

# Hatherop Park

## Consultation on proposed creation of new football pitch

### Summary of Results

#### 1. Background

As part of the Council's continued commitment to improve our parks and open spaces, we are proposing to create an additional football pitch in Hatherop Park to accommodate and grow girls' football in the borough.

Women's football is a fast-growing sport internationally. We would like to be able to provide sport opportunities for all and we recognise the health benefits sport can bring to individuals and the community.

However, the current football facilities are not sufficient to accommodate additional new teams. The proposed new pitch would allow for additional teams to be developed, as well as protecting existing pitches from overuse, thereby helping to protect this green flag award-winning park for the future.

As is currently the case, the football clubs would use portable goals to ensure the park is not dominated by football pitches. The pitches are situated as far away from Hatherop Road as possible to minimise any effects on local residents and consideration is given to park users and dog walkers to ensure they are not restricted on entry to the park. An indicative map showing the proposed location of the new pitch can be viewed [here](#).

Football sessions are held on Sunday mornings and only during the football season (August to April). If the proposals are supported, the pitches would be prepared in time for next season 2021/22. Sports clubs would also be encouraged to promote sustainable travel or car shares to and from the park to ease the pressures of parking on adjacent roads.

This consultation took place between 18<sup>th</sup> September and 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

#### 2. Summary of Results

116 people responded to this consultation.

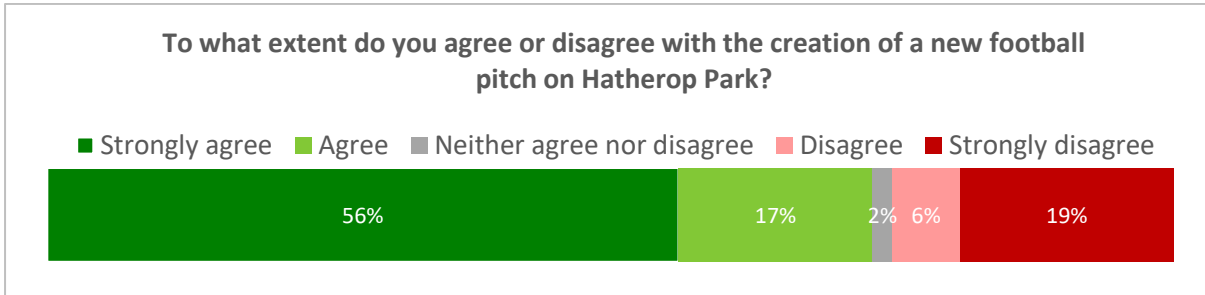
To the question of whether they agree or disagree with the creation of a new football pitch on Hatherop Park, 65 people (56%) strongly agreed, 20 people agreed (17%). One person has suggested moving the pitch away from the proposed area due to damage to ash tree roots.

7 people (6%) disagreed and 22 people (19%) strongly disagreed due to parking issues. The main concern is the worsening of traffic and already restricted parking on adjacent streets, causing dangerous situations for park users and drivers. Verges are becoming 'quagmires' due to irresponsible parking. Some people feel that there are already large parts of the grass areas taken over by football pitches, basketball, outdoor gym, etc and not enough space for dog walkers and other park users. A few concerns about the increased noise as the location is too close to properties.

2 people (2%) neither agreed or disagreed. Part of some comments stated that they would agree only if parking and traffic was controlled near the park, such as repainting the double

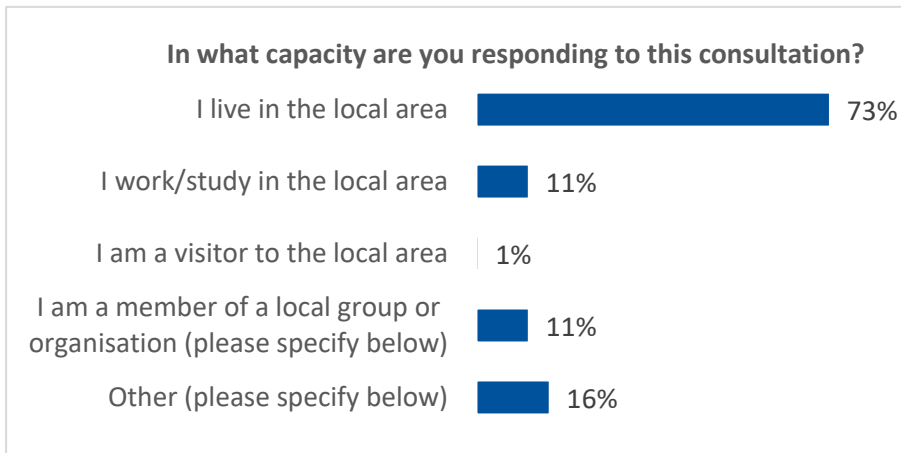
yellow lines around the gate and managing the traffic on match days. One person commented that they support it, but the pitches need to be maintained as they are not at the moment.

Other comments included; would there be more toilet facilities and would the additional pitch be made available for both local clubs Hampton Rangers and Hampton & Richmond. One person would like the rest of the green areas to be wildlife areas. There is a suggestion of moving the pitch to Carlisle Park or the school nearby.

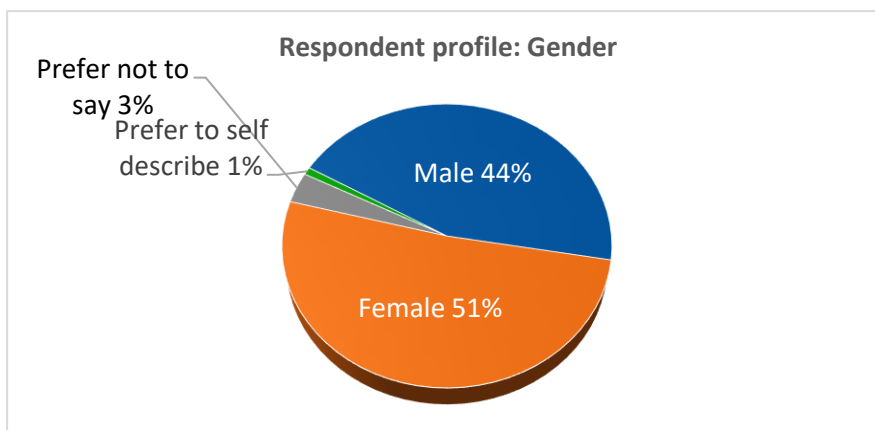


### 2.1. User information

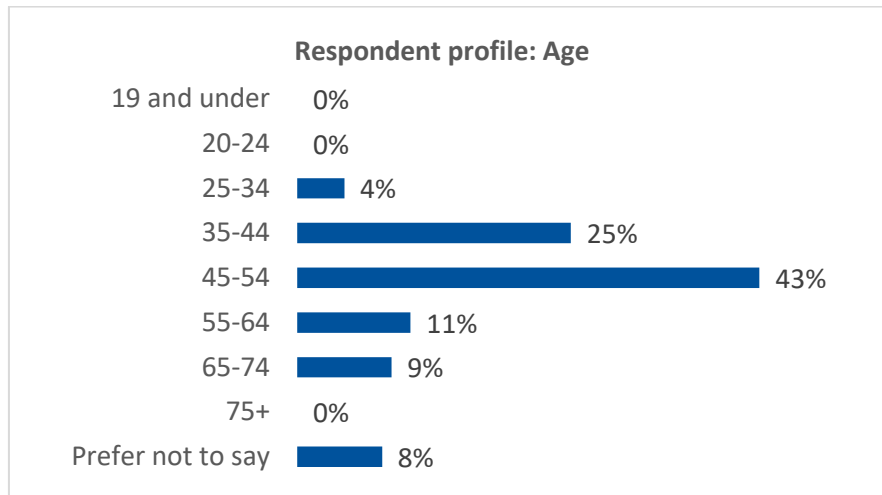
The majority of people, 95 people (82%), use Hatherop Park and 85 people (73%) live in the area.



115 respondents supplied their gender: 59 (51%) people female and 51 people (44%) male.



114 respondents gave their age: 49 people (43%) were between 45-54, 29 people (25%) were between 35-44 and 12 people (11%) were 55-64.



### 3. Next steps

The Parks and Open Spaces Team plan to:

- Share the report with the Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee and ward Councillor's for approval
- If approved - Inform our Grounds Maintenance contractor (Continental Landscapes) of the Councillor decision in order to prepare the new pitch for the 2021/22 season.
- If approved any prospective club will be informed about encouraging sustainable travel and avoidance of parking in neighbouring roads. This will be reiterated through the Council's sports booking system.
- Inform park users of the decision via posters on site and updating the consultation webpage.