

Heathfield Recreation Ground

Fitness Equipment Improvements Consultation

Summary of Results

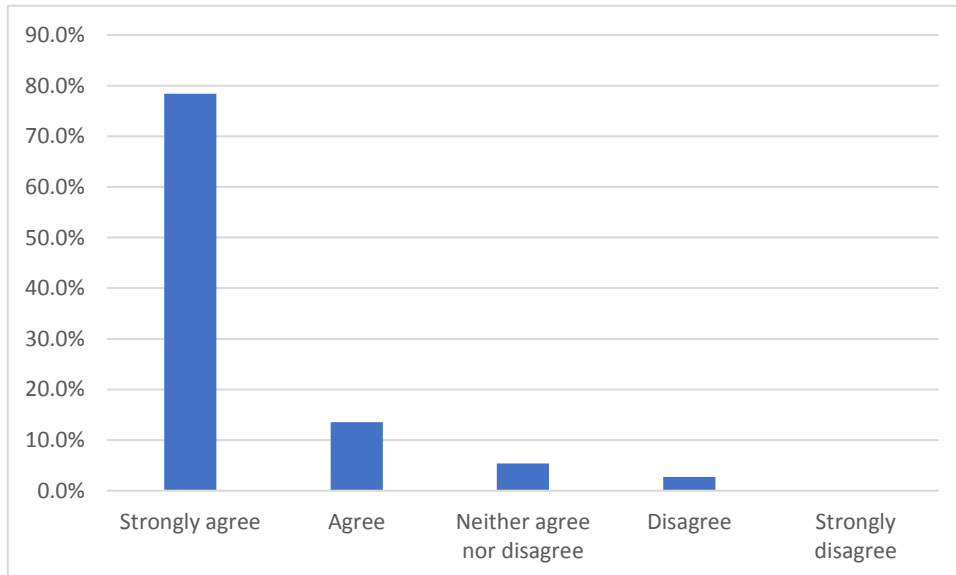
1. Background

The Parks and Open Spaces Team carried out a consultation which proposed to upgrade the outdoor fitness gym at Heathfield Recreation Ground. The project is based on a successful funding application through the London Marathon Charitable Trust and aims to provide new equipment for people of all ages and abilities, including dementia friendly equipment. Some of the new equipment is a borough first and will be specifically aimed at elderly users, to help aid mobility and co-ordination. Other items are more conventional outdoor gym equipment.

This consultation took place between Thursday 18th October and Wednesday 14th November 2018.

2. Summary of Results

37 people responded to this consultation, 34 took part online and three submitted paper copies. Out of the people who responded, 34 people (91.9%) either strongly agreed or agreed with the proposal of upgrading the fitness equipment. 2 people (5.4%) neither agreed or disagreed with the update and 1 person (2.7%) disagreed with the plans.



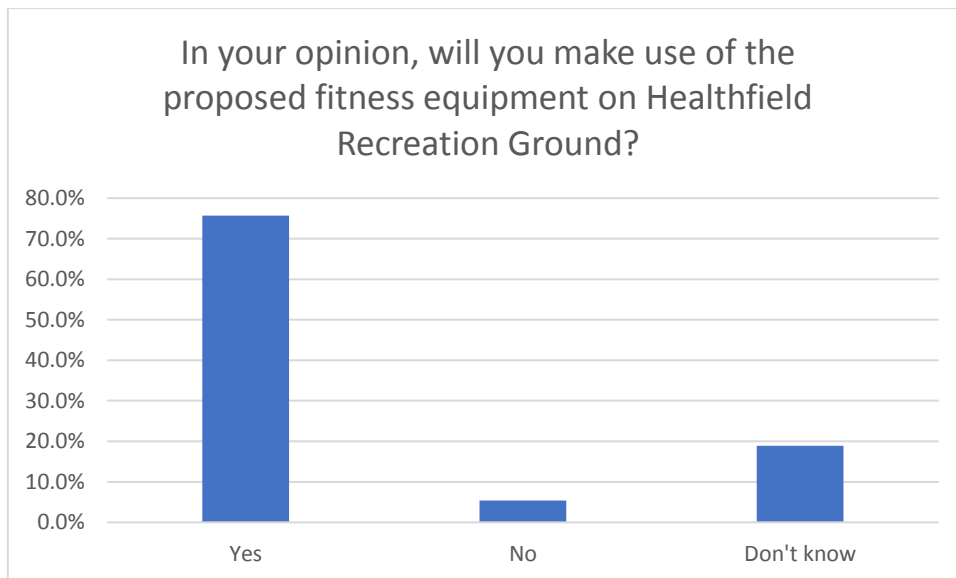
2.1. Type of equipment

The Council provided examples of a number of pieces of equipment that the Parks Team were proposing to install as part of the upgrade. Respondents were asked to comment about whether or not they were supportive of the suggestions. The items included: a balance spring, chest press, pull up bars, shoulder wheels, work out bench, work out bench with wheels, air walker and a step-up unit.

We also asked if there were any pieces of equipment residents would like to see, that we had not included in the consultation. As this is a park for all, we want the equipment to be as inclusive as possible, within budget. 10 (27.8%) respondents said there was equipment missing that they would like to see in the park and gave example of equipment. Examples included: air walker, rowing machine, ski trainer (as seen in the London Borough of Hounslow side of Crane Park) and stepper. 26 people (72.2%) responded that the selection we suggested included all the equipment they would like in the park.

2.2. User information

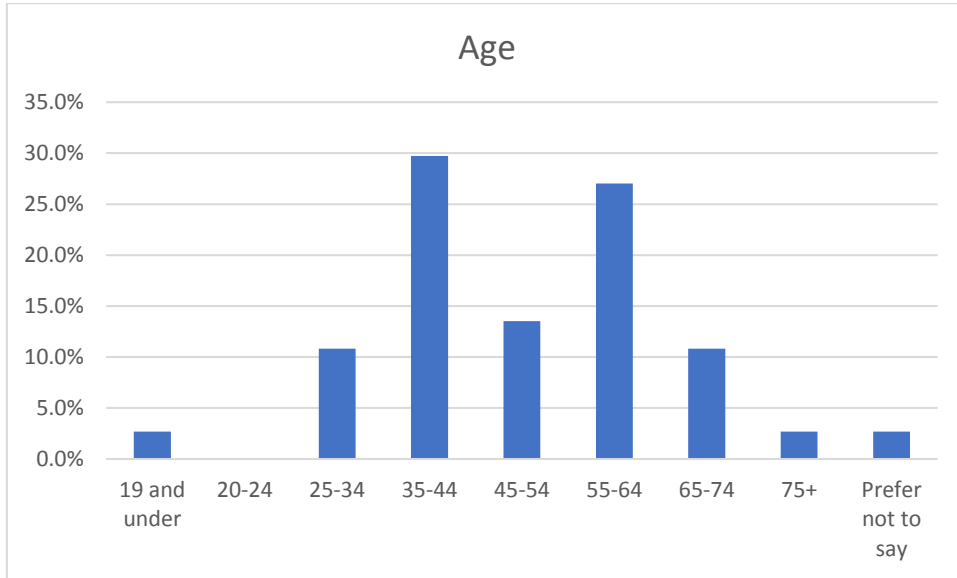
We then asked if residents or users would use the equipment.



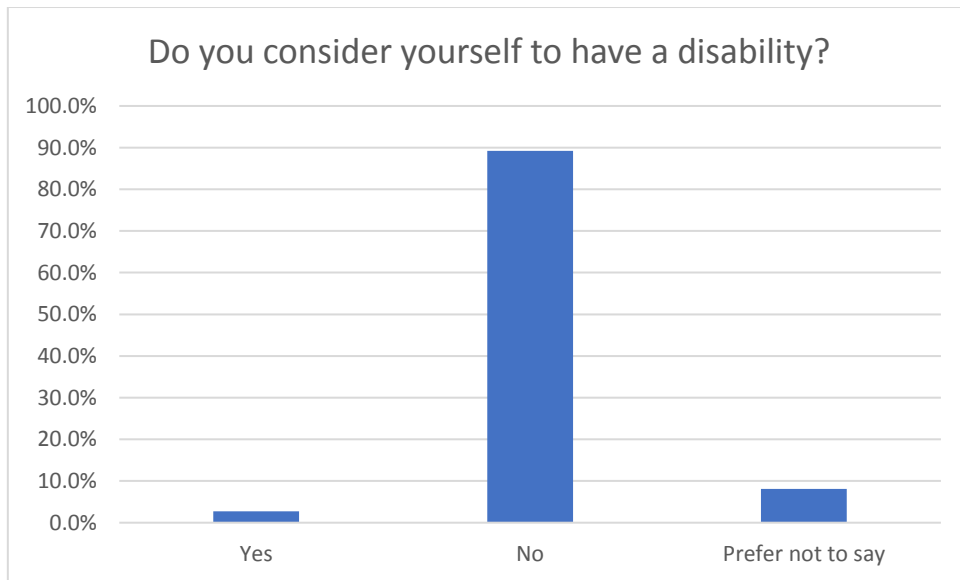
28 (75.7%) of the respondents said that they would use the new, upgraded fitness equipment. 2 people (2.7%) responded that they would not use the equipment and 7 (18.9%) replied that they did not know if they would use the equipment.

2.3. Park for All

As the proposed upgrade is looking at installing fitness equipment that is aimed at aiding mobility of elderly users, the Council were interested in understanding the demographics of respondents and those who will be using the new equipment. Below are graphs that illustrate the age of respondents, and whether or not they consider themselves to have a disability, limited mobility or dementia within their family.

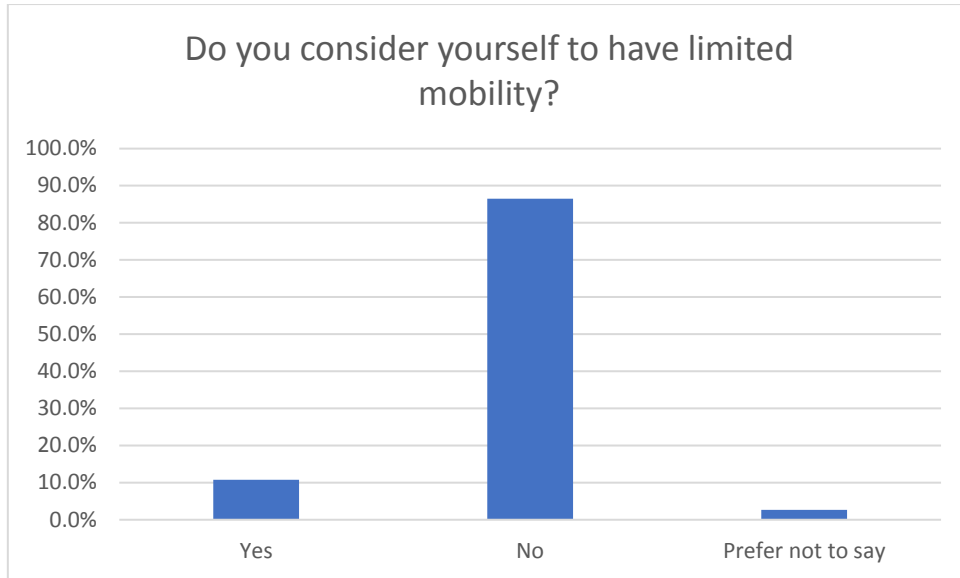


We asked if they considered themselves to be living with a disability.



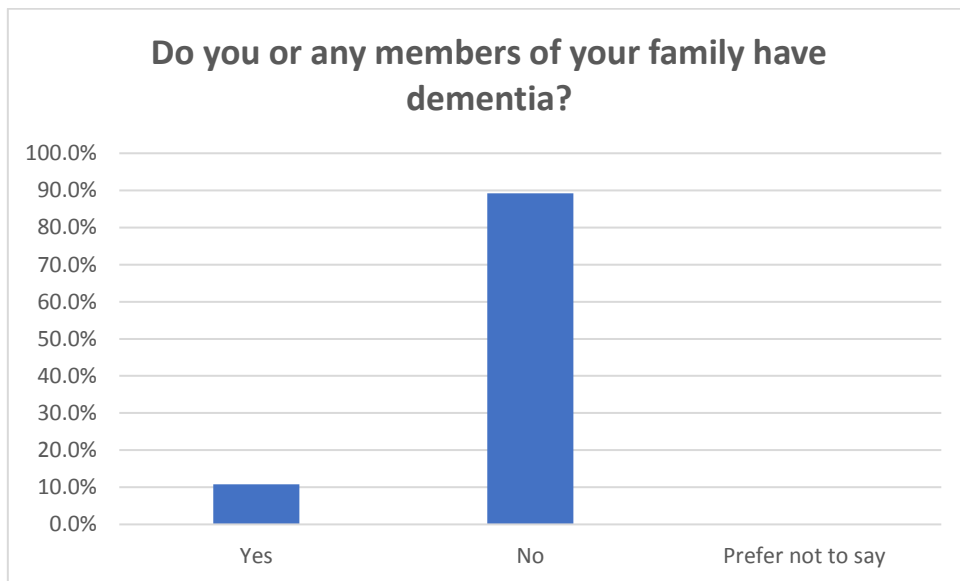
The results show that only 1 person (2.7%) who responded to the survey considered themselves to have a disability, 3 people would prefer not to disclose the information (8.1%) and 33 people (89.2%) answered no.

We then asked if the respondents considered themselves to have limited mobility.



The results showed that 4 people (10.8%) of respondents considered themselves to have limited mobility. 1 one the respondents (2.7%) preferred not to say. 32 people (86.5%) responded no.

Finally, as we decided to include some dementia friendly equipment, we asked about a family history of dementia.



4 people (10.8%) who responded said that they did have a family history of dementia while 33 people (89.2%) said there was no family history.

This was important information to us, as we want to make this a park gym for all. We will do this by incorporating a variety of equipment for a range of different exercise.

2.4. Forming a Friends Group

Respondents were asked if they were interested in forming a *Friends of Heathfield Recreation Ground* group and to provide contact details if so. 16 respondents showed an interest in forming a group and their details were passed on to the South West London Environment Network (SWLEN), who have been tasked with engaging with all respondents to set up a group. SWLEN, held an open meeting on the 19th of November, to discuss how a group would be formed and to discuss possible roles within the group. SWLEN will continue to work with interested parties to help form a new Friends of Group.

For more information contact SWLEN on hello@swlen.org.uk or visit <https://swlen.org.uk/>

2.5. Other comments

21 respondents provided “final comments” with regards to the consultation. 15 all in support of the equipment upgrade and think it would be an excellent addition to the park for the community.

Other comments included:

- Invest in the playground, with equipment for young children, rather than upgrading the fitness equipment.
- Seating with holes in so water drains away (so you don't sit in a puddle)
- A charging station to be included within the new equipment if possible.

There were also concerns about maintenance of and vandalism to the new equipment. The maintenance of the equipment would be carried out by our Play Maintenance contractor and any if ASB were to occur, our wardening contractor would include Heathfield Recreation Ground in their weekly patrols.

3. Next steps

The Parks and Open Spaces Team plan to:

- Task the South West London Environment Network (SWLEN) to engage with the 16 respondents who asked to be contacted about forming a new Friends Group for Heathfield Recreation Ground. SWLEN would update the Council on how the new friends group is developing.
- Create a project specification and work with our procurement team to publish a competitive tender process for this project.
- Launch the tender in the New Year and invite a number of companies to submit their proposal for this project. Following a review of all tender submissions we will look to

award the contract to the chosen supplier and work with them through to project delivery.

- The Council would aim to install the new outdoor gym in Spring 2019. As part of the installation the Council will hold a launch event to officially open the new outdoor gym.