

**London Borough of Hackney**

**Millfields User Survey**

**Final Report**

**July 2009**

**By: Yahya Hafesji (LBH Consultation)**

## CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	Background	4
2.2	Methodology	4
2.3	Structure of this report	5
2.4	Analysis of results	5
<b>3</b>	<b>RESPONDENT PROFILE</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1	Introduction	6
3.2	Age	6
3.3	Gender	6
3.4	Where do you live?	7
3.5	Disability	7
3.6	Ethnic background	7
3.7	Religion	8
<b>4</b>	<b>VISITING THE PARK</b>	<b>9</b>
4.1	How often do you visit Millfields?	9
<b>5</b>	<b>SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>11</b>
5.1	Introduction	11
5.2	Facilities needed in Millfields Park	11
5.3	Likeliness that facilities will be used	12
5.4	Need for facilities vs. likeliness that facilities will be used	13
5.5	New changing rooms for which sports	13
5.5	Park Lodge best used for	14
5.6	Children's play facilities in the park	14
5.7	Is there anything you would like to do in the park there is currently no provision for?	15
<b>6</b>	<b>DOGS IN THE PARK</b>	<b>16</b>
6.1	Introduction	16
6.2	Is dog control problem in the park?	16
<b>7</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>18</b>

**APPENDIX 1: Questionnaire**

**APPENDIX 2: Respondents' comments**

## 1 SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS

### Respondent Profile

The majority of respondents were aged between 25 and 54. The most common age group was 35-44 (41%). Respondents were least likely to be either 18-24 (3%) or over 65 (3%).

58% of respondents were female, 42% were male. Majority (91%) said that they lived in E5. Other areas to note were E9 (5%), E8 (2%) and N16 (2%). Only 3% of respondents said that they consider themselves to be disabled.

58% of respondents described their ethnic background as White, while 17% said White other, 10% said Black/Black British, 10% also said Asian/Asian British and 5% said Mixed parentage.

40% of respondents said they were Atheist, while over a third of respondents (35%) described their religion as Christian, 13% as Other, 10% as Muslim, 1% as Hindu and 1% as Sikh.

### Visiting the Park

Respondents were asked how often they visited Millfields. Over a quarter (27%) of respondents paid visit around 1-2 times a week and similar numbers (25%) said that they visit the park everyday. A very small percentage of respondents said that they visit the park less than once a month (6%) and only 2% said that they never visit the park.

Walking was the most popular (83%) reason given for visiting the park followed by cycling (52%) and bringing children was stated by almost half (48%) of the respondents.

The least common reasons stated for visiting the park were to use trim trail/exercise equipment (13%), play cricket (8%) and play basketball (4%).

### Sports and Activities

Facilities that respondents felt they were most in need of were; Public toilets (77% needed), Refurbished playground (77% needed), Café (74% needed), More flowerbeds and shrubbery (70% needed) and Separate play area – older children 8-12 yr (59% needed). The respondents considered needed the least were an improved cricket facilities (41% needed), new changing rooms (43% needed) and Skateboard area (31% needed).

The facilities that respondents said they were most likely to use on Millfields Park were; Café (81% likely), Public toilets (73% likely) and Refurbished playground (59% likely). Respondents said that they were least likely to use new changing rooms (25% likely), improved Cricket facilities (22% likely) and Skateboard area (18% likely).

Respondents were asked to comment on the sports that should have changing rooms for. Out of the three sports options offered, Football had the highest response (51%) followed by Cricket (50%) and there was slightly lower response for Tennis (46%).

In addition, there were number of Other suggestions and a common view is that changing facilities should incorporate all sports. Just over a quarter of respondents (27%) stated that changing rooms are not needed.

Respondents wanted the Park Lodge most used as Café (64%), A new base for park rangers (45%), A building with rooms that community groups can hire (40%) and Environmental and ecology education centre (39%).

Respondents did not want the Park Lodge used for A building with rooms for private meetings or event hire (40%) and Team changing rooms (37%).

Majority of respondents (44%) rated children's play facilities as Average and just over a third rated it as Poor/Not very good. A smaller number of respondents (21%) though that the children's play facilities were Excellent/Good.

Respondents were asked if there is anything they wanted to do in Millfields Park there is currently no provision for. Responses varied greatly and most popular responses were; Café, Place to sit/Picnic area, Dogs free area, Adventure playground for younger and older children, Paddling pool and Sandpit, Community orchard/allotments, Toilets, Water feature/fountain and Community Arts/Graffiti.

### **Dogs in the park**

According to 57% of respondents, dog control is an issue in Millfields Park. Dogs mess/fouling and owners not clearing up and teenagers with dangerous dogs off lead were some of the major reasons stated.

Significant percentages (92%) agree that Hackney Council should do more to penalize dog owners who fail to pick up after their dogs. As many as 69% of respondents agreed to support the introduction of an enclosed dog free area and almost half stated that they prefer if dogs were kept on leads in the parks and other public places.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

This report presents the findings of Millfields User Survey which was carried out from February to April 2009.

### **2.1 Background**

Hackney Council is currently developing Millfields Masterplan which will provide a clear basis to shape and coordinate the future of the park. Millfields Recreation is split into three separate green spaces by the Lea Bridge Road and Chatsworth Road that run through the park.

Current facilities include tennis courts, artificial and grass cricket squares, a former park lodge (not currently in park use), 5 a side football pitch, informal football pitch, traditional playground for younger primary age children, toilets, small store building, trim trail, community planted arboretaums of unusual specimen trees (on North and South Millfields) and two basketball courts.

The park is currently popular with sports users, cyclists, dog walkers, and with people passing through the space. Hackney Council and user group would like the Millfields to be a destination that people want to spend significant time in, rather than simply passing through

To support this ambition, funding was secured to refurbish the basketball courts as well as plant and operate a new community orchard. To help steer and shape further improvements, Hackney Council with the support of the Millfields' User Group made available Millfields User Survey, inviting the local community and park users to complete. The questions asked people to comment on the sort of further improvements they would like to see to the park (see Appendix 1).

Furthermore, the survey also asked people to provide their details if they wanted more information about joining the group.

### **2.2 Methodology**

A professional looking survey was designed and launched on 2 February 09 with an advert in Hackney Today. A link to an online version of the survey was also posted on to the Hackneys Consultation Webpage (<http://www.consultationfinder.com/hackney>).

The consultation period ran until 16 March 09 and was further extended to 17 April 09 to enable more people to respond. The survey was available in both paper and online formats. Paper surveys were available from Clapton library, Old Park Lodge and distributed to households, businesses, schools and community organisations within the area. This exercise resulted in 315 responses in total with 175 online and further 140 paper responses.

### **2.3 Structure of this report**

The main body of the report is divided into the following sections, which looks at the survey results in detail:

- Respondent profile
- Visiting the park
- Sports and activities
- Dogs in the park

The appendix contains a copy of the questionnaire and listings of respondents' comments.

### **2.4 Analysis of results**

Percentages in a particular chart will not always add up to 100%. This may be due to rounding, or because each respondent is allowed to give more than one answer to the question.

### 3 RESPONDENT PROFILE

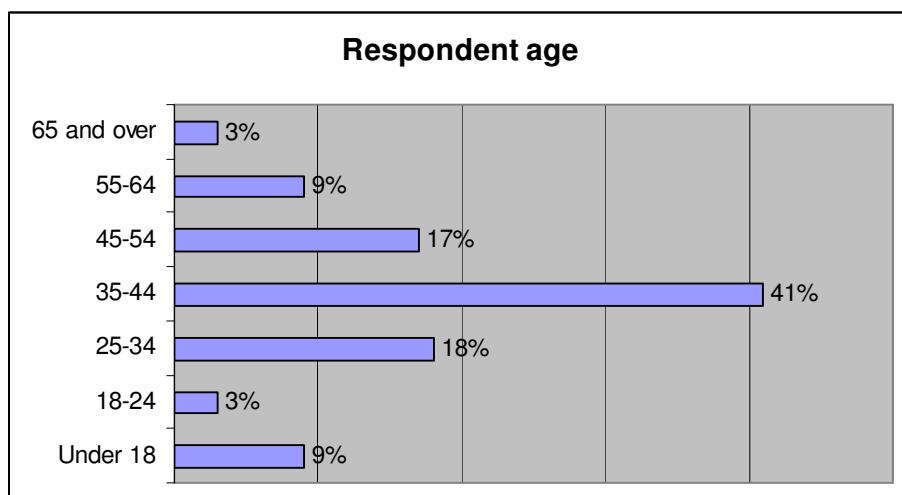
#### 3.1 Introduction

This section of the report profiles respondents by demographics (gender, age and ethnicity), disability and where they live.

#### 3.2 Age

The majority of respondents were aged between 25 and 54. The most common respondent age group was 35-44 (41%). It is possible that these age groups would be more willing to respond to the survey because they are the groups that are most likely to have younger children.

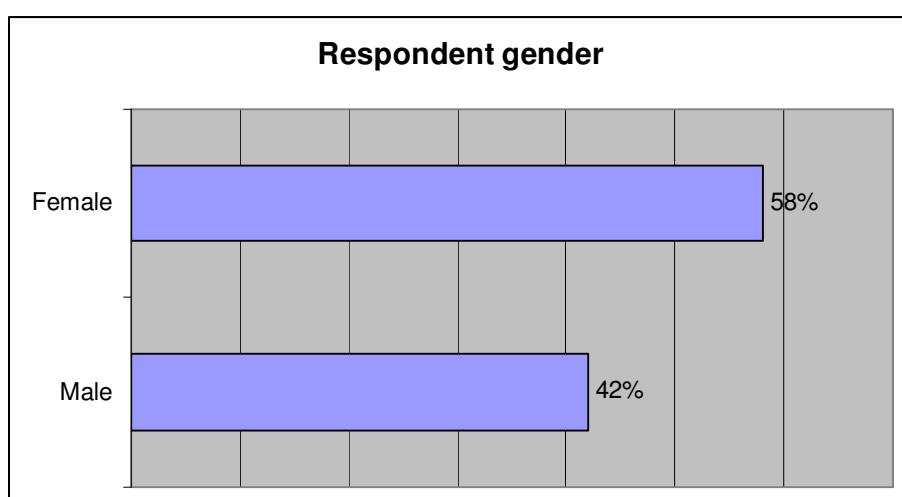
Respondents were least likely to be either 18 -24 (3%) or over 65 (3%).



Base: All respondents (302)

#### 3.3 Gender

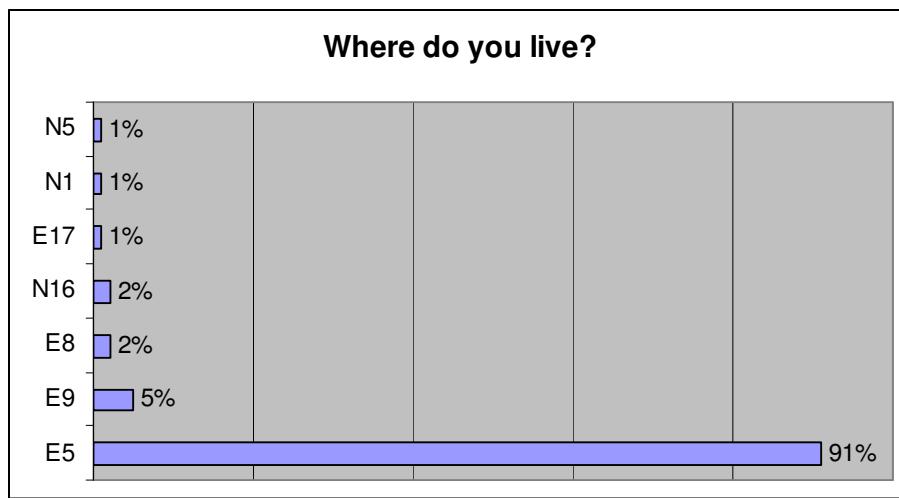
58% of respondents were female, 42% were male.



Base: All respondents (298)

### 3.4 Where do you live?

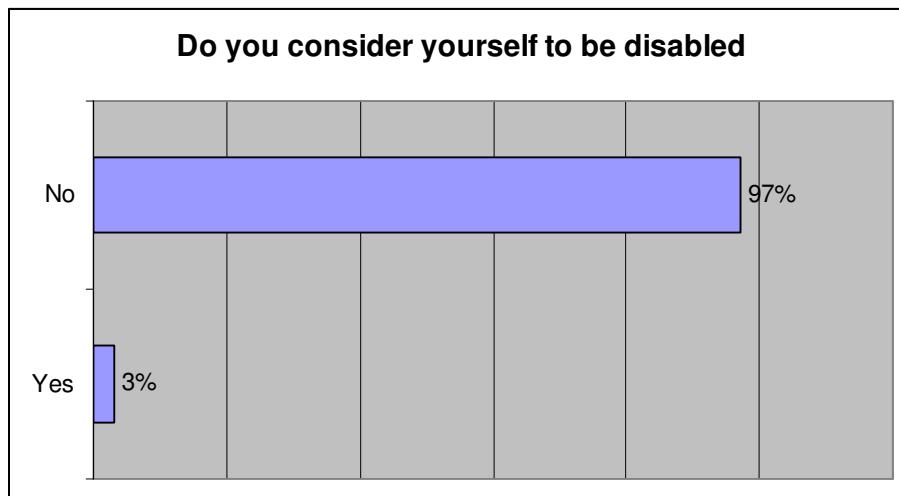
Respondents were asked which postcode they lived in. Given that residents living near the park had received paper copies of surveys, it is therefore of no surprise to find that overwhelming majority (91%) said that they lived in E5. Other areas to note were E9 (5%), E8 (2%) and N16 (2%).



Base: All respondents (302)

### 3.5 Disability

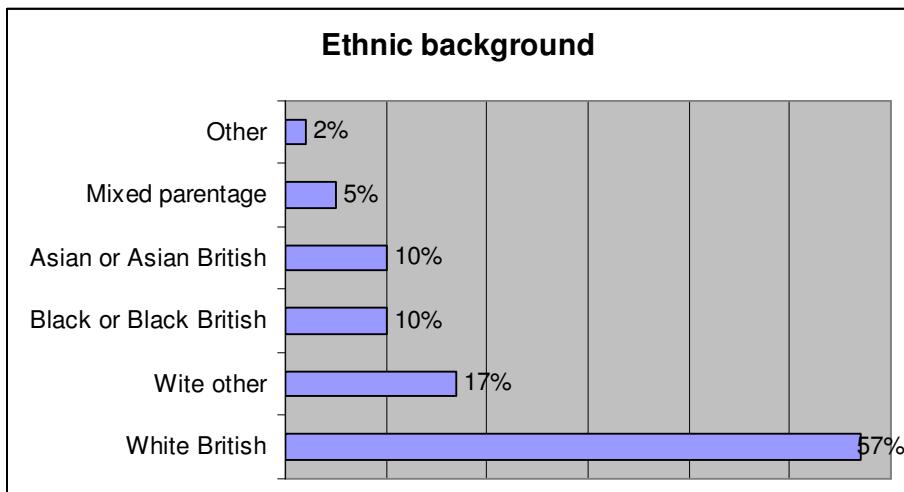
Only 3% of respondents said that they consider themselves to be disabled.



Base: All respondents (288)

### 3.6 Ethnic background

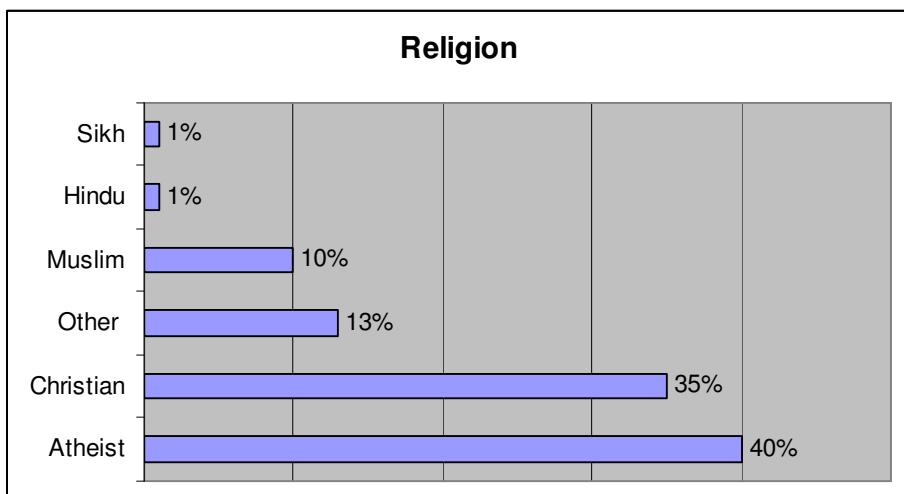
57% of respondents described their ethnic background as White, while 17% said White Other, 10% said Black/Black British, 10% also said Asian/Asian British and 5% said Mixed Parentage. Only 2% described their ethnic background as Other.



Base: All respondents (297)

### 3.7 Religion

When asked about religion 40% of respondents said they were Atheist. Over a third of respondents (35%) described their religion as Christian, 13% as Other, 10% as Muslim, 1% as Hindu and 1% as Sikh.



Base: All respondents (241)

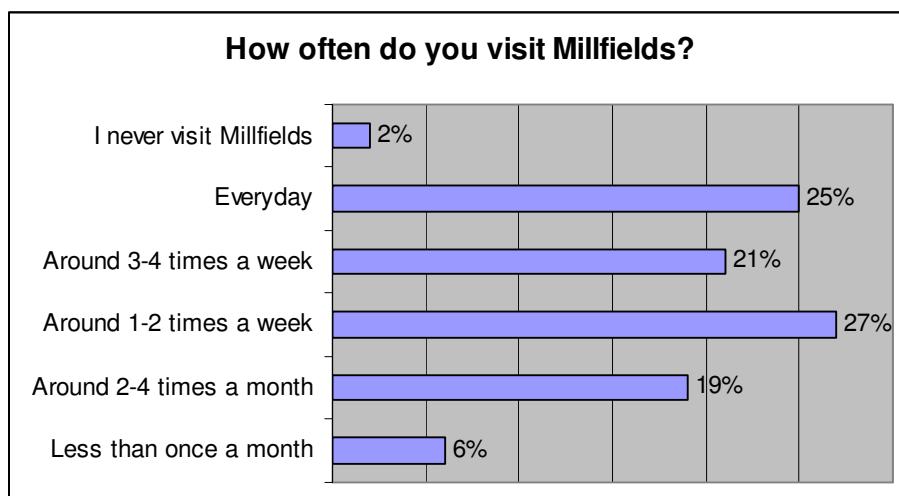
## 4 VISITING THE PARK

### 4.1 Introduction

This section ask people to state how often they visit the park, the reasons for visiting and not visiting the park.

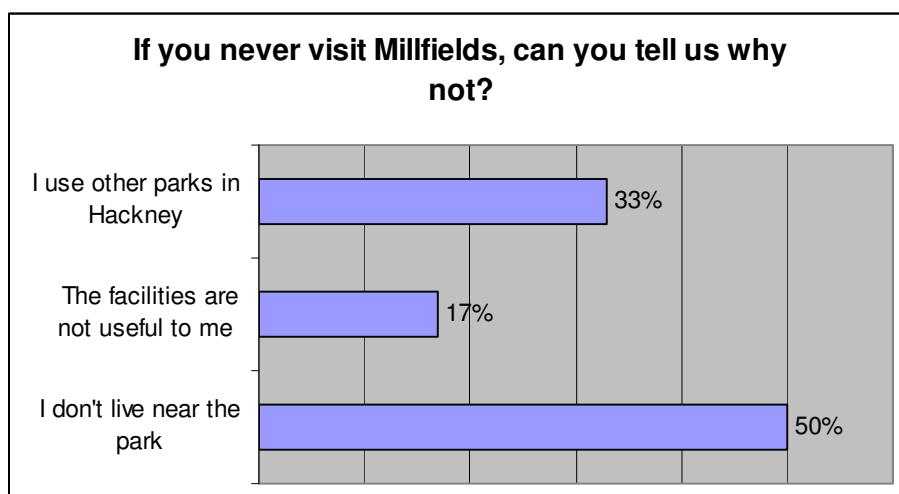
### 4.2 How often do you visit Millfields?

Respondents were asked how often they visited Millfields. Just over a quarter (27%) of respondents paid visit around 1-2 times a week and similar number (25%) said that they visit the park everyday. A very small percentage of respondents said that they visit the park less than once a month (6%) and only 2% said that they never visit the park.



Base: All respondents (315)

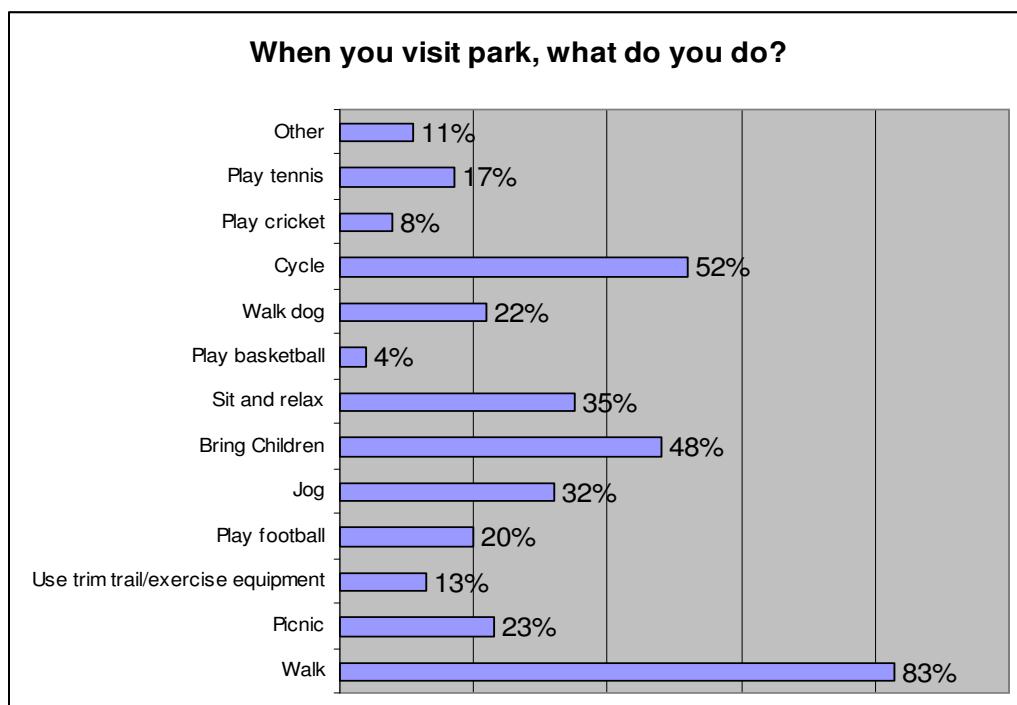
And of those who said that they never visit the park, 50% said they did not live near the park and one third (33%) said that they used other parks as reasons for not visiting Millfields.



Reasons stated for visiting the park were varied. Walking was the most popular (83%) followed by cycling (52%) and bringing children was stated by almost half (48%) of the respondents.

The least common reasons stated for visiting the park were to use trim trail/exercise equipment (13%), play cricket (8%) and play basketball (4%). However there is a variation in the response according to age as greater percentage of younger respondents (under the age of 24) cited sports for visiting the park with Football, Cricket and Tennis sports were popular for this age group.

11% of respondents gave Other reasons for visiting the park. A full list of literals can be found in Appendix 2.



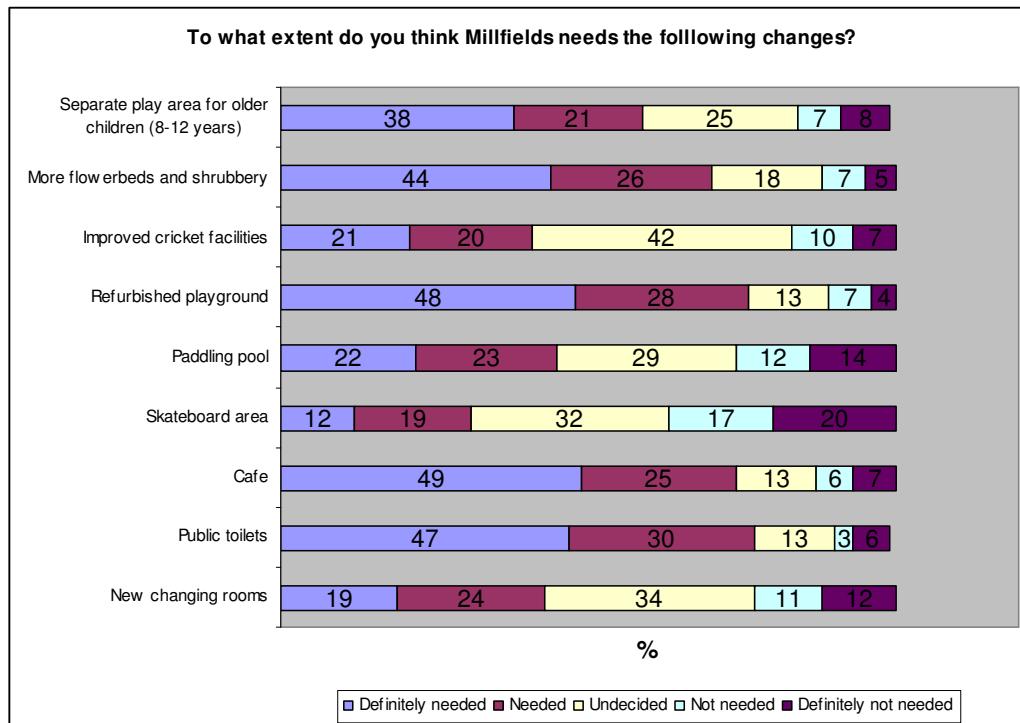
## 5 SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

### 5.1 Introduction

This section looks at sports and activities in Millfields Park. Respondents were asked what extent various facilities are needed and how likely they are to use these, the need for changing rooms, how best the Park Lodge can be used and views on children's play facilities.

### 5.2 Facilities needed in Millfields Park

Respondents were asked to what extent they felt that the following facilities were needed in Millfields Park.



Base: All respondents (306)

The facilities that respondents felt they were most in need of were:

- Public toilets (77% needed)
- Refurbished playground (77% needed)
- Café (74% needed)
- More flowerbeds and shrubbery (70% needed)
- Separate play area – older children 8-12 yr (59% needed)

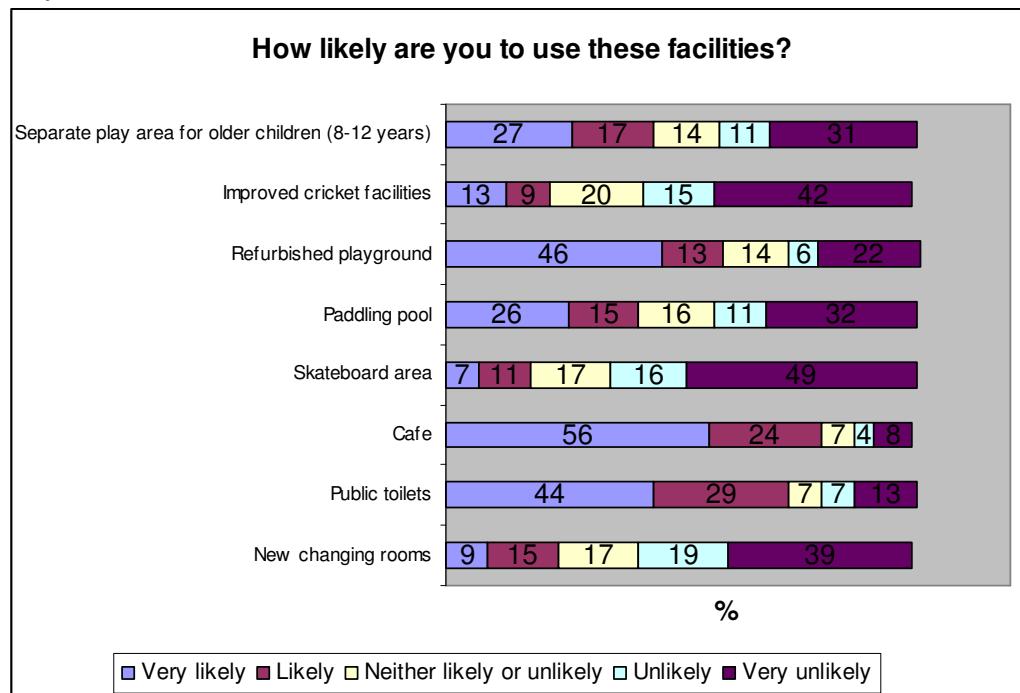
An improved cricket facilities (41% needed), New changing rooms (43% needed) and Skateboard area (31% needed) were the facilities that respondents felt were the least needed in the area.

While Café was deemed necessary by all respondent groups, some facilities appealed more to certain subgroups than others. For example, females were more likely than males to say that Public toilets (81% vs 71%), Refurbished playground (79% vs 72%) and Separate play area – older children 8-12 (65% vs 53%) were needed, while male were more likely than female to say that Improved cricket facilities (53% vs 31%) were needed.

Despite respondents considering Improving Cricket facilities as one of the least needed facility, 79% of respondents from Asian/Asian British backgrounds suggested that there was a need for improving Cricket facilities, compared to 41% of all other ethnic backgrounds. This is to be expected as 40% of Asian/Asian British respondents already play Cricket on Millfields Park.

### 5.3 Likeliness that facilities will be used

Respondents were asked how likely they are to use the following facilities if they were available in Millfields Park.



Base: All respondents (302)

The facilities that respondents said they were most likely to use were:

- Café (80% likely)
- Public toilets (73% likely)
- Refurbished playground (59% likely)

Again, overall respondents said that they were least likely to use New changing rooms (24% likely), improved Cricket facilities (22% likely) and Skateboard area (18% likely).

Closer breakdown by gender shows that in general females are more likely to use most of the facilities than males. And whilst Café, Public toilets and Refurbished playground were popular across different age groups, results show that younger respondents under the age of 18 are more likely to use Skateboard area, Improved cricket facilities, Refurbished playground, Public toilets and New changing rooms. Older respondents over 65 were also keen on using improved cricket facilities.

#### **5.4 Need for facilities vs. likeliness that facilities will be used**

There is a link between the perceived need for facilities against the likelihood that respondents will use them. As expected Café and Public toilets and Refurbished playground are facilities that respondents felt were most needed, and would also be the most likely to be used. Resources could therefore be best used towards these facilities if Hackney Council has limited resource.

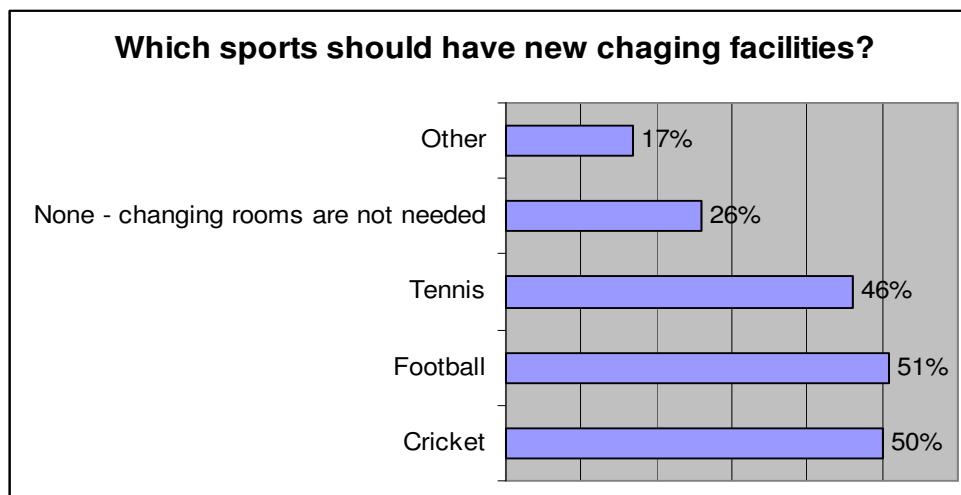
On the opposite side, the facilities with low average scores in terms of need and likelihood of use are Skateboard area, Improved Cricket facilities and New changing rooms.

#### **5.5 New changing rooms for which sports**

Millfields Park does not presently have any suitable changing facilities and one proposal is to change existing buildings into or build new changing rooms. Respondents were asked to comment on the sports that should have changing rooms for. Out of the three sports options offered, Football had the highest response (51%) followed by Cricket (50%) and there was slightly lower response for Tennis (46%).

In addition, there were number of Other suggestions and a common view is that changing facilities should incorporate all sports and not be exclusive to any particular one - a full list of literals is provided in the appendix 2.

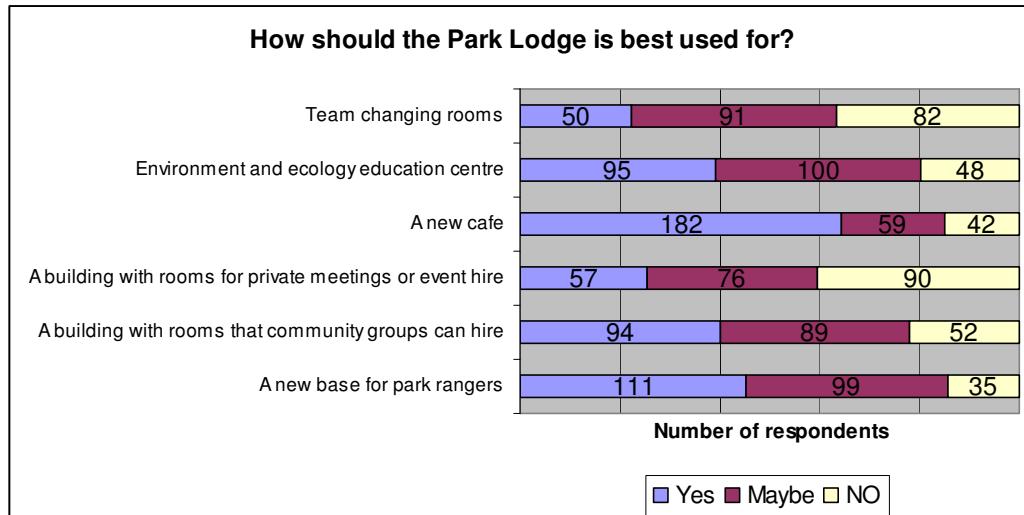
Just over a quarter of respondents (26%) stated that changing rooms are not needed.



## 5.6 Park Lodge best used for

This question asked respondents to comment on how best to use the Park Lodge which is located by Hillstowe Street entrance. Respondents wanted the Park Lodge most used as Café (64%), A new base for park rangers (45%), A building with rooms that community groups can hire (40%) and Environmental and ecology education centre (39%).

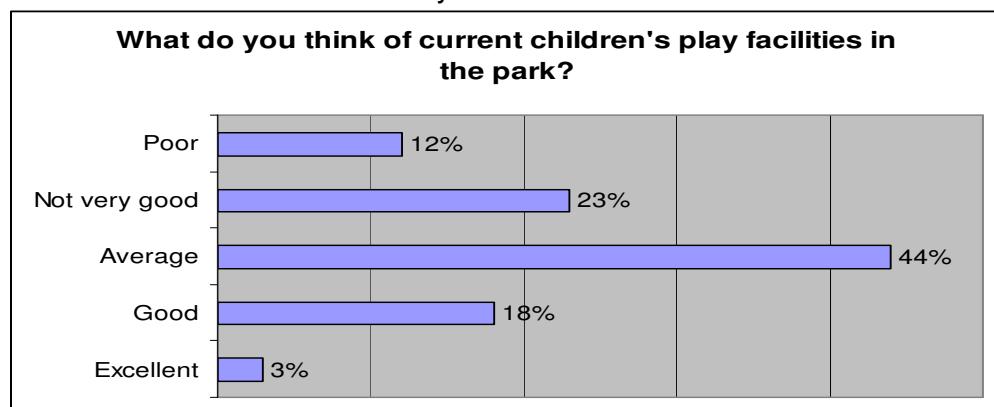
From the options offered, respondents did not want the Park Lodge used for A building with rooms for private meetings or event hire (40%) and Team changing rooms (37%).



Base: All respondents (293)

## 5.7 Children's play facilities in the park

There is currently a children's play area in the park which is in need of modernisation. Respondents were asked to rate the children's play facilities on a scale from Excellent to Poor. Majority of respondents (44%) rated children's play facilities as Average and just over a third rated it as Poor/Not very good. A much smaller percentage of respondents (21%) though that the children's play facilities were Excellent/Good and this is in consistent with earlier results where Refurbished playground was regarded as the most needed and one of the most likely to be used.



Base: All respondents (292)

### **5.8 Is there anything you would like to do in the park there is currently no provision for?**

Respondents were asked if there is anything they wanted to do in Millfields Park there is currently no provision for. This was an open question, a full list of literal responses can be found in Appendix 2.

Responses varied greatly, although most popular responses were (in order of frequency):

- Cafe
- Place to sit/picnic area
- Dogs free area
- Adventure playground for younger and older children
- Paddling pool and sandpit
- Community orchard/allotments
- Toilets
- Water feature/fountain
- Community Arts/Graffiti

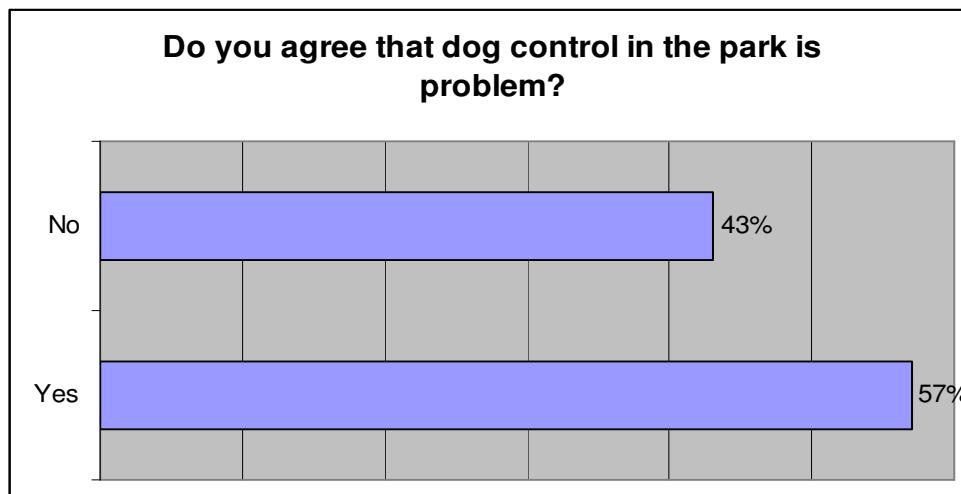
## 6 DOGS IN THE PARK

### 6.1 Introduction

This section looks at dog control in the park. Respondents were asked whether they agree that dog control is a problem and were further asked to comment on this.

### 6.2 Is dog control problem in the park?

As noted in the previous section, dog control is an issue in Millfields Park and this is backed up by high percentage of respondents (57%) who agreed with this.

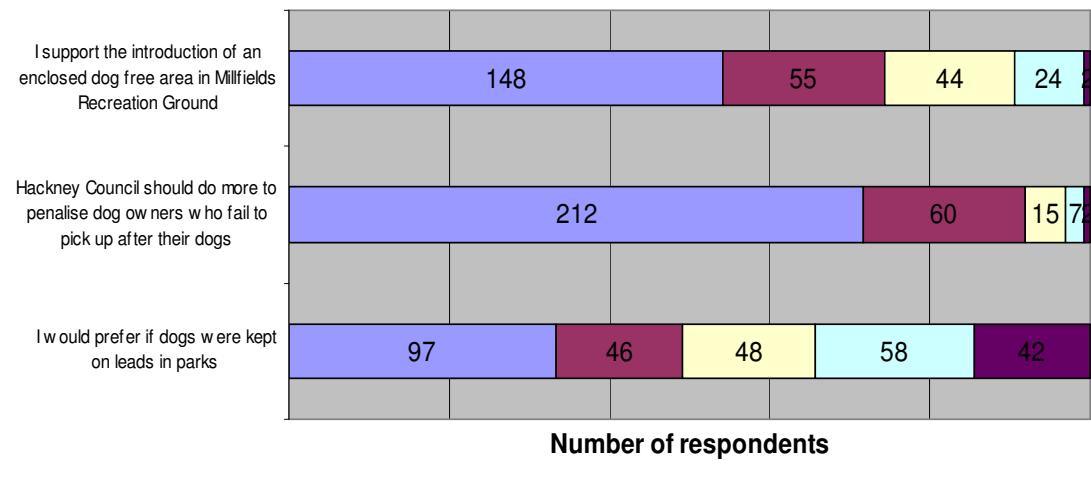


Base: All respondents (299)

Respondents that had agreed with the dog control being a problem in the park had the opportunity to further comment on the problems they had seen or experienced. There were number of responses on this and were mainly in relation to dogs mess/fouling with owners not clearing up and teenagers with dangerous dogs off lead.

Respondents were asked what extent they agreed with three statements about dog control. Significant percentages (92%) agree that Hackney Council should do more to penalize dog owners who fail to pick up after their dogs. As many as 69% of respondents agreed to support the introduction of an enclosed dog free area in Millfields Recreation Grounds and almost half stated that they prefer if dogs were kept on leads in the parks and other public places.

To what extent do you agree with the following statements:



Base: All respondents (297)

## **7 CONCLUSION**

Millfields User Survey results highlight a real desire for improvements to Millfields Park. In particular, responses to the survey indicate a real need for Public toilets, Café and Improved play facilities that cater for different age groups of children.

The survey results also indicate a real scope for improving the physical aspects of the park with improved seating, water feature and flower beds among some of the popular improvements suggested. Dog control & mess also came up as an important issue for respondents and tackling this which would help improve the environment of the park in general.

## **8 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the survey results, the following recommendations are put forward to move forward with the improvement of Millfields Park:

Café and Public toilets and Refurbished playground are the top three facilities respondents felt were most needed, and would also be the most likely to be used. These facilities should therefore be prioritized and resources could therefore be best used towards these facilities if Hackney Council has limited resource.

In terms of introducing a Café, a consideration should be given to using the Park Lodge for Café. A consideration should also be given for playground that is suitable for younger and older children with a variety of stimulating and interesting activities.

For improving the physical and other aspects of the park the following suggestion are further recommended:

- Planting of more flowerbeds and shrubbery and community orchard/allotments
- Introduction of an enclosed dog free area for picnic and place to sit for families
- Greater enforcement of dog fouling
- Improvement of sporting facilities and in particular Cricket and Skateboard for younger age groups

Overall Millfields Park lacks strong identity in comparison with other parks in Hackney and an introduction of landmark for example water feature/fountain would go some way in giving the prominence it deserves.

---

## **APPENDIX 1**

---

## **QUESTIONNAIRE**

## APPENDIX 2

---

## LITERAL COMMENTS

### **Q2 – If you never visit Millfields, can you tell us why not?**

*“Facilities are poor and neglected, street lighting not very good near the ground, anti-social behavior common (many young people from the nearby estates loiter and bring their dogs and foul the area, barking, lots of bad language spoken very loudly”*

### **Q3 - When you visit the park, what do you do?**

#### **Other please tell us**

*“Walk as a natural way to Hackney Marshes, canal and filter bed”*

*“Live facing South Millfields”*

*“Play hockey”*

*“Children’s playground and kids play bus”*

*“Bird-watch”*

*“Look at and identify wild plants”*

*“I live here”*

*“Walk through to work/school/shops/nursery. Use play park. Meet friends. Build snowmen”*

*“Visit play park”*

*“Go to the playground. Fly remote-controlled toy helicopter. Play other games e.g. Frisbee, catching ball games”*

*“Go to the play ground, play ball games, use toy helicopters, play cosmic catch ball game, play with friends”*

*“I pass by every time I go to Homerton Hospital or Chatsworth Road for shopping”*

*“As a through route to get to other parts of Clapton”*

*“Walk round Millfields to see how it is progressing”*

*“Plant trees and look after them. Pick sloes (before the sloe bushes were all demolished by the substation works)”*

*“Go to children’s playground”*

*“Water trees”*

*“Use playground”*

*“Bird watching”*

*“Nature watching of birds”*

*“Play with one year old son”*

*“Drawing / Photography”*

*“Parties”*

*“Play Tag”*

*2Meet neighbours and chat”*

*“Rowing”*

*“Running”*

*“Teaching our grand children to cycle”*

*“Flying model planes”*

*“It is on my route home”*

*“Talk to other members of the community”*

*“Playground”*

**Q6 - It is possible to change existing buildings into or build new changing rooms. Which sports should we provide new changing rooms for?**

**Other please specify**

“Jogging”

“C.C.T.V near changing rooms + C.C.T.V Warning signs and disabled access”

“I don't use the sports facilities at this stage so am unaware of the current facilities”

“All including hockey”

“Sports of all types should be encouraged. The more people that can be attracted to Millfields, the safer it will feel. There are positive knock-on effects for health and community cohesion too”

“Should be open to all sports”

“Not sure why needed if people live nearby”

“Joggers”

“Not really sure. I would've thought that most people would change at home before coming to play”

“Basketball”

“We need toilets, to stop people going behind trees. A cafe would be really nice also - a resource, source of information and meeting point for the local community”

“Netball and indoor training facilities to include athletic events, similar to the New River training facilities in (Haringey)”

“Filling this in from a personal perspective as I live very close to the park so could never say that I need changing rooms”

“What about all of the above sharing?”

“Why give the choice? Changing rooms should be for all sports”

“Facilities for fishermen”

“All of the above. If people who play sport in the park need to change its reasonable they should have somewhere decent to change. But who will supervise the building and ensure its not vandalised? It will then be a burden and an unsightly hazard. Dereliction attracts more dereliction”

“I would rather the funds be used to pay for the other facilities and areas I have selected from your list”

“Joggers”

*“Basketball, rugby, running/training”*

*“I assume that Millfields is not an appropriate for sporting competitions, therefore I would say that changing rooms are not required. The sports facilities would mainly be used by local people who could change at home”*

*“I don't know if changing rooms are needed or for what, I do know that loos are needed for the kids who do sports on Millfields”*

*“I am not sure exactly how large an area this is covering - presumably not the football pitches of the marshes. Let the changing rooms there be improved for football and build on promoting cricket on Millfields”*

*“Changing rooms are currently in the playground, resulting in older kids kicking ball around in play area. My toddler has had a ball hit his face full on. Changing room and football assembly point outside the play area would avoid clashes of the very young and older children. Rugby would be nice”*

*“Different sports, different seasons - same changing rooms can work for both”*

*“Let all the sports use them”*

*“Unsure”*

*“I have never used these so can't comment”*

*“Can they be multi use for all sports?”*

*“Running - Local group about to start”*

*“Padding Pool”*

*“Fewer Buildings, less vandalism, less cost, more money for maintaining natural environment”*

*“Playground”*

*“Don't know”*

*“If they are building they should be used by all sports”*

*“Paddling pool”*

*“Swimming pool/Dog toilet”*

*“Running clubs”*

*“A toilet that is also a changing room for most sports. One Changing room for all. Why they are sport-specific?”*

**Q7 - What do you think the Park Lodge (by the Hillstowe Street entrance) is best used for?  
Other please specify**

*“Education centre for not just grand ideals of environment but simple gardening”*

*“For everyone”*

*“Cafe/Rooms can be hired by community groups”*

*“With provision for park ranger’s base too”*

*“Small children play area”*

*“Refurbished playground for toddlers”*

*“Why can people not change at home?”*

*“I do not know where this entrance is”*

*“Bike hire”*

*“have no idea whether the rangers have a base anywhere nor do I know if there are rooms for community groups etc to hire so I cannot possibly answer”*

*“Any proposed cafe should be near the playground as it is most likely to be used by parents of young children.”*

*“I think it would be great if the cafe and base for park rangers would be at the playground area at bottom of Casimir road.”*

*“Unfortunately there needs to be an active presence of rangers to ensure that the area is used responsibly. If they don’t have the authority to stop anti-social behaviour that stops others’ rights to enjoy the area it is not much point - so they do need a place to call base - but need to be out and about most of the time.”*

*“Two cafes and toilets on either side of the park which is cut in half by Lea Bridge Road”*

*“Play area need freshening up new re pain and resident carer to keep an eye on children playing on swings and keep things clean re graffiti”*

*“A combination of above 4 last points, a community center with a small informal cafe where talks and exhibitions of art, history, archaeology finds (of the area), etc. can take place and rooms that can be hired for private meetings, events and community groups. And it would be nice if there would be a cafe open later than 6pm.”*

*“Cafe with conservatory and garden with adjacent childrens play area (parents can relax while watching their children play.”*

*“Definitely a café and a restaurant, child friendly.”*

*“Victoria park has a successful cafe so I am told. Its a great facility to have, provided its run as a proper business and staffed... and not mostly shut because no one can*

*be bothered to open."*

*"Toilets"*

*"Toilets and park staff supervision for the playground (as in years gone by)."*

*"Education centre"*

*"You need to have a balance as Millfields is split down the middle by Leabridge Road so it is important to have something on both sides, 2 cafes one on each side!"*

*"Creche/ 1 o'clock club"*

*"Growers shop/ nursery shop"*

*"Build a new pavillion, changing rooms, small cafe/meeting room on South Millfields facing the cricket pitch, with its back to Lea Bridge Road. On either side raise a long earth mound for the full length of the boundary with Lea Bridge Road and landscape it. This way you will reduce traffic noise & pollution for the cricket/football area and provide a prominent facility that people can find easily (instead of the squalid, hidden facilities used now). Cricket scoring room would be in the roof as usual (in a dormer), plus there would a ranger's office. This would give all-round surveillance of a large area of the park. Sell Park Lodge to help with funding."*

*"Another children's play area in South Millfields park (near the tennis courts) would be an excellent investment as a high percentage of park users live south of Lea Bridge Road around Chatsworth Road and many are put off the long walk with children to Millfield's Park North."*

*"If available to school groups"*

*"Bring back the putting green"*

*"I didn't even know that there was a park lodge building. It's hard to know however how much demand for these things there would be."*

*"It would be fantastic to have a cafe space to go to. If this happens it would be good to consider selling goods that are healthy and tasty. In Sweden lots of parks have set up facilities for bbq's - I think this would be a great idea to introduce to Millfields, there's plenty of space. We use the park a lot for picnics and it would be great to do a bit of bbq'ing too"*

*"All of these facilities are needed within the park, so using Park Lodge would be wise. I can't help but think a new building is required to meet these conflicting needs. A cafe/community space and (football) changing rooms would be best sited closer to the existing playground near Gunton Road."*

*"Nursery/playgroup space"*

*"I didn't actually know there was a building there. So I have included 'café' amongst my options; since it would not involve building a new building, cafés always seem to attract users."*

**Q9 - Is there anything you would like to do in the park for which there is currently no provision? Please tell us..**

*“The basketball court use to be a floodlit all weather pitch - it would be brilliant if this could be re introduced”*

*“Bring back astro turf and be able to use as five-a-side football.”*

*“A Chance for us to help out with gardening maybe ask local residents young or older to plant a small plant or tree and maybe you can get persons that use the park a lot to sign up to a contract to pick up litter / rubbish YOUNG VOLENTERRS thank you and best wishes Lydia Cullinane”*

*“I would like to see a band stand for live music to be played from”*

*“I would really like to see another playground by the millfields road edge of the park for young people as well as flowers and plants spread across the park.”*

*“Attend a Community Festival? Meet and take part in events for the local community.”*

*“An adventure playground made primarily with wood, for use by young and older children.”*

*“It was a shame the cricket nets were taken down. They would be well used by local cricketers.”*

*“A cafe and toilets would make the Park a much nicer and more popular place to visit. However, the facilities would need to be well financed and managed to ensure they are clean, welcoming and 'feel' safe for all park users. With increased housing around the park, a space for community use would also be a sound investment.”*

*“A separate run-around space for dogs - dog poo and so called dangerous dogs with no lead is a serious problem! A permanent concrete table tennis table, boule courts, wooden multi-exercise unit such as the new one in Springfield park near the tennis courts (this includes all ages) and please don't fence in the basketball courts, I think this would alienate people to use the space.”*

*“More cycle routes, a few more paths to cross the park. a few more bins and park benches. More exercise tools, the current ones are all used and quite good, but could be more and more detailed exercise plans and descriptions for the course. And most importantly: a grass area for play/ leisure that is not accessible for dogs! Any time I let my child walk through the grass, dog poo ends up under our shoes.”*

*“A farmers market!!”*

*“I live next to North Millfields, which feels pretty neglected, especially in comparison with South Millfields (which I lived next to for six years). This is partly geography: it is very flat, very open and bounds a really busy main road, which makes it feel more like a common for sunday football and dog-walking than a park. Creating more provision for picnickers, walkers and nature lovers would broaden its use: what about community allotments, or seasonal planting areas and new paths? Planting flowering trees and/or shrub beds (such as in Victoria Park or London Fields) would not only look great, but could help screen noise and pollution from the road, and offers privacy too. The existing amenities could be improved: the goalposts are in pretty bad nick,*

*while the football pitches and a lot of the park are often water-logged. Better maintenance would really help. Can the wall at the north end of the park where the path leads from Leabridge Road to Prout Road be repaired? Cleaning up litter and graffiti in that area, and around the children's playground, would also make it more appealing. A campaign to encourage people to dispose of litter responsibly and pick up after dogs is also important.*

*"Not really as we mainly use it for walking."*

*"Baby changing facilities, picnic area/tables"*

*"Sit under a tree - need more"*

*"A dog free area would help me use the park more"*

*"A decent cafe and seating area"*

*"A bigger variety of plants and trees"*

*"Cafe like the one in highbury fields or victoria park would do really well. You could put the cafe out to tender. sell hot drinks sandwiches and snacks would do really well."*

*"There should be events, fitness classes, theatre - things that bring the community together. It should be a resource like other London parks e.g. Victoria Park and Clissold Park"*

*"Community growing"*

*"More wild areas to encourage wildlife"*

*"I think that the park needs more frequent cleaning, also better lighting at night time."*

*"Make park dog-free because of the problem with dog poo - also my autistic son is terrified of going to the park because of the high number of status dogs on the park - often off the leash. We have been threatened when I once asked someone to leash their dog while we walked pass. This is an accessibility issue"*

*"An area specifically for dogs"*

*"A play area on the Chatworth Road side of the park - The play area is a very long way away for little legs when coming from this end and with the local schools as a pull, there are plenty of young families moving into the area."*

*"In the park I would like to see an athletic track (e.g. Victoria park has one) this would enable and encourage a lot of the schools in the borough to hold their sports days and events there."*

*"cafe please"*

*"A small dock with overnight mooring facilities for boats."*

*"netball"*

*"cafe / community space"*

*"Provision of cricket nets possibly on old astroturf area (aka basket ball area) or elsewhere."*

*"a water fountain would be very cheap and extremely useful to runners."*

*"Table tennis table (like london fields)"*

*"I would like to see permanent BBQ facilities made of brick/metal/ Many people from Turkish, Kurdish backgrounds, also Indian enjoy outdoor cooking or picnicking"*

*"I would like the 6 - 12 year olds to have some play equipment next to the under 5s playground, also a toilet, a ranger base, more rangers and a café"*

*"Table Tennis/Badminton"*

*"Marked running track, to make things like fartlek and sprint training easier, but that is a somewhat personal requirement!"*

*"I would like to use the park more often to relax, but the noise and nearness of the traffic is disturbing. Hedges or bushes could help shield the park off from the roads nearby."*

*"Clean up the fog mess that dogs leave behind daily actively, not just with one bin"*

*"Cafe and an adventure playground for children in Millfields Park North."*

*"Pond, small farm"*

*"No. I think it is lovely as an open space, as it is."*

*"Paddling pool, sand pit, cafe, toilets"*

*"Walk without having to look for dog mess (even though it is better than it was)."*

*"Runnung track"*

*"Good would be if there would be a large circular walk way around the whole park with lighting. At the moment all joggers running around the half track in the north park near the water. Especially during winter and in the evenings that would be very much used my the local professionals."*

*"Yes there is no wildlife or meadow reserve for nature , no new seating on north millfields , no cafe , no new paths , no new design of paths , no new barriers at top of north millfields opposite beecholme estate which need upgrading ( wooden posts put in like in other parts of the park"*

*"Not enough bins for dog waste & general litter. No real attempts to stop rubbish dumping or target dog owners who do not pick up mess/control their pets"*

*"I would prefer a jogging round with flatlight, that you can jog during the night in winter times."*

*"Youth workers ans sports workers to try to get young people interested in sports"*

*"Not really - children's play area is great, I agree that more equipment for older children is needed as there are often teenagers hanging around in the playground. It does not necessarily have to be a new play area, just extend the existing one. The little hut saying 'little men'/'little women' does not appear to be in use and is just covered in grafitti. Either reopen it as toilets/ a cafe or pull it down and replace it with more play equipment or maybe a sand pit?"*

*"The park benefits from being a big open space without too many facilities. I like the way that it is planted with large mature trees and small wild areas. I don't think that fussy flower beds etc which take a lot of maintenance to look good would really be an improvement. A community orchard is a fantastic idea and this could incorporate many things, not just fruit trees but a herb bed, children's allotment and planting of flowers and shrubs to increase biodiversity and attract wildlife. Maybe even a miniature wildflower meadow. But i think this should be for the community to decide and implement, whoever wants to be involved in shaping and maintaining the orchard. This would in my view be much preferable to 'civic' planting of pansies etc."*

*"Also you could improve the area directly adjoining the river, as this is scrubby with falling down wire fences and lots of debris."*

*"summer paddling pool; cafe; adventure centre for older kids; education centre; community orchard; barbecue/picnic site for community events; organised community bonfire in november;"*

*"Go to the toilet!!!!!"*

*"There should be a Person looking after the childrens play area like there was in the late 80's early 90's"*

*"There should be a limited area for dogs, and the rest of the park should be dog free."*

*"There used to be a toilet facilities in the park where the children's play area is now. i appreciate the facilities there now need to be for children only but public toilets are necessary for those doing sport in the park and anyone using it. where else do people go if they aren't close to home?"*

*"I would like the some area for art. The ugly outside and harsh green fence of the power station could be easily livened up and bring people together to create something they are proud of by allowing people to do live art e.g. aerosol art. This would be great for people lounging in the park to watch and really play on Hackneys creative edge. Parks are not only for sports, many of the users, like myself do not play in offical teams and are so local that if we did would get changed at home, so changing rooms are not a priority. However many enjoying the parks open spaces and fresh air, live art to try and watch would be amazing..."*

*"There's no coffee place or restaurant at all! We'd also like to have a space for babies & toddlers to play safely."*

*"We need to make it safer. A cafe will certainly help to keep it well surveilled by the community in a non intrusive manner. A cafe is for all ages and can bring the community together as well as produce revenue."*

*"Water feature as in playground next to St. John's Church"*

*"We desperately need a cafe etc which would benefit the local population. - there are also no facilities - such as toilets etc which are desperately needed as this is a very popular park with a vast amount of residents living in close proximity of (there are even flats built on on edge of park)"*

*"A Great cafe using good locally sourced products and services with a menu that reflects the extraordinary and diverse community in which we live. I have some strong ideas about how this could be achieved!"*

*"A cycle/running track around the outside for training."*

*"Art project on the ugly substation walls and fences."*

*"Play facilities for older children"*

*"See community art on the walls around the power station and/or evergreen planting around the station"*

*"Picnic tables to sit at in the summer"*

*"Dog free area"*

*"More cycleway. Better and safer access between North & South Millfields. Nature reserve / wildlife pond - with public access."*

*"A dog free area (not playground) for babies and young children. There are a lot of mothers' groups in the area who currently meet in cafes etc. who would use it."*

*"Would it be possible to trial some beds of rosemary, sage, thyme etc. in North Millfields"*

*"A children's playground which will be supervised and lit in the winter/dark evenings to enable them to play after school up to 7.00 pm."*

*"An exercise area for adults within the children's area (to be used only by adults accompanying children). This might encourage parents to be active while there kids play and be good for the kids to see adults active rather than just sitting and watching them play."*

*"Outdoor cinema in the summer"*

*"Just more new play things for children please!"*

*"Supply free bags for dog poo. More bins to put dog poo in. Peol to patrol the number of dangerous dogs off leads"*

*"Picnic tables"*

*"Not that I can think of."*

*"The Watisfield Rd/Fletching Rd area needs new fencing as the old steel fences look terrible as most are bent or falling off. There needs to be better entrances to this park so kids wont keep damaging fencing to make an entrance. Vandalism of benches is a problem and people who live on Fletching Rd dump rubbish in the park. Some warning signs would help."*

*"Would like a sandpit ( the one in Clissold park is fantastic!) and paddling pool for the little ones, rugby facilities?"*

*"Dog only zone - cafe - paddling pool - statues/art pieces"*

*"Swim"*

*"Cafe, Planted & Landscaped areas"*

*"Cafe/Toilet"*

*"I would like to see more flowerbeds around the cafe or picnic/sitting tables area"*

*"Cafe. 1 O' Clock / raining day kids area"*

*"Dogless area"*

*"please don't touch it.....I like it as it is. May be you could fork out another Ranger or two."*

*"Only what I have already ticked. i.e., public toilets and Café"*

*"Adventure Playground - CCTV, Assault care, BMX track, Paddling pool."*

*"All above mentioned - Gardening area for kids like on marshes."*

*"Cafe with childrens play area next to it so parents with young children can meet each other + children can play outside - Like a 1'O Clock club"*

*"Would love a cup of tea, piece of cake and a place to go to the Loo"*

*"Art in the park (Live Art)"*

*"Playground for older children - Example London Fields"*

*"Dogs free picnic area"*

*"Sit in a cafe with tables outside"*

*"Sit and have a coffee"*

*"Have a coffee in a nice Cafe with snacks. Also renovate both pubs on river"*

*"Nicer picnic/social area"*

*"More regular rubbish collections, often overflowing"*

*"Toilet facilities needed"*

*"We would like to have a cafe so that we could buy hot drinks and food."*

*"Skipping hoolahooping bike racing"*

*"Make a skateboard ground"*

*"More activities, more seating area"*

*"Have a cup of coffee"*

*"Rollerscating, Allotments maybe, more seats but not plastic ones, Play equipment in Millfields South Imaginative Landscaping."*

*"Outdoor paddling pool"*

*"As a grandparent we deserve a playground for our grand children the new generation, we need safety for the children & facility."*

*"Cricket nets - Floodlights to play in winter"*

*"Baseball"*

*"2A children's sandpit in/around the swing park would be good & definitely a cafe along with the lines of the one in Clissold with tables inside out. And sometimes more creative like a maze or sculptures so park more user friendly + visually appealing."*

*"For us toilets are not priority, cafe would be good provided decent coffee and not too much junk food."*

*"A football cage with Astroturf"*

*"Where the old poolway make it a fenced off picnic area as was originally planned"*

*"A paddling pool or walking fountain like the area in the children's park behind St John's Church would be great."*

*"Older teenagers' play facilities"*

*"More seating for parents+careers whilst they watch children at play"*

*"Concrete table tennis, see London fields"*

*"Playground for younger children"*

*"Athletics trade"*

*"Skateboard"*

*"Enclosed dog area"*

*"Paddle, feed animals, play on equipment with toddler"*

*"Cafe is needed - Planting of trees + snubs landscape - boring looking park"*

*"2At the moment the parks a path to the canal - there is not much places to sit relax and look at the birds - needs hedges smaller gardens - even a maze!"*