesting improvements, particularly to the footpath over the mound and more planting.

One local artist submitted a design for a new sculpture and another sent an open letter full of ideas about integrating more sculpture and art into the park and introducing arts and cultural events.

Improvements:

15 Respondents requested more art and cultural features within the Park, referencing acknowledging Shoreditch as an art and fashion hub. There were a couple of requests to provide visible information related to the art on display, it is currently not clear what the art is for.

6 respondents requested more music and opportunities for musical performances at the amphitheatre or an inbuilt stage.

1 respondent suggested that it would be better to invest in improving planting and landscaping as opposed to art and amphitheatre.

4 requests for a heart / focal point within the Park.

Improvement requests	Comments
More art and cultural features within the Park, referencing history, local community and acknowledging Shoreditch as an art and fashion hub.	15
Music performances and opportunities at amphitheatre or inbuilt stage	6
Heart and focal point within Park	4
Request for Outdoor Cinema	2

Improve footpaths, drainage at Dorothy Thurtle Garden	1
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6.3 Open grassed areas

178 people said the green space and open grassed area is their favorite thing about the Park and that it was good for dog walking (**31**) and playing with dogs (**13**), great for walking (**20**), and good for picnics (**18**).

Overwhelmingly though, people disliked the condition of the grass on the informal sports pitches and grassed area currently used by dog walkers. Online, **104** people told us the grass in this area was uneven, bumpy, had drainage issues and potholes that had caused accidents to the people using the grassed area for sports. A further **46** commented on the condition of the grass across the Park generally describing it as unloved, uncared for, bumpy, unhealthy and muddy.

19 people used the **Quick Pin Map** to comment on the open grassed areas with **4** feeling 'neutral' about these areas and the remaining **15** feeling 'negatively' or 'mostly negatively' about the open grassed areas saying they looked '*unloved*', '*patchy*', '*overused*', '*dusty*', '*muddy*', '*poor drainage*', '*bumpy*', '*bland*', '*pot holed*', '*littered*', and has caused injuries for sports players.

Improvements:

96 (23%) of respondents would improve the quality of the grassed areas and playing fields. Requests were received to remove the pot holes and ensure regular maintenance so the area is safe to play, walk and run on.

3 respondents requested the grassed area is reduced in size.

Improvement requests	Comments
Improve quality of grass and playing field	96
Reduce grassed area	3

6.4 Overall design and navigation

77 commented on the Park being in an ideal location, close to their home or work, or the only space nearby to find a big, open expanse of land. **7** told us the pathways through the Park were convenient and **14** commented on the Parks accessibility.

People commented online on navigation through the Park with **4** people describing it as ‘fragmented’ or ‘like 4 different Parks’ and **6** people mentioned footpaths being poorly maintained, inaccessible for wheelchair users in places, and there being a lack of signage to help with direction. People commented on the ‘desire lines’ that would benefit from being made into maintained footpaths, particularly in the Dorothy Thurtle gardens and across some of the grassed areas.

Participants of the **Shoreditch Trust Walking Group** who we took on a site visit to the Park wanted to know more about the history of Dorothy Thurtle, the artworks, Gainsborough Studios and the Time Team discoveries. They felt that interpretation in the Park would make people want to stay in the Park and not just use it to walk through. One participant in the stroke recovery group also wanted to see the history of the artworks and information about the people the Park is dedicated to.

In focus groups **Comet Children’s Centre** staff talked about having adequate provision for wheelchair users and SEND children, by widening footpaths, adding sensory elements, and raised beds. Participants of the **Shoreditch Trust Stroke Recovery Group** would like more variation in the footpaths because they liked walking round the Park, so they would like some paths to be straight, but some to be bendy and winding to make it more interesting to walk around. They suggested we could turn old trees into benches so they looked natural and interesting. They suggested we look at St Mary’s Secret Garden as a good example of a garden that is accessible and an interesting sensory experience for people with disabilities.

Participants of the **Shoreditch Trust Walking Group** who we took on a site visit to the Park talked about the importance of wildlife for creating a sense of wellbeing and creating more areas to discover in the Park to encourage more walking. They suggested Clissold Park as a good example of how to introduce water to a Park and talked about how they liked Haggerston and Springfield because they felt more ‘natural’ and less flat. They liked walking over the mound in Dorothy Thurtle gardens, but wanted the path to be better maintained.

The **Project Board** felt the current Park lacked character and variation and felt the way the Park was divided up now seemed ‘unfinished and unclear’.

Improvements:

Comments relating to the widening of footways are mainly requests for a running track or wider footways to accommodate pedestrians and runners.

‘Simply widening the path and replacing the wood chip / concrete with some soft rubberised running tracks would transform this Park into a hub of fitness and community and would allow people to make a lot more use from it.’ Currently most local runners can’t really use the Park so instead run the canal path which is always congested with cyclists, a soft running track around the almost exactly 1km exterior of Shoreditch Park would be a game changer!’

A number of requests were made for separate areas for adults as well as young people.

Most comments that referred to the entrances were requests to narrow them in order to prevent vehicles and cyclists accessing the Park easily. There is a request for modal filtering on Mintern Street to make the entrance safe.

Improvement requests	Comments
Widen Footway / Running Track	22
Hedges improved to create boundary between Park and the road prevent noise and pollution.	13
Different zones including young people area, adult area	5
Sheltered Area	4
Walkways and Pathways	4
Narrow Entrances	4
Wayfinding / Navigation links to nearby green spaces.	4
Celebrate History of the Park	4
Charging point for phone, electric park	2
Instructional Signage	1
Non Smoking	1
Disabled Parking Facilities	1
Noise Blocking Screens	1

6.5 Facilities

8 people told us they liked the fact that the Park was vehicle free and another **8** described it as being good at meeting the needs of local people. **10** respondents liked sitting on the benches and the amphitheatre (**8**) and the fact that it was open and accessible for local people all year round (**8**).

People told us they disliked the lack of toilets (**28**), benches (**7**), water fountains (**9**), cafe (**5**), picnic tables (**2**), and that the benches in the Park are dirty and covered in bird poo (**10**). In the Other Comments section the lack/need for all of the above facilities was also highlighted, **1** said the Park didn't need a coffee shop because there were so many nearby, **1** suggested that the Park needed 'modernising' and **2** people suggested Wifi points. Participants of the stroke recovery group and their carers suggested Wifi charging and a first aid port.

11 respondents raised concerns about current levels of maintenance being poor and **4** said that any design we came up with would need to be maintainable. Most comments about maintenance were to do with the upkeep of the Park generally, but one said the Park lacked a permanent Park rangers office and another said that any new toilets would need to be well maintained.

Participants of the **Shoreditch Business Network** Q&A session told us that they'd like somewhere to gather in the Park, somewhere for employees to buy and eat lunch, and somewhere they could get coffee and work. They explained that currently it felt like a thoroughfare and needed more social areas.

Improvements:

Improvement requests	Comments
Request for Toilets	44
Cafe - Healthy food drink provision	37
More seating and benches	31
Water Fountain	23
Water Feature including play	18
Bins	18
Market	12
Pram Buggy Areas	2
Benches to be cleaned	2
Recycling Facilities	1

6.6 Community and Gathering

When asked what they liked about the Park **41** people told us about the diverse activities available and seeing the Park being used by the community including the music festivals and fairgrounds, the play, the archaeology events, school sports days, summer parties, sports teams using the pitches, the coming together of the local community, and many commenting on the large space being ideal for outdoor activities happening alongside each other generally. Some spoke of the fact that they liked the Park because it can be used by the diverse local community, another said they liked the different zones and the fact it had 'something for everyone'. One person said the Park was *'literally at the bottom of my road. It has played a major part in my transformation. It has really helped me to accomplish my fitness goals and has been beautiful place for recreation for me. This Park has a special place in my heart'* and another used this section to tell us that the Park needs a friends group.

7 people told us they didn't like the Park being used for BBQs and the impact of smoke, litter and increased antisocial behaviour during peak BBQ use. **3** people told us the thing they disliked most about the Park was not being able to have BBQs and that the Park should have a dedicated BBQ area where families, particularly those without gardens, could get together and socialise. One told us the Park lacked space for community events and hire.

7 respondents highlighted the importance of prioritising the needs of the established community living around the Park, telling us many don't have gardens and need the green space, that they

hoped the new Park would not be 'gentrified' or feel 'alienating to local communities' and **10** told us to make the Park a better space for communal and community events.

Improvements:

There were **7** requests for BBQs and **15** requests for picnic areas.

Improvement requests	Comments
Picnic area	15
Art	15
Community Events / Involvement, Communal Area	10
BBQ area requests	7
More Music - Facilities for Musical Performances	6
Ban Fair - Less Carnivals	5
Create a Central Focus Heart	4
More events, use of Amphitheatre	6
Improve Benches	2
Less Art	1

6.7 Dogs

Dog walking in the open grassed areas was something many residents told us they liked about the Park. **31** people said they regularly use the Park for dog walking activities and **13** said they enjoy the dog walking community that the Park has created. Respondents described it as '*dog friendly*', '*the biggest space locally to walk dogs*' and one respondent telling us how great it was to be able to let their dog off the lead and not being confined to a small area.

33 people told us the thing they disliked most about the Park was the dog poo and **22** told us that dogs ruined the atmosphere in the Park making it '*dirty*', '*unsafe*' and '*unrelaxing*', and that they disliked the aggressive dogs using the Park. **4** told us they disliked dogs being allowed to run freely, **2** told us the Park lacked dog bins and **9** told us it lacked a dedicated or fenced dog area.

Dogs also came up in the Other Comments section with **2** people telling us they loved walking their dog in the Park and **1** telling us they loved the new dog water stations, **4** telling us they would like a dedicated dog area, and **1** warning that closed off dogs areas become unattractive. Needing more dog poo bins (**1**), dogs ruining the atmosphere of the Park (**1**) were also highlighted in this section.

In focus groups **Comet Children's Centre** staff talked about the problem of dog poo when taking groups of children into the Park to have a picnic and about it feeling like a dog Park, rather than a children's Park. Younger children at **Hoxton Garden Primary** and **Shoreditch Park Primary** thought dogs should not be able to run freely and that there should be a dedicated dog area, more dog bins and free dog poo bags. The reasons they gave were the amount of dog poo, dogs running up to them and scaring them and allergies. Young people at **ELAAT College** generally agreed that

dogs weren't a high priority, and the group were fairly split over the issue of dogs running freely and dogs having a 'dog area' but all agreed that dog poo was a problem and the Park needed more dog poo and litter bins.

The over 55 participants we spoke to in **Shoreditch Trust Friendship and Wellbeing Groups** all agreed that dogs should have a separate area. The **Project Board** were split over creating a dog friendly area and letting them run free, but felt that regardless of the outcome of the consultation, a fenced area for younger children to keep the dogs out should be a priority.

Improvements:

There were a high number of requests for a separate dog area and solutions to clean up the dog mess on site.

Improvement requests	Comments
Separate area for dogs	23
Facilities for dogs	4
Dog bins	2
Solution to clean up dog mess	10

6.8 Play

99 (24.75%) people commented on the fact that they feel safe using the play areas and that the staff that run the adventure playground were amazing. **53** included the play area in their favourite thing about the Park, **46** mentioned the Adventure Playground and **6** mentioned the sand pit as a good play feature of the Park. Within this section, there was a strong sense from respondents that, as good as the play areas are, they are in direct need of a face lift, as most of the structures felt dated and needed modernising.

People told us the current play area was tired and in need of an update and refresh (**7**) and that there wasn't enough for older young people to do (**11**) and that the Park would benefit for more diverse play across the Park for all ages (**7**). **2** people mentioned the lack of sheltered play and **3** didn't like the sandpit in the play area.

In focus groups **Comet Children's Centre** staff and parents talked about the importance of having facilities and play near to each other and the issue of security around the pre-school and primary age children using the Park. They suggested moving the play area entirely to the Britannia end, where it would be near toilets and the cafe and all the schools in the area. The families of pre-school and primary age children talked about the Park being better for younger children, but how older children get bored of it around the age of 10 and 12. Young children at **Hoxton Garden** and **Shoreditch Park Primary Schools** like the play area, particularly the big swing, but they would also like markings on concrete for hopscotch, a zipline, trampoline, kingball, a hopscotch with the history of Hackney. Many mentioned having more swings in the Park because there are long queues and it causes arguments and higher slides and things to climb on. In general the children wanted more adventurous and dangerous play including underground tunnels, bridges, things to climb (trees and treehouses) and jump on (the rock is too high for them) and for Parkour - one said this was so their parents could join in too.

During the **Project Board** focus group a representative from Public Health told us effort should be taken to try to reduce smoking around children's play area, through the introduction of smoke free areas and signage and the Park should be a dementia friendly space, and welcoming to people with learning difficulties and mental illness.

Improvements:

38 respondents requested improvements to create a better quality exciting play area for children of different age groups. Comments included 5 requests to create a creche or small playroom. Gates around the area.

Improvement requests	Comments
Better quality more challenging play equipment for different age groups	38
Water feature including play	18
Creche or small play room	5
Gated play area	3
Pram Area	1

6.9 Litter

Online many commented on the general maintenance of the Park, stating litter as a problem and a priority. When asked about their likes **10** people described the Park as clean and well maintained, and in the dislikes section **35** people mentioned litter being an issue, specifically after late night partying (**7**), crows ruining the atmosphere and needing crow proof bins (**6**), and there being a lack of bins in the Park generally (**11**).

Children at **Hoxton Garden** and **Shoreditch Park Primary Schools** talked about the problem with litter and about people leaving glass bottles in the children's play area. They suggested fines for people dropping litter and volunteers to keep the Park clean and the need for more park rangers to help keep it clean and safe. They suggested introducing signs and holding public education events to help people understand why littering is bad.

At **ELAAT College** young people talked about anti social behaviour, cycling, drugs, gangs, smoking and litter and the group felt signs around the Park wouldn't work and that people would ignore them. It was suggested (and the majority agreed) that making the Park more interesting with more activities for young people would make it feel safer and mean young people wouldn't be bored and tempted to vandalise the Park or engage in antisocial behaviour.

Improvements:

Improvement requests	Comments
Recycling Facilities	1
Crows Create a Mess	2
Bins and Waste Collection Improvements	3
Increased Maintenance on Site / Cleaner	11

6.10 Cycling

8 people told us they enjoyed cycling through the Park and how good it was for commuting, and the availability of hire bikes. 4 told us the Park was great for kids learning to ride bikes and scooters along the footpaths.

Online people mentioned the poor attitude of cyclists (6), people cycling too fast (12) and highlighted mopeds being a problem and making the footpaths unsafe (5). 5 people suggested that a Park isn't a place for cycling and some mentioned there being adequate cycle paths either side of the Park. 3 people told us that there weren't enough bikes to hire and 4 mentioned the lack of designated cycle/pedestrian only paths being an issue.

Participants of the **Shoreditch Trust Friendship Group and Stroke Recovery Group** all agreed that finding a solution to the problem of cyclists going too fast should be a priority. They told us it was currently dangerous for them to walk in the Park and one told us *"I have walking-sticks or a wheelchair and I've been hit twice by cyclists"*.

During the **Project Board** focus group one representative of Street Scene team told us that providing 24/7 access through the Park for cyclists and walkers was essential in an attempt to promote walking and/or cycling as an alternative to driving.

One participant of the **Shoreditch Business Network** Q&A session who commuted to work through the Park and lived locally suggested that the Park should be closed off to cyclists who had ample cycle routes on the roads around the Park, and it would be safer and calmer if cyclists were diverted. A discussion followed where it was suggested that if cycling through the Park did prove to be necessary through the consultation, then the paths needed to be better marked out for cyclists and pedestrians and that something needed to be done about the speed people cycle through because it is currently dangerous. One of the street artists also cycled through the Park and told us *"I cycle through there, but I don't think you should be able to because it's dangerous. There's also no need. You should redirect cyclists to the cycle paths either side - it's dangerous for cyclists and kids. There's no need for us to go through there, it's not a cut through. The Park should not be dissected by cyclists. London Fields cycle path is not clearly marked. You lose sight of the defined areas part way down. Pedestrians particularly"*.

Improvements:

Improvement requests	Comments
Request for cyclists to slow down	8
Create Entrances that prevent Motor Vehicles and Cyclists speeding through	4
More Cycle Paths	3
Bike Locks	2
Bike only areas	1

6.11 Wildlife, nature and biodiversity

Wildlife was also amongst the more popular attractions to the Park with **69** people commenting on the trees, wild grass areas (**13**), Dorothy Thurtle Gardens (**3**) and the range of flowers in the Park (**5**). **12%** of residents say the trees offer a sense of calmness and are the main reason they enjoy going to the Park.

Online people told us about the lack of trees (**36**) with **5** people telling us about the condition and placing of trees in specific areas and **3** saying the Park needed more shade in the summer. A similarly high number also told us about the lack of planting and floral diversity (**31**) with **9** people making suggestions for planting, foraging and fruit trees, community gardens and more diverse agriculture.

10 people told us the Park wasn't 'wild' enough and **7** told us they would like to see water and wetland. **9** mentioned the Park lacking in biodiversity, and **10** wanted to see more nature and wildlife generally. In addition to the more general comments and suggestions about adding more wildlife and nature, in the 'any other comments' space **6** people told us they would like to see biodiversity and climate response prioritised in the Park improvements specifically, that it should take priority over both lighting and the addition of artificial features and fixtures.

Participants of the Stroke Recovery Group we spoke to would like more sensory elements - planting, colours, trees, gardens with flowers, community gardens for growing vegetables, trees with fruit.

In focus groups **Comet Children's Centre** staff and parents talked about having more wild and natural areas with pond dipping, natural play, wild areas, bee friendly planting, wooded areas, more water, somewhere to pond dip and as natural as possible for their children to use for forest school. Overall primary age children love wildlife and animals and would like to see more trees, nature and animals, wood and water areas.

The 'over 55' participants we spoke to in **Shoreditch Trust Friendship and Wellbeing Groups** agreed there needed to be more trees and wildlife, but that we need to balance trees with the feeling of open space. They stressed how important it was to have open space in the city where people have small gardens and the need to see space.

In a focus group with **local street artists** they told us Shoreditch Park should lead the way in terms of responding to the climate emergency and creating a better environment for bees, with the introduction of big trees, a community garden, trees growing wild fruit and forest food, more planting and a formal garden. The **Project Board** would also like to see more diversity - visually with the introduction of more colour, and varying heights and textures, and environmentally with ecological enhancements such as more flowers, water and wetlands, edible plants and orchards, more green edging and shadowing, composting and recycling similar to Haggerston Park.

Improvements:

The majority of respondents would improve the number of trees and planting on site to improve biodiversity, absorb pollution, create shady quiet areas, assist with climate change and to soundproof noise from New North Road.

Improvement Request	Comments
More Trees, Shrubs and Wild Area	92
Biodiversity	39
Request More Flowers	43
Wetlands / Pond	13
More Shrubs & Planting	5
Wilderness Trail	5
Prettier, more colour, create a beautiful Park	5
Add Mounds and Landscaping	5
Communal Garden	3
Bat Boxes	1
Botanical garden	1

6.12 Sports and fitness

140 people told us they use the Park for some form of physical activity, particularly running (**16**), walking (**20**), volleyball (**8**), rugby (**22**), table tennis (**5**), and football (**15**), and **42 (10.5%)** of respondents telling us they use the Park for general exercise on a daily basis.

In focus groups with young people the Park was described as a good place to take part in tournaments, running around, taking a walk and jogging. Suggestions for making the Park inviting for young people, to potentially include a skate park, football pitches, bike ramp, basketball, rugby and tennis courts, structures to climb on, and outdoor gym equipment.

The biggest issue highlighted by respondents online was the condition of the grass on the informal sports pitches (also currently used by dog walkers). Online **104** people told us the grass in this area was uneven, bumpy, had drainage issues and potholes that had caused accidents to the

people using the grassed area for sports. Many of those commenting spoke of specific incidents where they had been playing tag rugby and received injuries as a result of the uneven ground.

The lack of outdoor gym equipment was also a high priority of respondents of all ages (22) with many stating that they would like to be able to exercise outdoors for free. A 60 year old Turkish resident wrote in his questionnaire *'there's nothing favourite there for me. Am 60 and there's nothing for older people to do. At Turnpike Lane Park they have an outdoor gym, so does other Parks'*.

A high proportion of people we met in the focus groups also highlighted this as a way to improve the health and wellbeing of older people, particularly low income and marginalised communities, and people recovering from illness, and as a good way to make the Park more appealing to older young people. Some participants of the stroke recovery group we spoke to said they would use outdoor gym equipment to help with recovery.

A participant who attends the **Shoreditch Trust Friendship and Wellbeing Group** told us *'In Turkey adults exercise in every Park. Everybody goes and enjoys it, but we don't have it here. It's a good social space for older people to exercise together and we need it for free'* and the two Black British participants of the group also agreed it would be a good addition for older people in their community too. An older Asian woman at the **Hoxton Trust Free Legal Advice Drop-In** told that outdoor gyms were especially important for the older Asian community for fitness and to make friends and to save the council money in the long term... and another participant told us that *'senior citizens need them for fitness and to make friends and it helps people get fitter so we don't need to go to the GP'*.

Young people and the parents of young people told us they wanted skate parks, BMX tracks, tennis and basketball and that the running tracks needed to be better maintained and extend around the full perimeter of the Park with distance markers (7). Many young people we met in focus groups highlighted the lack of facilities, particularly the lack of a permanent football pitch and goals, one saying they would like to be able to play football whenever they wanted and not having to pay to use the leisure centre to play football. 5 people told us they disliked the Park being used for military fitness that didn't benefit local people. *"Can we please install a workout area? This Park is screaming out for a communal place to work out and is a great way to build community. A state of the art workout area would not cost a lot but would add serious value to the land use and save significant amounts of money for local residents who otherwise have to pay a private company to use a gym"*.

London Beach Volleyball Club, 25% of whose members are Hackney residents, submitted an options appraisal for the court as part of the consultation. The options appraisal includes suggested upgrades to the existing court, ideas about the location of the court, the addition of a second court, and requests for lighting, shelter, water fountains and seating and a 'larger and more flexible space to increase membership'. When they are using the court they have a lot of interest from children and young people and would like to run programmes for young people and the local schools, so any improvement would need to take this into consideration and include the provision of the facilities listed above and good sightlines to easily monitor young participants.

Hackney BMX submitted a proposal after the consultation had closed.

Improvements:

The majority of comments requested improvements to the surface of the football / rugby pitch. Some requested improvements to the drainage of the boules pitch. Many respondents requested outdoor gym facilities and surfacing allow them to do exercises. Many respondents would like the opportunity to play a number of different sports at the Park. Some suggested using the wall of the Leisure Centre to paint goal posts and cricket wickets.

Improvement Request	Comments
Improve surface for rugby/football/running (Improve pitch for Rugby) (Improve pitch for Football)	96 (9) (20)
Outdoor Gym / Calisthenics Equipment	58
Running Track	22
Sports - General	12
Football Pitch, Goal Posts	7
Tennis Court	7
Skate Park / Bike Ramp	6
Table Tennis	3
Pool / Lido	3
Astroturf Pitches/Tarmac for Workouts Sports	3
Improve Drainage of Boules Pitch	2
Beach Volleyball (an additional court)	2
Cricket	2
Park Run	1
Rock Climbing	1
Badminton Court	1
Chess	1

6.13 Safety and crime

When asked what they liked about the Park **5** people told us they felt safe in the Park, mainly with regards to it being well maintained and clean, feeling 'relatively safe' and the fences around the play area making it feel safe for children.

Poor lighting was mentioned frequently (**28**) as one of the things people disliked most about the Park, mainly in comments related to the Park feeling unsafe at night (**11**) and unsafe generally (**15**). Poor lighting was also highlighted as an issue by **4** people using the **Quick Pin Map**. Gangs and specific instances of gang activity in the Park were mentioned by **9** people, **16** mentioned ASB more broadly, and **3** people commented on aggressive or intimidating teenagers or young people. Other mentions of ASB in the Park included joyriding, mobile phone theft, kidnapping, guns, theft

and begging. **10** people mentioned drug dealing and drug use in the Park (sometimes with specific locations and instances) and nitrous oxide use was also mentioned. People also used the 'any other comments' questions to highlight safety and crime as a key priority, with **5** mentioning the Park feeling unsafe, **4** wanting better lighting, **2** wanting more CCTV, and gangs, ASB, drug dealing and youth behavior all being highlighted here too. **8** mentioned the lack of a Park ranger or the security of policing made the Park feel less safe.

In focus groups the majority of young people we spoke to at **ELAAT College, Shoreditch Park Academy** and the **Adventure Playground** said they felt unsafe in Shoreditch Park in the evening and at night and various solutions to the problem were discussed including CCTV, locking the Park at night, and more enforcement (which some felt would be effective and others felt it wouldn't stop crime, it was fairly split). They talked about antisocial behaviour, cycling, drugs, gangs, smoking and litter and the group felt signs around the Park wouldn't work and that people would ignore them. It was suggested (and the majority agreed) that making the Park more interesting with more activities for young people would make it feel safer and mean young people wouldn't be bored and tempted to vandalise the Park or engage in antisocial behaviour. They discussed lighting as a possible solution and the majority agreed that safety solutions should be prioritised above everything else, including the environment. One participant felt that nature and wildlife and darkness in the Park was important and suggested a wildlife friendly area of the Park could be shut off at night and one participant suggested dim lighting at night so that wildlife would still be encouraged in the Park. All agreed this would be a good idea. During the **Project Board** focus group a representative of the Adventure Playground told us that the Park needed to feel safer for young people and that any improvements made should also work to reduce anti social behaviour in the Park during the evenings and at night.

The over 55 participants we spoke to in **Shoreditch Trust Friendship and Wellbeing Groups** all worry about safety in the Park, particularly at night, but there was a split in opinion about whether CCTV was a good solution or not.

In a focus group with **Police Officers** in the Park they all agreed Shoreditch Park was one of the safest Parks in Hackney. They talked about closing Parks at night and how it wouldn't stop people getting into the Park and that some solutions to creating a nice and safer Park for the community safety could be better public education about not taking risks and creating a Park that looked and felt better so people respected it.

Improvements:

Request	Comments
Improved safety, alcohol ban - increase the number of staff within the Park to reduce anti-social behaviour	19
CCTV - Security	14
No smoking	1
Lighting improvements	32

6.14 Events and activities in the Park

41 told us that they use the Park for a range of different activities, this included fun fairs, sports days and the play bus that runs through the summer months. They enjoyed the Park for family picnics (18) and for playing games (7).

A high number of people (19) told us about the negative impact of the fun fair being hosted in the Park saying it caused litter, antisocial behaviour and noise for local residents and didn't add benefit to the local community, others suggested improvements and solutions such as moving it into other areas of the Park, reducing the entrance fee and putting in place rules to reduce the above. 6 people told us they disliked the noise and litter during after events in the Park.

In a focus group with the **Parks Events Team** the logistical considerations associated with redesigning the park were explored, particularly around the position of bollards and access gates and roads, and the provision of power and water to facilitate events and activities in the Park.

A local artist sent an open letter full of ideas that included an annual ethnic cultural festival and graffiti festival in the park to celebrate street art in Shoreditch.

Improvements:

There were a number of requests for opportunities to have musical performances, theatre, outdoor cinemas, school productions and community events within the Park. Some respondents requested a reduced number of events within the Park.

Improvement requests	Comments
Community Events / Involvement, Communal Area	10
More Music - Facilities for Musical Performances	6
More events, use of Amphitheatre	6
Ban Fair - Less Carnivals	5
Outdoor Cinema	2

6.15 Boundaries, entrances and connection with the wider area

When asked what they like about the Park nobody mentioned the Park entrances or boundaries specifically. 3 commented on entrances and boundaries using the **Quick Pin Map**, but this was to tell us that specific entrances felt unwelcoming and specific boundaries (Ivy Street entrance) would benefit from being blurred with the road and *'green path linking Hoxton St with the Park'*. Respondents told us their ideas about connecting the green spaces in the area *"Take more land, rather than less. As the buildings go up the road to the east of the Park (Bridport Place) could be made green (south of Poole Street) and the disused road that that is north of the east part of the Park could be made green too. There seems no need to have a road through the Park"*

When asked what they disliked many people commented on the Park's relationship with the surrounding area, saying they didn't like being able to see or hear the road from the Park and the air pollution **(17)**, **14** people used this space to tell us about the negative impact of previous and current regeneration on local residents and the environment. **6** told us the Park didn't connect well enough with other green spaces, the canal and that the entrances/exits weren't welcoming **(5)**. Respondents would like to see it blend into the local area more. **4** commented on the condition and unattractive and unwelcoming fence around the Adventure Playground.

Participants of the **Shoreditch Trust Walking Group** who we took on a site visit to the Park talked about screening the Park from the roads and about blending the Park into the surrounding area - in the Dorothy Thurtle Gardens, at Bridport Place and along New North Road and replacing the surrounding and Adventure Playground fences with more natural materials like bushes, trees and rocks.

During the focus group with the **Project Board** it was felt the Park could be made more welcoming with improvements to the entrances and more enticing by blurring the boundaries of the Park feeling more connected to the surrounding area and other green spaces.

Crossrail responded to the consultation with an email.

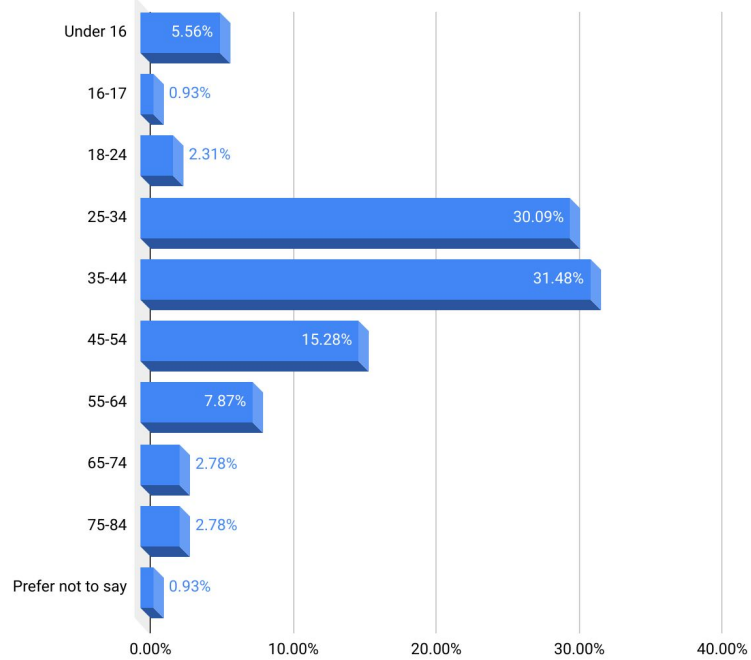
Improvements:

Improvement Requests	Comments
Request improvements to the hedge and boundary in order to sound proof - protect Park from the road.	13

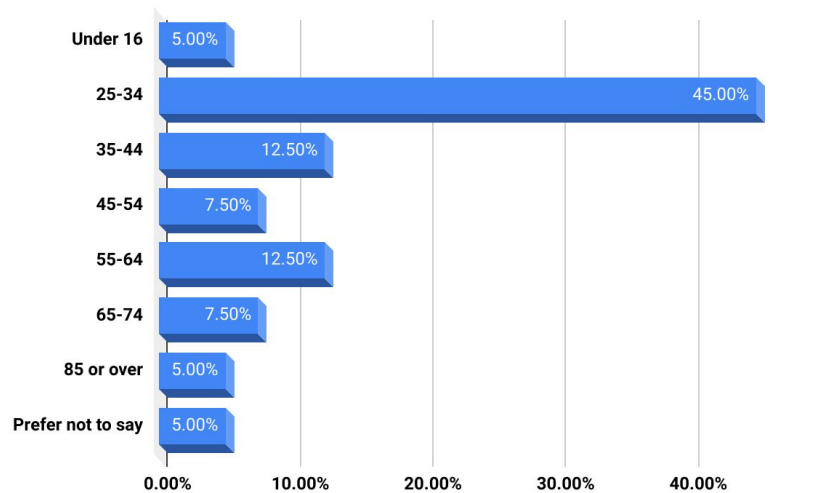
7. Demographics

How old are you?

Questionnaire (Base 196)

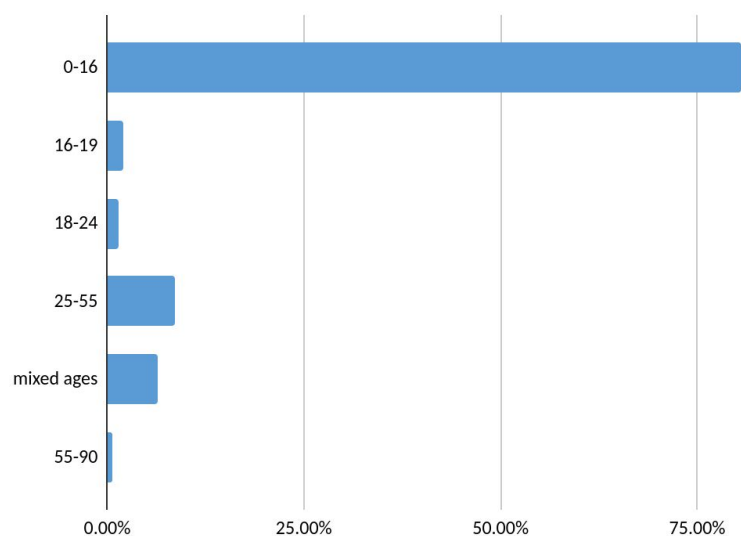


Quick Pin Map (Base 50)

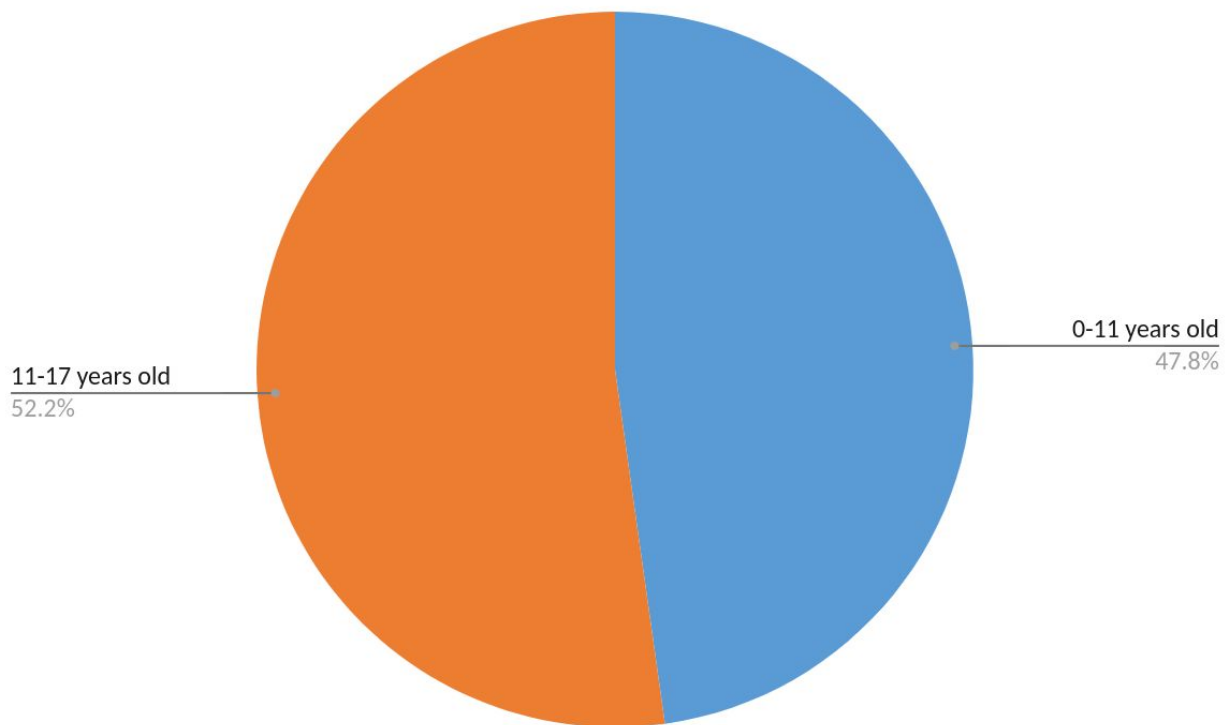


Focus groups (Base 975)

When arranging focus groups we deliberately targeted children, young people and older people who don't have access to, or traditionally don't use online consultation tools to have their say.

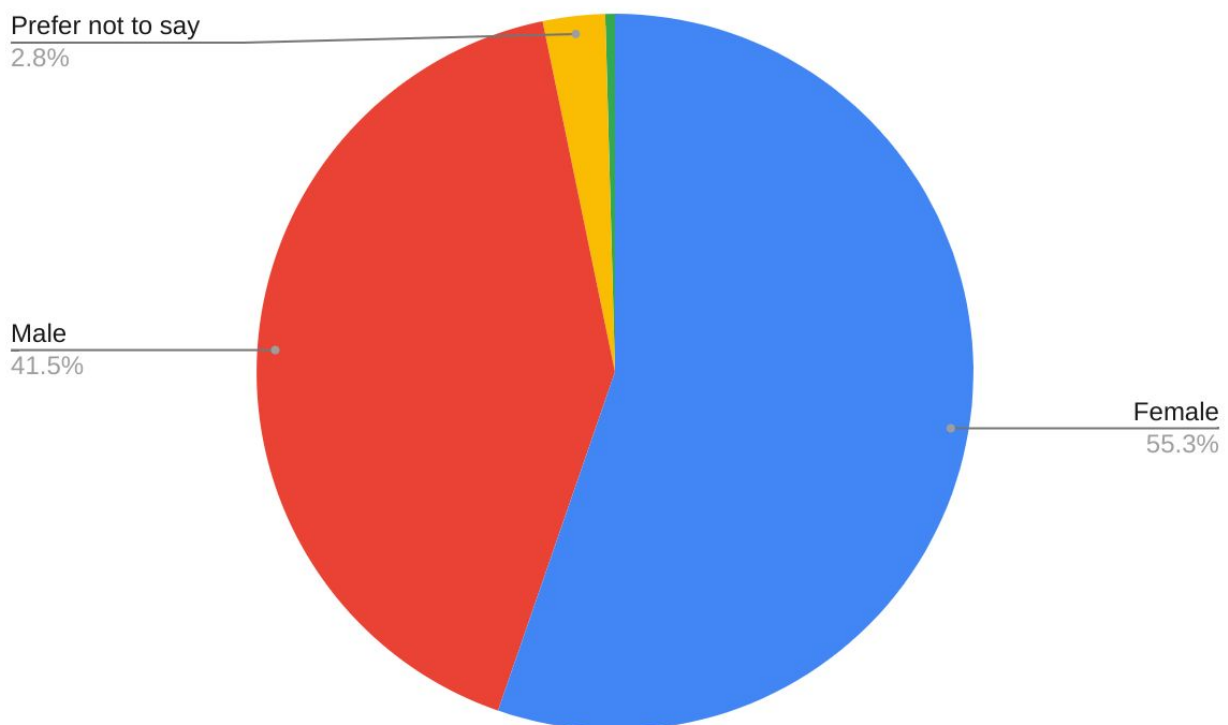


**Breakdown of the 'under 16' category consulted in Focus Groups
Questionnaire and Quick Pin Map (Base 789)**



What is your gender?

Questionnaire and Quick Pin Map (Base 463)

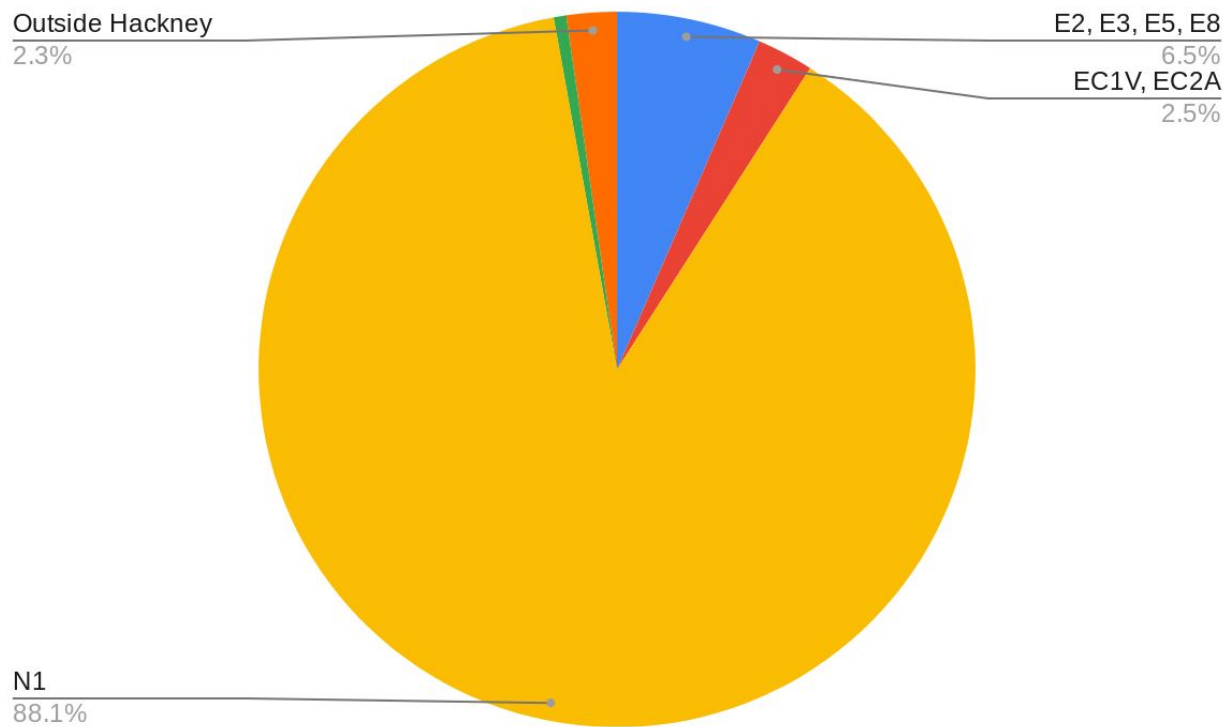


Other genders recorded in the 'other' free text box were:

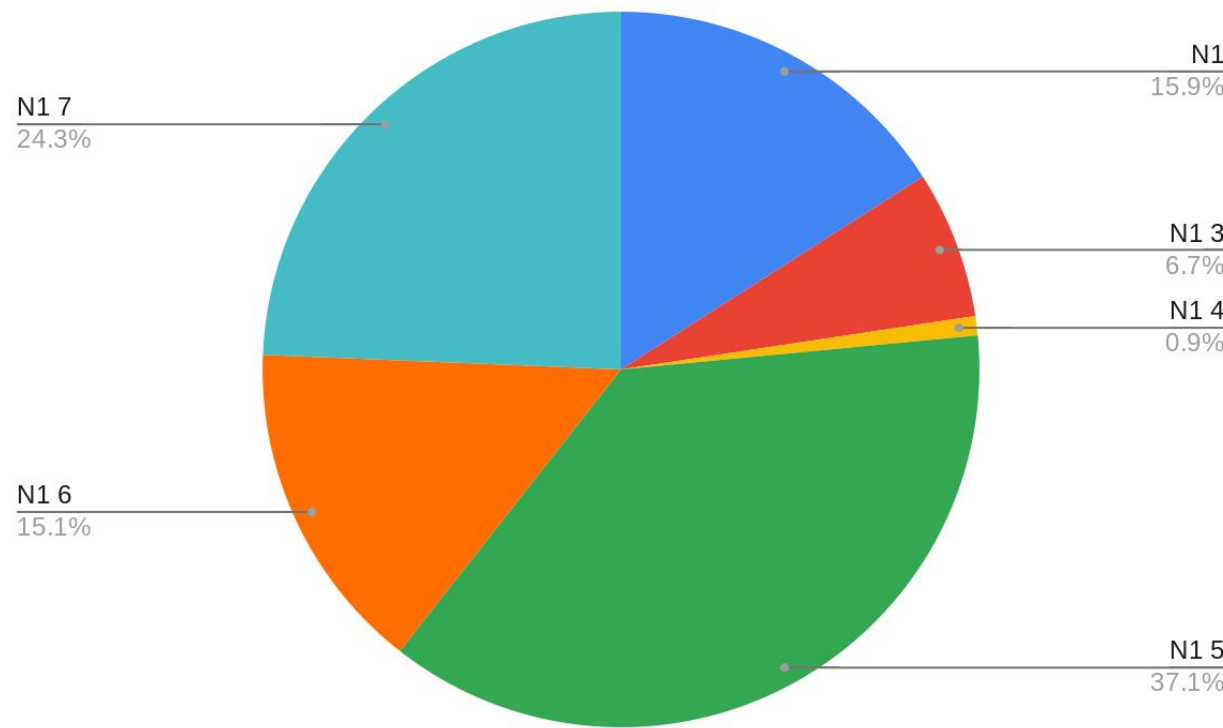
- gender identity different to the sex assigned at birth (1)

What is your postcode?

Questionnaire and Quick Pin Map (Base 373)

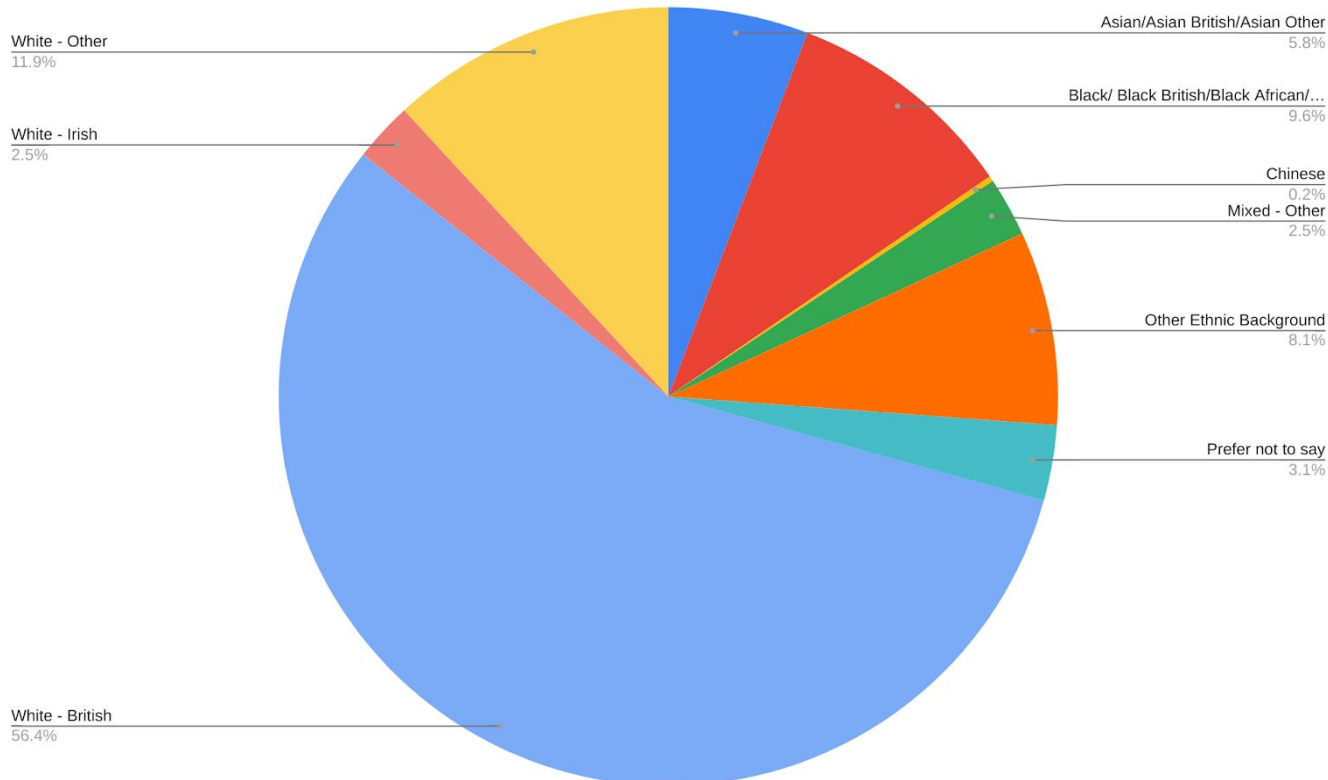


N1 Postcode Breakdown (Base 346)



What is your ethnicity?

Questionnaire and Quick Pin Map (Base 447)

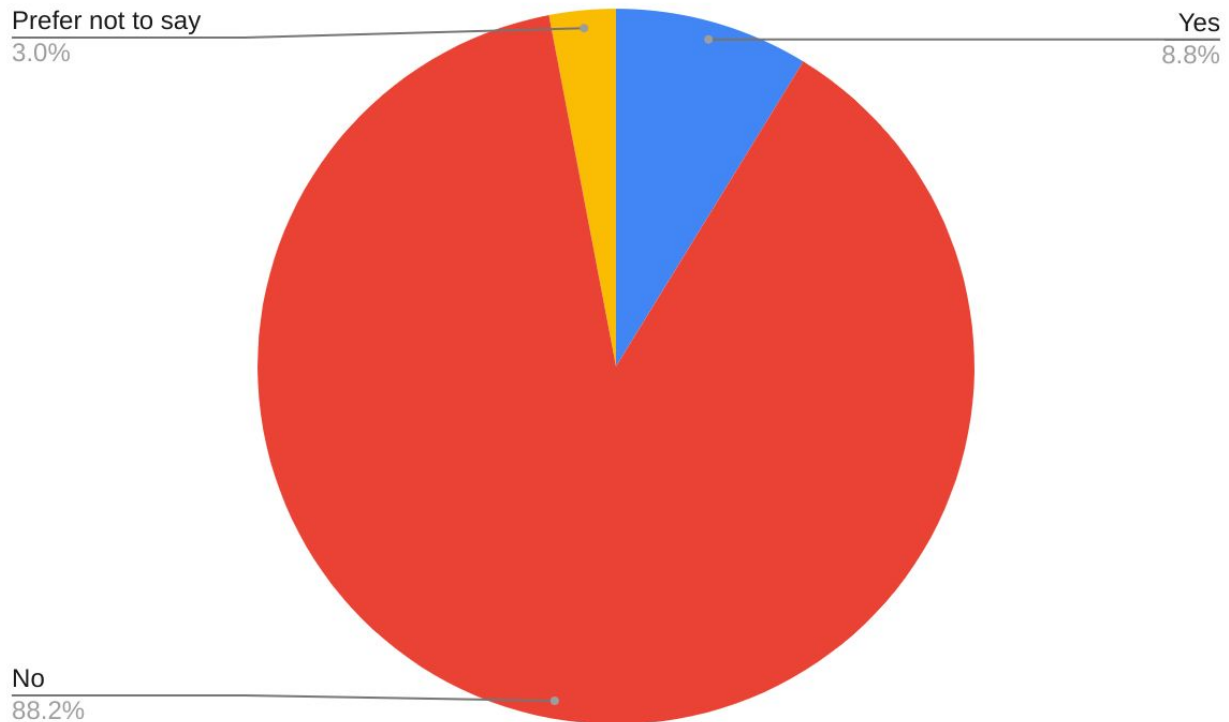


Other ethnicities recorded in the 'other' free text box were:

- American
- Celt
- Cypriot
- Kosovan
- Kurdish (2)
- Turkish (2)
- Turkish Cypriot
- White European

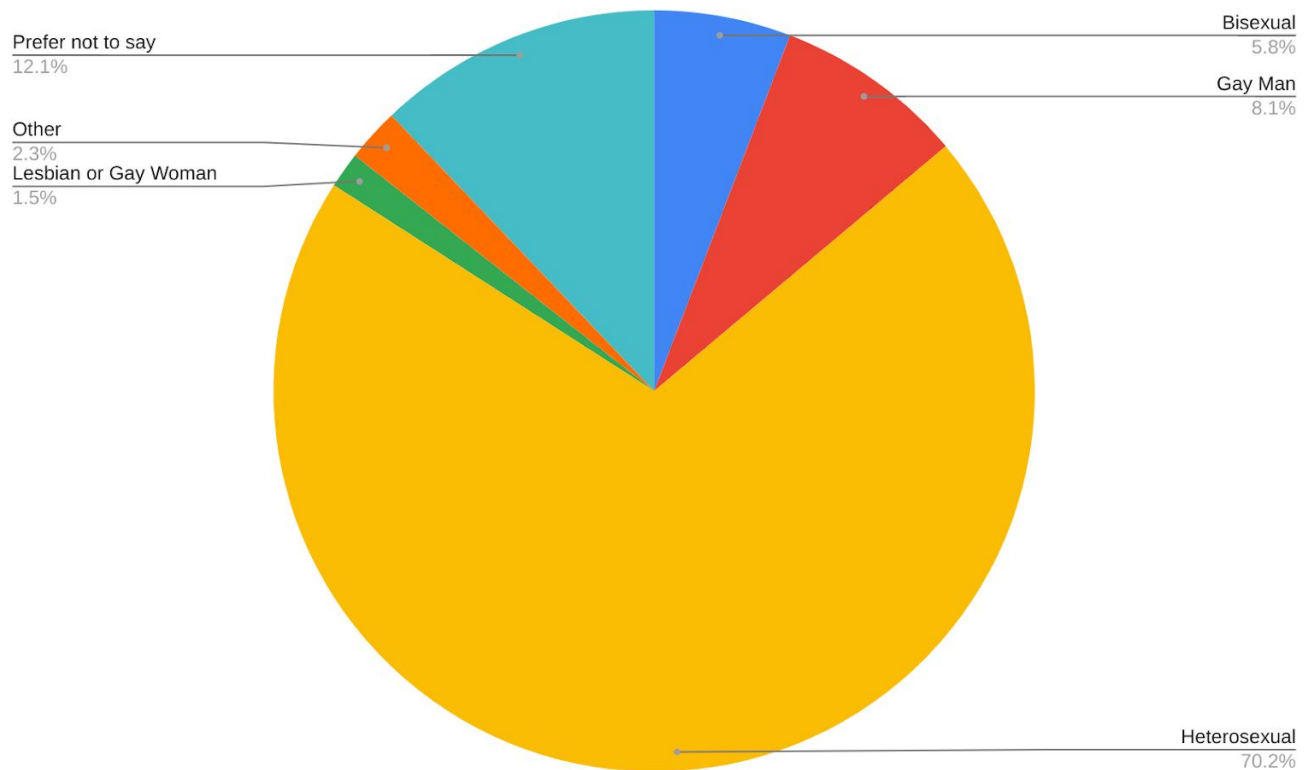
Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

Questionnaire and Quick Pin Map (Base 434)



What is your sexual orientation?

Questionnaire and Quick Pin Map (Base 396)

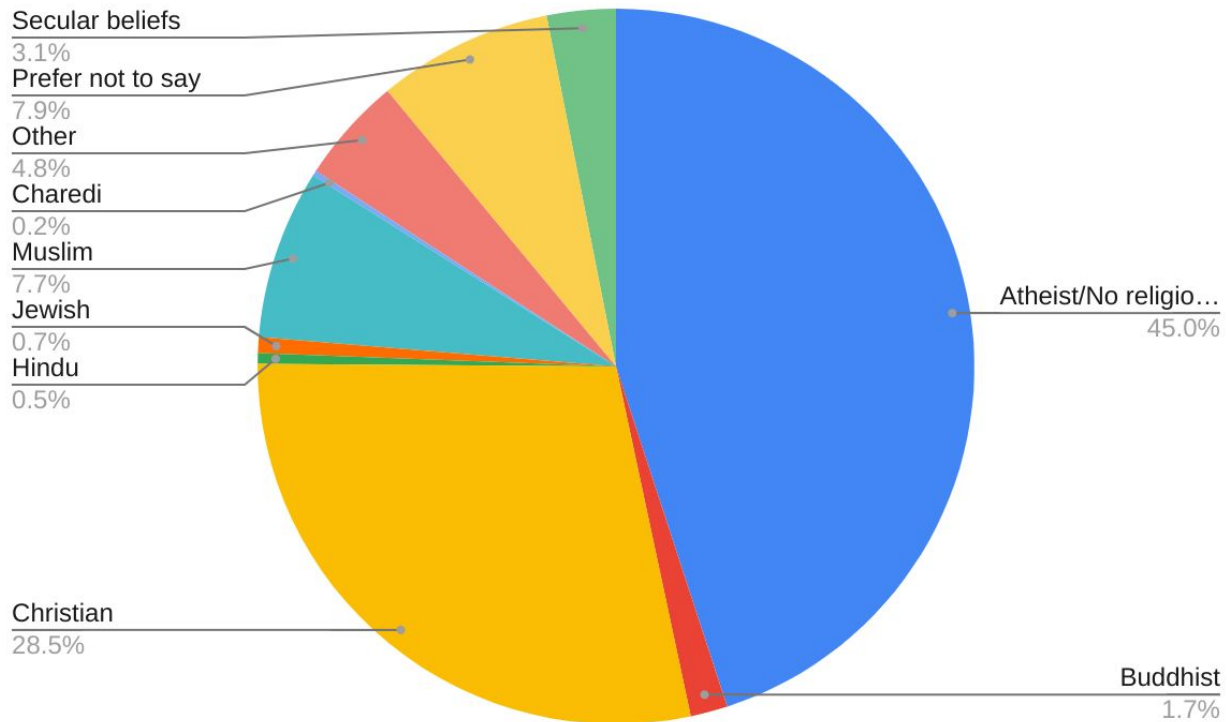


Other sexualities included in the 'other' free text box were:

- Queer (1)
- Pansexual (1)

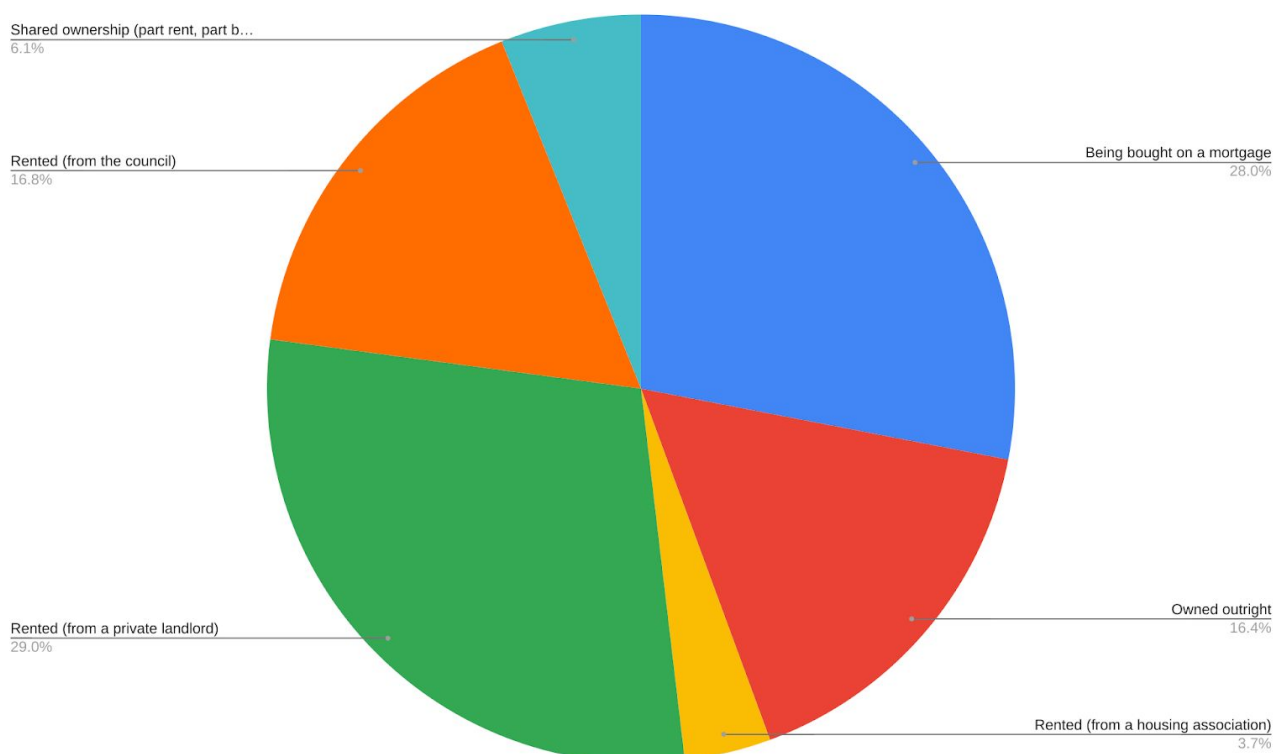
What are your religious beliefs?

Questionnaire and Quick Pin Map (Base 418)



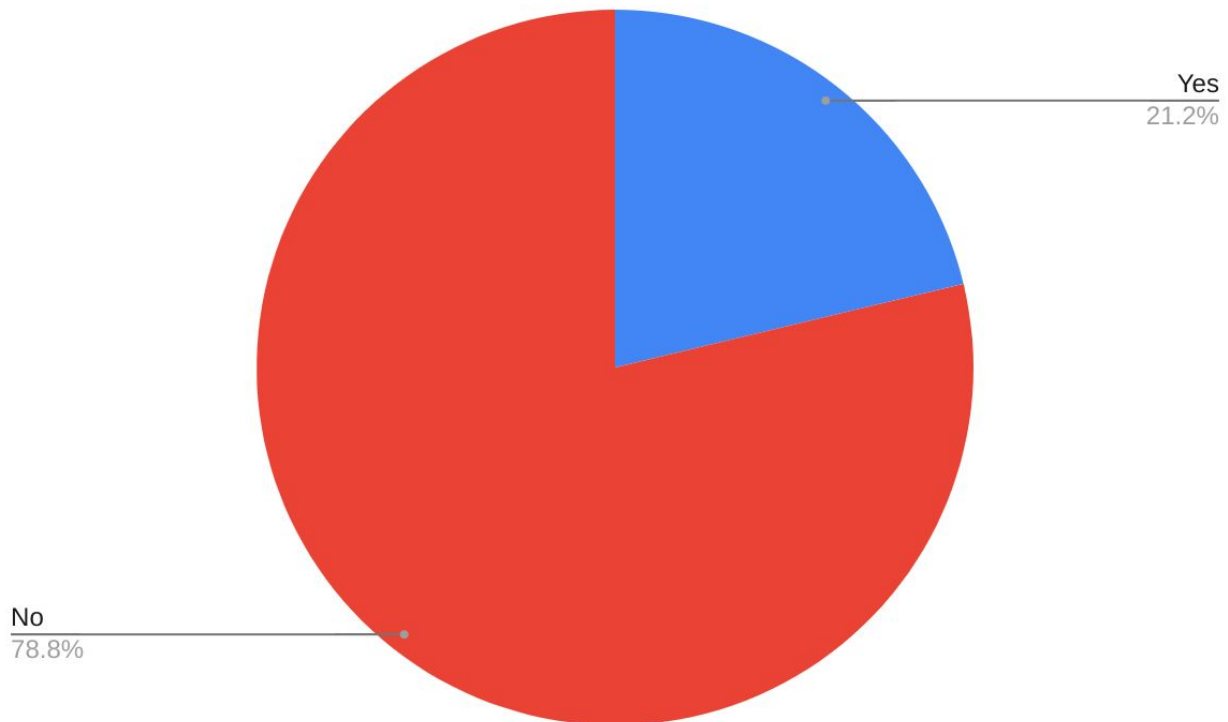
Which of the following best describes the ownership of your home?

Questionnaire and Quick Pin Map (Base 214)



Are you a member of a community organisation?

Questionnaire and Quick Pin Map (Base 193)



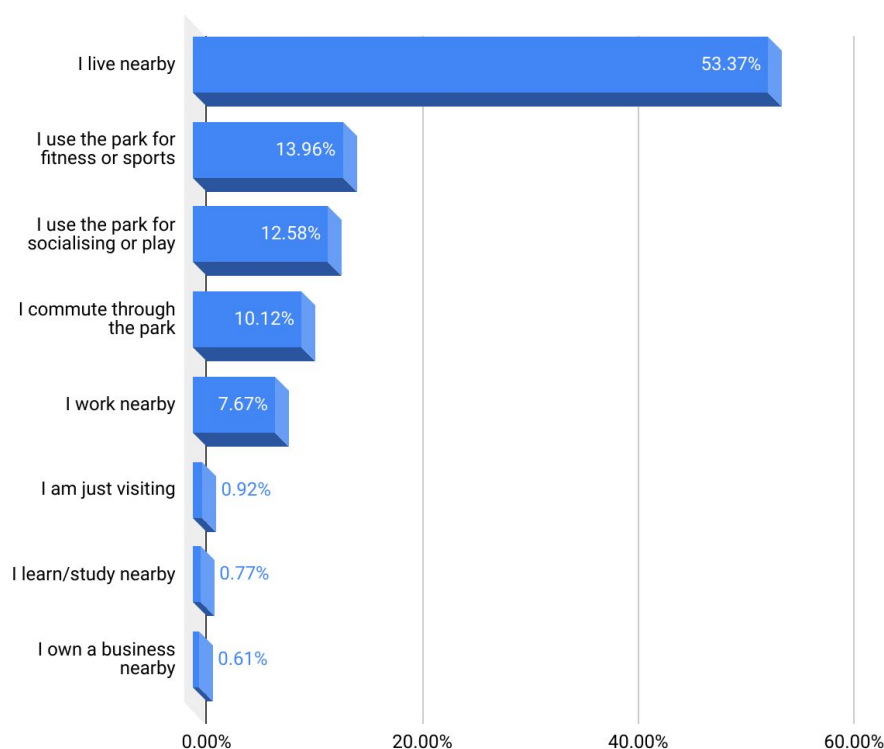
Community organisations listed:

- Britain First
- De Beauvoir Gardeners
- Canonbury Labour Party
- St John's Church, Hoxton
- Butterfield Green Gardeners, Literacy Pirates
- Local TMO
- Governor, City of London Academy Shoreditch Park
- Try Tag Rugby
- Youth Club Basketball
- Rugby club
- ZTFE Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe
- Wenlock Barn TMO
- Estate residents association
- Local residents committee in Haggerston
- Community gardener
- Alden and Broadway TRA Chairperson
- My estate's TRA, and am a local scout leader
- Friends Rosemary Gardens, Fossil Free Islington
- Goodgym
- Cranston Estate TMO
- De Beauvoir Estate Resident Steering Group and Resident Association
- Greenpeace
- Residents association
- South Arden TMO
- Wenlock Barn Kitchen Garden.
- St Johns Hoxton
- TRA

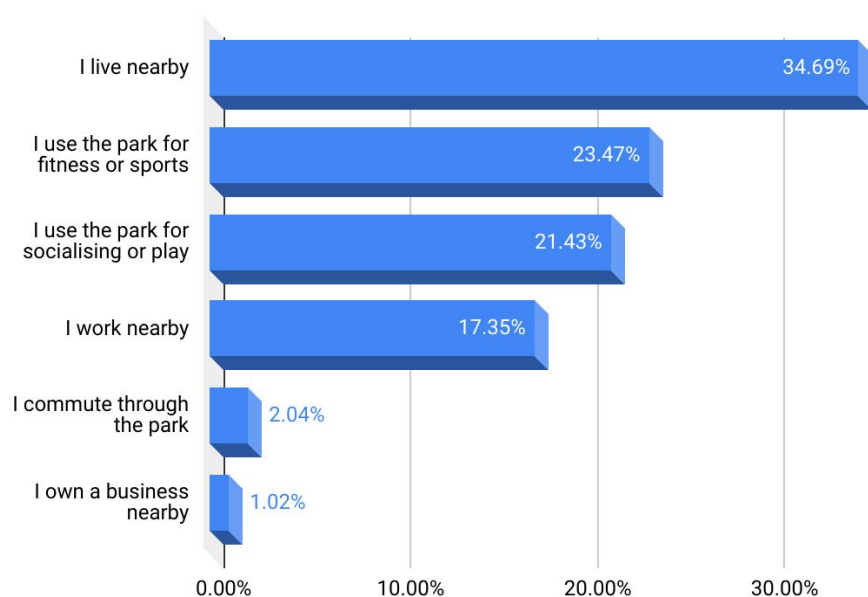
8. Engagement with Shoreditch Park

What is your connection to Shoreditch Park?

Questionnaire (Base 652)

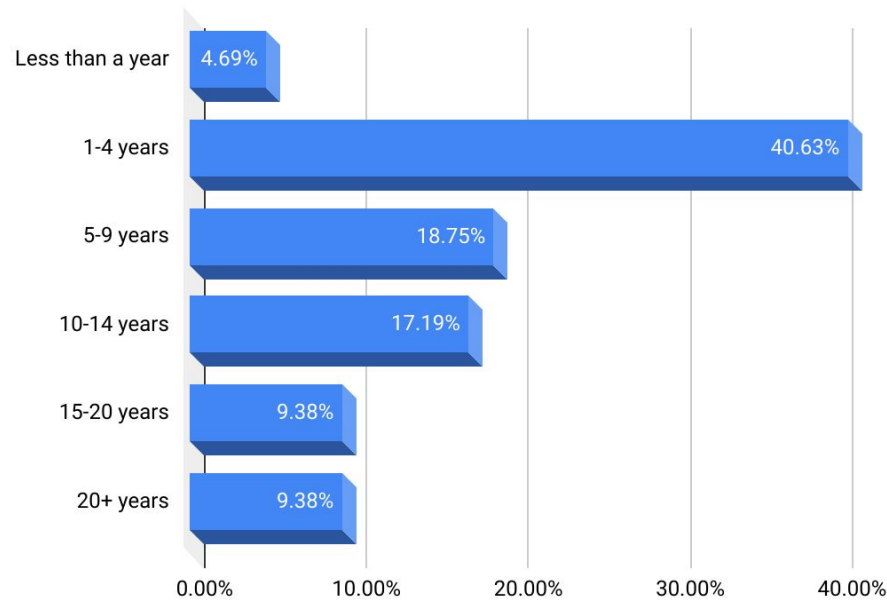


Quick Pin Map (Base 98)

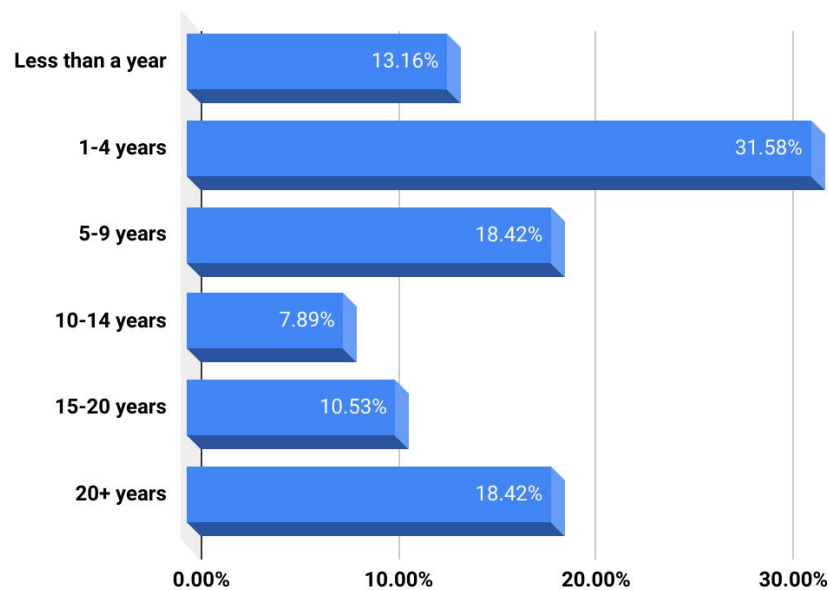


If you are a Shoreditch Park resident how long have you lived here?

Questionnaire (Base 120)



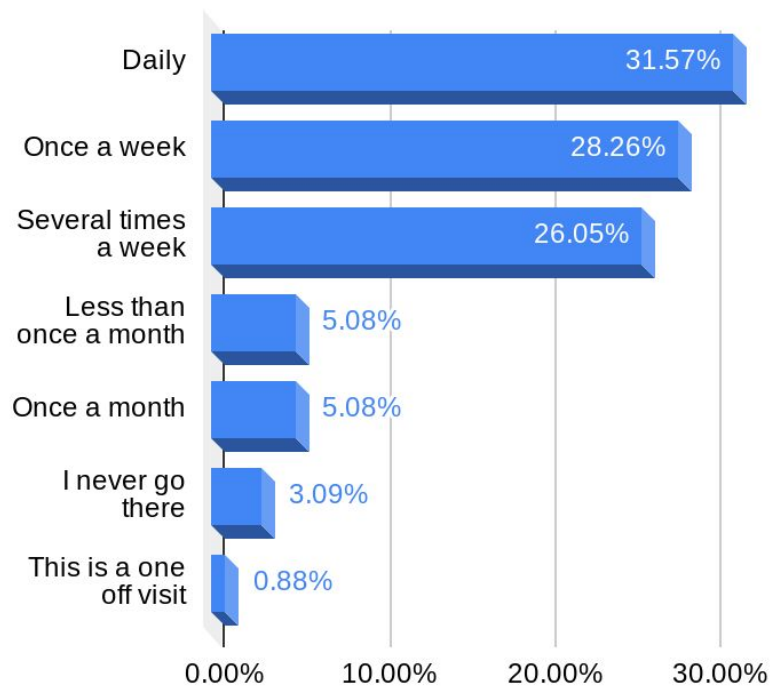
Quick Pin Map (Base 38)



How often do you visit Shoreditch Park?

Questionnaire and
Quick Pin Map

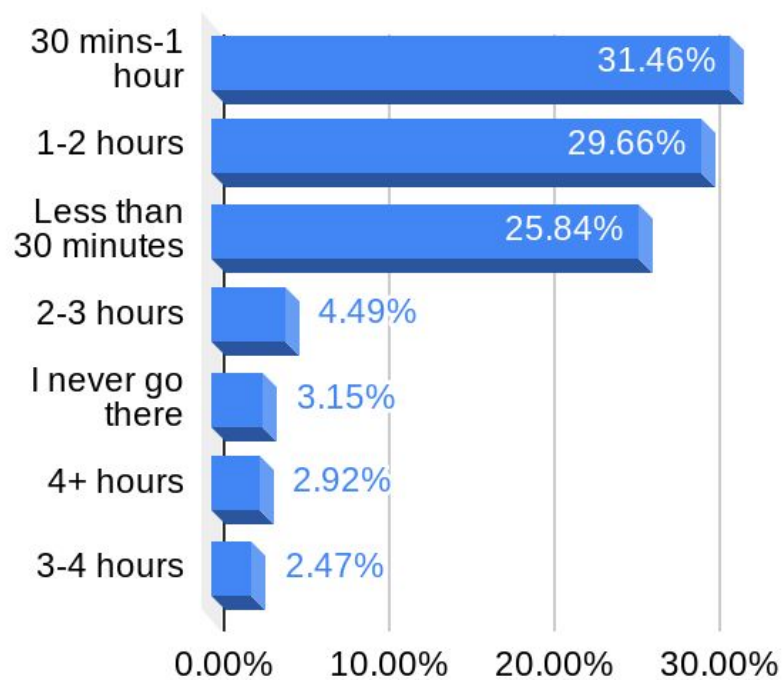
(Base 453)



How long do you spend in Shoreditch Park?

Questionnaire and
Quick Pin Map

(Base 445)



9. Summary and next steps

This final consultation report will be circulated to the Shoreditch Park Development Board and shared online for the public as a record of the **Shoreditch Park Improvement Project Stage One Consultation** in December 2019. This report will also be shared with LUC architects to inform their design proposals, which will be ready for the public to view on Commonplace during the **Shoreditch Park Improvement Project Stage Two Public Consultation** in May/June 2020. For the latest updates sign up to the **Shoreditch Park Improvement Project Project News** <https://shoreditchpark.commonplace.is/news>.