

Consultation on Renovation works at Southville Entrance to Larkhall Park

Consultation Report
04.03.21

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Larkhall Park has suffered from under-investment and in places the state of the infrastructure represents a health and safety hazard, or creates a potential threat to personal safety. Both factors present a range of risks and also are off-putting to genuine users of the park and a prospective café tenant. The Capital Programmes team have engaged with Parks staff and the Friends, undertaken site visits and costed a programme of works to improve safety within the park.

The Southville entrance by The Surprise public house harbours specific Anti-social behaviour issues, exacerbated by the seclusion provided by an extensive pergola. This provides no discernible purpose and many of the timbers are in a poor condition. It is proposed to remove the pergola and re-landscape the entrance area – opening it up and removing hard landscaping and clutter to try and eliminate the anti-social behaviour and make the area more attractive and inviting, with colourful planting and a safer, modern feel.

1.2 Our proposals

We want to ask the local residents and key stakeholders if the proposed design meets the criteria for reducing anti-social behaviour, improves access and increase a sense of safety in this area. Are there any concerns that have not been addressed?

2. The consultation

2.1 Consultation objectives

To gain local buy-in to the proposals

2.2 Who we consulted

- Local Residents
- Local Ward Councillors
- Lambeth Parks Operatives
- Friends Group
- Partnership Board
- Local Business (The Surprise Pub)

2.3 When we consulted

The consultation ran from 30 November 2020 until 11 January 2021

2.4 How we consulted

We asked respondents to fill in an online survey about the proposed changes

2.4.1 Digital activity

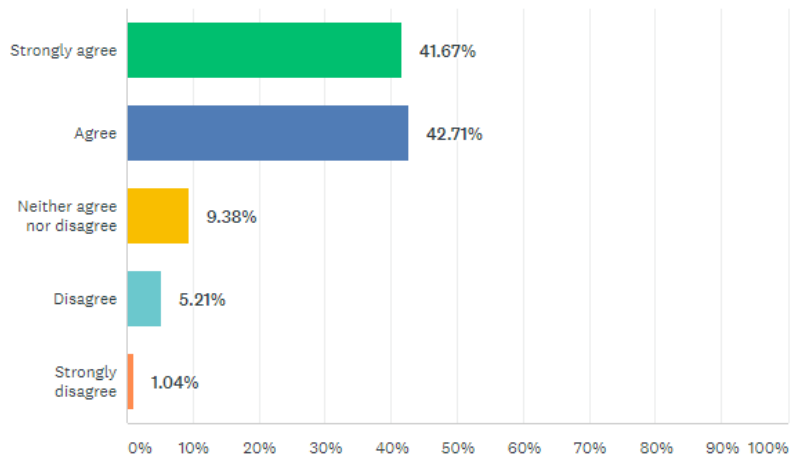
The survey was sent out via email to stakeholders, and advertised in our regular community round up email.

3. Responses from members of the public

3.1 Summary of results

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the new design would make you feel safer in the area?

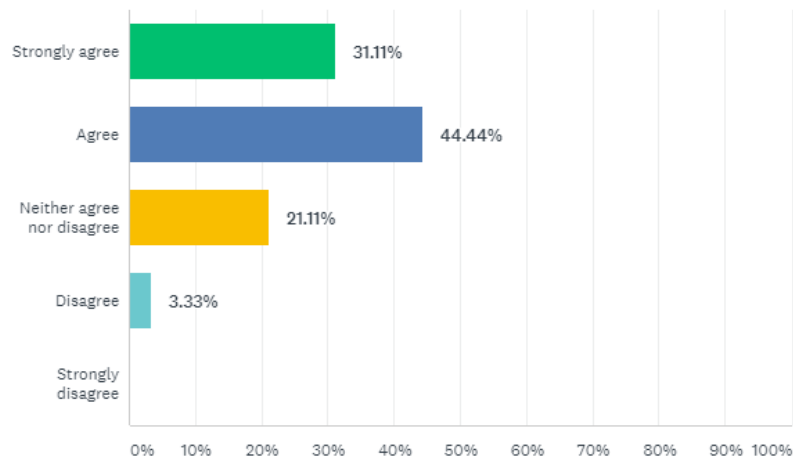
Answered: 96 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	41.67% 40
Agree	42.71% 41
Neither agree nor disagree	9.38% 9
Disagree	5.21% 5
Strongly disagree	1.04% 1
TOTAL	96

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the new area will make the park easier to access

Answered: 90 Skipped: 6

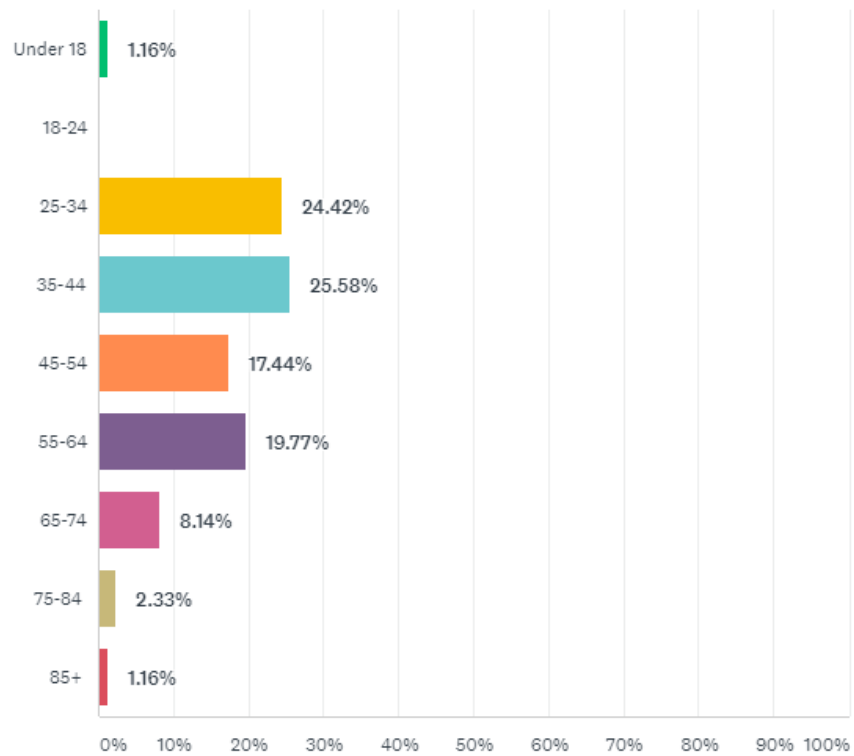


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly agree	31.11% 28
Agree	44.44% 40
Neither agree nor disagree	21.11% 19
Disagree	3.33% 3
Strongly disagree	0.00% 0
TOTAL	90

3.2 Summary of demographics

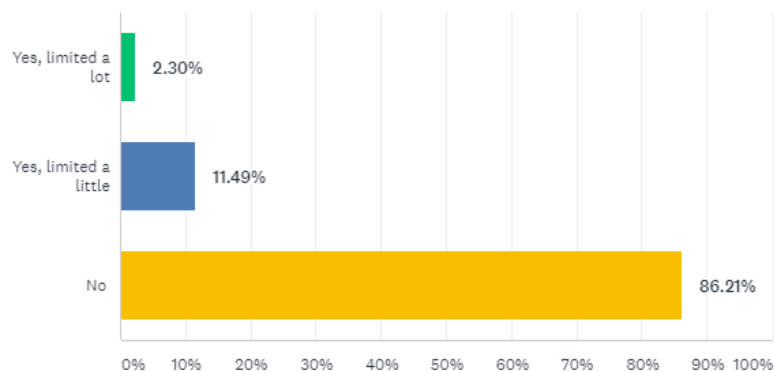
Which age group applies to you?

Answered: 86 Skipped: 10



Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? Please include problems related to old age

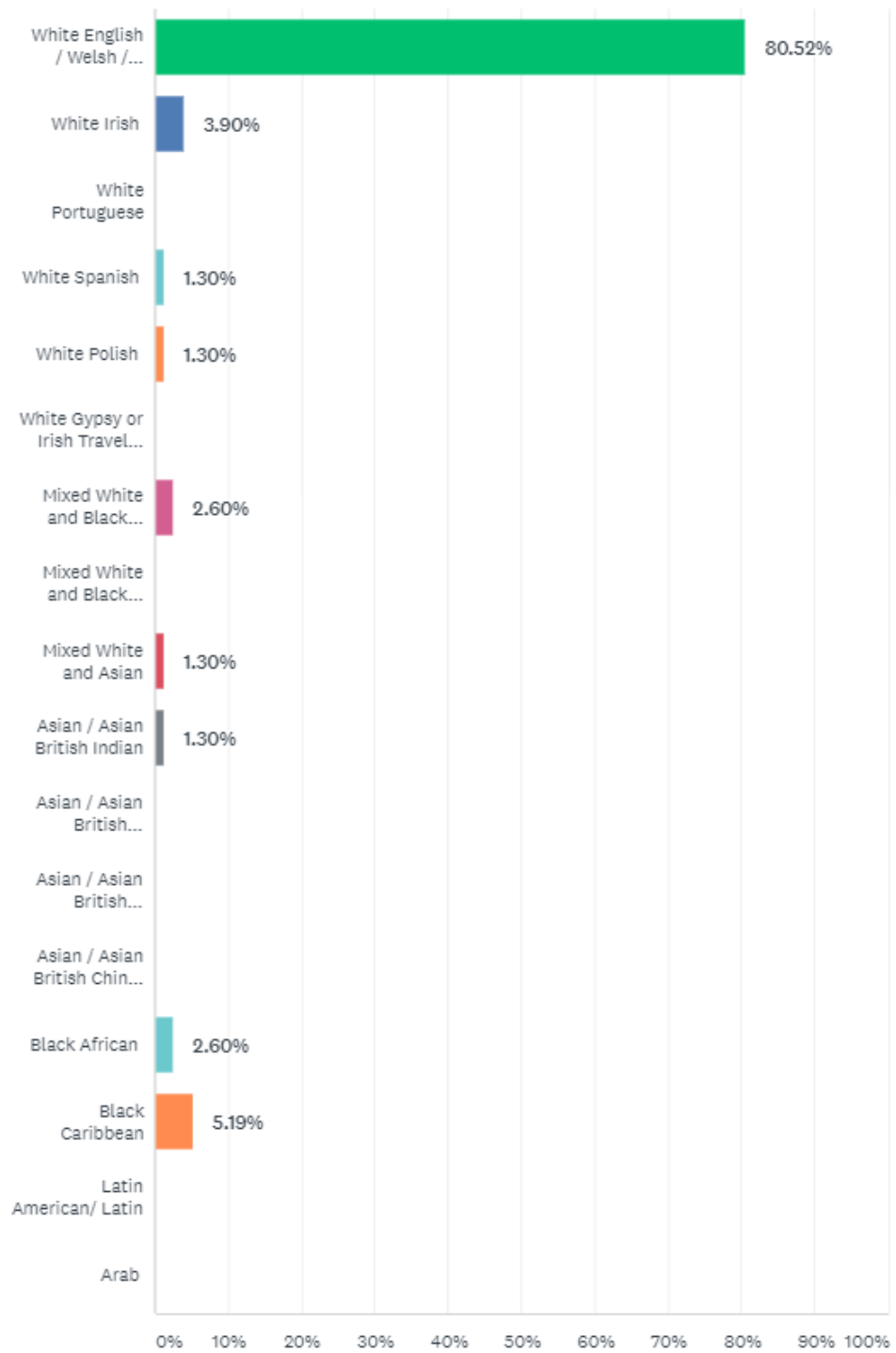
Answered: 87 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes, limited a lot	2.30%	2
▼ Yes, limited a little	11.49%	10
▼ No	86.21%	75
TOTAL		87

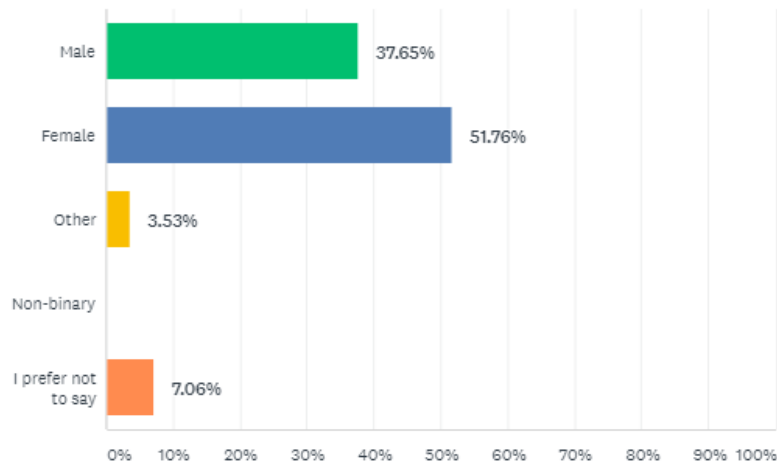
What is your ethnic group?

Answered: 77 Skipped: 19



What is your sex or gender identity?

Answered: 85 Skipped: 11



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Male	37.65% 32
Female	51.76% 44
Other	3.53% 3
Non-binary	0.00% 0
I prefer not to say	7.06% 6
TOTAL	85

3.3 Additional comments

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the new design would make you feel safer in the area?

Respondents who agreed with this aim, generally said the changes would make the space more open and safer with less hidden areas. Others commented that the area would feel more welcoming and would be 'brightened up'.

Those who responded 'neither agree nor disagree' generally did not feel there was an issue with safety in the first place or didn't use this entrance.

Those who disagreed again didn't feel unsafe at the moment, one thought these proposals didn't go far enough, suggesting closing the park earlier and one further comment suggested the pergolas could be fixed up rather than removed. One respondent questioned if the rumble strips could be navigated by people with mobility issues.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the new area will make the park easier to access?

Respondents who agreed with this felt the entrance would be more visible as an entrance and improve the flow of the park. People seemed to like the paving, though some suggested the pavement could be lowered for wheelchair access.

Those who responded 'neither agree nor disagree' or 'disagree' didn't think there was an issue with access as it is, or felt this wasn't a significant change

Do you have any concerns about the maintenance of the new design?

Only a few concerns were raised here around maintenance, mostly just general maintenance with some concerns around the roses, plantings and litter

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about this part of the park?

Further comments included the need for more seating, the pergola being used for exercise as a positive thing, adding an outside gym, issues around litter and adding in recycling bins and better use of the 1 o'clock club area. Others have suggested more lighting.

4. Next steps

The next steps are:

- we will carry out a review of the design, and where appropriate make any amendments that would be beneficial to meet the objectives of the project.
- Present the new design to the Friends of Larkhall Park and Partnership Board
- Update the Larkhall Park webpage with the final design proposal
- Make arrangements for the allocated funding to be released
- Deliver the project, following Lambeth's procurement guidelines