

Cambridge Gardens

Proposed Friendly Parks for All Consultation

Summary of Results

1. Background

As part of Richmond Council's continued commitment to improve our parks and open spaces, the Parks Team are developing Cambridge Gardens as a Friendly Park for All. We have worked with Mencap to come up with proposed improvements to Cambridge Gardens that would make the gardens more accessible for those with disabilities.

The proposed changes include:

- An outdoor gym
- A sensory/community garden
- 3 boat sculptures at main entrances/exits



The Council propose that the equipment installed will be a mix of items that are suitable for both those who have disabilities and other users. The gym will be situated in the red box in the map above.

It is proposed that the equipment will include a mixture of static and moving items, which have been discussed with Mencap to provide options for all users. These items have not yet been finalised and so it is encouraged that participants of the consultation leave any suggestions they may have in the comments box for consideration. Examples of the equipment we are looking to install is as follows (see attached document for images):

- Arm and pedal bike
- Double Skier
- Triple Step
- Seated Leg Press
- Multi Purpose Fitness Frame
- Spinning Bike
- Lat Pull and Chest Press Combo
- Tai Chi Spinner (Wheelchair accessible)

The Sensory/Community Growing Garden is proposed to be in the orange box on the map above. It will include raised beds that are accessible for those who are less mobile. It is hoped once installed the beds will be looked after by Mencap however we would encourage wider community participation. The beds will be a mixture of plants and flowers to invigorate the senses and food growing which is an activity that can be enjoyed by all.

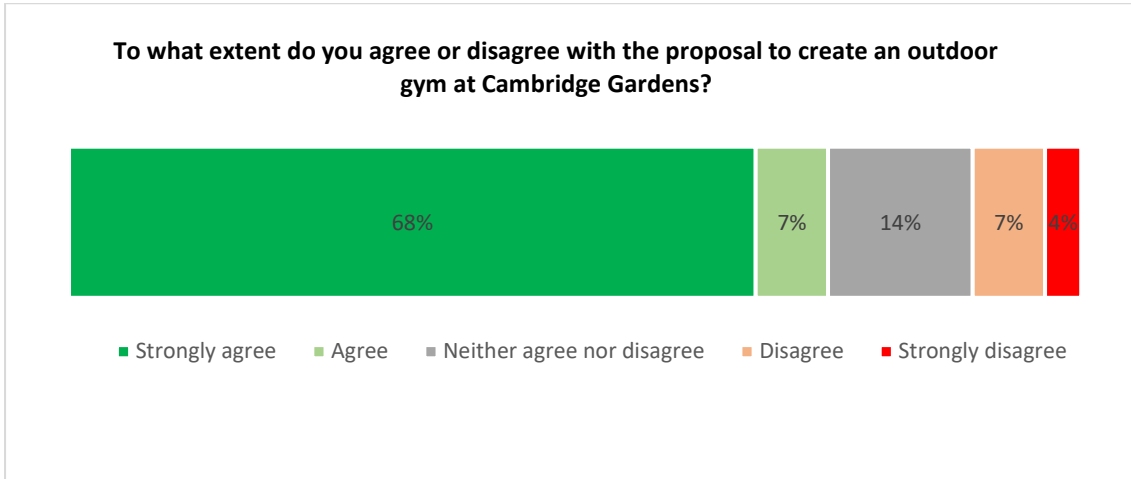
The boat sculptures proposed would be small upright boats at three of the main entrances/exits. These sculptures will be installed as in other Friendly Parks for All, to mark where entrances and exits, which is helpful for people who get disoriented such as people with dementia. The easily recognisable entrances encourage them to leave the park the way they entered. In this park the boats will also indicate that there is a public space, as feedback from Mencap showed that they thought that the park was a private garden.

2. Summary of Results

There was 29 people who responded to this consultation with the majority completing an online form, but one respondent contacting the Council via email.

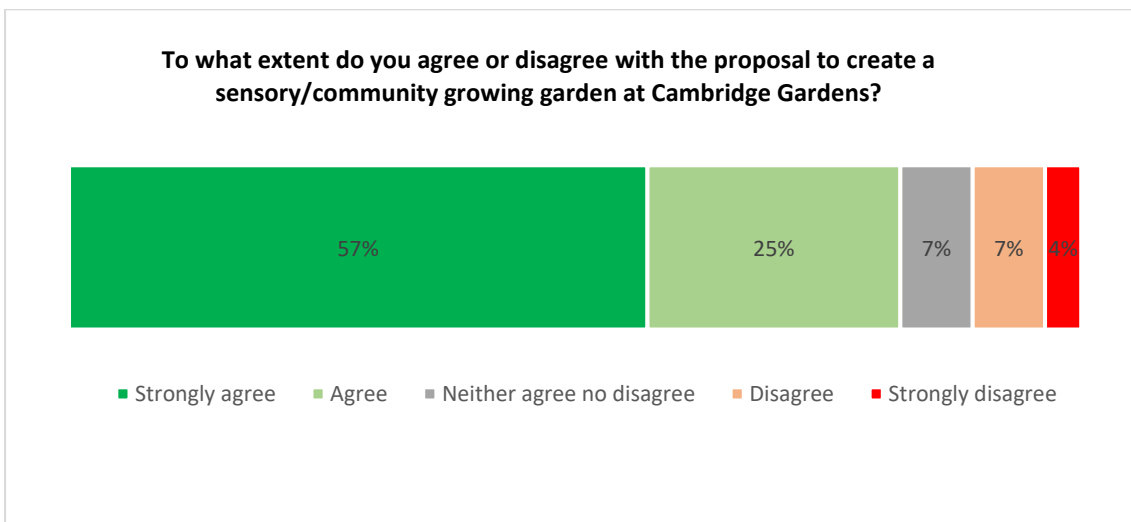
Twenty-one people (75%) either agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal of installing a new outdoor gym. In contrast only 2 respondents (7%) disagreed, and 1 person (4%) strongly disagreed. Four people (2%) declared that they neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposal.

With 75% of respondents in support of the new gym, this is a very strong indication that the new facility would be welcomed and supported by users of the Gardens.



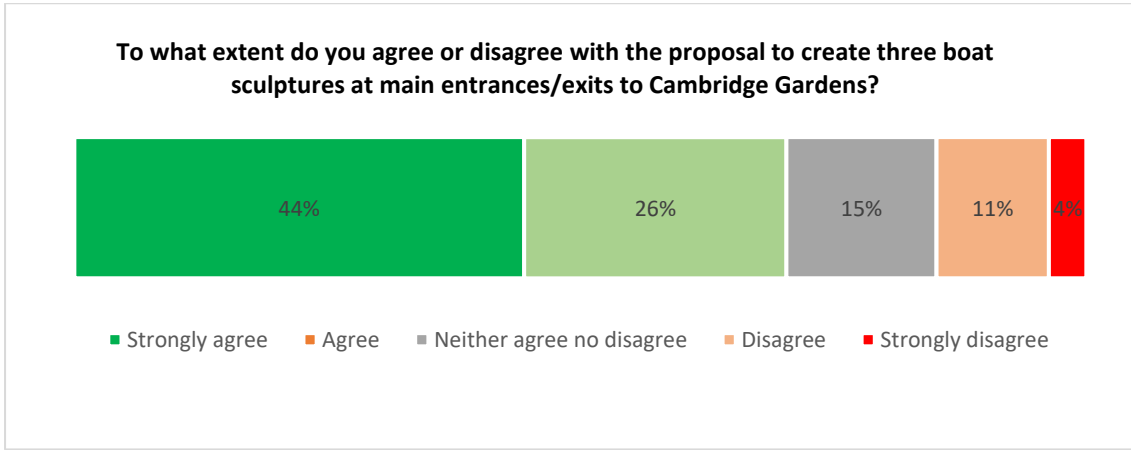
Respondents were asked if they supported the proposal for a sensory/community growing garden at the park. Twenty-three respondents (82%) either agreed or strongly agreed. Only three respondents (11%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposal and 2 people (7%) stated they neither agreed nor disagreed.

With over three-quarters of respondents (82%) in support, there is a strong indication that the installation of the sensory garden would be supported by residents and visitors to the Garden.

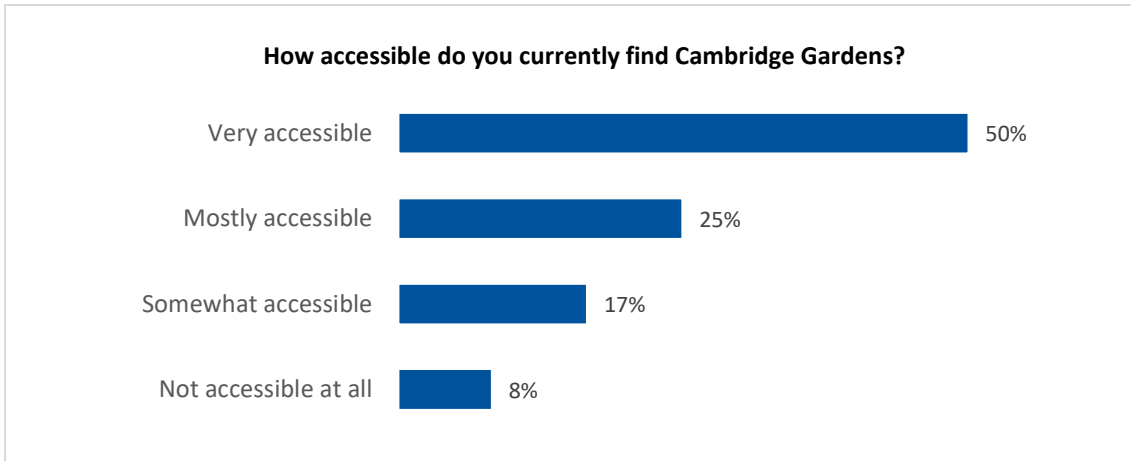


Respondents were asked if they agreed or disagreed to the proposal to install boat sculptures at the entrances/exits of the site. There were 27 responses to this question, nineteen respondents (70%) either agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal. Four (15%) respondents stated they neither agreed nor disagreed, whilst four (15%) respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed.

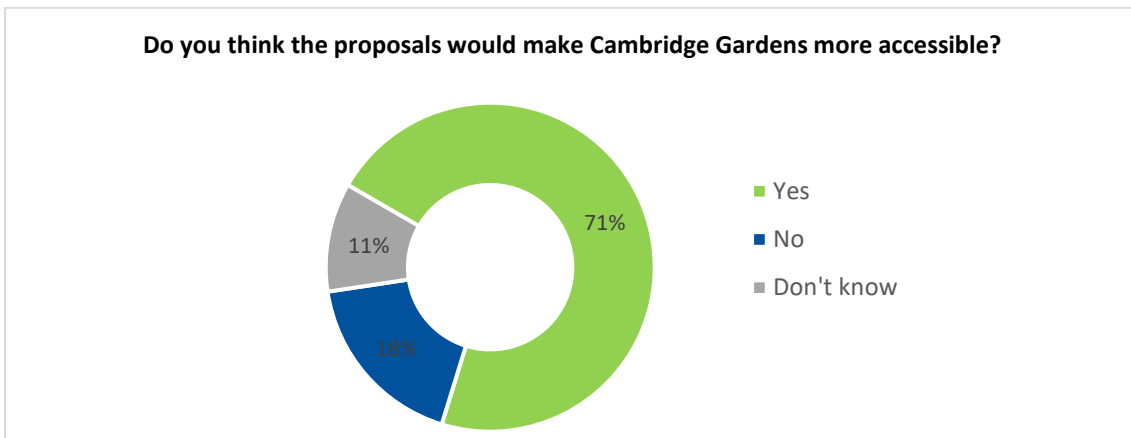
The majority of respondents were in support of the proposal which suggest that the installations of the sculptures would be well received.



We asked respondents how accessible they currently find Cambridge Gardens. There were 24 responses to this question with half of respondents stating that they find the gardens very accessible. There were six respondents (25%) who said the gardens were mostly accessible, four (17%) who said it was somewhat accessible and two (8%) who found the gardens to be not accessible at all.



Respondents were asked if they thought the proposed changes would improve the accessibility of Cambridge Gardens. There were twenty-eight responses to this question, with the majority (71%) agreeing that changes would make the gardens more accessible. There were five respondents (18%) who did not think the proposals would make the gardens more accessible and three (11%) who were not sure.



Users were able to provide further comments regarding accessibility, there were 10 additional comments. There was 3 comments, that was in agreement with the project and thought that it would make the park more accessible. There 2 comments that

stated the park was already accessible and no changes were necessary. There were some suggestions for increasing the accessibility, these included; improving signage, ensuring the pathway is accessible, adding a bench or other sensory features (water or lights) to the proposed sensory/community garden.

2.1 Comments not in support of the proposals

Of the 3 people who either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposal of the outdoor gym, all 3 left comments or reasons why. The main focus of these comments were that the gym was not needed or concerns over how well it would be used and who would be using the equipment. This led to concerns regarding anti-social behaviour.

Of the 3 people who either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposal of the sensory/community garden, all 3 left comments or reasons why. The main concerns were that it was not necessary, costs for install and upkeep, would be subject to vandalism and that it would take up space.

Of the 4 people who either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposal of the boat sculptures, all 4 left comments or reasons why. The main concerns were the aesthetic of the sculptures, the cost and concerns over vandalism.

In response to the above comments, the Council will ensure to advertise the gym, sensory/community garden and boat installations. We will encourage the use of the gym and sensory garden and we will also look to provide sessions with professional gym instructors to ensure people using the gym are using the equipment correctly. The Council would also request that our enforcement contractor carries out regular monitoring of the site to ensure that the gym and sensory/community garden is being used as it is intended, their presence on site will discourage anti-social behaviour.

2.2 Further Comments

The respondents were asked if they would like to make any further comments regarding the proposal, 15 respondents left additional comments where there were several recurring themes.

There were 6 comments which expressed their support for the proposals. They stated that the outdoor gym would be a good facility for those who can not access a gym and that the community/sensory garden would bring people together. Mentioning that both additions would aid to improve mental and physical health.

Concerns were raised by a couple of respondents on the location, suggesting that it could be located where the sensory/community garden is proposed or in the grass area in the gardens play area. The proposed location is to keep sports close together i.e. tennis and the gym.

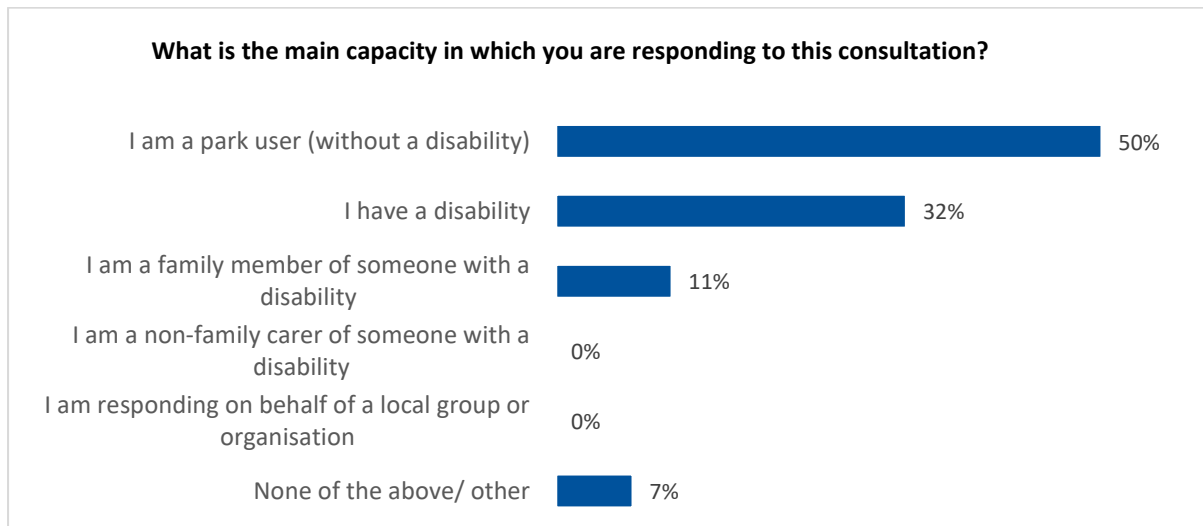
One of the respondents the type of gym equipment they would like to see including pull up bars and steps/boxes. This will be considered by the Council when devising the project specification.

Some of the other comments were regarding suggestions or other concerns in the Gardens, which the Parks Team will address where necessary.

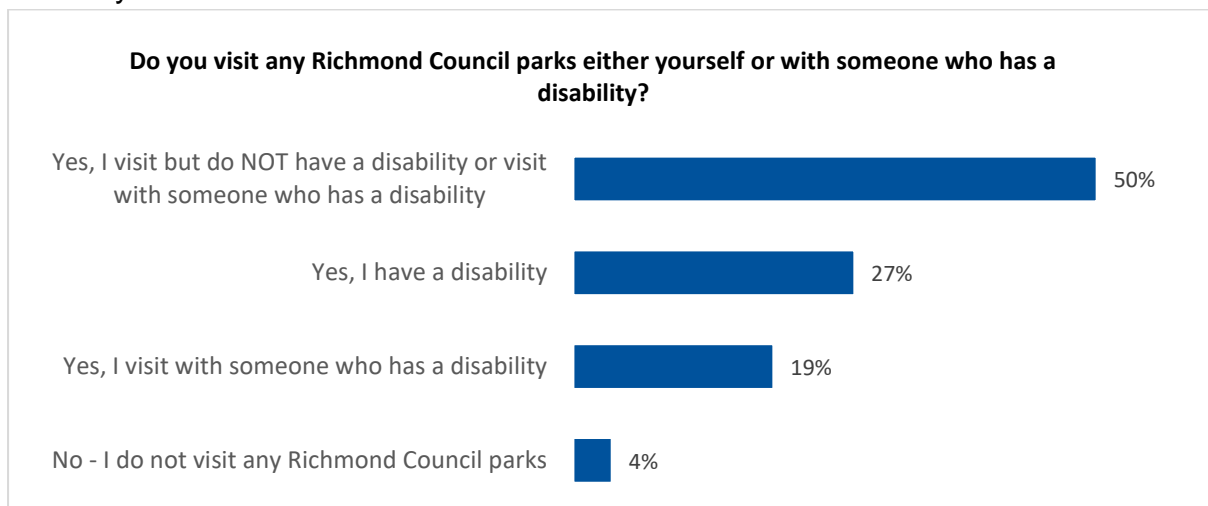
The Council asked respondents if they would be interested in creating a Friends Group. There were 5 respondents who registered their interest.

Respondent Profile

When asked in what capacity the respondents were responding to the consultation, the majority (50%) of respondents were a park user without a disability, 32% of respondents stated that they had a disability. Two respondents selected 'other' one of which was a resident and the other a parent with teenage children.

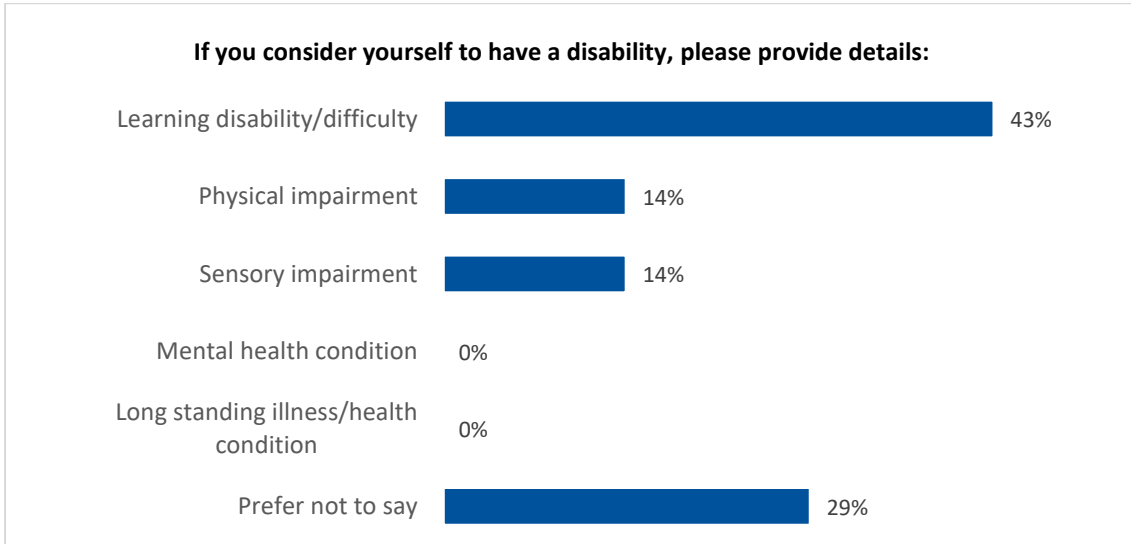


Respondents were asked if they visit 'Richmond Council parks either yourself or with someone who has a disability?'. There were 26 responses, half of which stated that they visit parks, but they do not have a disability or visit with someone with a disability.

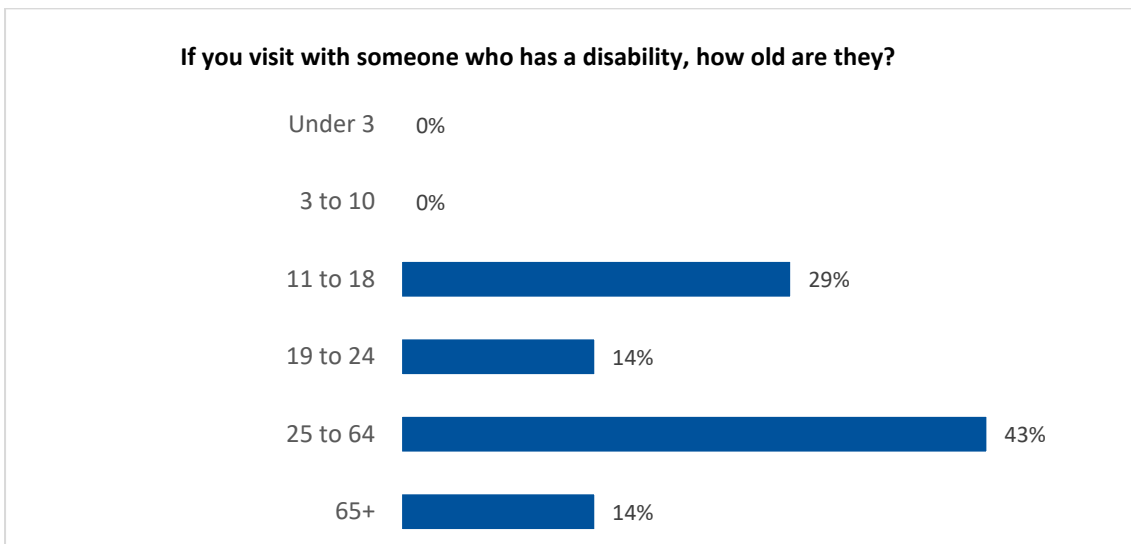
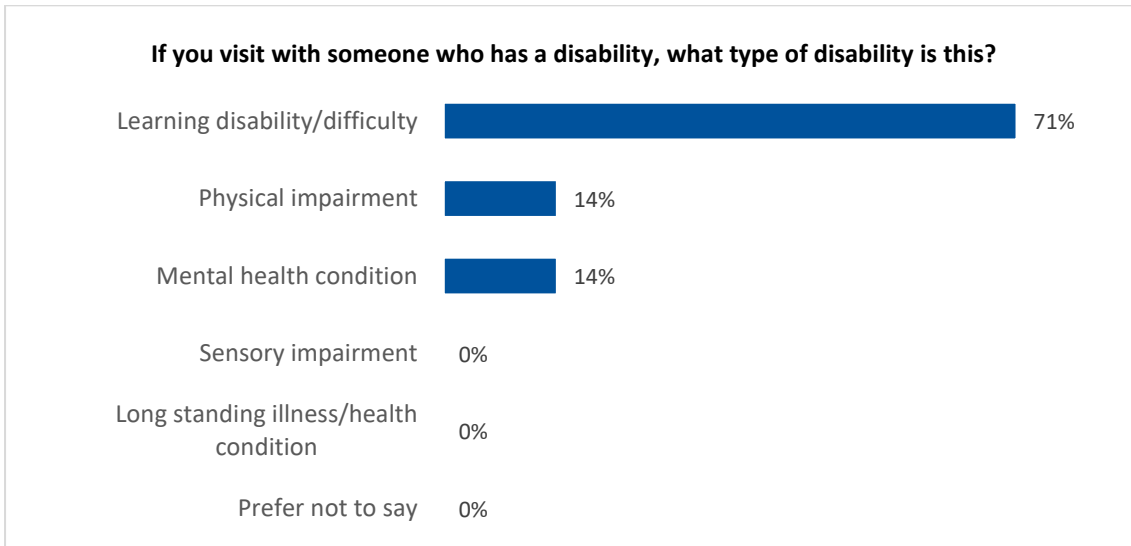


Respondents were asked which Council Parks they visit, 22 respondents provided either 1 or more park that they visit. Thirteen respondents listed Cambridge Gardens. There were 12 other Council managed parks mentioned.

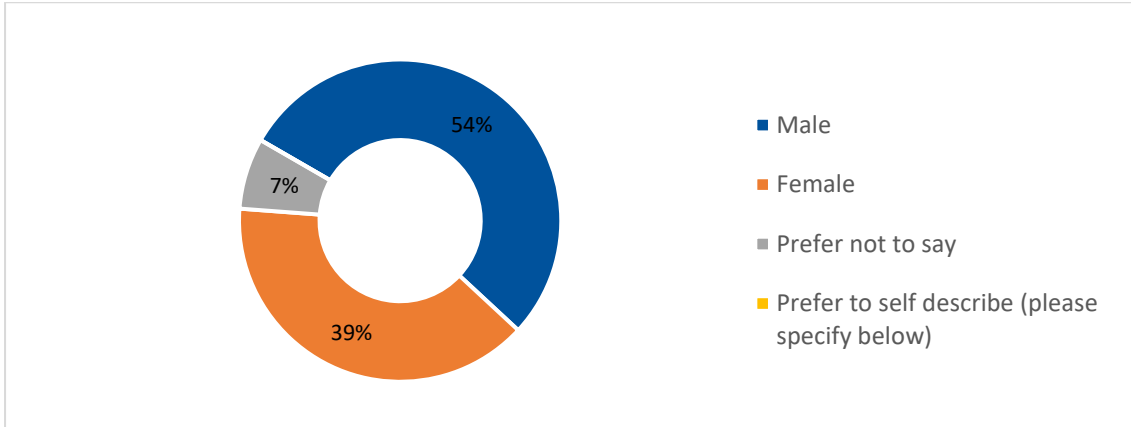
Respondents who considered themselves to have a disability were asked to provide further details. There were 7 responses to this question; nearly half (43%) of the respondents stated that had a learning disability/difficulty. 2 respondents preferred not to say.



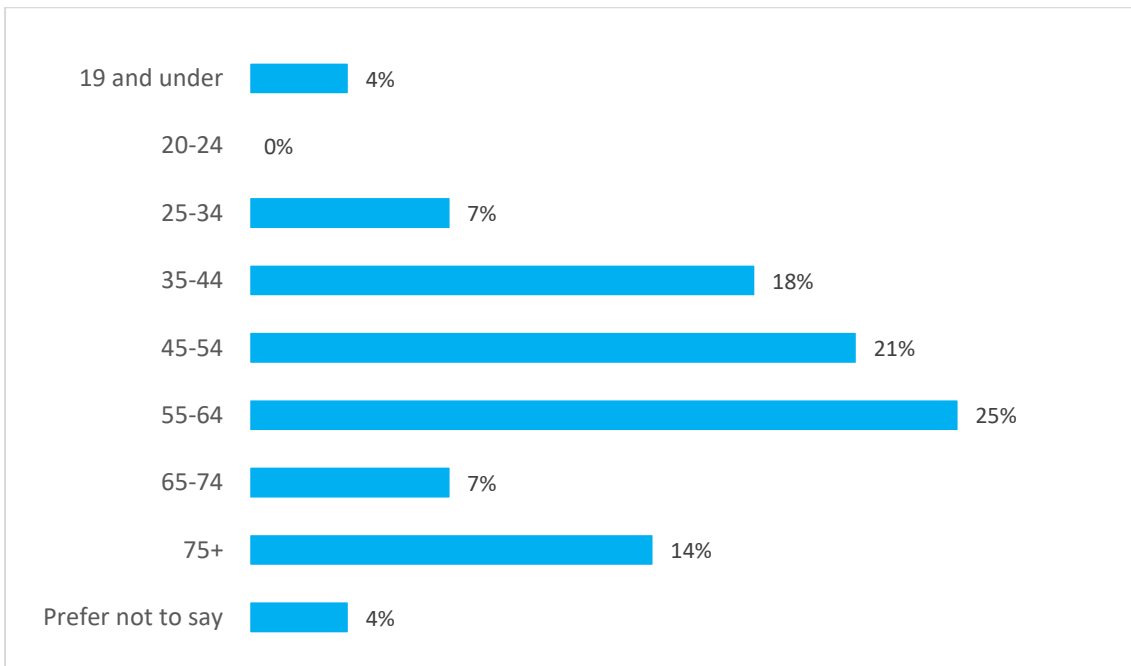
If the respondents visited the park with a disability they were asked to provide further details. There were 7 responses, the majority (71%) stated that the person the visit with has a learning disability or difficulty. Respondents were asked how old the person was that they visit with. All 7 respondents answered, with 43% of respondents stating the person they visited with was ages 25-64.



Respondents were asked their gender. All 28 respondents provided an answer. Over half (54%) of the respondents were male, 39% of respondents were female and 7% of respondents preferred not to say.



Respondents were asked their ages, all 28 respondents provided an answer. A quarter of respondents were age 55-65 and 21% of respondents were 45-54. There was 1 respondent who preferred not to provide their age.



Respondents were asked to provide their ethnic group, the majority of the respondents (71%) stated that they were white, 18% of respondents preferred not to say, 4% stated they were mixed/multiple ethnic groups, 4% stated they were Asian or Asian British and 1 person selected Other and listed their ethnic group as 'Turkish'.

3. Next steps

The Parks and Open Spaces Team plan to:

- Share the report with ward Councillor's and the Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture, and Sports Services Committee. The Chair will make the final decision on whether to proceed with the project.

- Habitats & Heritage will contact those that registered their interest in creating a Friends Group to work towards setting up a constituted group.
- Invite suppliers to quote for the new gym, based on the project specification. The window to quote would last for 3 to 4 weeks. Should a contract be awarded the Council would work with the chosen supplier to install the new gym within the next 3 months – subject to approval by Councillors as mentioned above.
- Install the sensory/community garden and work with Mencap to ensure it is planted with plants and flowers that will benefit the Working Together Group and the local community.
- Work with the local supplier to create the boat sculptures and install them at the entrances and exits and work with Mencap on the artwork for the boats