



Southmead Parks & Open Spaces Survey 2021

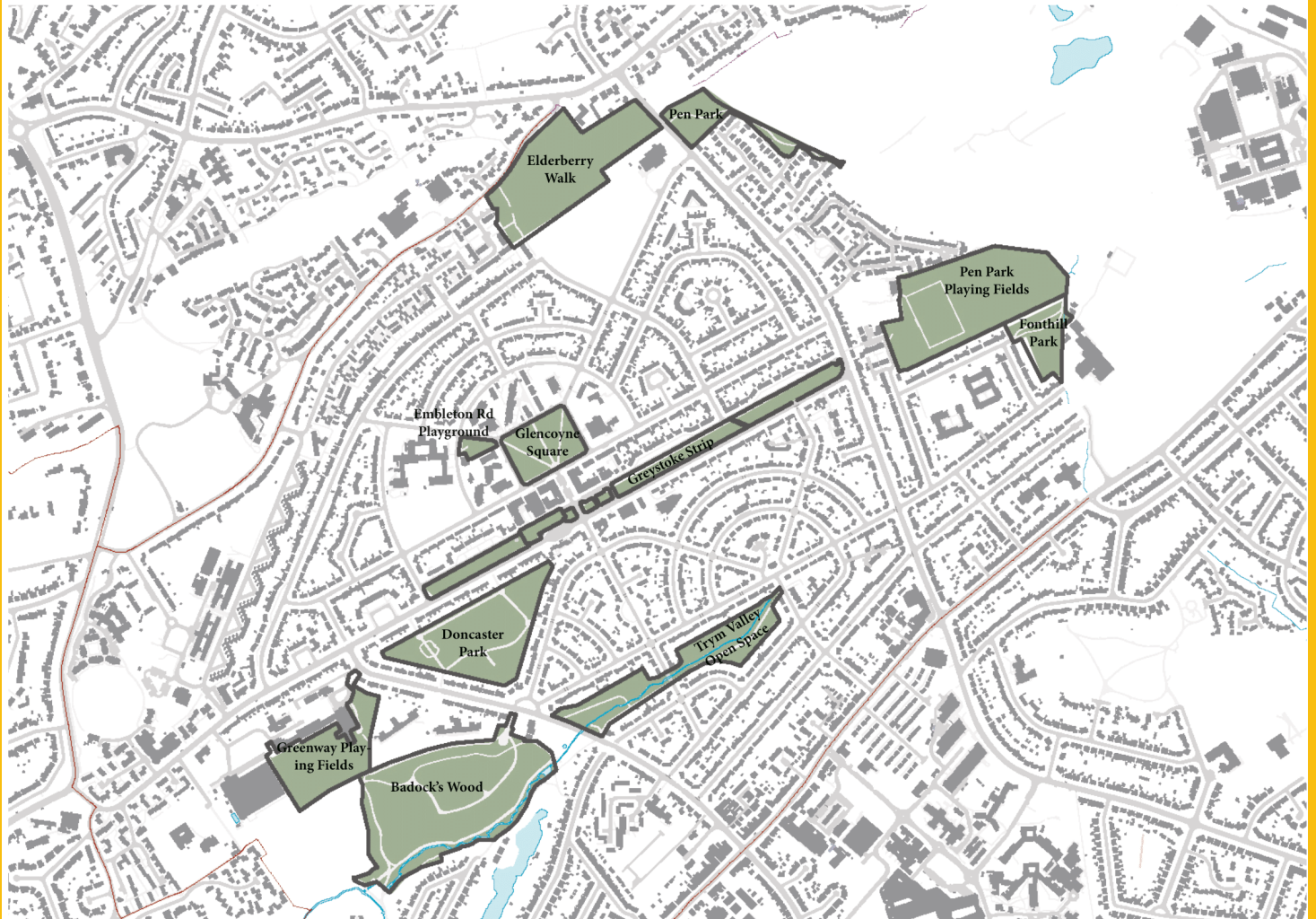


What did we do?

The team at Southmead Development Trust had 11 initial conversations with local community groups to identify key topics to explore in the survey. The survey was open for six weeks, available to fill in online or in person. It was promoted through local community and activist groups and Southmead Development Trust's social media and website.

The aim was to gain insight into the priorities of the community in regard to our parks and open spaces. Respondents could choose a park which they felt was important to them (we provided a map as shown below), identify how they use it and what would help them use it more. Then they also had the opportunity to share any ideas for this park.

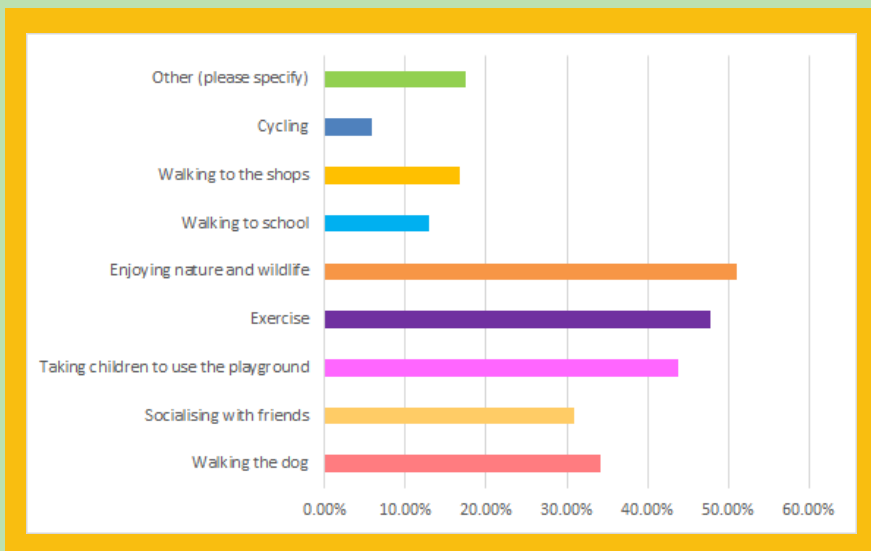
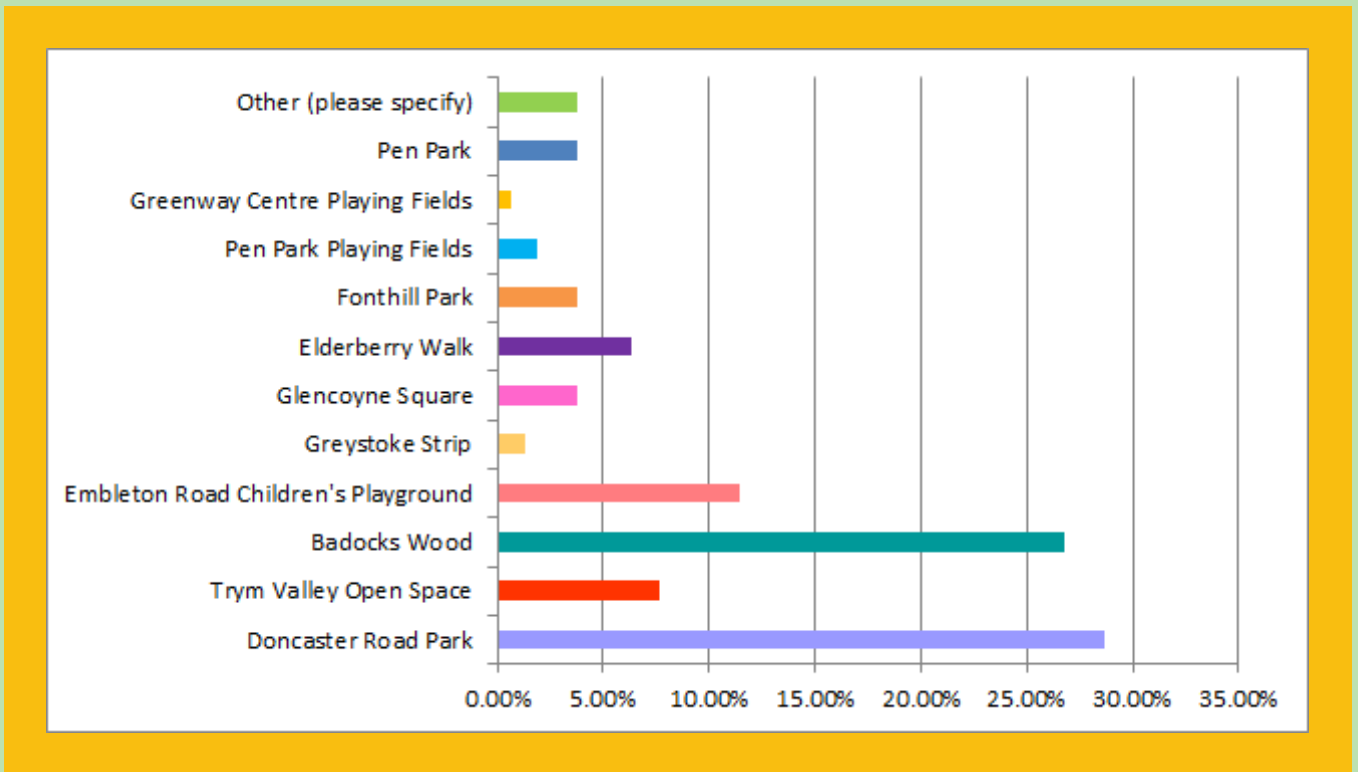
The data collected shows some clear themes on what is important to residents when it comes to Southmead's parks and open spaces, and many ideas on how to improve them. This information can form a foundation for further work, community engagement and investment into our local parks.



What did we see?

We had 157 respondents to the survey.

**Please choose a park
which is important to you**



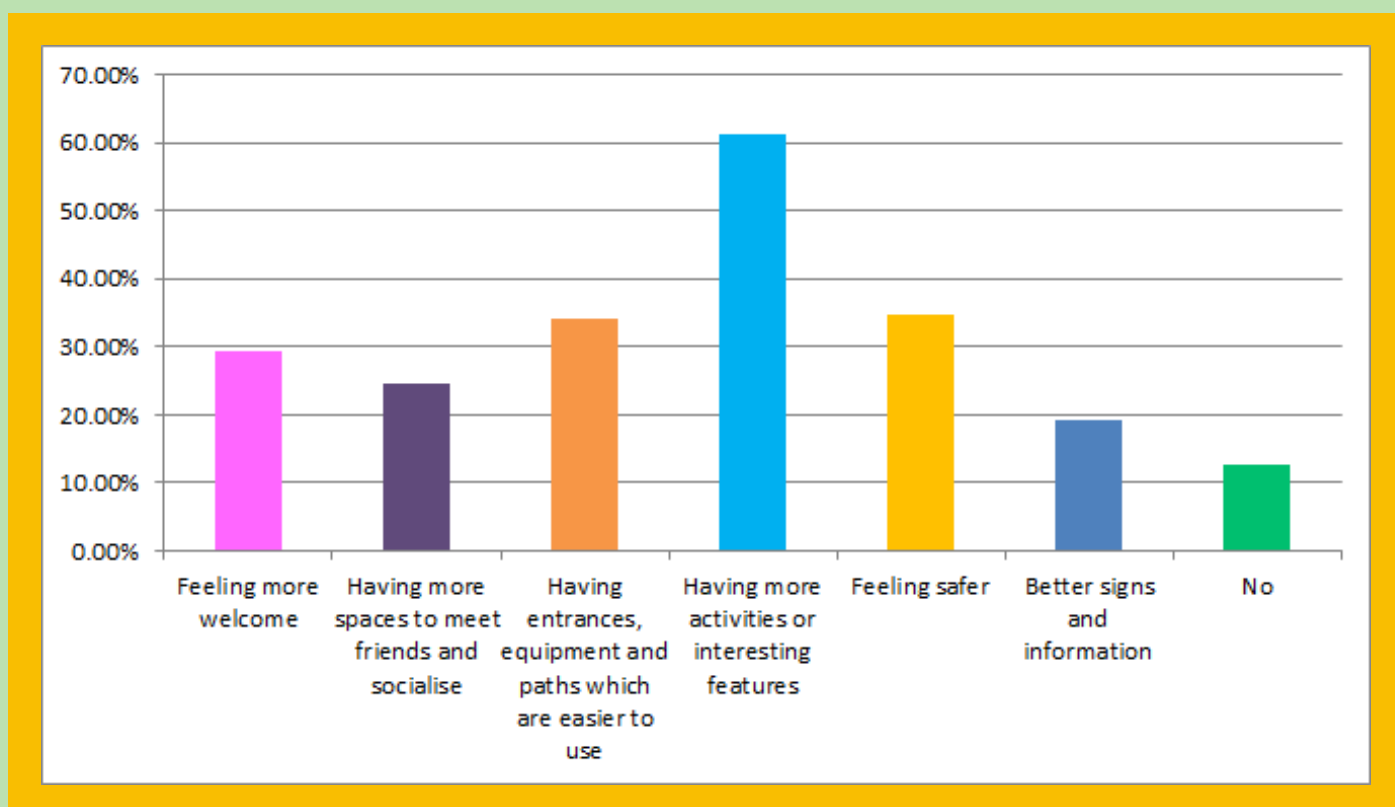
How do you use this park?

Popular uses of the parks include having space to take children to, exercise and enjoying nature and wildlife.

Common answers in the 'Other' category focused on playing games and sports such as football.

Are there any changes which would help you use this park more?

The top three changes people identified were having more activities, feeling safer and having entrances, equipment and paths which are easier to use.

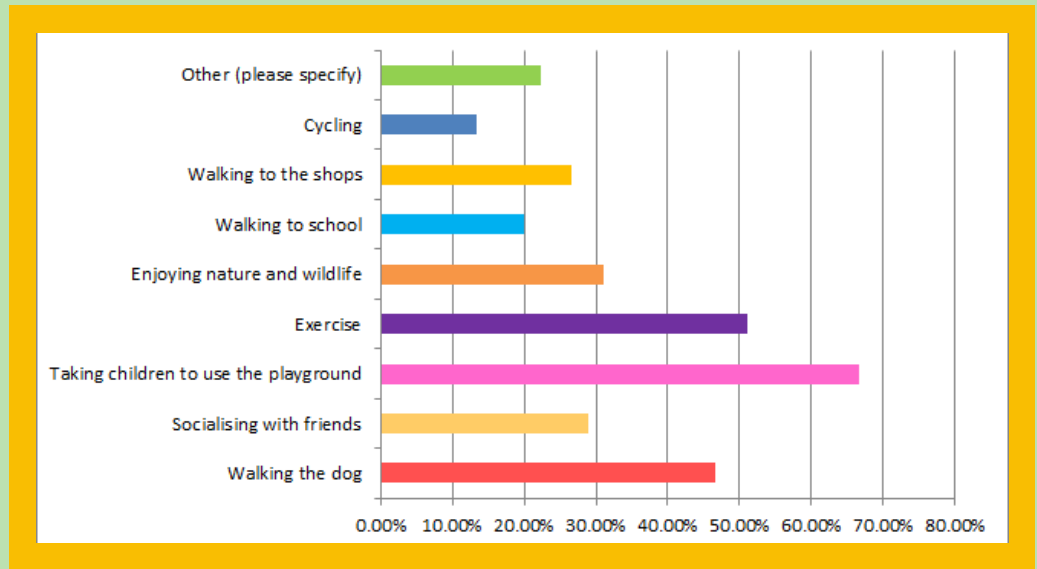


We explored these themes for the four most popular parks. These were Doncaster Road park, Badocks Wood, Embleton Road playground and Trym Valley Open Space.

Doncaster Road Park

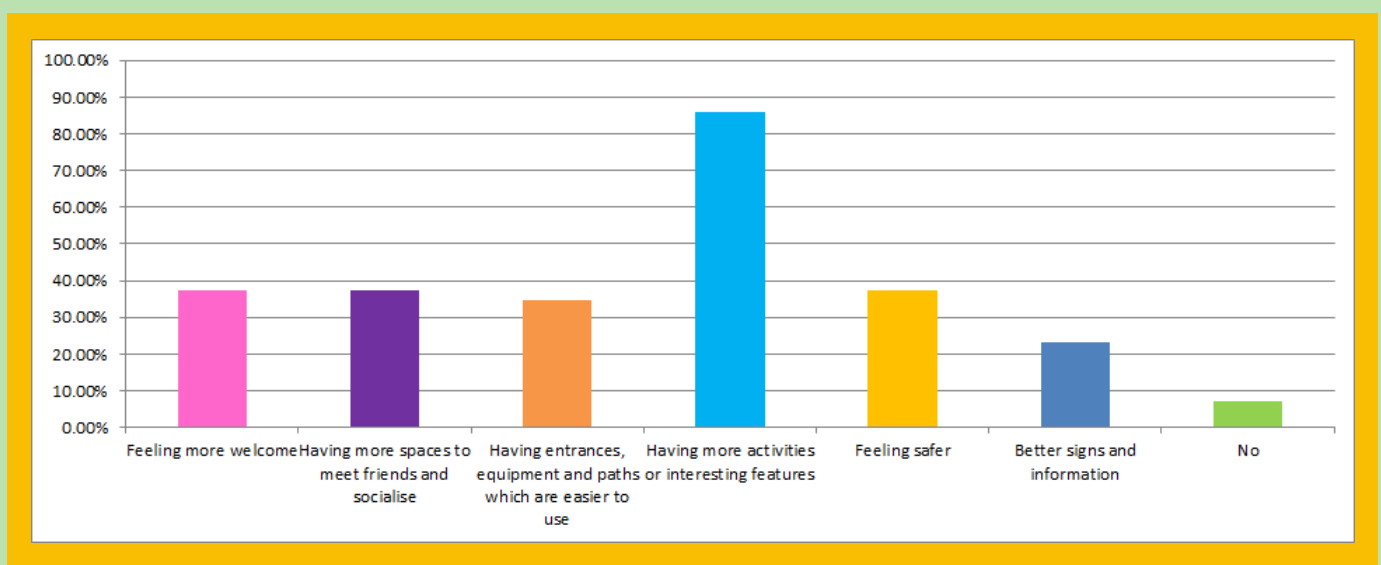
How do you use this park?

The most common reason people used the park was taking their children to use the playground. Other common uses were exercise and walking the dog. Using football pitch and basketball court was a common answer for 'Other'



Are there any changes which would help you use this park more?

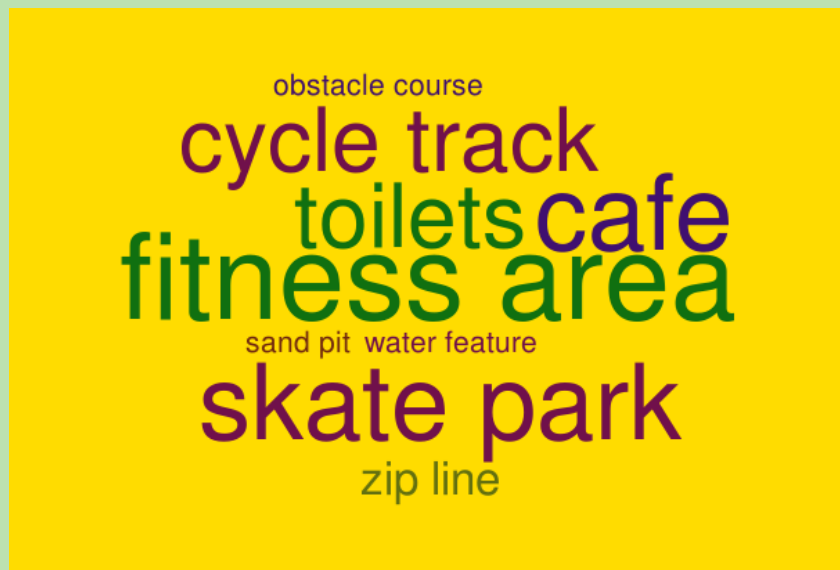
The most common change people would make to the park in order to use it more was having more activities and interesting features. 86% of respondents chose this.



Please share any specific ideas you have to make this park better.

One of the most common suggestions was having more benches for people to be able to socialise. Respondents were also keen to improve the play ground equipment, basketball court and football pitch.

Many respondents made suggestions for bringing more activities and features to the park. These are shown in the word cloud below. The bigger an idea appears, the more it was suggested.



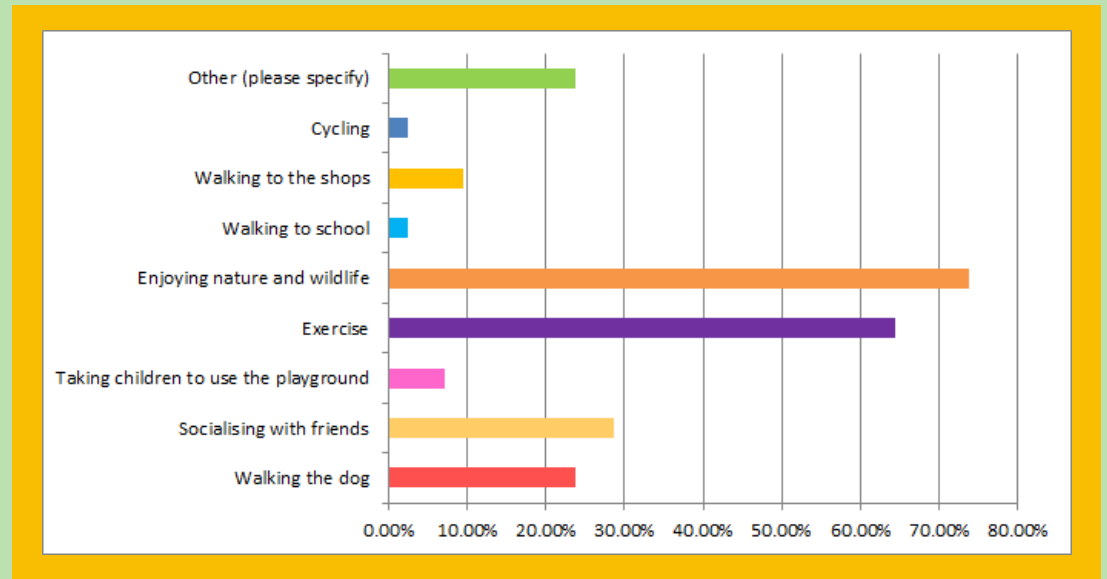
There were other ideas which came up from respondents which indicate some other priorities in Doncaster Road park. These can be seen below.



Badock's Wood

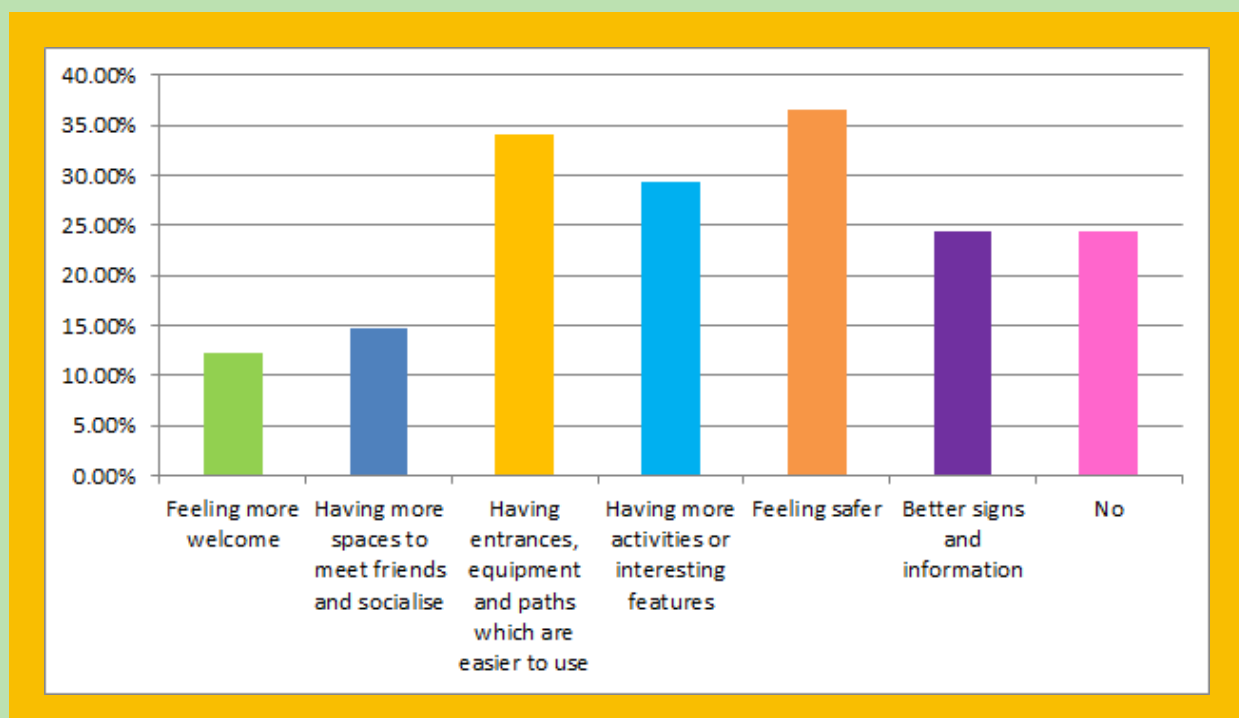
How do you use this park?

The most common reason people used the park was enjoying nature and wildlife, followed by exercise.



Are there any changes which would help you use this park more?

The two most common changes people chose were feeling safer and have entrances, equipment and paths which were easier to use.



Please share any specific ideas you have to make this park better.

Ideas were commonly based on how to access and use Badock's more easily. This included suggestions for more benches and seating, wider entrances which are cleared regularly and more dog waste bins.

Below you can see some ideas based around each theme.

Management

- Stopping dog mess
- More bins
- Reducing litter
- Sort out the pond
- Don't build on it
- Improve water quality

Accessibility

- Link up the woods with the wildlife park
- Improved disabled access
- Widen Lake Road entrance
- Make paths more even

Feeling safer

- CCTV
- Would like to feel safer visiting alone

Better signs & information

- Child friendly info boards
- Rope off unofficial paths
- Signs to tell you the way
- Signs showing the nearest toilets
- Info, wildlife & history boards about woods & river
- Signs demanding dogs be kept on leads

Activities & features

- Play equipment in large field
- Bench in Horse's Field
- Cafe
- More benches
- Outdoor gym equipment in woods & Greenway fields

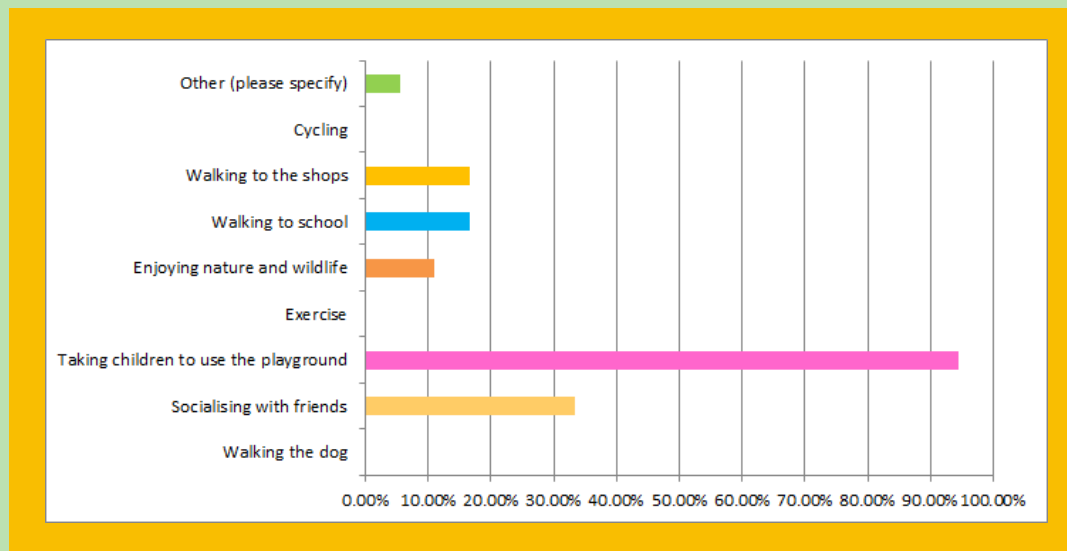
Nature & Wildlife

- Floral display
- Wildflowers

Embleton Road Playground

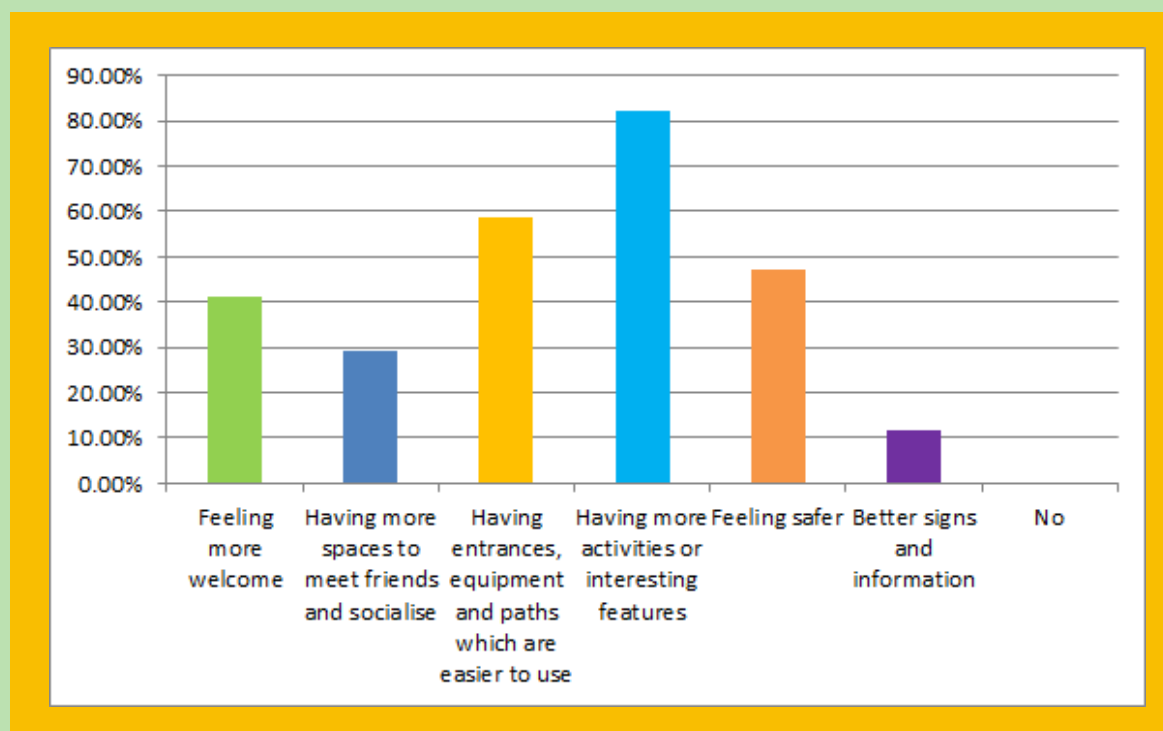
How do you use this park?

94% of respondents said they used the park to take their children to the playground. Socialising with friends was also a common answer.



Are there any changes which would help you use this park more?

82% of respondents wanted more activities and features in the park. Having entrances, equipment and paths which are easier to use was also popular.



Please share any specific ideas you have to make this park better.

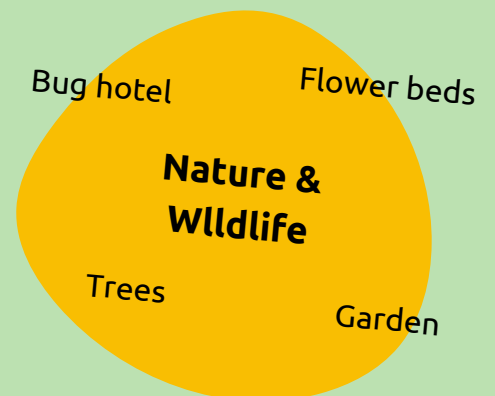
Improving and increasing the amount of play equipment was the most common theme. This included a need for equipment for all ages. There was a feeling that the park had not been updated in a long time.

It was also important to people that the park felt safer with less concrete, improved tarmac.

There were lots of suggestions for activities, new equipment and features to make it feel more welcoming and nicer to visit which we've shown here.



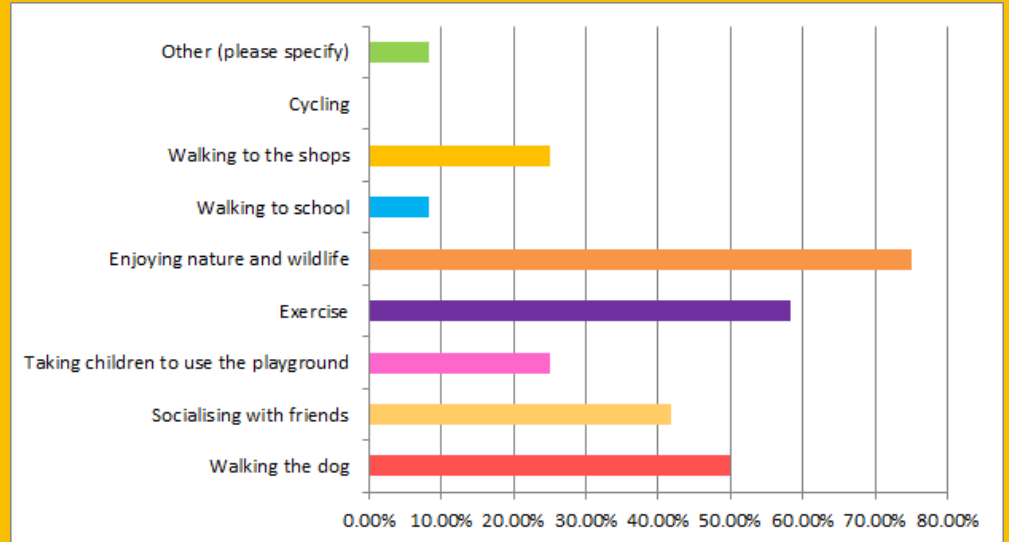
Here you can see ideas for other themes which respondents identified.



Trym Valley Open Space

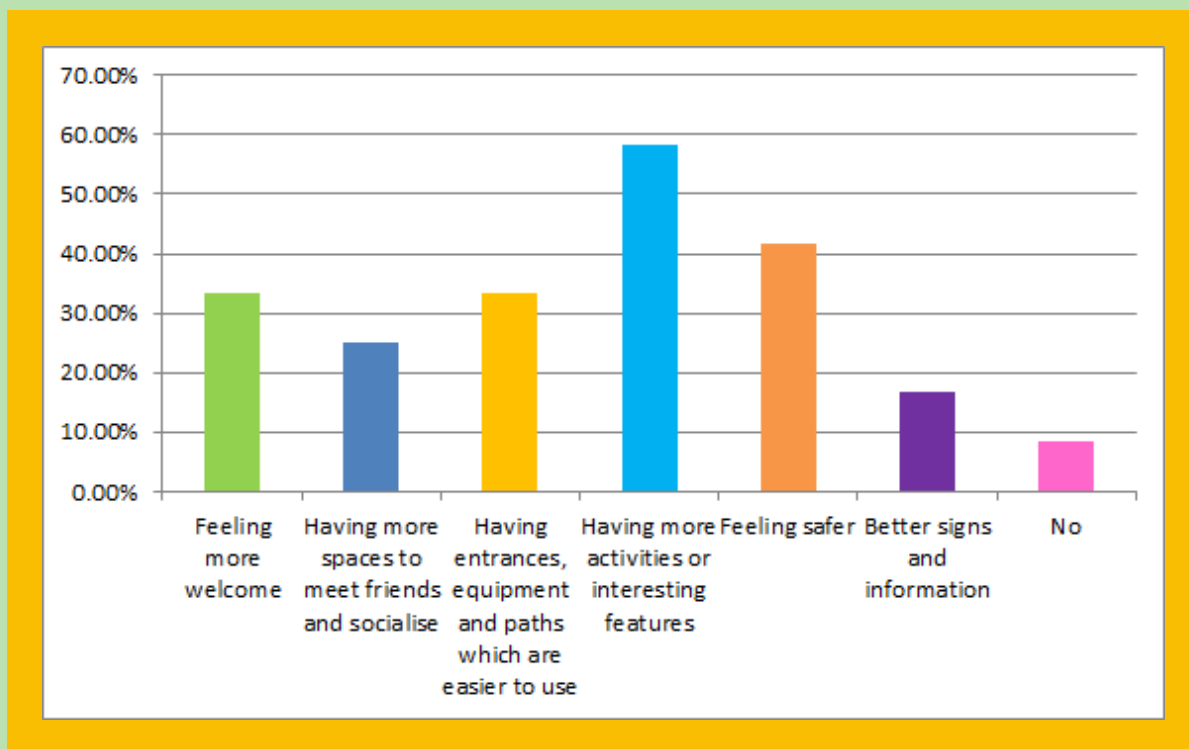
How do you use this park?

The most common use of the park was enjoying nature and wildlife. Active uses of the park such as exercise and dog walking were also common.



Are there any changes which would help you use this park more?

Respondents want to see more activities and interesting features in this space. However, there was also quite an even spread across the other changes too.

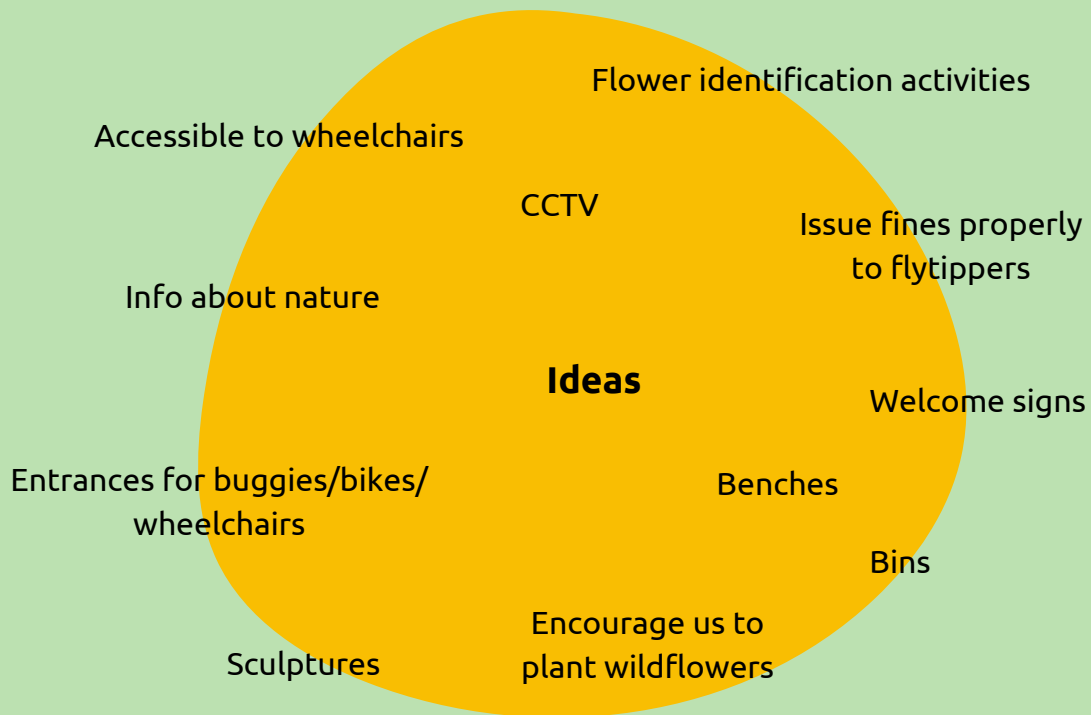


Please share any specific ideas you have to make this park better.

Respondents were keen on having more places to sit and enjoy the space. Multiple respondents identified that accessibility was poor. There is a need for wider entrances as people in wheelchairs or with buggies find it hard or impossible to enter.

A common theme was the issue of fly tipping and dog mess with a desire to get this managed.

Here are some ideas which respondents put forward.



Thank you to Bristol City Council for providing the funding to conduct this research.

Raw data can be requested from the Regeneration team at Southmead Development Trust by emailing info@southmead.org

