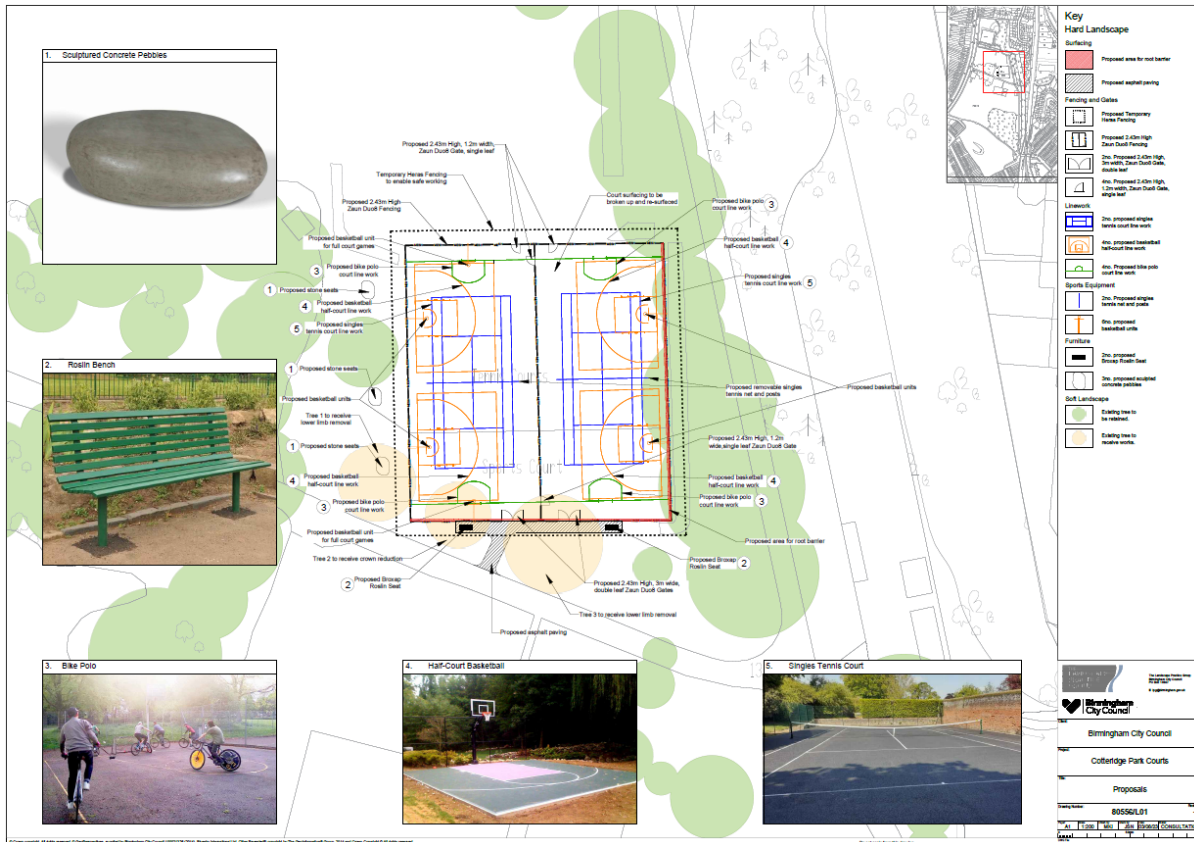


Cotteridge Park Courts - Consultation Results



Overview

We have conducted an online and in person consultation for Cotteridge Park Courts to get people's views on the proposed landscape improvements.

Collectively, we have received 138 responses.

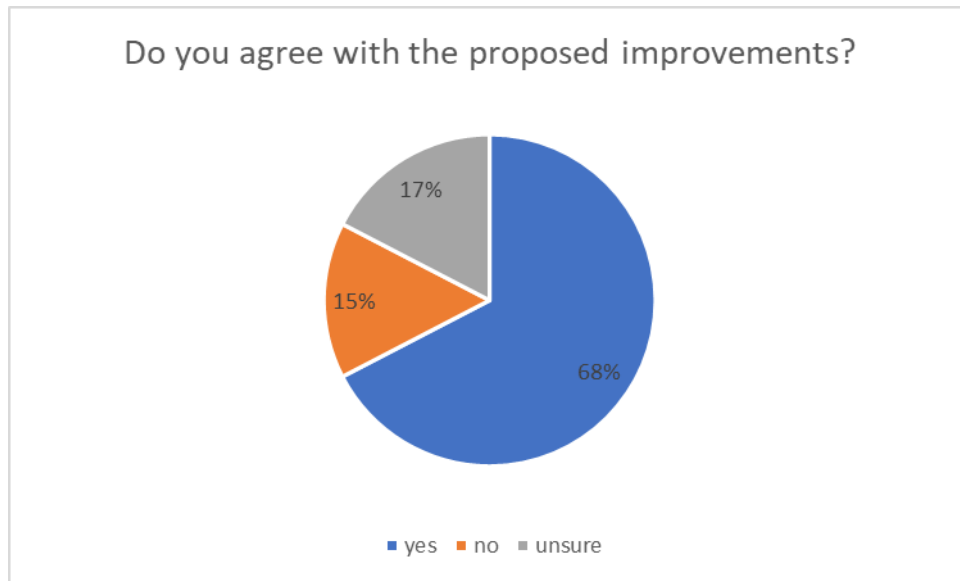
- 59% of those people live within 1km of the open space.
- 12% of respondents live further than 1km of the open space.

Those who live further than 1km were asked their reasons for taking part, the main reasons were:

- They used to live close to the park;
- They were a part of the friends group;
- They have family living in the area;
- They are staff from the local school; and
- The park is local to their place of work.

Therefore, everybody that has responded has a connection with the park, even if they are not presently a local resident.

Out of the 138 responses we have received, 68% of people agree with the potential for landscape improvements proposed at Cotteridge Park. The results are as follows:

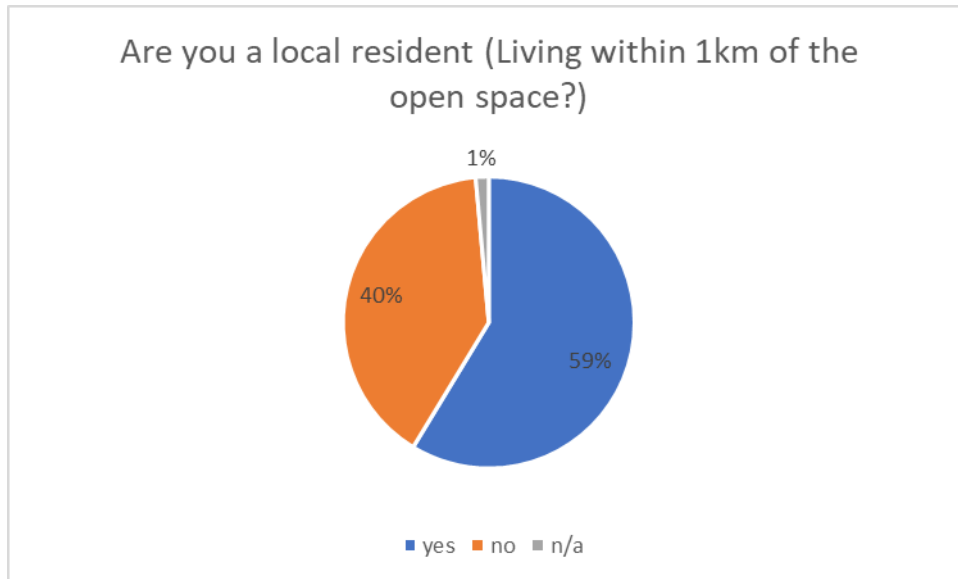


Out of 138 respondents, 68% agree with the proposed works. 15% said 'no' and 17% are unsure. We have asked respondents to give a reason if they selected 'no' or 'unsure' and the most common concern amongst the park users was they are worried how it's going to work if two sports are being played at the same time – it may make it more difficult. Please see below other reasons stated:

- Park users are worried about what's going to take priority if the courts are mixed use;
- Park users are confused about how it's going to work with the courts being mixed use;
- Bike polo is noisy and played late at night, might interfere with other sports; and
- The most common concern is about not being able to play a full game of basketball or netball anymore due to the new court layout.

Local residents

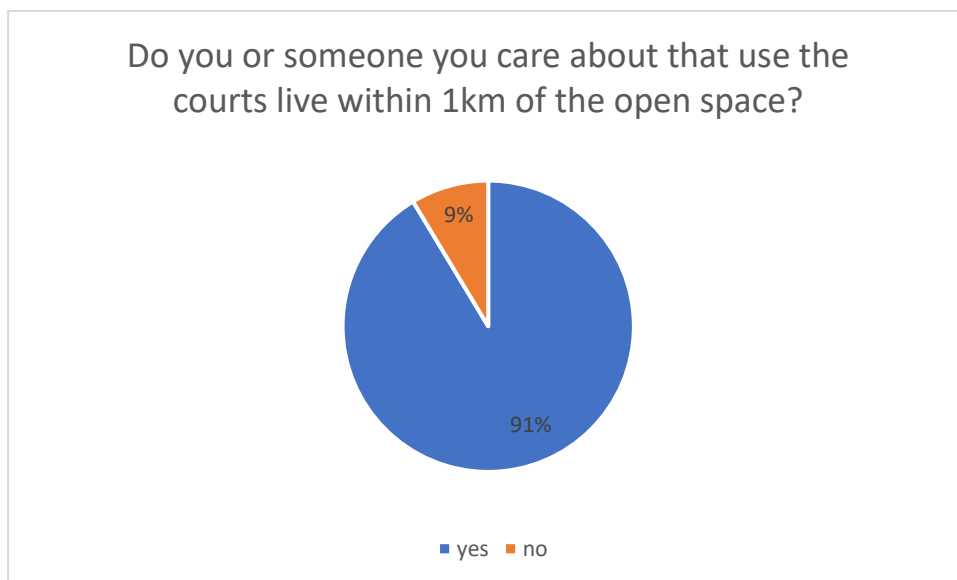
We have asked respondents answering the survey if they are a local resident.



For those who selected 'no' we asked what their interest in the survey was. Most stated that they travel to use the park to use the courts to play basketball or bike polo.

The park is popular to a wide audience whether local or not.

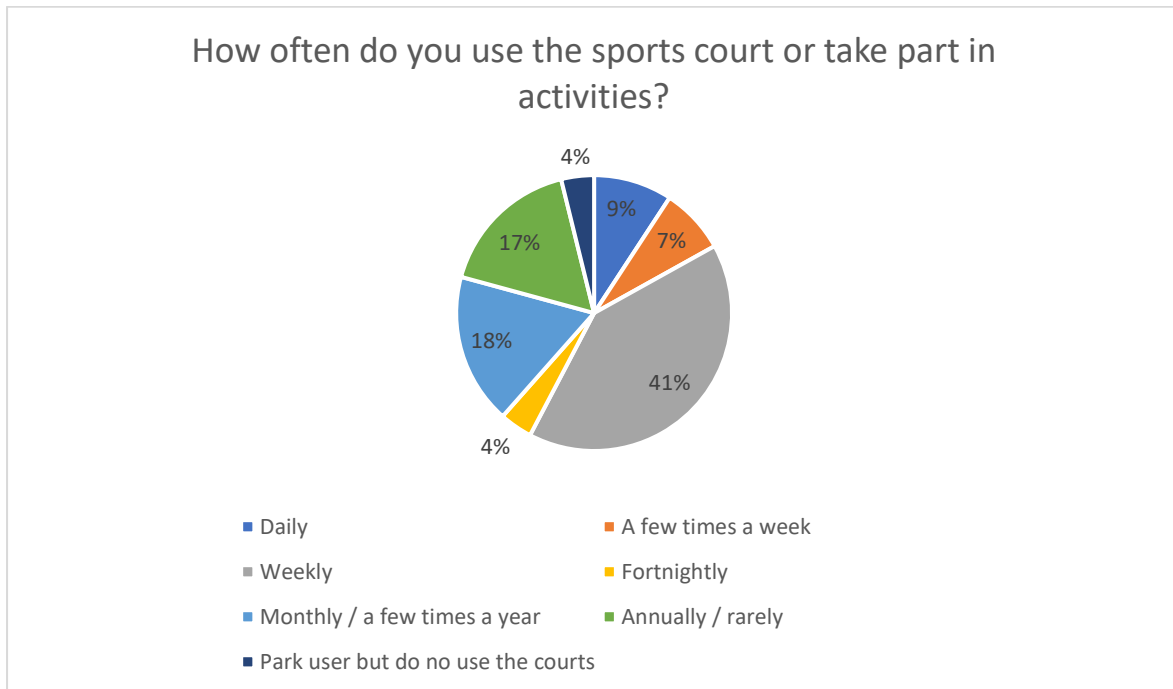
We have asked respondents to specify whether the court users live within 1km of the space. Whether that be themselves or someone they know that uses the courts.



91% of the people that use the courts are local residents, and 9% are not.

Sports courts use

We have asked the respondents how often they themselves or someone they know use the sports courts. The results are shown below:



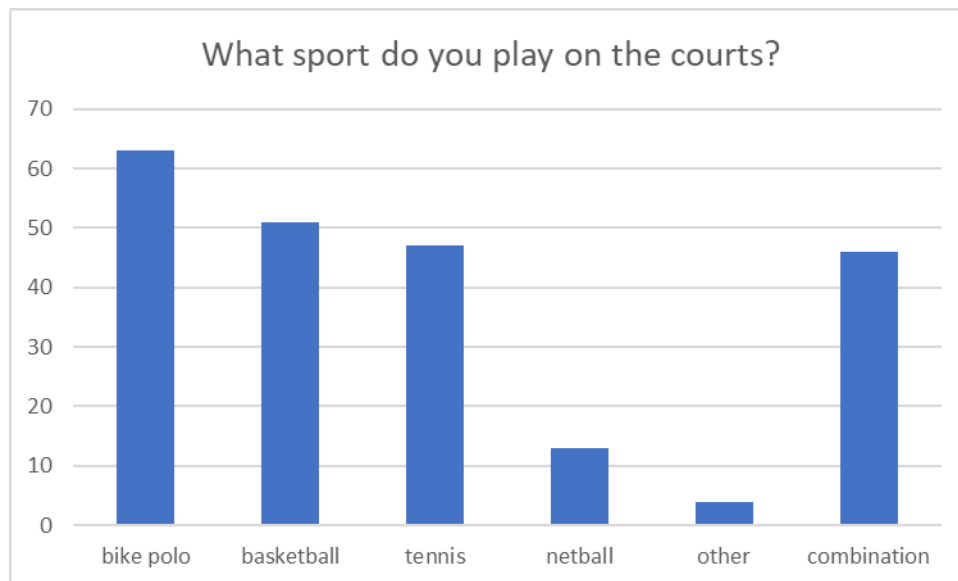
The pie chart shows that most people that use the sports court facilities and take part in activities frequent on a weekly basis (41%). The most common comments were respondents saying that they would use the courts more frequently if they were:

- Regularly maintained; and
- Improved.

Some respondents also stated that they come only for events / tournaments which take place yearly / a few times a year.

Sports courts – sports played

We have asked respondents to specify which sport they or someone they know play at the courts in Cotteridge Park. The results are shown below:



A lot of respondents said that they play a selection of sports at the courts, with the most popular mix being a combination of **Bike Polo 63, basketball 53, and tennis 47**. A lot of people also stated that they play a combination of sports.

Sports courts – desired

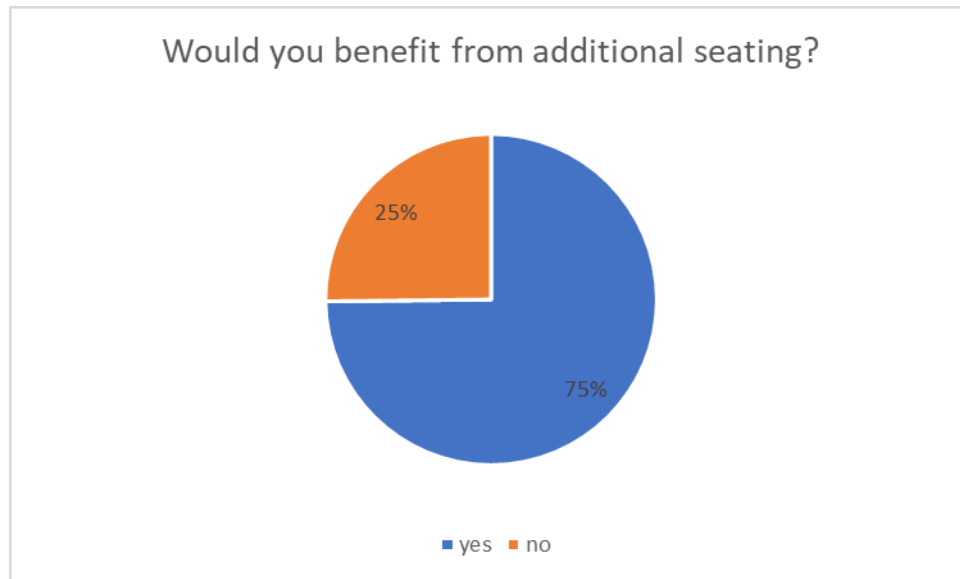
We have asked respondents which sports they would like to see made more available to play, the results are below:



The graph above shows that the single most popular response was **Bike Polo**, followed by **basketball** and **tennis** taking third place. Netball and football were both similarly in the mid-range. Volleyball was mentioned a few times as well as other sports such as handball, badminton cricket etc. A lot of respondents stated a combination of all sports.

Additional seating

Respondents were asked if they would like to see additional seating. The results are shown below:



75% of respondents answered yes, with 25% answering no. We have asked respondents that said 'no' to state a reason. Below are the most common reasons stated:

- There is already enough seating;
- Not necessary – people tend to sit on the grass;
- Respondents are worried the seating will be placed inside or near the courts and will interfere;
- Respondents don't want spectators / an audience when playing the sports;
- Respondents are worried there is limited space, and the sports courts should take priority; and
- Respondents like the way the seating arrangement currently is.

The respondents that selected 'yes' stated:

- The park will be more accessible for people with mobility issues;
- More benches would be handy; and
- Would be a nice bonus to have more seating, although not essential.

Accessibility issues

Respondents were asked if there are any accessibility issues, they are aware of in the current sports court. Most said no however, comments of note below:

- Slippery / poor surface;
- getting to the entrances requires navigating a few bumps and verges;
- The surface is not suitable for tennis – “I am not sure of the technicalities, but usually outdoor tennis courts have a bit more softness to them to avoid impact injuries”;
- Not much visual contrast for those with visual impairments and surface uneven;
- The gate to the court needs to be more accessibility and smoother for wheelchair users;
- The pavement is not great;
- Roots protruding from the tarmac;
- Poor layout;
- The fixed basketball posts limit how the court can be divided up and used for other sports - if nets can be mounted from the fences the space is more flexible;
- Very rough ground makes it hard for people with balance difficulties or sensitivity;
- A softer surface is required for children, also smaller/reduce height basketball hoops;
- The permanent tennis nets restrict access for other sports to the space. Access on the grass side is currently difficult for wheelchair users; and
- The courts are not suitable for safe bike polo games. The built in basketball hoops make access for this sport difficult.

Current issues with the sports courts

Respondents were asked: Regarding the current sports court, are there any issues you are aware of? Below are the responses:

- Poor condition, poor layout, safety issues;
- Slippery surface;
- No lighting;
- Basketball hoops and nets broken;
- Flooding;
- Dominated by males, some women feel unsafe / intimidated;
- Bike polo is loud and disturbing in the evenings;
- Wear and tear;
- Tennis surfacing and nets need improving;
- Fencing / gates damaged;
- Surfacing is easily destructible – prone to vandalism;
- A lot of littering;
- Courts feel cramped / not big enough;

More improvements

Respondents were asked: Are there any other improvements you would like to see in the new sports court? A lot of respondents seem to be happy with the proposal and have highlighted that in their answer in this question. The other responses are below:

- A booking system to use the courts would be helpful;
- Storage for equipment;
- Lighting;
- Free drainage surfacing;
- Netball markings on the court – e.g. circle in the middle;
- Outdoor gym equipment;
- Tennis court be made bigger;
- Another tennis court;
- Small benches inside the courts for changing footwear, putting bags on etc;
- Drinking water fountain;
- Bike polo court lines;
- More bins to tackle litter problem;
- Toilets; and
- Safe bike racks.

Other additional comments

Respondents were asked if there is anything else you would like us to be aware of. Again, a lot of respondents highlighted that the works already proposed are a good idea and had nothing else to add. However, some respondents did have additional thoughts which are summarised below:

- The changes look good in principle. But I am unsure how this would be a shared space;
- The one rim that isn't broken always gets flooded therefore making it very hard to play;
- To reiterate the need for a full basketball court;
- Bike polo is loud and played late evening with bright floodlights;
- We need posts and line's immediately;
- Please find a solution to the teenagers playing loud music on the courts! Teenagers need places to go and be, but we all deserve to be able to enjoy the peace and quiet of the park too;
- New baskets or net at both ends of the court;
- We would like a football area too if the park is being reviewed;
- I worry about anti-social behaviour in the park;
- There are currently no purpose built bike polo facilities anywhere in the UK. These courts would attract players to travel from all over the UK and Ireland, and would allow the Birmingham club to start bidding to host prestigious European tournaments like Hells Belles, the premier tournament for women, trans, non-binary people;
- These changes would make a huge difference for the UK bike polo scene;
- More bike polo courts;
- The new designs create a better space for tennis, basketball and bike polo in equal measure. Whereas the current courts put priority on tennis and the other two sports have less space. Currently a max of 8 people could play tennis (two games of doubles) which is not a good use of space when the same space could support 24 bike polo players and a much higher number of basketball players;

- There is a lack of purpose built bike polo facilities in the UK. If this was built people would travel from across the country to come play;
- a super smooth, grippy surface without internal posts;
- 100% in support of both courts being mixed use for all the sports to allow fair and equal use;
- There are ranges of solid (metal, fence-like) tennis court nets (for adult and child sized courts) that would make a good permanent addition and require no maintenance (and will be less prone to damaged or vandalism as the current nets are);
- More basketball courts;
- There are regularly large amounts of young people using the basketball courts, and it seems wrong that their provision should be reduced, or for them to be put in competition with other users for the space;
- Full size basketball court please;
- Some of the children and young people I go with to this court would be devastated if the full basketball court is downgraded as the current plans intend to do; and
- Worried about the new designs not allowing full sized courts for the sports.

Summary

Both the park and the courts are popular amongst a great number of people both local residents and others. There is great support in the proposed improvements at Cotteridge Park.

Bike Polo, Basketball and Tennis are the most popular sports played at the courts, provision for Netball would also be well received.

Whilst most of the respondents are happy with the proposed improvements there are a few concerns, chiefly regarding the mixed use nature of the proposals both regarding the sporting opportunities available and the male/female dynamic

- how will this work
- will it have a negative effect on the sporting opportunities.
- The proposed courts need to be full size
- The propensity for it to be a male dominated area and to make space for females.

Respondents have voiced their desires for the courts, these being:

- Improved surfacing;
- Regularly maintained;
- Accessible for disabled persons including wheelchair users - surfacing and gates;
- Higher contrast in linework to help visually impaired people;
- Improved layout;
- Softer surfacing;
- Permeable surfacing to alleviate flooding;
- Improvements/Replacements for sports equipment e.g. basketball hoops and tennis nets;
- Improvements/Replacements for fencing and gates due to damage to current;
- Litter bins to help alleviate littering;
- Integrating a booking system for court use;
- Storage space for equipment;
- Netball provision;

- Bike racks; and
- More seating opportunities (although this was 50/50).

All of this will be taken into consideration when updating the design, we shall do our best to incorporate all the desired aspects into the sports court improvements.