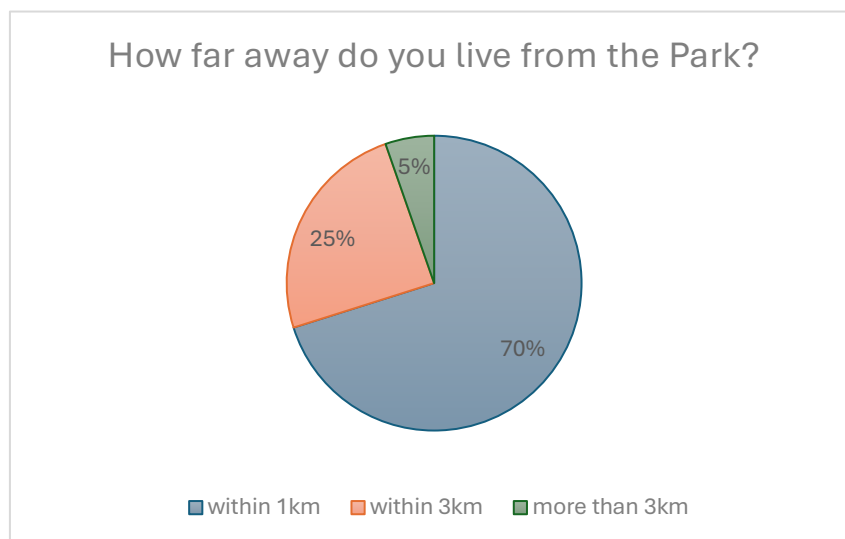


Kings Heath Park Landscape Improvements

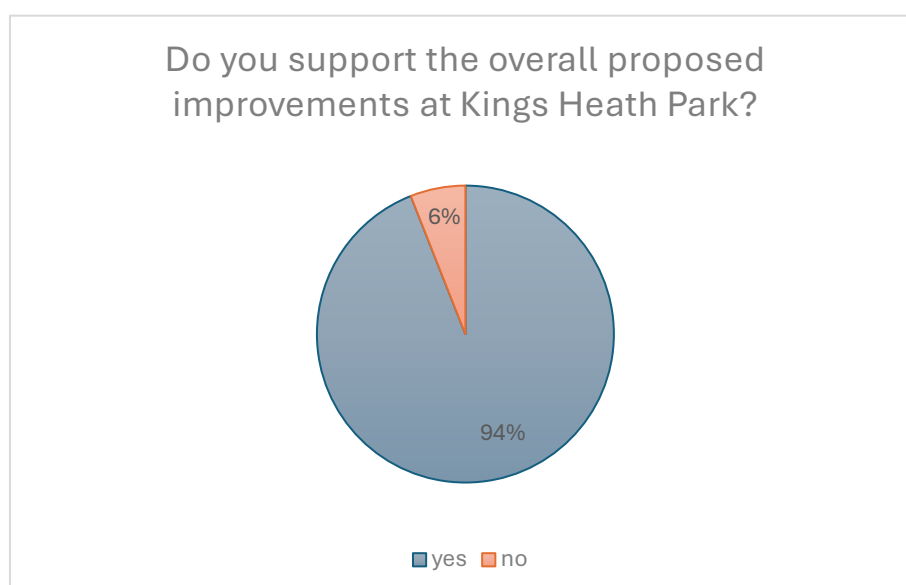
Public Consultation Results – July 2026

Introduction

We have conducted both an online consultation on our platform “Be Heard” and in paper form, to gather the residents’ opinions on the landscape improvements proposed for Kings Heath Park. Collectively, we have received **319 responses**, 272 from Be Heard and 47 from paper copies. From the consultation, we have found that **70% of respondents live very locally to the park, within a 1km range**, while **25% live within a 3km range** and **5% live more than 3km away**.

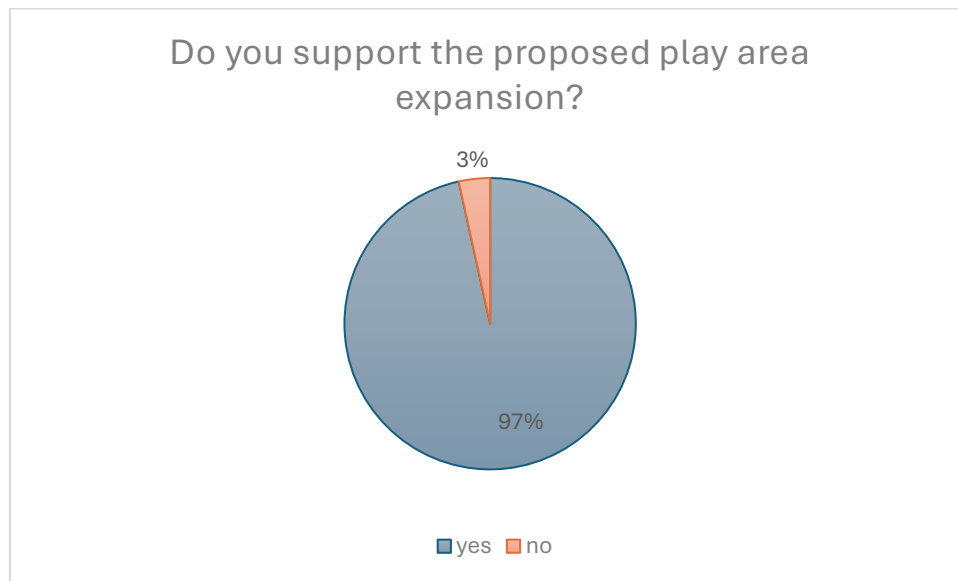


Out of those responses, **94% of people support the proposed landscape improvements at Kings Heath Park**.

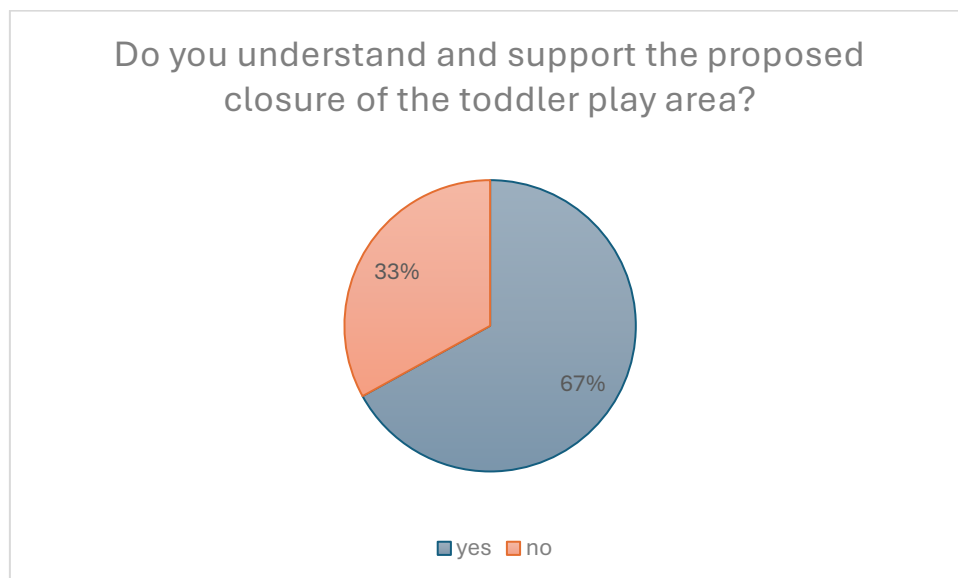


Play area proposals

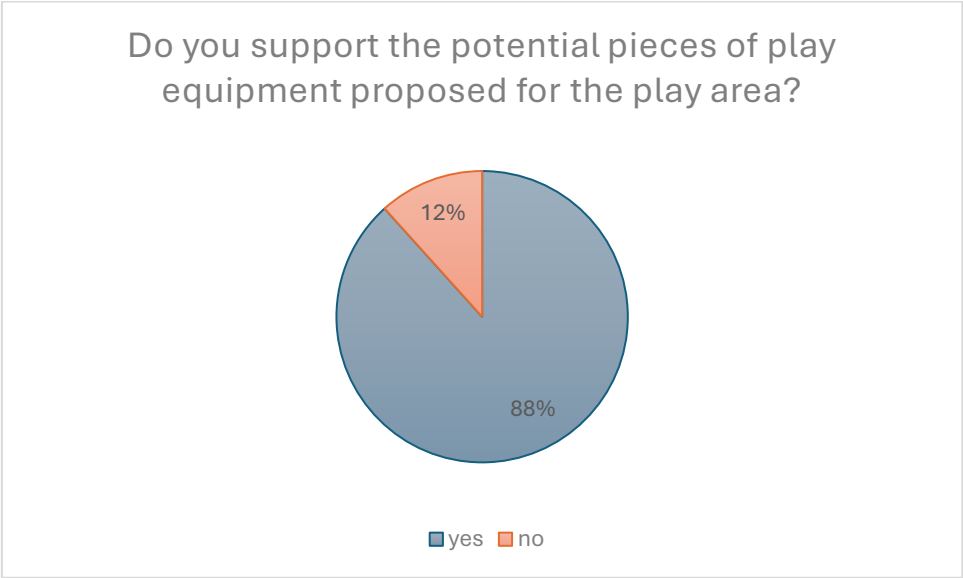
97% of respondents support the proposed play area expansion, while 3% don't support the proposed play area expansion.



67% of respondents understand and support the proposed closure of the toddler play area, while 33% don't understand / or support it. A lot of respondents have also left comments further on in the consultation how they are not happy with the closure of the toddler play area.



88% of respondents support the potential proposed pieces of play equipment for the play area, while 12% don't.



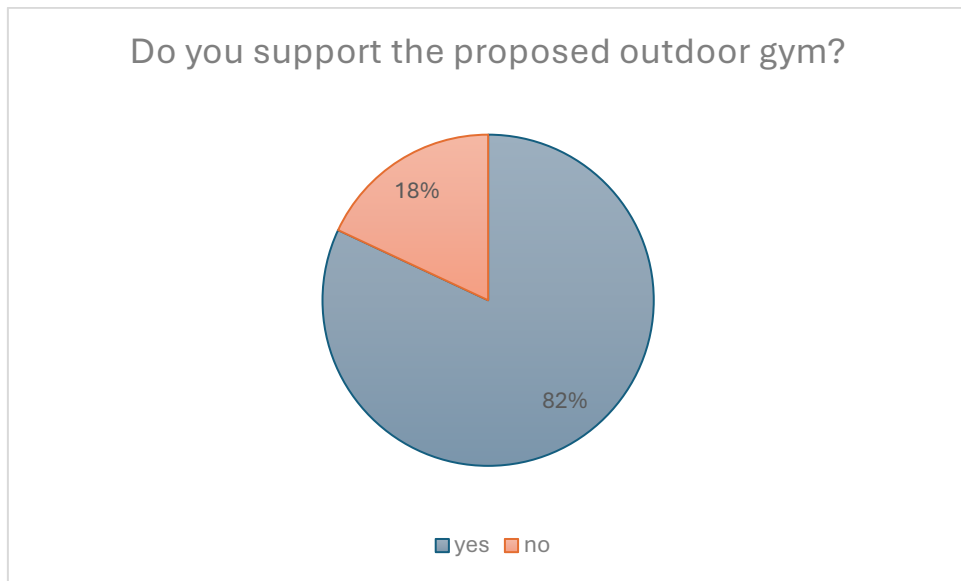
Respondents were asked if they have other suggestions for play equipment that were not mentioned. The most popular answer was a separate toddler provision, with 28% of respondents providing this response. Another popular answers were swings (16%), accessibility and inclusion (14%).

Responses are shown below:

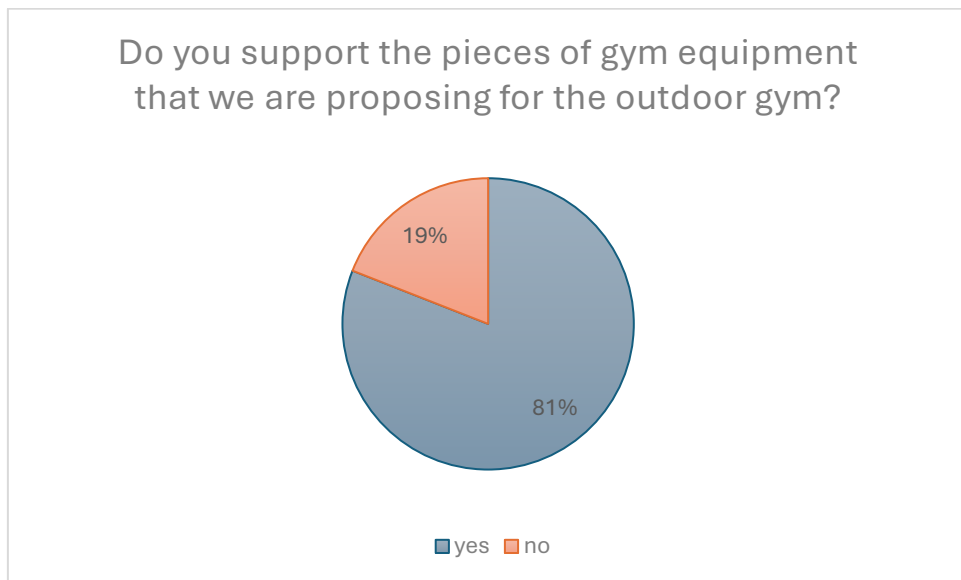
Other suggestions for play equipment	Respondent answers
Toddler Provision	28%
Swings	16%
Accessibility & Inclusion	14%
Slides	10%
Zip Wire	9%
Natural / Imaginative Play	8%
Water & Sand Play	6%
Skate / Scooter Facilities	5%
Climbing Equipment	4%

Outdoor Gym proposals

82% of respondents support the proposed outdoor gym, while 18% don't support it.



81% of respondents support the pieces of gym equipment that we are proposing for the outdoor gym, while 19% don't support it.



Respondents who answered ‘no’ were asked to provide a reason why they don’t support the proposed outdoor gym or suggest alternative suggestions. Their responses are shown below:

Reasons respondents don’t support the proposed outdoor gym / alternative suggestions	Approx. No. Comments	% of Comments
Concern equipment will not be used	25	35%
Support for outdoor gym / health benefits	10	14%
Requests for additional or different equipment	12	17%
Accessibility and inclusive equipment	8	11%
Concerns about maintenance and vandalism	7	10%
Alternative suggestions (playground, skatepark, toilets, pond, etc.)	6	8%
Young people / teenage facilities needed	4	5%

Outdoor Gym Feedback – Summary

Feedback was mixed. While many respondents welcomed the health and wellbeing benefits of a free outdoor gym, the dominant concern was whether the equipment would attract sufficient use to justify the investment. Respondents also stressed the importance of accessibility, durability and providing a broader range of community facilities

Concern about usage:

The most common concern was that outdoor gym equipment may be underused, with respondents noting that similar facilities in other parks are often empty or mainly used by children. Many felt funding could be better spent elsewhere.

Support for the proposal:

A number of respondents supported the gym, highlighting its potential health and wellbeing benefits, particularly as a free exercise facility for local residents and older adults.

Equipment suggestions:

Those in favour often requested a wider range of equipment, including pull-up bars, cross trainers, rowing machines, leg presses and adjustable-resistance machines to make the facility more appealing and useful.

Accessibility and maintenance:

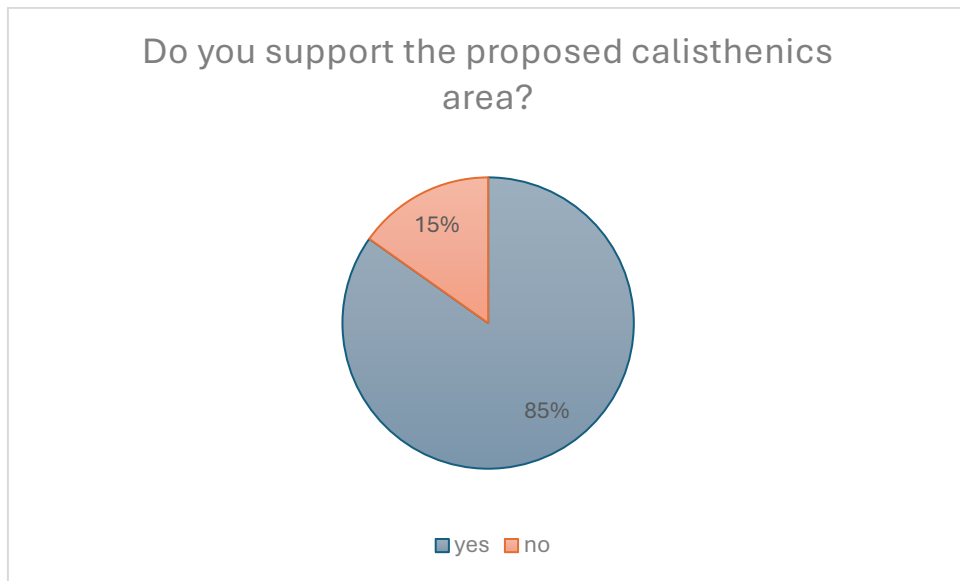
Respondents emphasised the need for accessible and inclusive equipment, suitable for wheelchair users and people with reduced mobility. Long-term maintenance, durability and vandal resistance were also recurring concerns.

Alternative priorities:

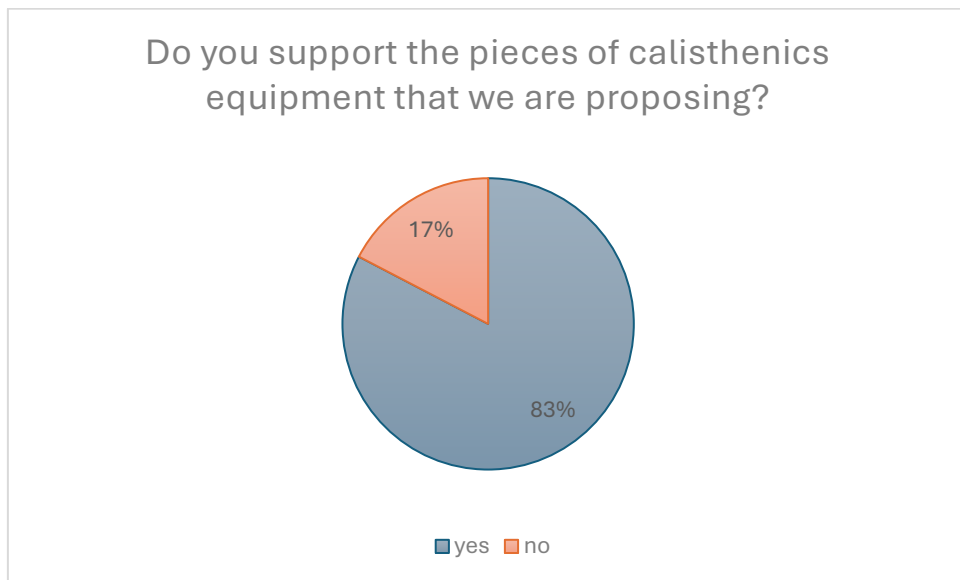
Some respondents felt investment should instead focus on children's play facilities, toilets, picnic areas, wildlife improvements, basketball facilities and facilities for teenagers, such as skate parks and pump tracks.

Calisthenics proposals

85% of respondents support the proposed calisthenics area, while 15% don't support it.



83% of respondents support the pieces of calisthenics equipment that we are proposing, while 17% don't support it.



Respondents were asked if they have any comments or suggestions for the calisthenics equipment. Their responses are shown below:

Calisthenics equipment - comments	Approx. no. of mentions	% of mentions
Support for calisthenics proposal	12	24%
Concern it will not be used	11	22%
Requests for additional equipment/features	10	20%
Concerns about loss of green space	5	10%
Maintenance / vandalism concerns	4	8%
Accessibility & inclusivity comments	3	6%
Protect basketball court	3	6%
Alternative priorities suggested	2	4%

Summary of Calisthenics Gym Responses

Feedback on the proposed calisthenics gym was mixed. Supporters welcomed the idea, highlighting the health and wellbeing benefits and the opportunity to provide a free outdoor fitness facility that is currently lacking in the area. Several respondents described the proposal as a positive addition to the park and believed it would attract users interested in strength training and bodyweight exercise.

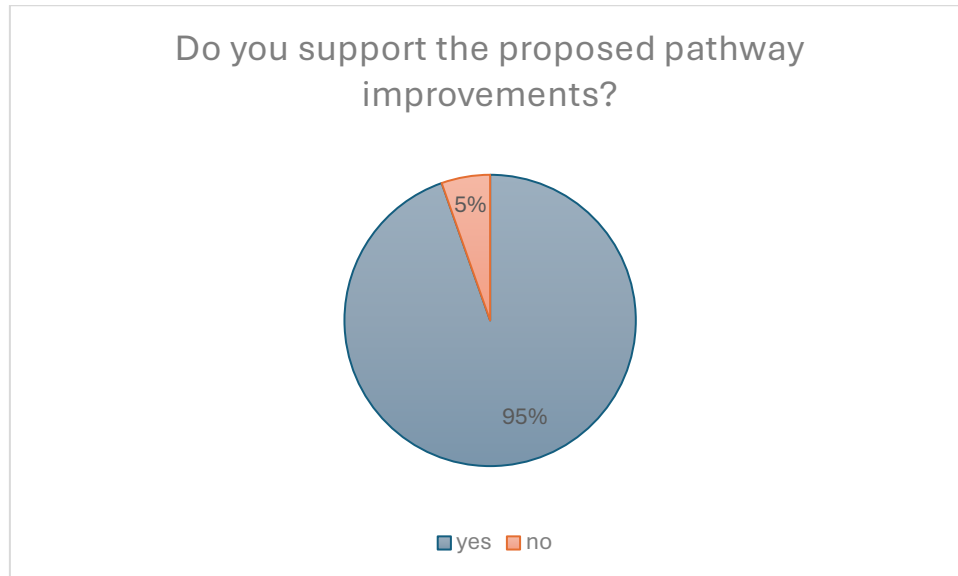
However, a significant number of respondents questioned whether the facility would be well used, citing examples of similar equipment in other parks which they felt remained largely unused. Some suggested that funding would be better directed towards children's play facilities, seating, biodiversity improvements, or other community priorities.

Many comments focused on the design of the equipment itself, with requests for more practical features such as pull-up bars, monkey bars, gymnastics rings, climbing ropes, balance beams and water fountains. Several respondents also stressed the need for durable, vandal-resistant equipment and accessible surfacing.

Other recurring concerns included protecting existing green space, ensuring the basketball court is retained, and making the facility inclusive for people of different ages and abilities. Some respondents suggested providing instructional sessions or guidance on how to use the equipment, while others questioned whether a dedicated calisthenics area was needed alongside the proposed outdoor gym.

Additional proposals

95% of respondents support the proposed pathway improvements, while 5% don't support it.



Respondents were asked to rank the importance of all of the proposed landscape improvements.

The results are shown below:

Landscape Improvement	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Play Area Expansion	61.0%	15.7%	13.8%	4.3%	5.2%
Picnic Areas	4.6%	37.4%	22.3%	18.7%	17.0%
Pathway Improvements	18.4%	15.1%	23.6%	18.4%	24.6%
Outdoor Gym	7.2%	17.7%	23.6%	32.1%	19.3%
Calisthenics Gym	8.9%	14.1%	16.7%	26.6%	33.8%

Summary of Landscape Improvements priorities

The survey results show a **clear preference for Play Area Expansion**, which was ranked as the top priority by **61.0% of respondents**. It was by far the most popular option and was also rarely placed in the bottom two rankings, demonstrating strong and consistent support. 📊

Picnic Areas emerged as the strongest secondary priority. While only **4.6%** ranked it first, it was the most common **second-choice option**, with **37.4%** of respondents placing it in second position. This suggests broad support, even if it was not viewed as the highest priority.

Pathway Improvements generated more mixed views. It received a relatively high proportion of first-place rankings (**18.4%**) but was also frequently placed last (**24.6%**), indicating that opinions were divided on its importance.

The **Outdoor Gym** and **Calisthenics Gym** were generally the least popular proposals. Outdoor Gym was most commonly ranked **4th (32.1%)**, while Calisthenics Gym was most commonly ranked **5th (33.8%)**, suggesting they were lower priorities for most respondents.

Overall Order of Preference

1st – Play Area Expansion

- 61.0% ranked it first.
- Clear overall priority.

2nd – Picnic Areas

- Most frequently ranked second (37.4%).
- Strong secondary preference.

3rd – Pathway Improvements

- Mixed opinions but received notable first-choice support.

4th – Outdoor Gym

- Most commonly ranked fourth.

5th – Calisthenics Gym

- Most commonly ranked fifth and least preferred overall.

Key Finding

The consultation demonstrates a strong preference for investment in **Play Area Expansion**, with **Picnic Areas** and **Pathway Improvements** forming the next tier of priorities. **Outdoor Gym** and **Calisthenics Gym** were consistently ranked lower, indicating they are less important to respondents than improvements focused on play, recreation and park usability.

Additional Feedback

Respondents were asked to provide any final comments / additional feedback they may have about the proposed landscape improvements. The results are shown below:

Additional Comments	Mentions	Percentage
 Public toilets / accessible toilets	35	21.5%
 Retain toddler play area	31	18.4%
 Skate park / pump track / wheeled sports	15	9.2%
 Pedestrian safety & pathways	15	9.2%
 Biodiversity / pond / nature improvements	14	8.6%
 Seating & picnic facilities	10	6.1%
 Dog facilities / dog management	8	4.9%
 Teenager & youth facilities	8	4.9%
 Café / tea room improvements	8	4.9%
 Accessibility & inclusion	8	4.9%
 Additional sports facilities	7	4.3%
 Car park concerns	7	4.3%
 Bins & litter management	5	3.1%
 Outdoor gym concerns	5	3.1%
 Shade / shelter	3	1.8%

The summary of the additional comments is as follows:

1. Public Toilets (Strongest Theme)

This was the most frequently raised issue.

Main Requests

- Open toilets at weekends
- 7-day access
- Accessible toilets
- Changing Places facilities
- Better maintenance

2. Retain the Toddler Play Area

A very strong concern throughout the comments.

Main Reasons

- Safer for younger children
- Separate from older children

- Better for SEND children
- Quieter and calmer environment
- Existing area is already heavily used

3. Skate Park / Pump Track

One of the clearest new requests.

Main Suggestions

- Skate park
- Pump track
- BMX track
- Scooter facilities
- Wheeled sports area

4. Pedestrian Safety & Pathways

Main Issues

- Paths near car parks
- Conflicts between cars and pedestrians
- Safer routes for children
- Segregated pathways

5. Nature, Biodiversity & Pond Improvements

Common Requests

- Improve pond
- Repair fountains
- More trees
- Rewilding
- Bird boxes
- Wildflowers
- Pollinator planting

6. Seating & Picnic Areas

Main Requests

- More benches
- Inclusive seating
- Shaded seating
- Better picnic tables

7. Dog Related Issues

Mixed Feedback

Some wanted:

- Dog agility facilities
- Dedicated dog exercise areas

Others wanted:

- Stronger enforcement
- Dogs on leads
- Dogs excluded from play areas

8. Facilities for Teenagers

Requests Included

- Spaces for teenagers
- Basketball improvements
- Social areas
- Dance stage
- Active recreation

9. Café & Tea Room Improvements

Suggestions

- Better food offering
- Improved building condition
- Coffee vendor
- Refurbishment

10. Accessibility & Inclusion

Suggestions

- Accessible toilets
- Inclusive play spaces
- SEND considerations
- Wheelchair access
- Secure play area entrances

Executive Summary

The consultation responses were dominated by three key issues:

1st Most Common

Public toilets and accessible toilet provision (35+ mentions)

2nd Most Common

Retaining the separate toddler play area (30+ mentions)

3rd Most Common

Providing facilities for teenagers, particularly a skate park or pump track (15+ mentions)

Other important themes included:

- Pedestrian safety and pathways
- Biodiversity and pond improvements
- More seating and picnic facilities
- Accessibility and inclusion
- Dog management
- Café improvements
- Additional sports facilities

Conclusion

Most of the feedback has been very positive and most respondents agree that the improvements works are very needed. The most requested landscape improvements were improved public toilet provision, retaining the existing toddler play area, and providing more facilities for teenagers and young people, particularly skate and sports facilities.