

# Consultation on proposed changes to the area surrounding West Norwood Health & Leisure Centre

Consultation Report  
May 2018

## Contents

### 1 Introduction

#### 1.1 Background

The childrens' playground at West Norwood Health & Leisure Centre was never fenced off as part of the original construction, and there have been numerous complaints about dog fouling, as well as associated concerns raised about health and safety.

A wildflower meadow was initially planted but was subsequently grassed over, becoming a well-used area by the community, both after school and as part of events such as Norwood Feast. The area is also used as a cut through by pedestrians.

#### 1.2 Our proposals

- Relocation of the wildflowers to the periphery of the site.
- Installing a peripheral fence to the play area.
- Extending shrubbery along the borders.

### 2 The consultation

#### 2.1 Consultation objectives

Proposals to improve the area were drawn up in response to the complaints referred to in 1.1 above. The object of this consultation was to put the proposals in front of local people and stakeholders to assess levels of support for them and have the opportunity to identify any additions or amendments that needed to be made as a result of this feedback.

#### 2.2 Who we consulted

We identified the following key stakeholders:

- Local people
- Adjoining primary school
- Leisure centre users
- Ward councillors
- Sub tenants of the leisure centre
- Hainthorpe Estate Tenants' Residents' Association
- Local community forums

### 2.3 When we consulted

The consultation period ran from 13<sup>th</sup> March – 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018. As the pre-election period commenced on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March, there was no active promotion of the consultation between this date and the close of consultation on 6<sup>th</sup> April.

### 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 Norwood Forum for promotion to their membership via their newsletter and website and also via the Chair of the local residents' association and to Norwood Feast.

#### 2.4.3 Print activity

Leaflets were printed and distributed locally, including at the neighbouring primary school, doctors' and dental surgeries and in the leisure centre itself.

#### 2.4.4 Event activity

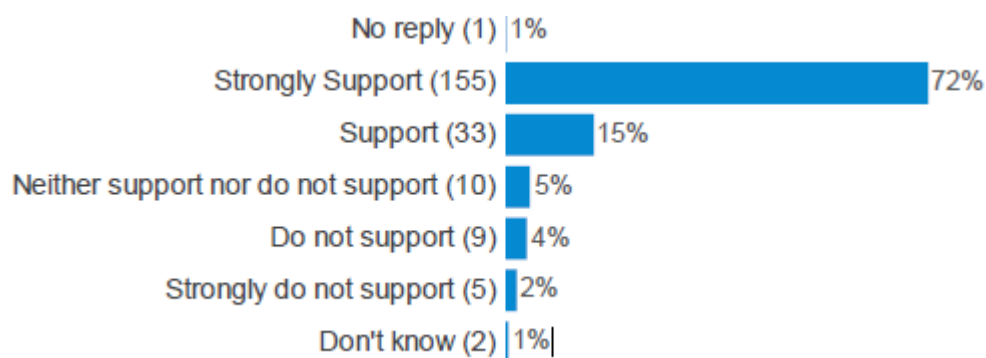
Staff attended a residents' association meeting to promote the consultation. A drop-in session was held at the leisure centre.

## 3 Responses from members of the public

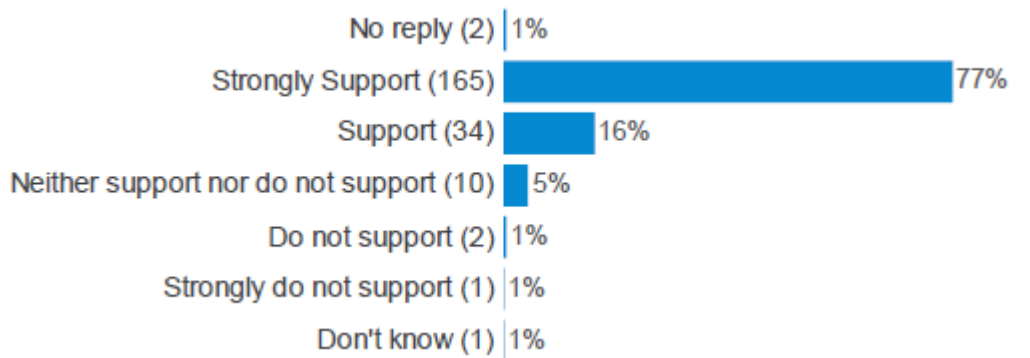
### 3.1 Summary of results

There were 215 respondents to the survey.

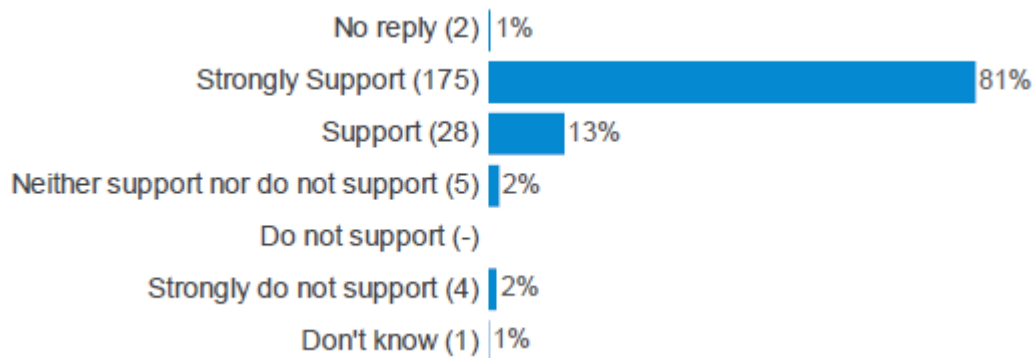
Q1 'How strongly do you support or not support the erection of fencing to the play areas to discourage dog fouling?'



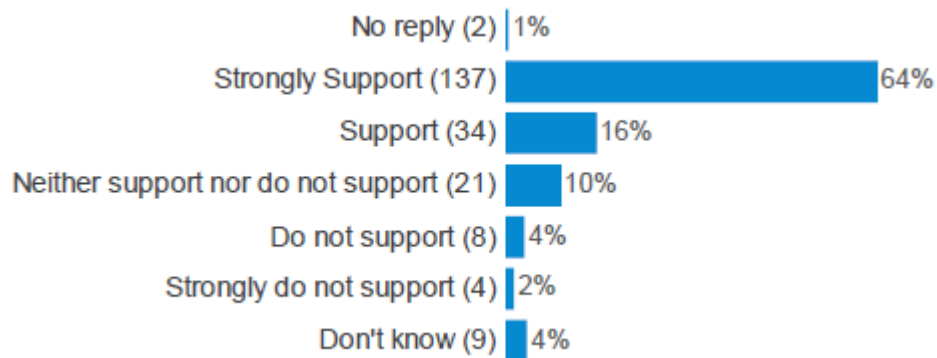
Q2 'How strongly do you support or not support retaining the area of green lawn that is currently used by local people and families as a place to sit together?'



Q3 'How strongly do you support or not support planting meadow flowers around the edge of the area to encourage bees and other wildlife?'

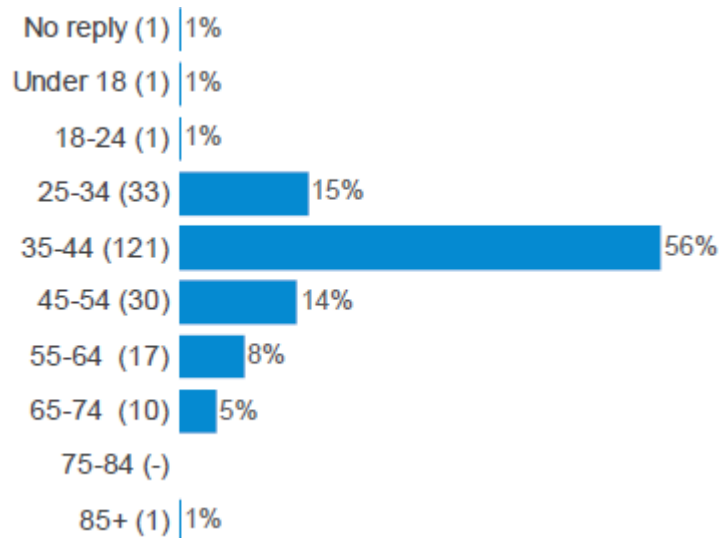


Q4 How strongly do you support or not support planting some new shrubbery borders around the green open space to close off the corner area and stop it being used as a walk through?'



### 3.2 Summary of post code analysis and demographics

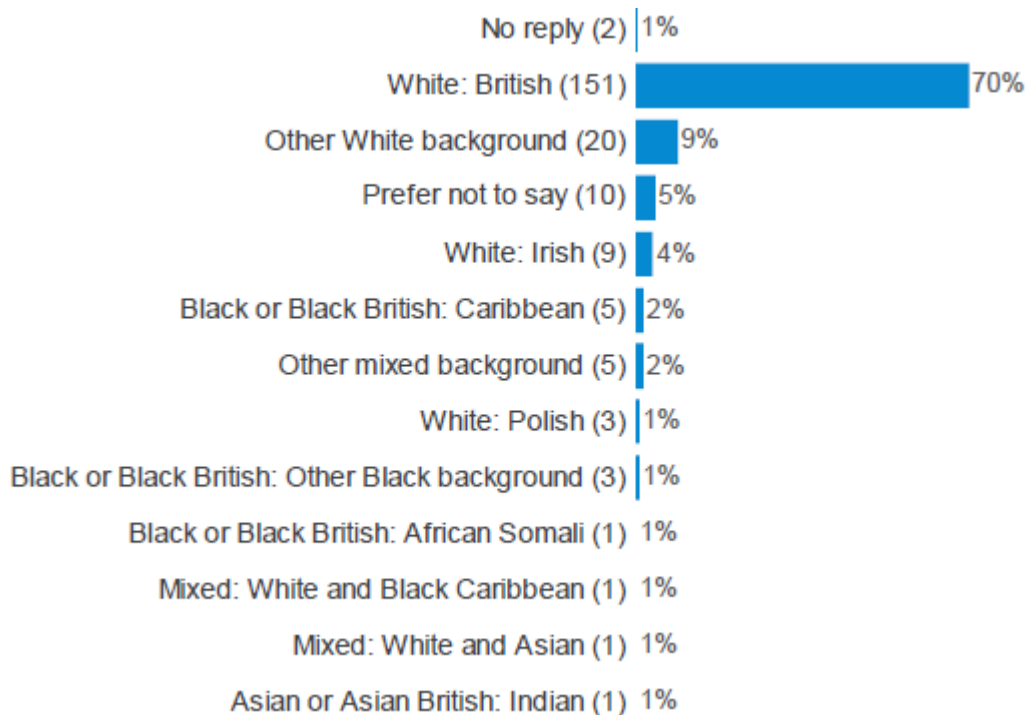
#### Age



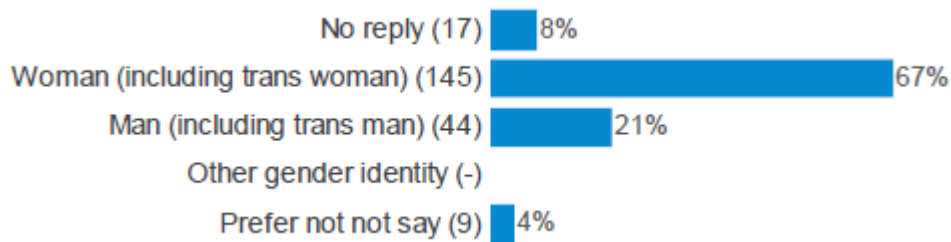
Disability



Ethnicity



Gender



### Employment status

46% of respondents stated that they were in full time employment, with 21% in part time employment

### 3.3 Additional comments

The following comments were also received:

- Requests for installation of more play equipment for a variety of age ranges, including a slide to the mound, a football pitch and swings
- Requests that in addition to fencing, there be more measures to deter dog fouling, including the installation of dog waste bins, signs and greater enforcement of dog fouling regulations
- Concerns expressed about how cars use Devane Way and how this poses a threat to pedestrian safety, in particular children going to and from school
- Concerns expressed that 'desire lines' through the site should be supported rather than discouraged, and that the current proposals should take this into account
- Concerns about littering and fly tipping in the area and the need to combat this, possibly through enforcement and also installing and emptying more bins

## 4 What happens next

- Final measurements have now been taken and adjusted to incorporate the mound within the fenced area, as this was mentioned several times in the responses to the consultation. Purchase Orders will now be raised, and we aim to have the fencing erected in time for the school summer holiday break
- Requests for the installation of new play equipment for a range of ages have been noted. Lambeth property services have made recommendations to the board who oversee the health and leisure centre and these recommendations have been accepted.
- Signs reminding dog owners not to let their dogs foul the area will be purchased and erected over the coming months
- We are in discussion with colleagues in the Enforcement team about the possibility of taking enforcement action against dog owners who allow their dogs to foul the area.
- We have noted the request for 'desire lines' to be supported and are happy to take this forward as part of the proposals. The best way to do this will be determined and progressed by the landscapers when they re-plant the meadow flowers in the borders.
- Issues and comments in relation to pedestrian safety will be passed on to colleagues within the council as part of the 'Our Streets' programme, as Devane Way is not managed by West Norwood Health and Leisure Centre. Staff at West Norwood Health and Leisure Centre do appreciate that this is an issue that is important to local people.

- Fly tipping and littering issues have been noted, and we have raised these with colleagues in the Enforcement team, requesting their support.
- More bins will be considered by the building user group who share the cost of waste management.