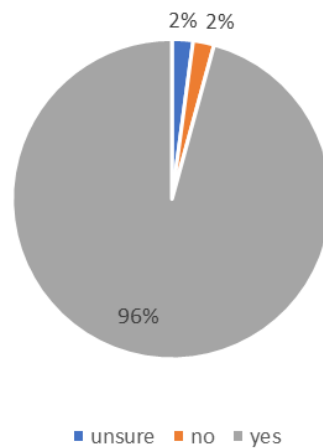


Walkers Heath Boundary Defence Works

Consultation results 19/07/2023

Most people (96%, 45 respondents) agree with the proposed boundary defence works at Walkers Heath Recreation Ground. 2% surveyed (1 respondent) is unsure, and another 2% (1 respondent) selected “no”.

Do you agree with the proposed works?



The respondents who selected “no” or “unsure” were asked to provide a reason for their answer.

This is what they stated:

“Adding an unsightly fence blocking access from Druids Lane into the park will do nothing to prevent illegal access from Walkers Heath Road while creating a barrier to legitimate access to the area. A total waste of money, and a radical loss of amenity for no practicable benefit.

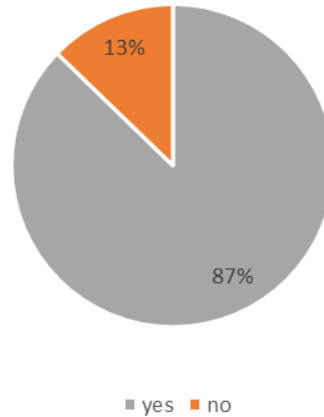
If the council is worried about travellers using the land, perhaps it could spend money on providing them with actually accessible and functional facilities. If the concern is in off-road vehicles driven by teenagers, one questions barriers that would force them onto the roads and paths of the local estates.

On the other hand, if you want to make life harder for dog-walkers, picnics and cyclists I guess you are on the right track...”

“I am unclear from the plan exactly where the vehicular access barrier is proposed to be placed in the area marked as Entrance 4. There is currently some space in front of the existing bollards which creates an area for vehicles to turn around when leaving the park. If a vehicular access barrier is to be placed in this area it should be where the bollards currently are and where the previous access barrier used to be otherwise it will make it difficult for people using vehicles to turn around.”

The respondents were also asked whether they live within 1km of Walkers Heath Recreation Ground.

Are you a local resident? (Living within 1km of the open space?)



It is surprising that 13% of the people that answered the survey are not local residents.

The last question the respondents were asked was whether they had any additional comments, and most respondents had something to say.

Some of the respondents' comments and concerns included:

- Currently the respondents don't feel safe using the park, so the boundary defence works will really help with overall safety of park users
- Respondents are worried the erected boundary fence will be made out of fragile materials such as wood and will be prone to vandalism. They are asking for a solid metal fence to be erected so it cannot be destroyed
- Respondents are hopeful the boundary defence works will stop bikers harassing park users in the park
- Respondents who are disabled / wheelchairs users / parents with children who use pushchairs want to make sure the paths and walkways would be suitable for them. They have also expressed concerns that travellers sometimes block their way to get through in the past, so the boundary defence works would help with that.
- Respondents are saying that the boundary works are essential for keeping the park users safe and protected from frequent misuse of the park
- Increase public usage of the park for events
- Respondents hope they boundary defence works will stop the bikers coming into the park and ruining the grass
- Any improvements would benefit the park greatly
- Area 2 needs a bit more attention as there are a few issues such as fly tipping

- There is currently no footway from Junction of Walkers Heath Road with Gay Hill Lane to the start of bridleway. Respondents have asked to for a new gate to be put in at the junction so that walkers and horse riders can be inside the park and not on the carriageway.
- Respondents are worried that the fence is too low and are proposing additional planting alongside the new fencing
- Respondents are hoping the new bollards will be user friendly as current ones are too heavy to lift

Overall, most respondents are happy with the proposed works of putting in boundary defence works to protect the park from misuse and make the park users feel safer. Respondents had a few additional comments as seen above and voiced their concerns or reasons why they think this is a good idea and ways to further improve this proposal. It is important that we hear the views and concerns of the local residents of the park as it helps us improve the park for them, so we will be taking everyone's comments and concerns into consideration. Thank you to everyone who has taken part in our online consultation.