

# Consultation on proposed changes to Milkwood Community Park

Consultation Report  
August 2018

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

This open space has been significantly improved by the community over the past ten years. Approximately £60k is now available from Section 106 to make improvements to the park. Early engagement through the Milkwood Residents Association suggested that local people would like to see an outdoor gym in the park.

In addition, proposals are to improve the play equipment and refurbish the surfaces in the playground. Some improvement to the sports pitch has already taken place over the summer months.

### 1.2 Our proposals

Our proposals were to install gym equipment in the park, building on the engagement that had already taken place.

## 2. The consultation

### 2.1 Consultation objectives

The objectives of this consultation were to establish community preferences (if any) for the following types of gym equipment:

- Cardio (eg steppers, elliptical trainer, spinning bike)
- Strength (eg shoulder press, chest press)
- Street fitness (eg pull up bars)

There was also an opportunity for consultees to put forward any other priorities they may have for improvements to the park.

### 2.2 Who we consulted

We consulted parks users and local people.

### 2.3 When we consulted

We consulted between 4<sup>th</sup> July and 10<sup>th</sup> August.

### 2.4 How we consulted

#### 2.4.1 Press activity

There was no specific press activity

#### 2.4.2 Digital activity

Participants were directed to the online consultation platform on Lambeth Council's website. This was supported by Twitter and Facebook posts. Links to the survey were also sent to Herne Hill Forum and Loughborough Junction Action Group (LJAG) for promotion to their membership.

#### 2.4.3 Print activity

A newsletter was produced for distribution to the surrounding streets, advising residents of the consultation and opportunities for face to face engagement including a drop in event on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

#### 2.4.4 Event activity

The event planned for 12<sup>th</sup> July did not result in a significant turnout so it was decided to schedule two further informal engagement sessions. An officer from the consultation and engagement team visited the park during the daytime on 31<sup>st</sup> July and then carried out a door-knocking exercise in the early evening of 2<sup>nd</sup> August in partnership with the Milkwood Residents Association.

#### 2.5 The cost of consultation

The cost of the consultation was £671

### 3. Responses from members of the public

#### 3.1 Summary of results

44 responses were received to the questionnaire.

Respondents were asked to rate the three types of equipment in priority order. Results were as follows:

##### Top priority

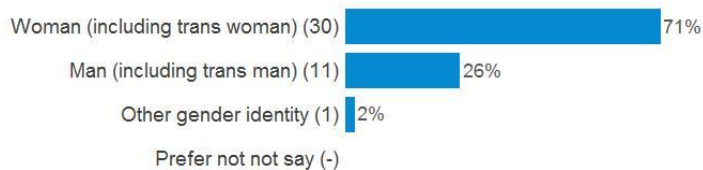
- Cardio (20)
- Strength (12)
- Street fitness (9)

#### 3.2 Summary of post code analysis and demographics

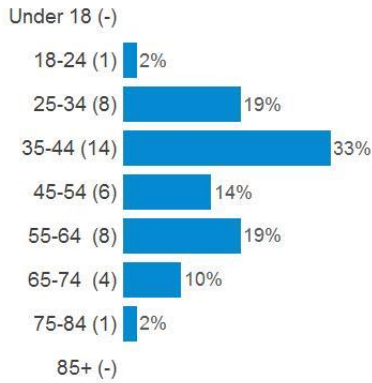
##### Postcode

Of the 40 respondents who gave their postcode, 31 were from SE24, with the remainder from SW9, SE21, SW16, SE19 and SW2.

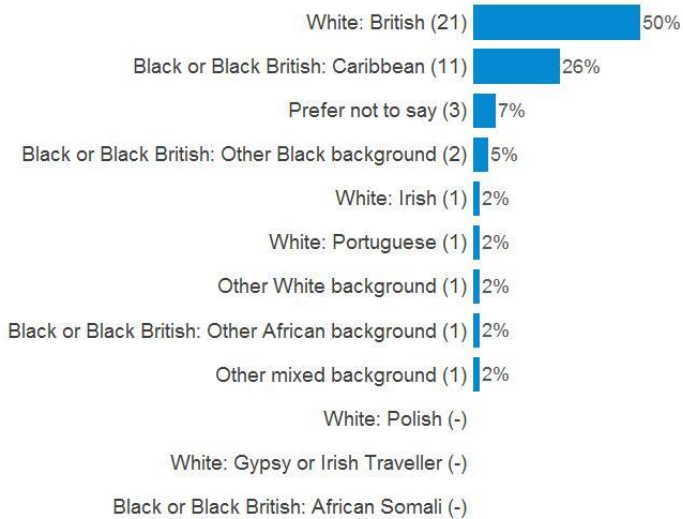
##### Gender



Age



Ethnicity



3.3 Additional comments

Comments can be grouped into the following broad themes:

Agree with the proposal

‘The fitness equipment is a great idea. I could save money on the gym. I find it hard to choose between the three types, if possible could we have one of each?’

‘This is brilliant. Mums can keep fit whilst watching over our little ones’

'I support this – I see people in Clapham using this kind of equipment and I think we should have it locally'

'I'd see all three types so it's not boring so people can move around'

'It's a good idea on your doorstep'

'I think it would encourage the kids in the area to get more active'

'Fresh air and the gym at the same time'

#### Disagree with the proposal

'We do not need this equipment.'

'I think it would be more beneficial to spend money improving the existing areas than spending lots of money on gym equipment'

'Fine as it is'

'We don't want any gym equipment in this park. Plenty of this nearby'

'People don't need this equipment to keep fit – the NHS provides advice on how to exercise for free'

'Mixed feelings as it can attract people all through the night'

#### Improved play facilities

'More play equipment for toddlers eg the swings are all for older children'

'Please add a baby swing'

'Swings for younger children'

'A mini scooter track'

'Interactive games eg noughts and crosses like in Dulwich Park. Climbing blocks to go on the wall'

'Improvements to the existing playground (holes to be filled on the soft flooring, the wooden aeroplane frame to fixed so it's safe for children to walk across, swings for younger children, fence and goals to be fixed on basketball/football court, netting to be fixed on the goal)'

'things for disabled children eg climbing frames more sturdy wood'

#### Other park improvements

'Improved security at night'

'A designated wildflower planting area for the bees and bulb planting around the park borders'

'Sub-station to use as a café and rest room'

'Ongoing maintenance and upkeep: clean and safe'

'We need CCTV to prevent large dogs and antisocial behaviour'

'Bins that foxes can't get into'

'The dogs issue is an important one, as there is a lot of fouling in the park although dogs are banned'

'Litter is a bit of an issue'

'Something to catch the footballs that get trapped between the two fences. We need to consider how to stop people climbing onto the roof of the sub-station'

#### 4. Next steps

In co-operation with the Steering Group formed of representatives from local community groups and residents, Lambeth Council will:

1. Analyse the responses from the survey and prioritise the most popular request
2. Produce a shopping list of improvements based on the most popular and cost effective suggestions
3. Plan improvement schemes in line with the budget
4. Publish the schemes to be commissioned
5. Carry out improvement works