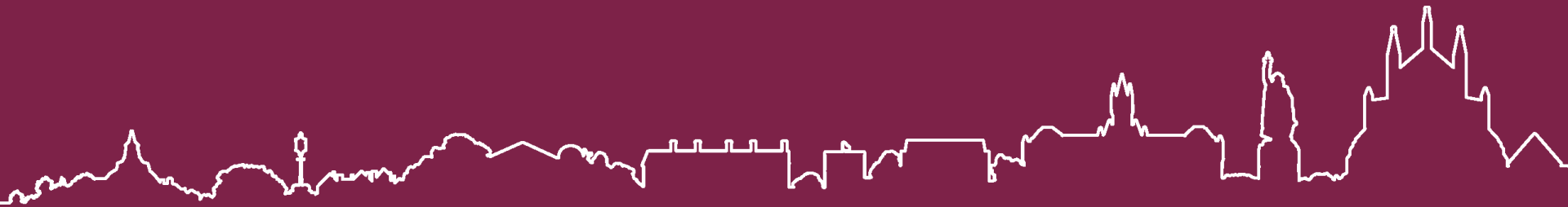


Results of North Walls Park Plan Public Consultation June 2021








PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The public consultation on the Park Plan proposals for North Walls Recreation Ground ran from 10th May – 11th June 2021 primarily online.

The aim of the consultation was to seek feedback on the draft plans submitted by the consultant team following initial 2 day consultation event in 2018 when over 800 people provided information and on site stakeholder meetings.

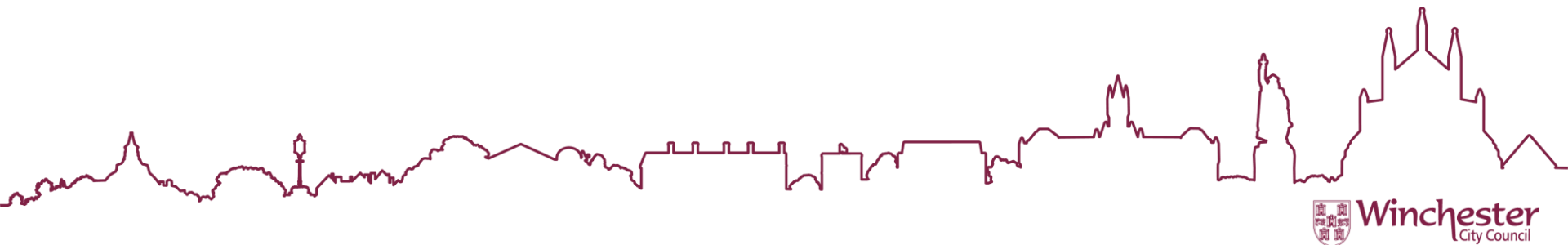
The following slides give an overview of the results from the 2021 consultation including:

-  Vision statement
-  Outdoor rooms concept
-  Suite of 19 ideas
-  Sketch impressions
-  Picture board



KEY FINDINGS

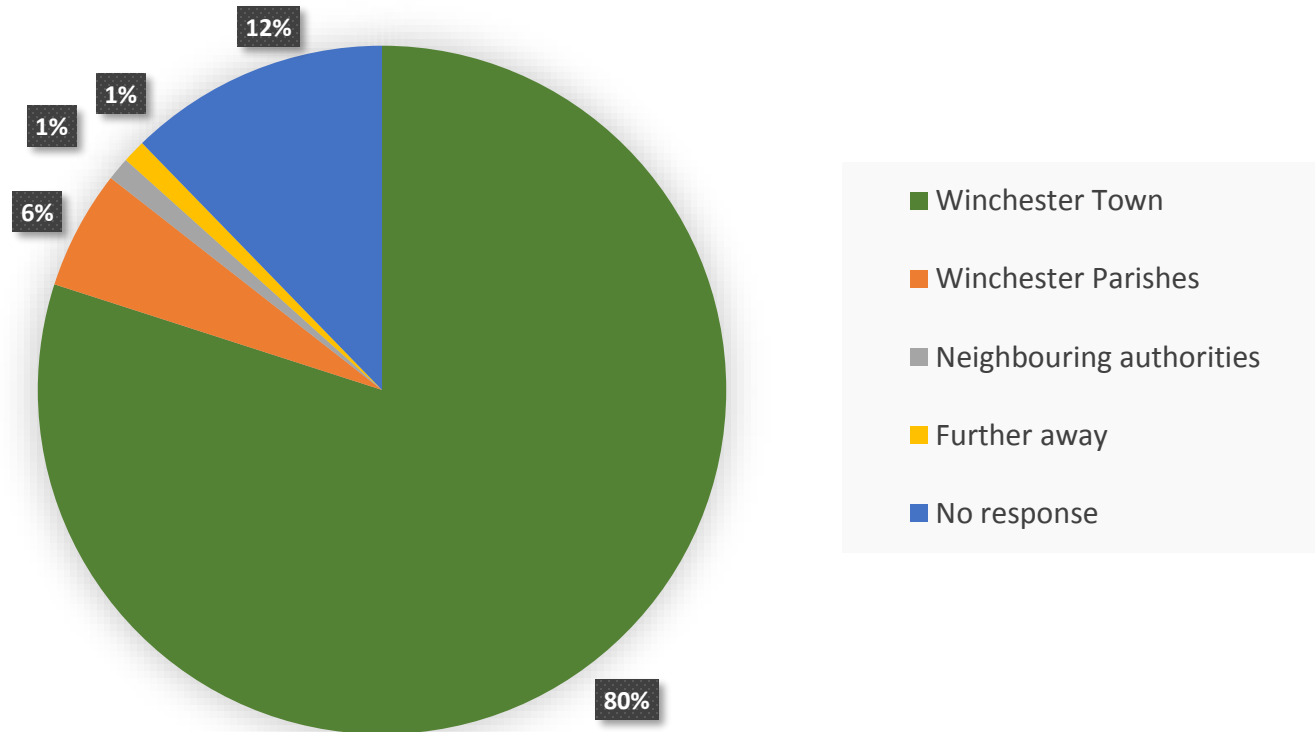
- 🏰 A total of 580 responses to the online survey were received
- 🏰 80% of respondents lived in the Winchester Town area
- 🏰 74% of people surveyed agreed with the vision statement
- 🏰 63% of people surveyed supported the Outdoor Rooms Approach
- 🏰 The top 3 priorities identified were
 1. Plaza / multifunctional space with toilets
 2. Quieter areas with wildlife planting
 3. New perimeter track
- 🏰 All proposals received positive support except the option of a tower which 53% of people said they did not want.



DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

A total of 580 responses to the online survey were received.

Location of respondents



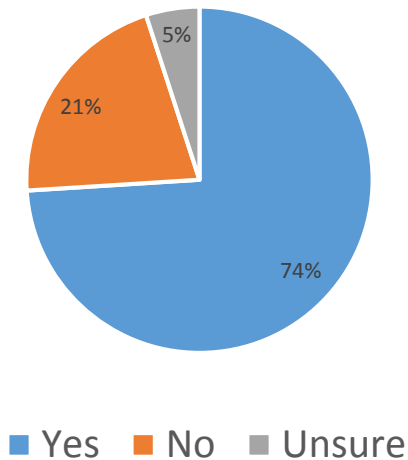
Note: there was an issue with the functioning of the survey form initially where the postcode requirement was not working resulting in 68 no responses to this question

VISION STATEMENT

74% of the 580 people surveyed agreed with the following vision statement

We want North Walls to be a “great park loved by a great city community, with all the things one would want from a modern park - function and beauty, activity and quiet, exploration and play, landmarks and river context, sustainability, and things that are unified yet diverse.”

Do you agree with the Vision Statement for
North Walls Park?



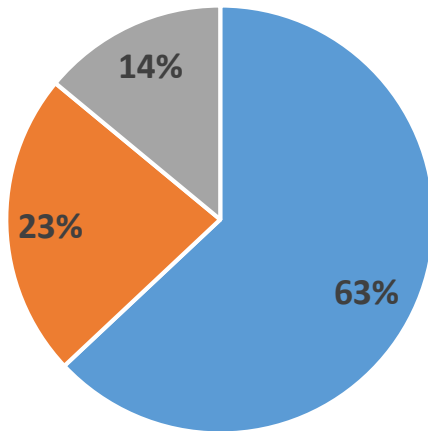
Of the 26% who did not agree with the vision, the majority wished to see a greater emphasis on the natural environment made and the removal of the term “landmarks”

Note: respondents were not required to complete all sections of the survey

OUTDOOR ROOMS APPROACH

63% of the 580 people surveyed supported the Outdoor Rooms Approach

Do you support the
Outdoor Rooms Approach?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure

For some, the term “outdoor room” caused confusion, with people unsure the space could be used flexibly.

The most popular suggestion for other outdoor rooms was for a lido (8% of respondents).

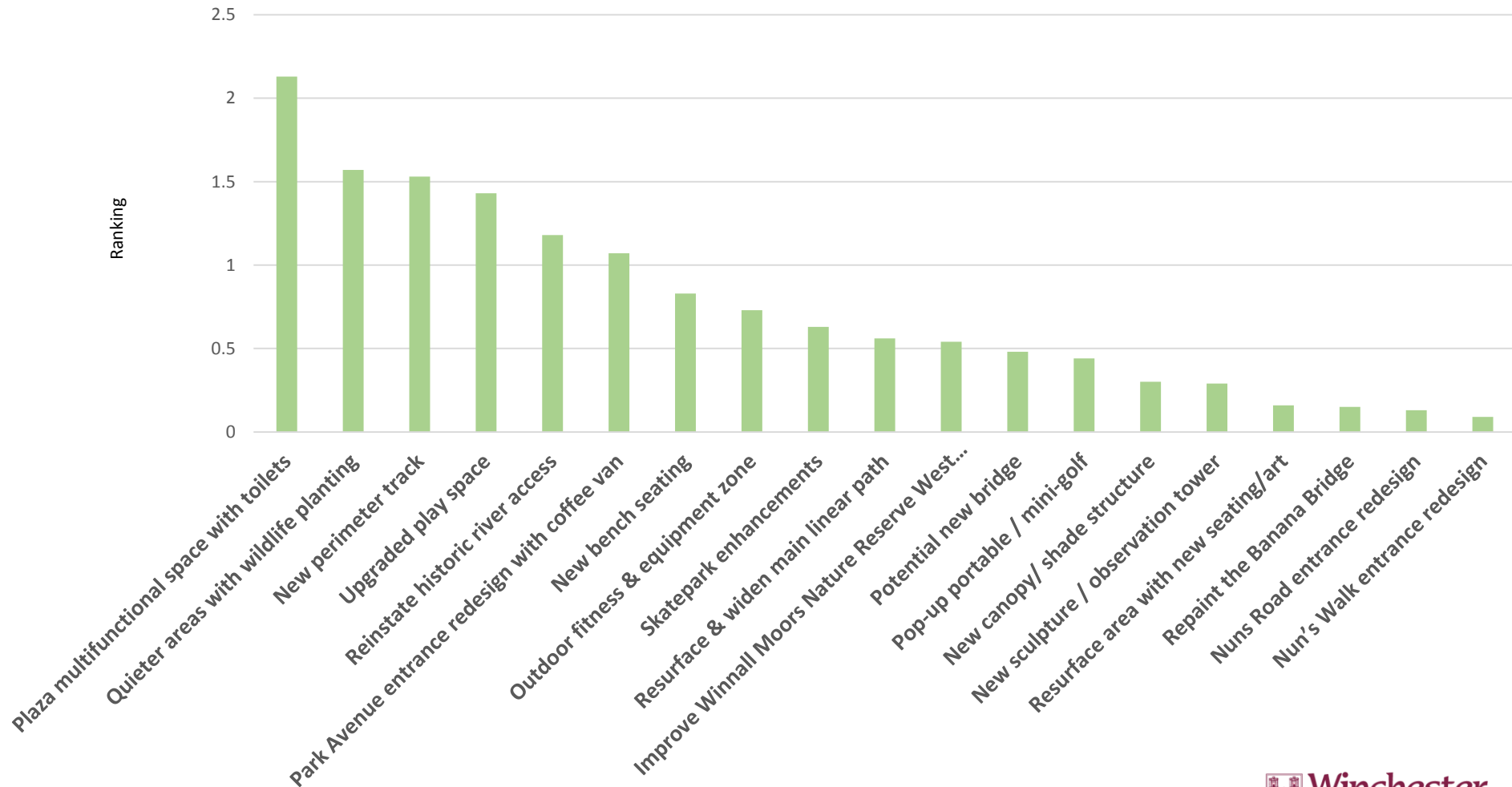
There was interest in a lido following the initial consultation in 2018. This was not put forward as part of these proposals as there is nowhere to provide this without the loss of significant green space or sports pitches. However, water play does form part of proposals for the plaza area.

The second most popular suggestion was for a permanent café (5% of respondents).

PRIORITISATION OF IMPROVEMENTS

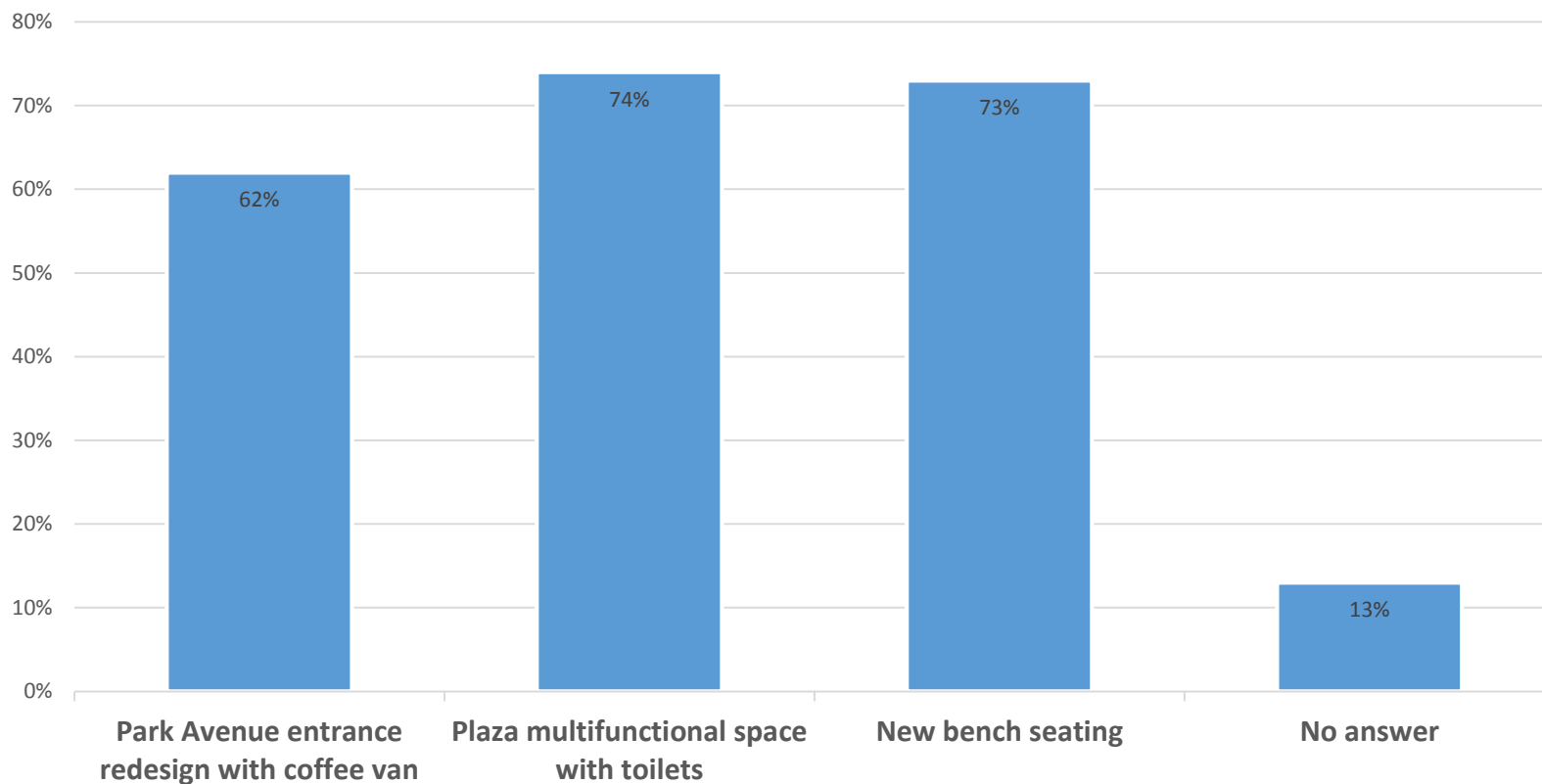
People were asked to rank their top 5 ideas in order of priority

The plaza multifunctional space with toilets was ranked most important



GRAND ENTRANCE

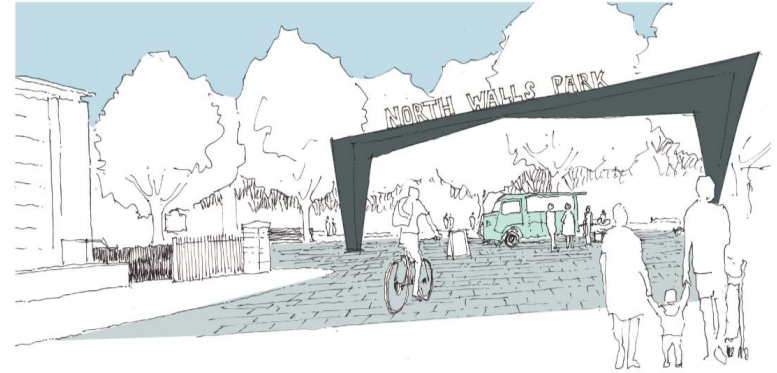
All proposed ideas for the Grand Entrance were popular with survey respondents



GRAND ENTRANCE CONTINUED

“The entrance design needs to be more simple, natural and in keeping with the area”

“The water jets for the plaza is a nice idea and this kind of water play area is something that local parents have been asking for, for some time...”

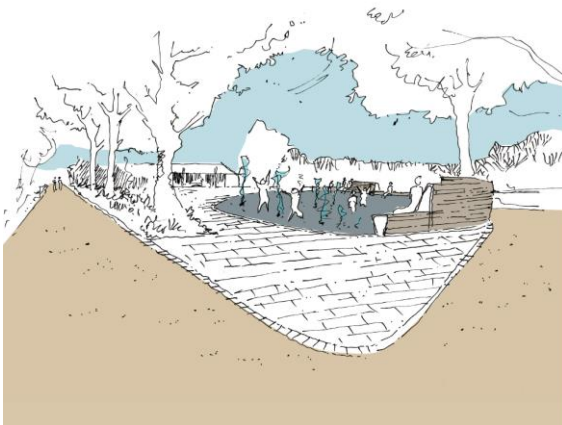


“Needs a permanent cafe within park to create a hub for people”

“Toilets are a definite necessity”

“Upgraded and well placed benches with decent access with low impact paths will encourage appreciation of the natural beauty of the park.”

A coffee van may be a welcome addition but serious consideration needs to be given to the added litter it will create.

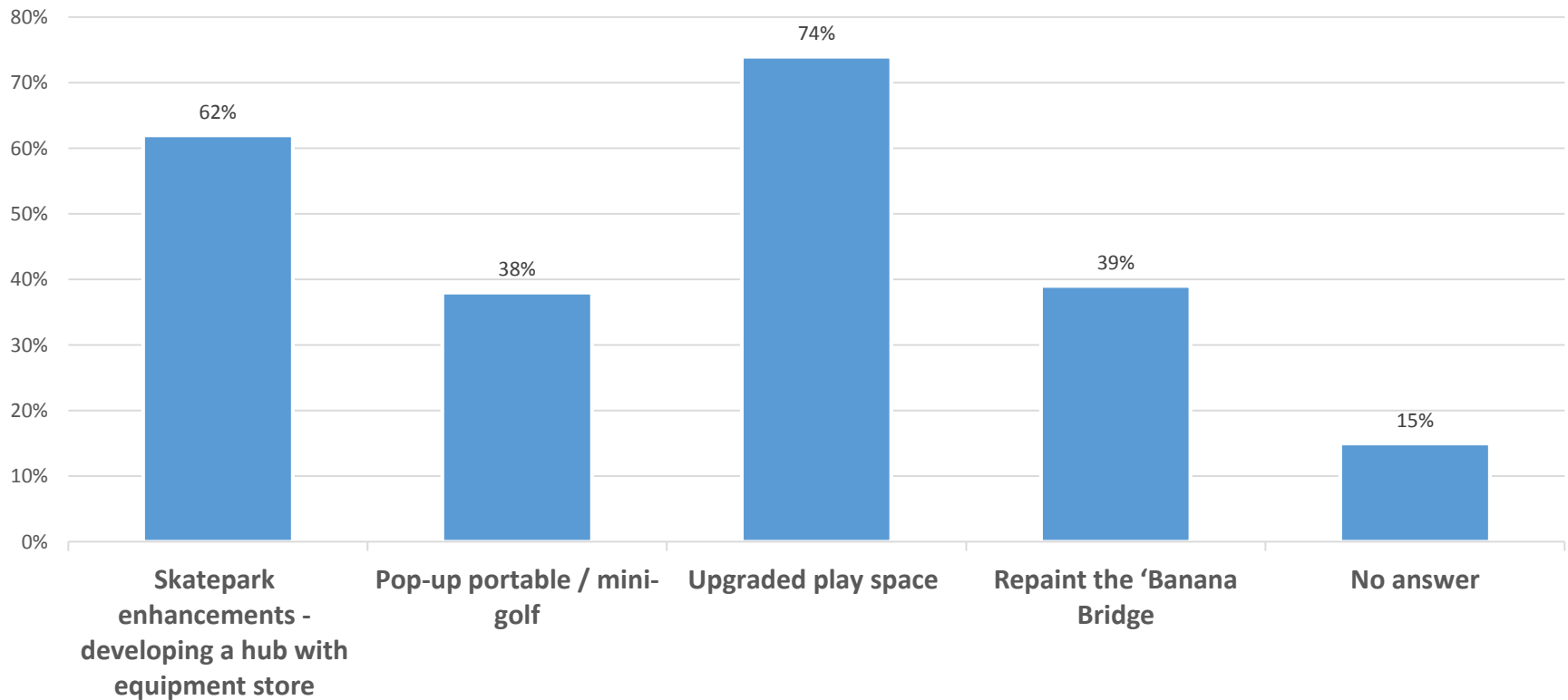


PLAY AND SKATE

74% of respondents wanted to see the play space upgraded.

Improvements to the skate park were also popular with 62% of respondents agreeing with the proposal

Which of the following ideas do you like for this Outdoor Room?



PLAY AND SKATE CONTINUED

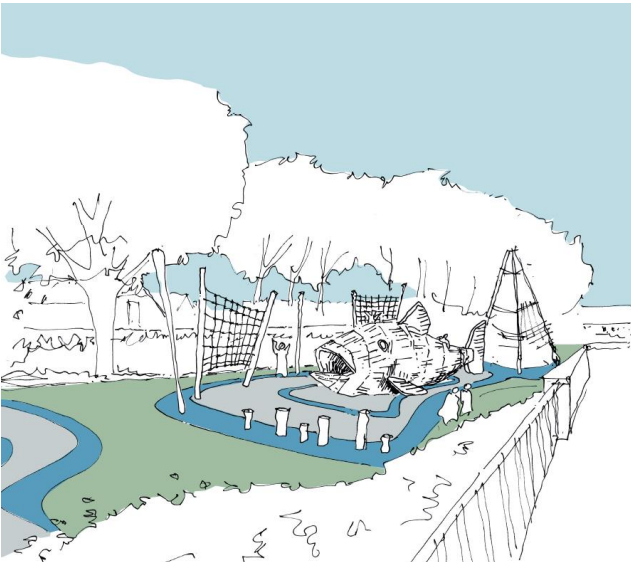
“Concentrate on making the play area as good as possible for the children”

“I agree with upgrading existing play facilities but do not think these need to be expanded with respect to the footprint as this may reduce the existing green space.”

“A yellow banana bridge sounds like an eyesore”



“Banana bridge should be a neutral and rustic colour”

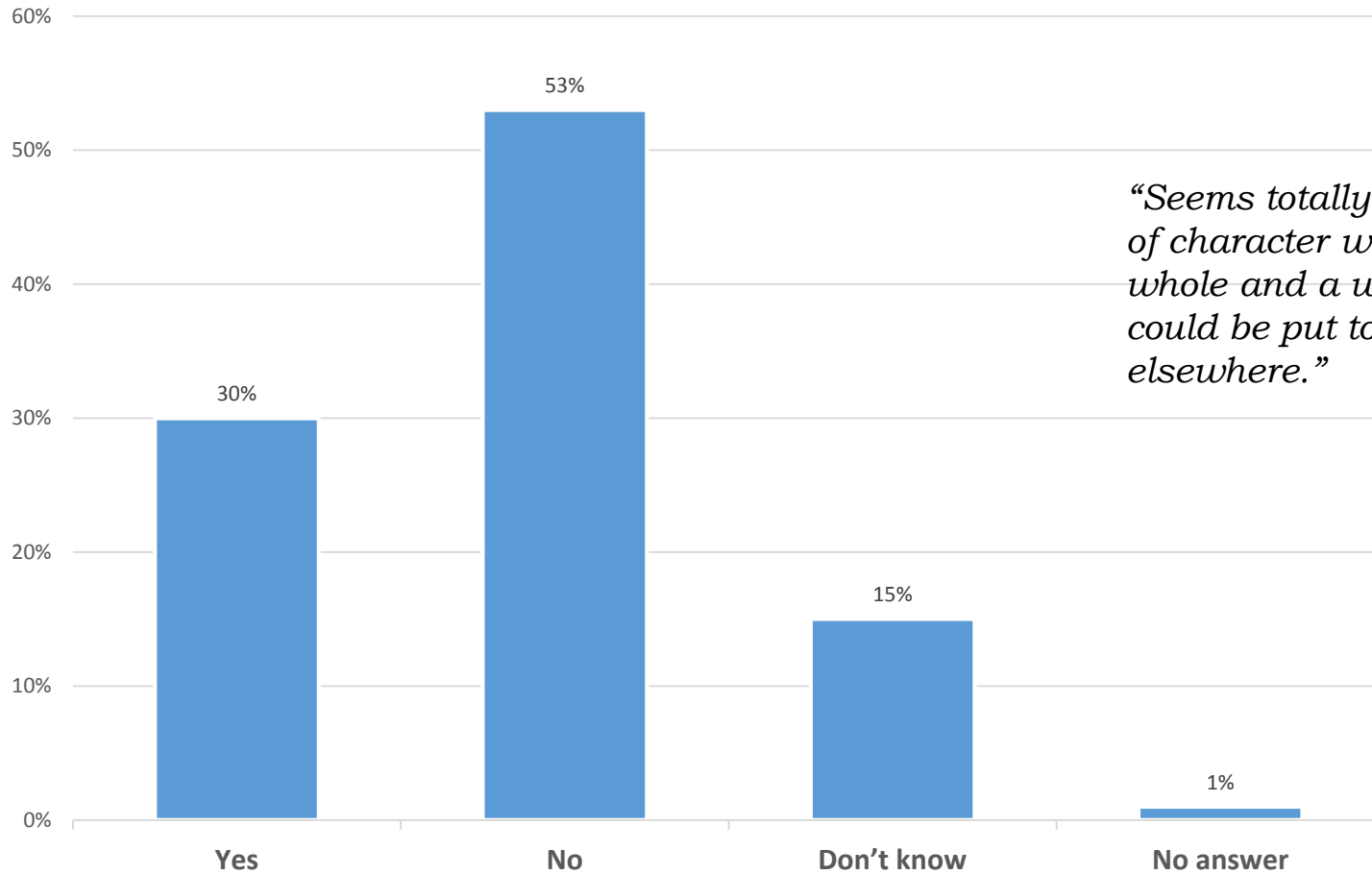


An extension to the existing skate park would be useful. Older children/ young adults would benefit greatly.

I am firmly against pop-up portable/ mini golf taking up part of the existing park.

TOWER

53% of respondents did not like the idea of the tower

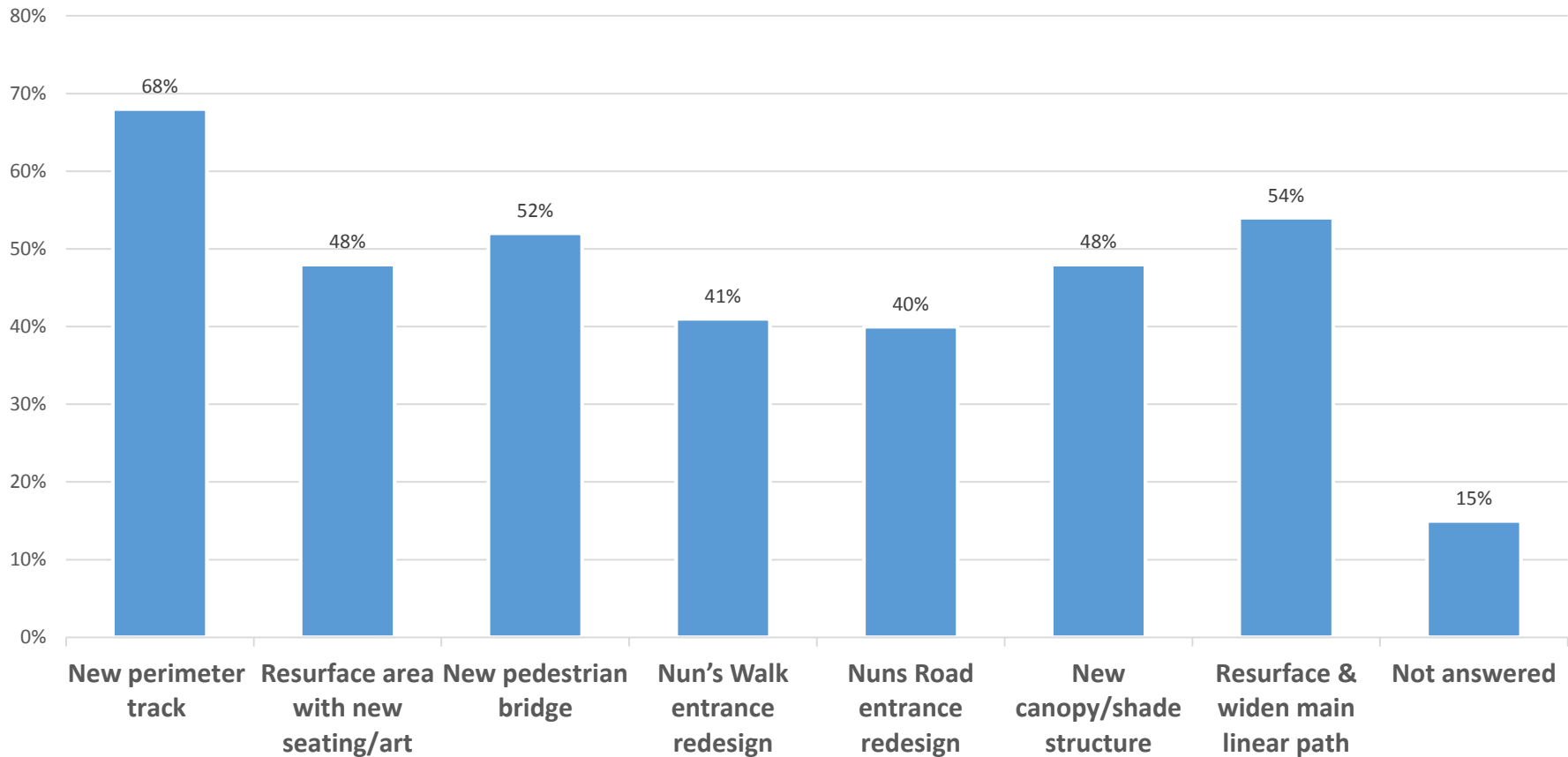


“Seems totally unnecessary, out of character with the park as a whole and a waste of funds that could be put to better use elsewhere.”

PITCHES AND PICNICS

68% of respondents supported the perimeter track proposal

Which of the following ideas do you like for this Outdoor Room?



PITCHES AND PICNICS

As a park runner, the new perimeter track would be excellent as early in 2020 park run was consistently cancelled due to wet and slippery surface.

Supportive of new seating as this is beneficial to people with limited mobility, and for everyone more generally.



The 'Art' should be fairly discreet.



The Nuns Rd and Walk entrances just need tidying up not totally redesigned.

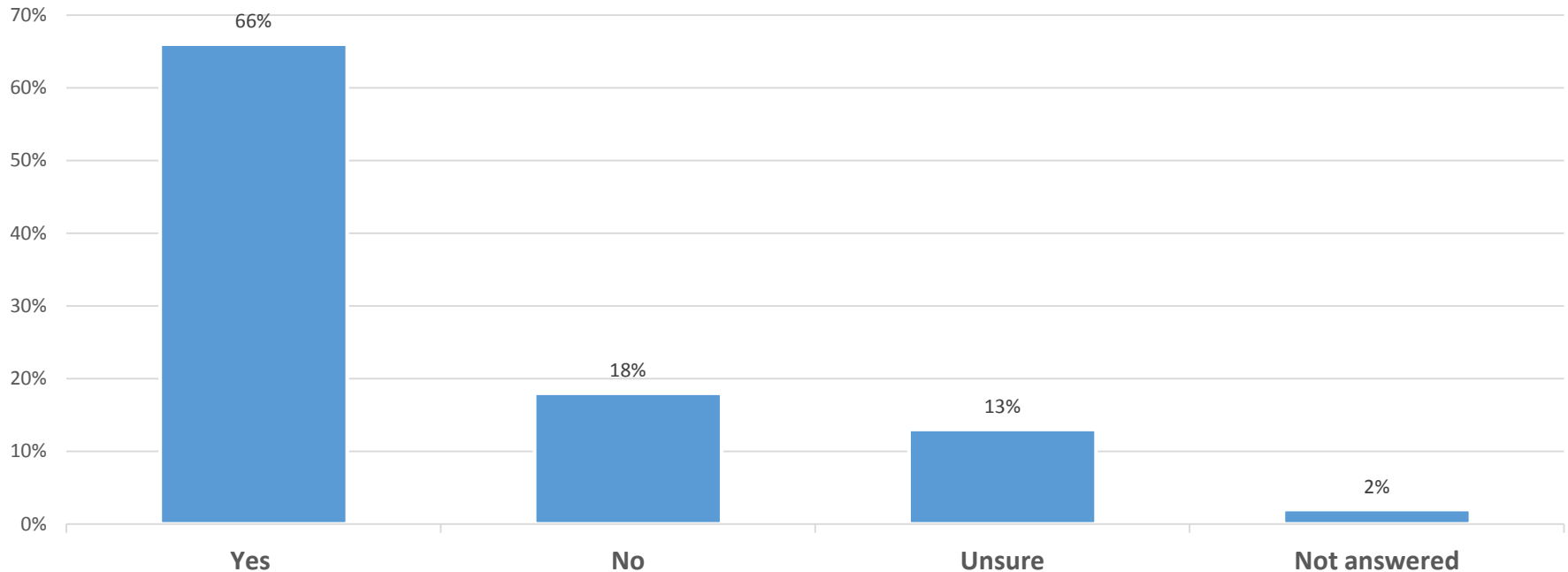
Good ideas but not sure about the very urban shade canopy, perhaps something more in keeping with the green and partially rural area

Linear path is a key route for pedestrians and cyclists moving through the park to and from the city to access key facilities and amenities. At peak times the path is very busy with parents and children walking, cycling and scooting..... widening would reduce or ideally eliminate any conflict between users.

SPORT AND FITNESS

66% of respondents liked idea of an outdoor fitness area

Do you like the idea of outdoor fitness & exercise equipment with a multi-functional area for all-weather classes?



“A designated area for all weather outdoor sports classes is a great idea.”

“Outdoor exercise equipment could be well used, but this must not be at the proposed location near to the tennis courts. This is a busy, surface-worn, corner of the park and in full view of Hyde Abbey Garden”.

SPORT AND FITNESS



Outdoor exercise equipment could be well used, but this must not be at the proposed location near to the tennis courts. This is a busy, surface-worn, corner of the park and in full view of Hyde Abbey Garden.

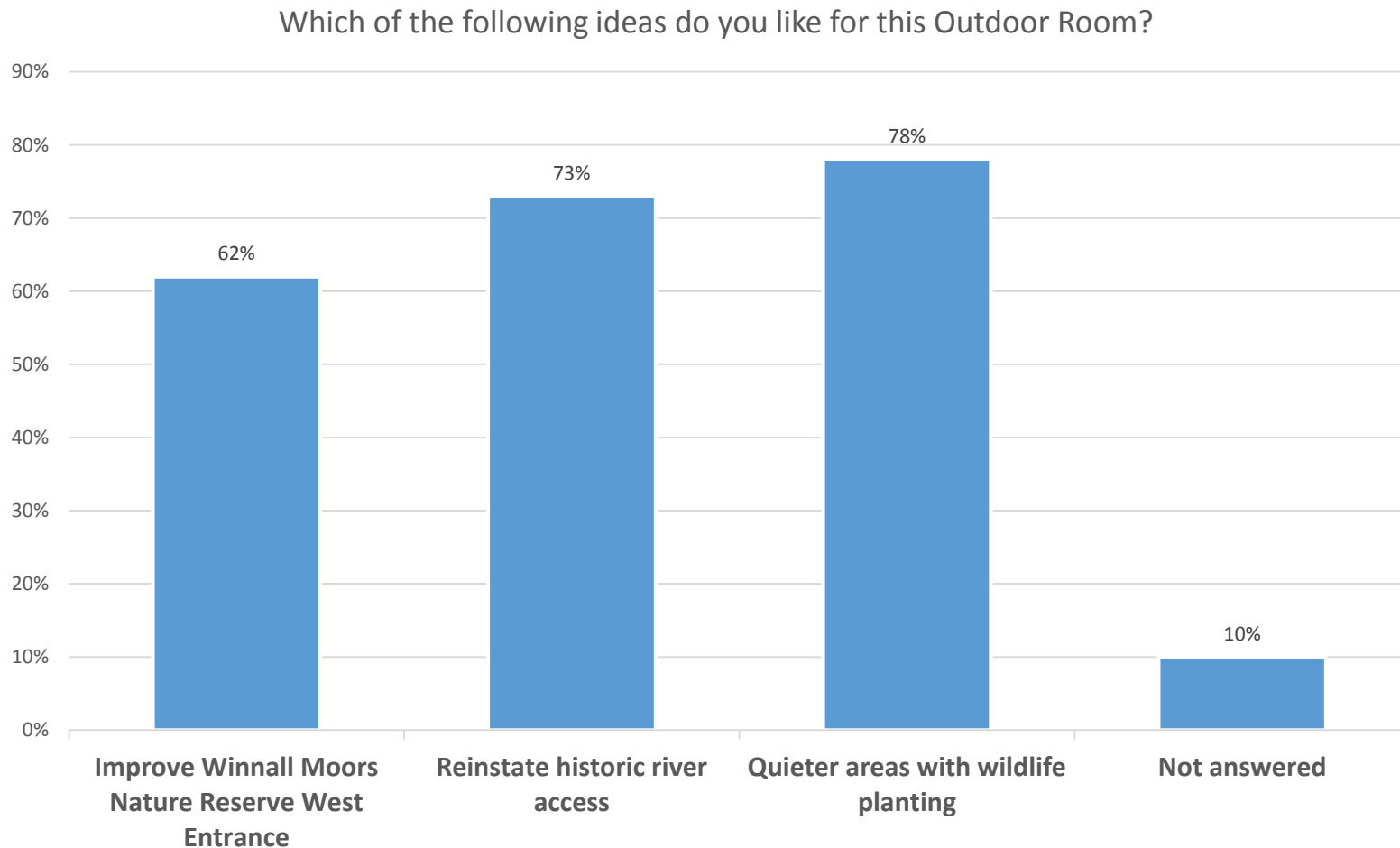
“A jungle gym type of setup, with things like pull ups and parallel bars. “

“A designated area for all weather outdoor sports classes is a great idea.”



QUIET AND WILDLIFE

78% of respondents liked the idea of quieter areas with wildlife planting

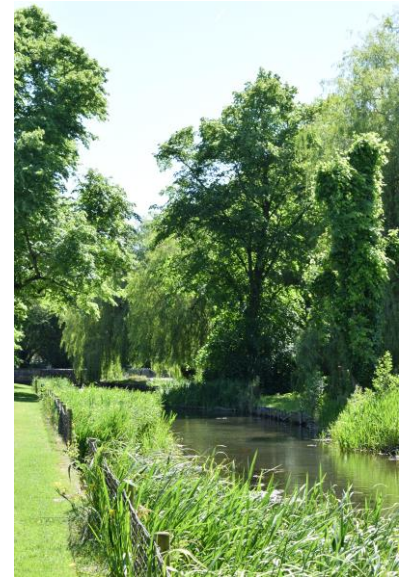


QUIET AND WILDLIFE CONTINUED

"It's especially important that it remains a place that wildlife thrives."

"Love the river access here and have used it before on several occasions. I feel a light touch of very high quality would be best to ensure the magic of the place is not harmed."

"I would support any moves to improve the natural environment and biodiversity of the area"



I don't think this is the best area for encouraging river access as it is adjacent to the nature reserve and people swimming in the river alongside the nature reserve disturb the nature. Our nature is already under great stress from our activities. The nature reserve is an SSSI and we must be careful about activities round its edge that will affect it.

Steps on current moors entrance make it difficult for disabled users and those with buggies.

SKETCH IMPRESSIONS

Sketches of some of the key features were produced and people were asked to provide comment on images they particularly liked or disliked.



Perimeter Path

Like image	125
Don't like image	21
Too formal	6

Fitness Area

Like image	59
Don't like image	26
Too formal	7



Note: respondents were not required to complete all sections of the survey

SKETCH IMPRESSIONS CONTINUED



Play Area

Like image	98
Don't like image	23
Needs to be bigger	9
Too formal	6
Boring	6
Use normal play equipment	6
Don't like the fish	6

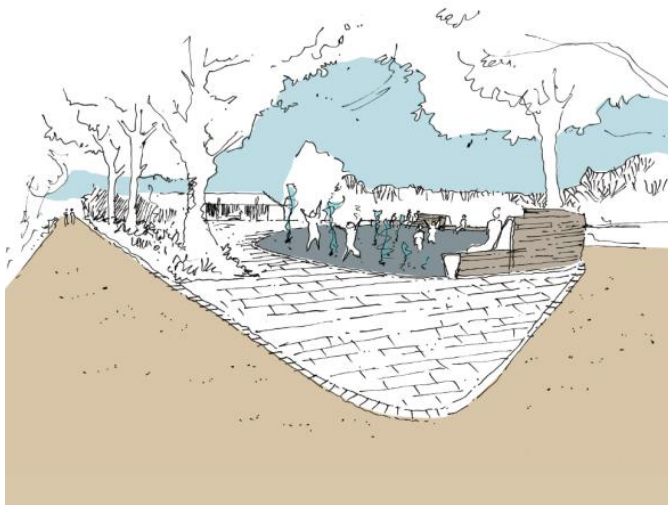
Tower

Don't like image	142
Like image	57
Not in keeping	14
Don't want a tower	8
Too blocky	5



Note: respondents were not required to complete all sections of the survey

SKETCH IMPRESSIONS CONTINUED

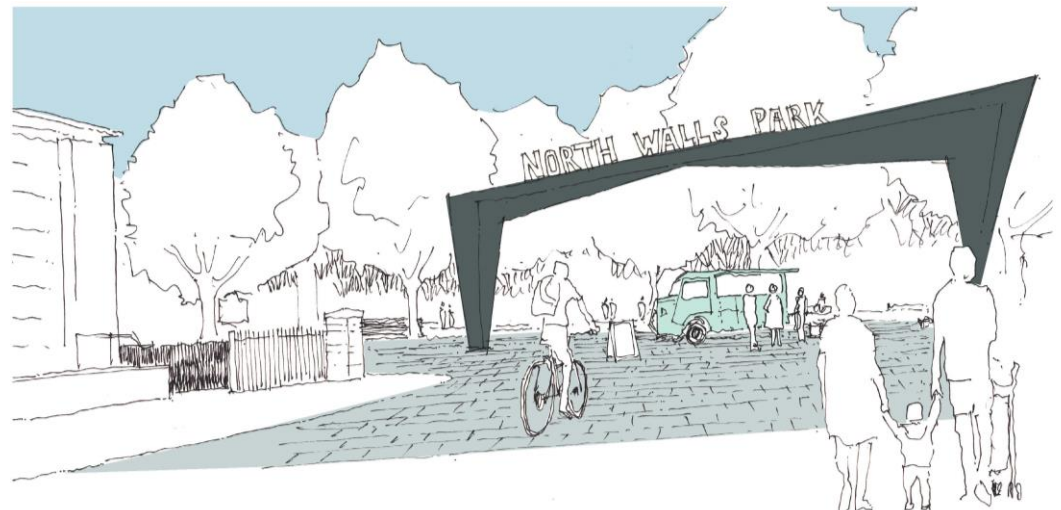


Plaza

Like image	123
Don't like image	30
Too much hard standing	12
Too formal	5

Park Entrance

Don't like image	77
Like image	57
Not in keeping	18
More natural	12
More subtle	11
Too formal	11
Tacky	5



Note: respondents were not required to complete all sections of the survey

PICTURE BOARD

A picture board of images from other places was produced and people were asked to comment on which images they particularly liked or disliked.



1 A mobile coffee van for drinks & snacks



1 Birdbox signs that also light up at night



1 Simple, spacious eye-catching feature that could frame the entrance to the Park



Like images	96
Don't like images	54
Don't like the bird boxes	46
More natural	14
Permanent café	8

Like image	71
Don't like image	15



3 Two-way facing benches could be linked to form long, linear seating areas



2 Multi-functional events area with interactive water jets / sprays



2 New public toilets

Like images	101
Agree with toilets	42
Love the splash pad	29
Don't like images	25
Put in on leisure centre site	5
Include paddling pool	5

Note: respondents were not required to complete all sections of the survey

PICTURE BOARD CONTINUED



4 Skatpark enhancements such as a youth shelter

Like image	58
Don't like image	19



5 Pop up, movable adventure golf hole system

Like image	53
Don't use open space for this	32



6 Inspiring adventure play space where little kids & big kids could climb, slide, roll & run

Like image	141
Don't like image	17
Like the winding structure	7
Needs to be bigger to fit this in	5



6 Winding play structure



7 Consider repainting the Banana Bridge yellow

Don't paint it yellow	114
Like it	45

Note: respondents were not required to complete all sections of the survey

PICTURE BOARD CONTINUED



8 An iconic observation tower could help raise awareness of one's wider surroundings

Not needed	121
Like it	55
Don't like this image	14



10 Wayfinding & interpretive signs coordinated across the Park with other items, eg. lighting & seating

Like image	60
Not needed	30



12 An inspiring artwork, such as a mirror labyrinth, could act as a memorable place

Like image	46
No permanent artwork	24
Need needed, keep as open space	23
Will be vandalised / become outdated	7
Something but not this	6

9 Example track distance marker



9 Perimeter track of self-binding gravel for a natural appearance

Like images	102
Don't like images	17



13 Wildflower patches would create lively feeding & nesting grounds for wildlife



13 Bug hotels could be part park art & part winter habitat for beneficial insects

Like images	126
Don't like it	9

Note: respondents were not required to complete all sections of the survey

PICTURE BOARD CONTINUED



14 Potential new bridge to increase access around the Park

Like image	78
Not needed	12



16 Attractive supporting stand for bicycles that also serves as a bollard

Like image	63
Don't like it	14
Not attractive	7



17 Solar trees could create shaded meeting places for people to lounge & linger

No	91
Like it	57
Use real trees	21
Too urban / modern	20
Ugly	5

Not needed	55
Like it	49
Too much	19
Too modern	5



15 A new northern entrance feature that could frame views into the Park



19 Drinking fountains to help reduce the number of single-use plastic bottles









19 Outdoor gym equipment to provide a range of physical & health benefits

Like images	73
Love the water fountains	44
Don't like images	22

Note: respondents were not required to complete all sections of the survey

CONCERNS ABOUT THE PROPOSALS

Respondents were asked to express any concerns they may have about the proposals. The top 6 are detailed below:

-  10% of respondents stated they had no concerns
-  13% of respondents expressed concern that the site of old leisure centre was not included in the proposals
-  12% of respondents wanted to minimise the impact on wildlife, protect the natural green space and not over develop the site
-  7% of respondents wanted to ensure that maintenance was a key consideration
-  6% of respondents were keen to ensure that any structures did not spoil the natural feel of the area
-  6% of respondents were concerned about ensuring value for money

FINAL COMMENTS

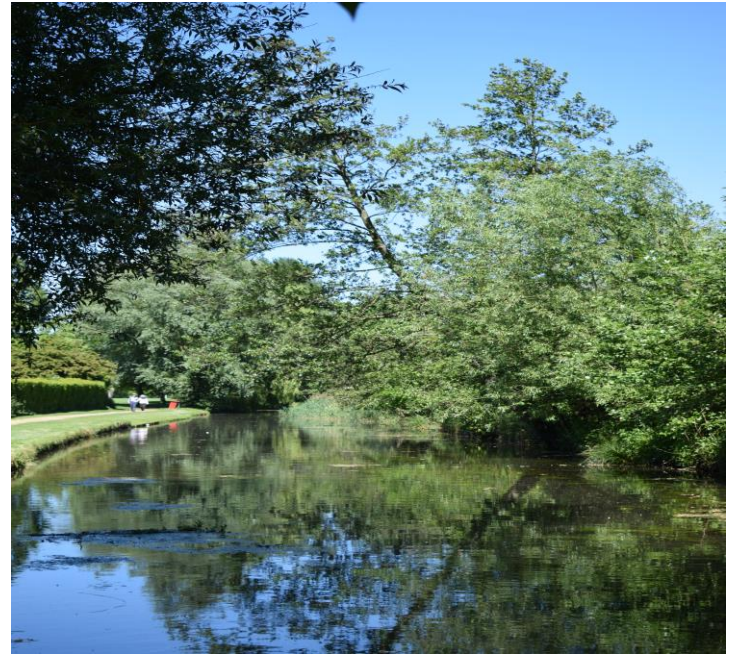
- 9% of respondents wanted to ensure that the natural look and feel of the open space was retained
- 8% of respondents commented that they thought the proposals were great



SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

Thank you to all those who participated in the consultation, your feedback will be invaluable in moving forward with the Park Plan and helping to shape this vital open space for the future.

Winchester City Council officers and the consultant team are using all feedback to develop the final version of the Park Plan which will be available on this webpage in the Autumn.



Our webpage at www.winchester.gov.uk/northwallsriverpark will be used to keep you informed on the progress of the project and an action plan will be published showing the priorities and timescale for implementation.

If you have any questions please contact the Natural Environment and Recreation Team at NaturalEnvironment@winchester.gov.uk