

Parks Survey Results

A Parks and Open Spaces residents survey was held between 8 October and 24 November 2021. 1330 responses were received to the survey. The survey comprised 7 questions and the results are shown below.

Question 1

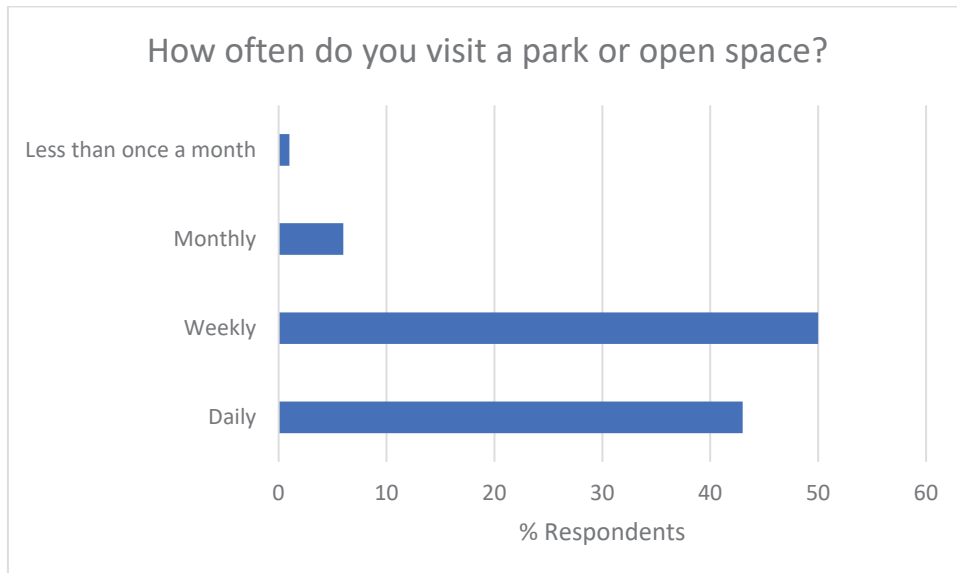
In the last year, have you visited parks and open spaces more than you did before the pandemic?

- 971 respondents answered Yes
- 359 respondents answered No

73% of respondents had therefore visited parks and open spaces more since the pandemic.

Of those who answered Yes:

How often do you visit a park or open space?



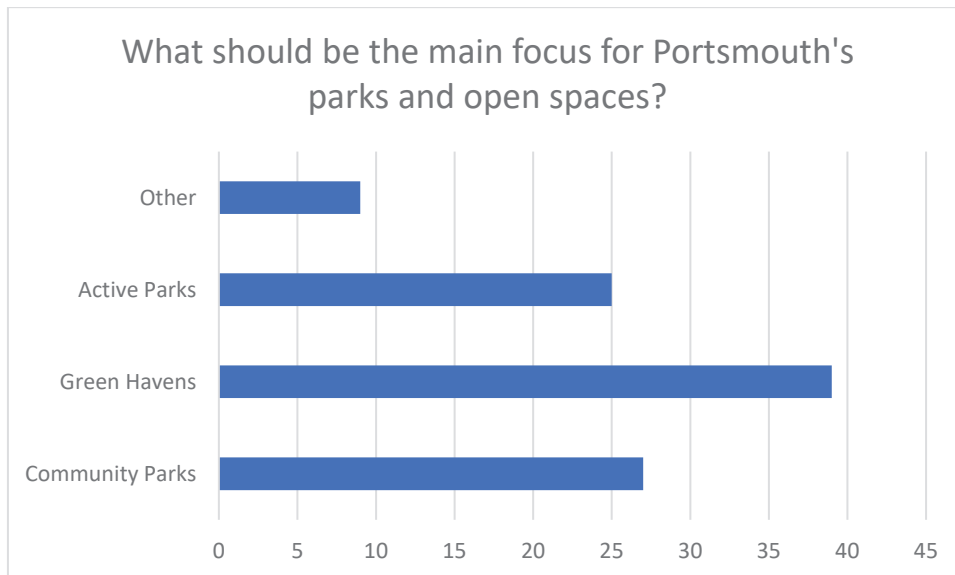
Visit	Percentage
Daily	43%
Weekly	50%
Monthly	6%
Less than once a month	1%

93% of respondents visited parks and open spaces either daily or weekly since the pandemic.

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Question 2

What do you think should be the main vision/ focus for Portsmouth's parks and open spaces for the next 10-15 years?



Selection	Percentage
Community Parks that offer events for all ages, interests and backgrounds	27%
Green Havens - priority to protect biodiversity and wildlife, quiet space and quality planting	39%
Active Parks - good sports facilities and improved children's play	25%
Other	9%

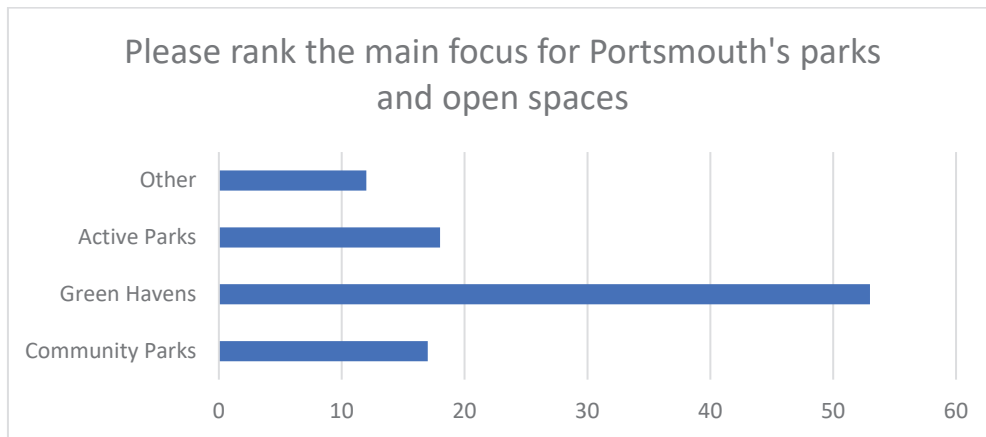
Examples of 'other' responses include:

- Facilities to walk dogs, dog friendly areas, enclosed dog agility areas.
- Further provision for wheeled sports activities
- There was also interest for community planting and gardening together with disabilities wheelchair access for all parks.

Question 2: Ranking

Please rank what you think should be the focus for Portsmouth's parks and open spaces.

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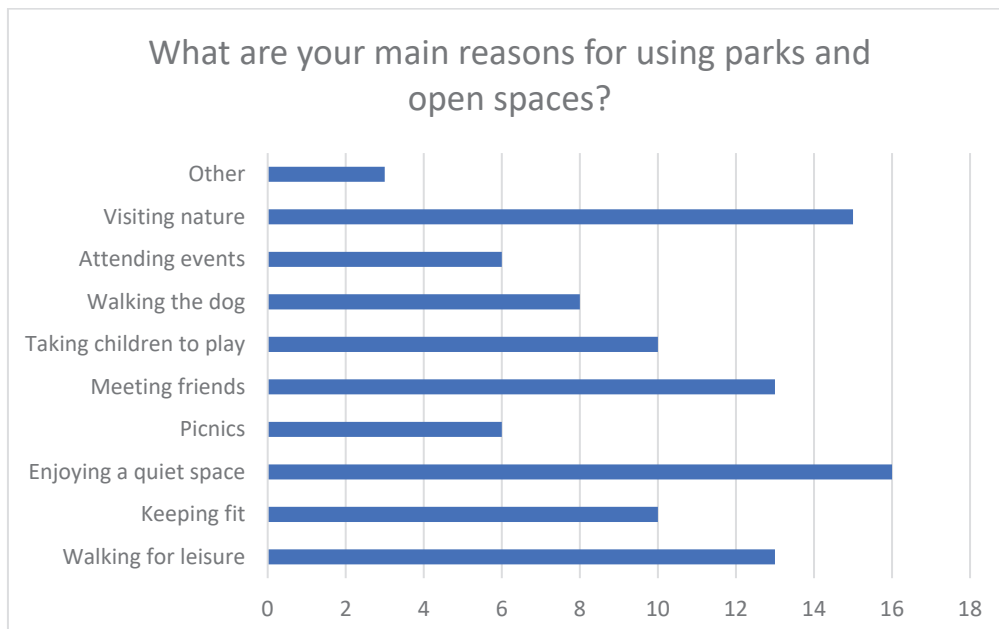


Ranking	Percentage
Community Parks that offer events for all ages, interests and backgrounds	17%
Green havens - priority to protect biodiversity & wildlife, quiet space, quality planting	53%
Active parks - good sports facilities, improved play areas	18%
Other	12%

Respondents ranked Green Havens as the primary focus for Portsmouth's parks, followed by Community Parks and Active Parks as second priority.

Question 3

What are your reasons for using our parks and open spaces? Select up to 5 reasons.



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Reason	Percentage
Walking for leisure	13%
Keeping fit	10%
Enjoying a quiet space	16%
Picnics	6%
Meeting friends	13%
Taking children to play	10%
Walking the dog	8%
Attending events	6%
Visiting nature	15%
Other	3%

Enjoying a quiet space and visiting nature were the top two reasons chosen, which aligns with our parks as green havens.

In terms of 'other' reasons, these included:

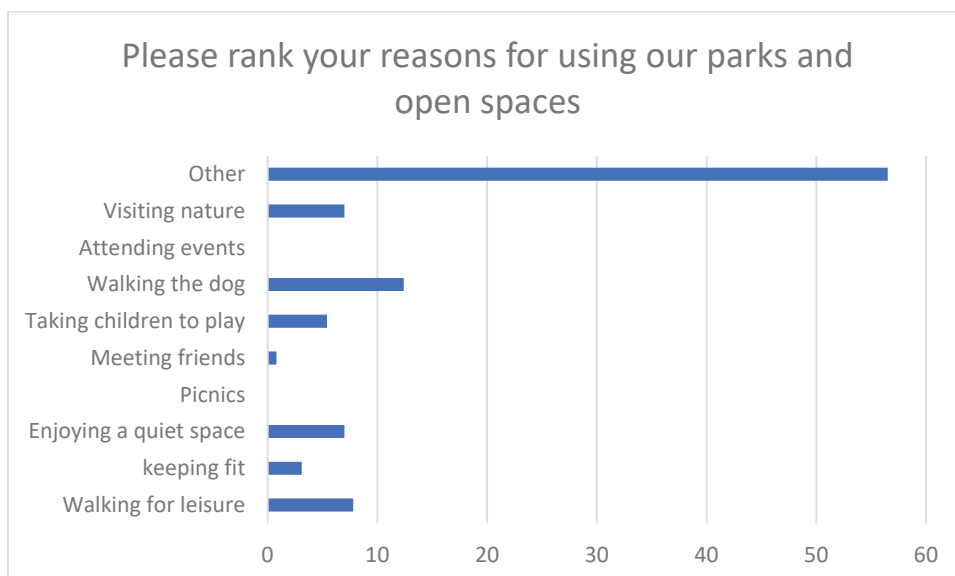
- bird watching,
- photography and observing wildlife,
- rollerskating and other wheeled sports
- mental health and mindfulness.

One respondent wrote:

'Mental health as well as physical - more seating needed especially near entrances as older people cannot do the walking'

Question 3: Ranking

Please rank your reasons (1 to 5) for using our parks and open spaces. Up to 5 priorities.



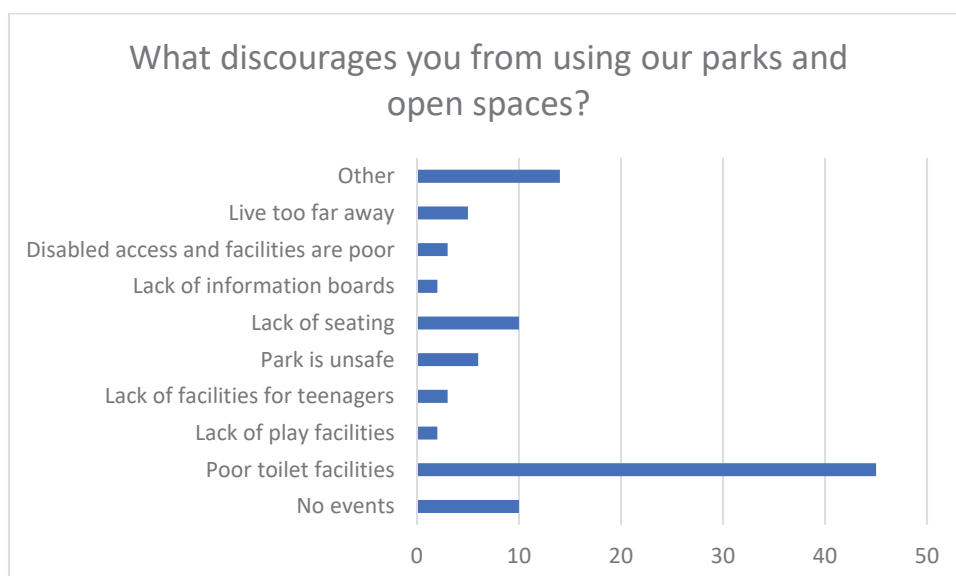
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Ranking	Percentage
Walking for leisure	7.8%
Keeping fit	3.1%
Enjoying a quiet space	7%
Picnics	Nil
Meeting friends	0.8%
Taking children to play	5.4%
Walking the dog	12.4%
Attending events	Nil
Visiting nature	7%
Other	56.5%

Respondents used this question to express their other reasons for using parks and open spaces, as indicated above, being bird-watching, photography and wildlife observation, wheeled sports and for positive mental health.

Question 4

What discourages you from using our parks and open spaces? Select up to 5 reasons.



Reason	Percentage
No events on	10%
Poor toilet facilities	45%
Lack of play facilities	2%
Lack of facilities for teenagers	3%
Park is unsafe	6%
Lack of seating	10%
Lack of information boards	2%
Disabled access and facilities are poor	3%
Live too far away	5%
Other	14%

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Poor toilet facilities are a clear lead indicator. Some of the city's parks previously had toilets but these were removed as part of previous budget cuts.

The following were accounted for in 'other' reasons:

'When it is busy it can be difficult to navigate on rollerskates amongst walkers where cycle paths aren't available'

'Too many off lead dogs and too few (if any) quiet spaces where wildlife can flourish.... especially since the huge upsurge in dog ownership during Covid. This is exacerbated by professional dog walkers turning up in considerable numbers with vans containing many dogs.... surely we can afford to make just of few of these spaces genuine wildlife havens, dog free or at the very least "Strictly dogs on lead" . '

'Should think about how to shield parks and open spaces from wind more, especially in the winter. Should also think about air pollution from shipping which can be blown into open spaces or the play parks near the seafront. Using hedges or bamboo / tall grass screening would help''

Question 4: Ranking

Please rank (1 to 5) the reasons why you are discouraged from using our parks and open spaces.

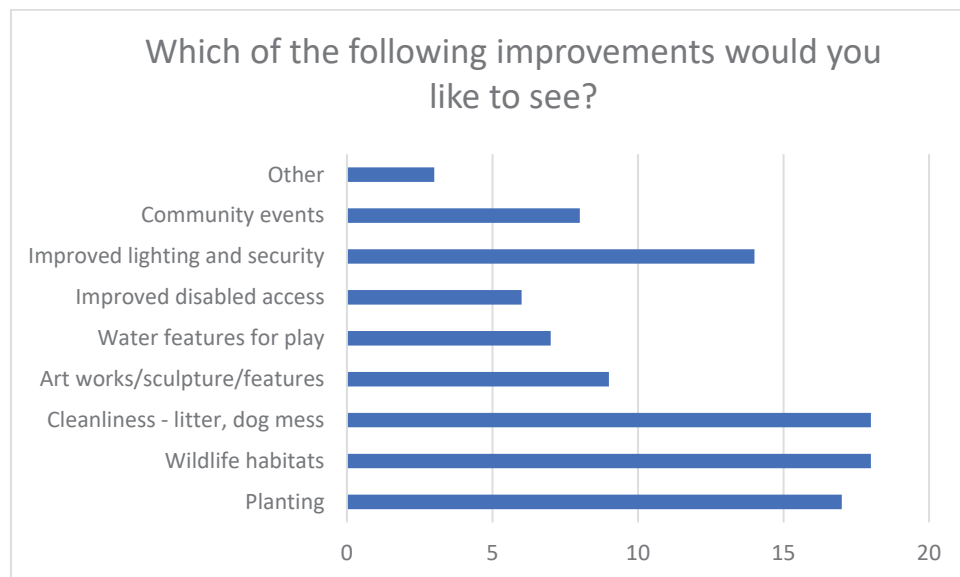


Priority ranking	Percentage
No events on	5%
Poor toilet facilities	28%
Lack of play facilities	7%
Lack of facilities for teenagers	3%
Park is unsafe	17%
Lack of seating	5%
Lack of information boards	0.5%
Disabled access and facilities are poor	3%
I live too far away	3.5%
Other	28%

Respondents ranked poor toilet facilities and other reasons as set out above, which indicate that our parks have many competing users. The other reasons also include consideration of whether planting can be used to screen from the wind.

Question 5

Which of the following improvements would you like to see? Select up to 5.



Improvement listing	Percentage
Planting	17%
Wildlife habitats	18%
Cleanliness - litter / dog mess	18%
Art works / sculpture / water features	9%
Water features for play	7%
Improved disabled access	6%
Improved lighting and security	14%
Community events	8%
Other	3%

Respondents would most like to see new planting, wildlife habitats and improved cleanliness.

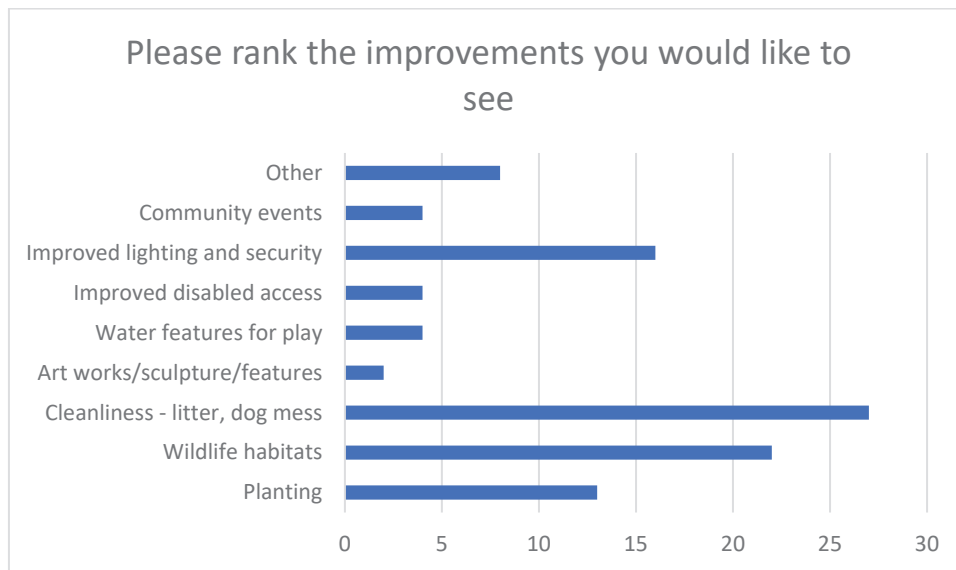
Examples of other improvements include:

- Employment of park wardens
- More trees, including trees for children to climb
- Refreshment / coffee vans
- Opportunities for community kitchen gardening
- Well-lit and level paths
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Signage /orientation in parks showing location of other city parks

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Question 5: Ranking

Please rank which improvements you would like to see prioritised (up to 5).

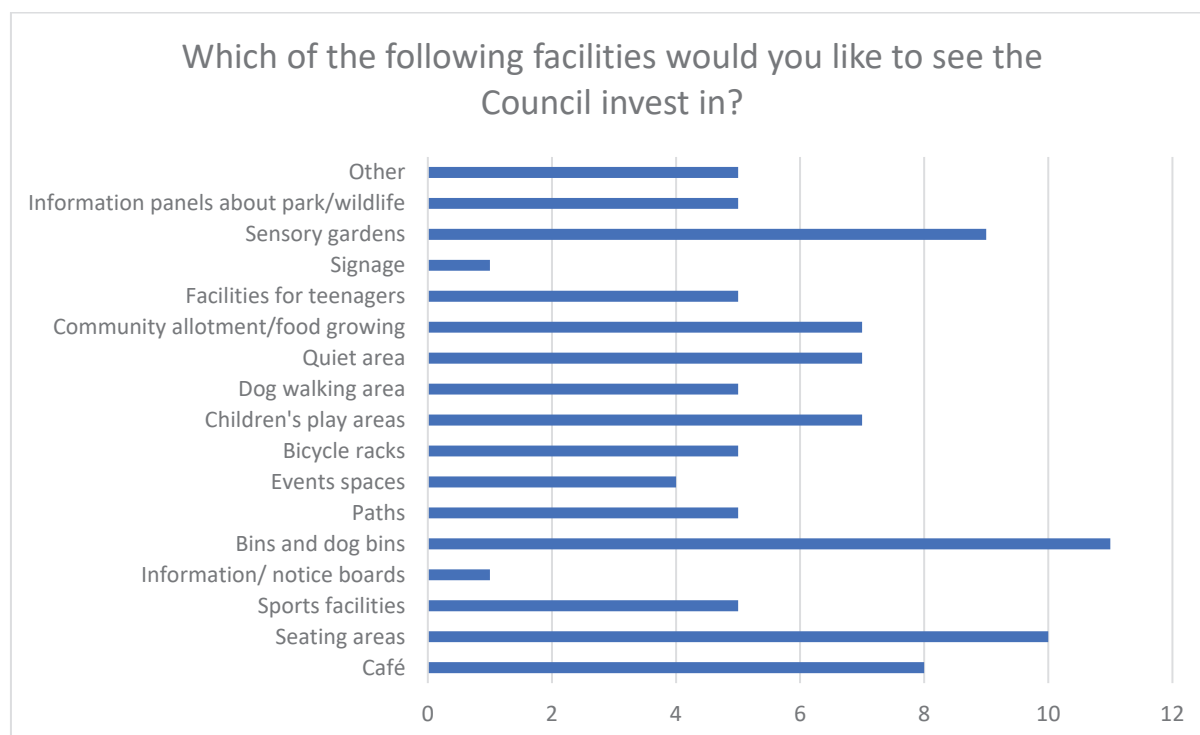


Priority ranking	Percentage
Planting	13%
Wildlife habitats	22%
Cleanliness - litter / dog mess	27%
Art works / sculpture / water features	2%
Water features for play	4%
Improved disabled access	4%
Improved lighting and security	16%
Community events	4%
Other	8%

Respondents ranked cleanliness as the first priority, followed by wildlife habitats.

Question 6

Which of the following facilities would you most like to see the Council invest in? Select up to 5



Facility	Percentage
Café	8%
Seating areas	10%
Sports facilities	5%
Information/notice boards	1%
Bins & dog bins	11%
Paths	5%
Events spaces	4%
Bicycle racks	5%
Children's play areas	7%
Dog walking area	5%
Quiet area	7%
Community allotment/ food growing	7%
Facilities for teenagers	5%
Signage	1%
Sensory gardens	9%
Information panels about park/wildlife	5%
Other	5%

Respondents would most like to see further bin / dog bin provision, more seating provision and sensory gardens / planting.

Examples of other improvements include the following responses:

'There needs to be more funding for skateparks in Portsmouth'

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'Community wardens to address anti-social behaviour'

'Cafes, seating areas and dog bins would be great'

'Information boards with exercise ideas that don't require special facilities - sideways walking, lunges, squats, inverted rows and pull ups on equipment'

'Dog play area with dog activities'

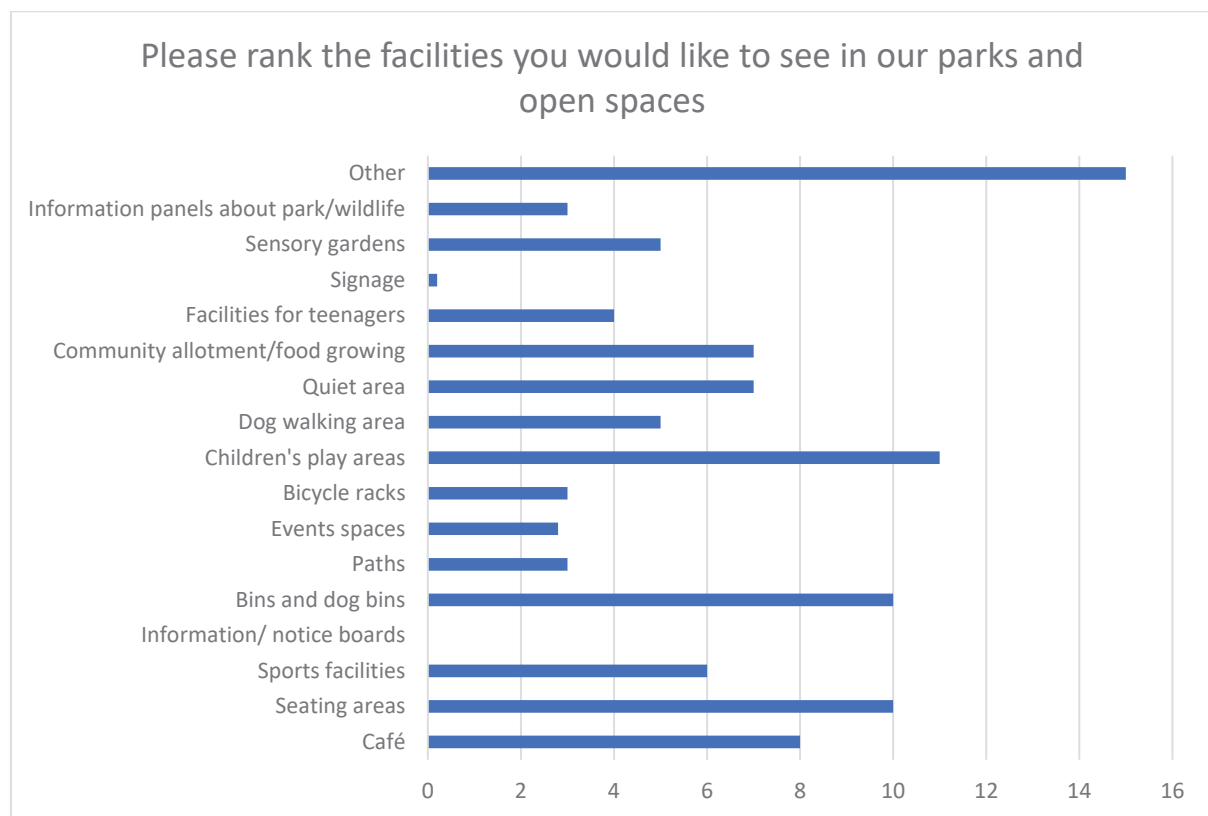
'More education and awareness is needed for how to look after our natural world and protect our vital green spaces.'

'Shelters for when it rains'

'Lighting for safety after dark'

Question 6: Ranking

Please rank (up to 5) the facilities you would like to see in our parks and open spaces.



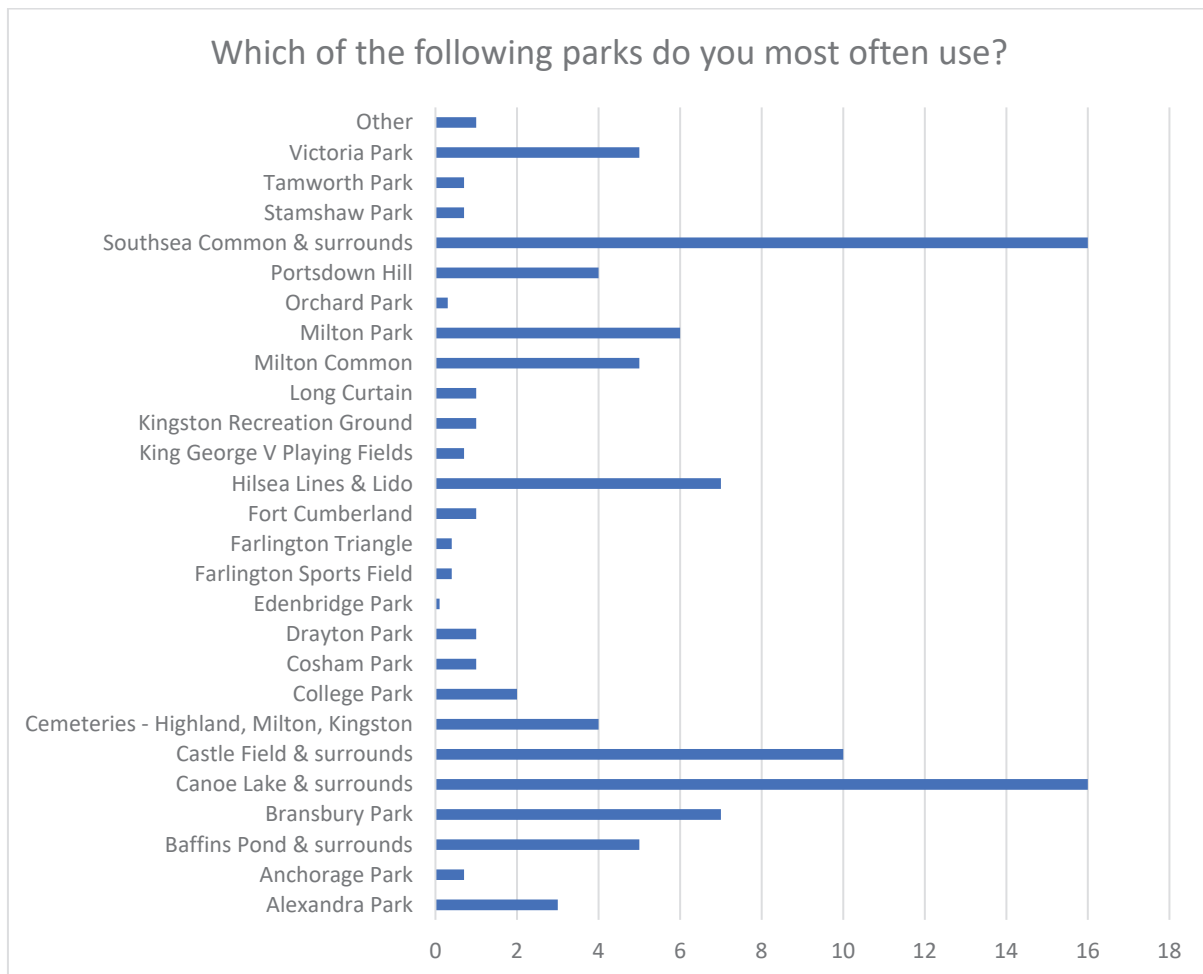
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Priority ranking	Percentage
Café	8%
Seating areas	10%
Sports facilities	6%
Noticeboards	nil
Bins & dog bins	10%
Paths	3%
Events spaces	2.8%
Bicycle racks	3%
Children's play areas	11%
Dog walking areas	5%
Quiet zones	7%
Community growing area	7%
Facilities for teenagers	4%
Signage	0.2%
Sensory gardens	5%
Information panels about the park/wildlife	3%
Other	15%

Respondents used this question to express the other facilities they would like to see, as outlined above.

Question 7

Which of the following parks do you most often use? Select up to 5.



Park	Percentage
Alexandra Park	3%
Anchorage Park	0.7%
Baffins Pond & surrounds	5%
Bransbury Park	7%
Canoe Lake & surrounds	16%
Castle Field & surrounds	10%
Cemeteries - Highland, Milton, Kingston	4%
College Park	2%
Cosham Park	1%
Drayton Park	1%
Edenbridge Park	0.1%
Farlington Sports Field	0.4%
Farlington Triangle	0.4%
Fort Cumberland	1%
Hilsea Lines & Lido	7%
King George V Playing Fields	0.7%
Kingston Recreation Ground	1%
Long Curtain	1%

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Park	Percentage
Milton Common	5%
Milton Park	6%
Orchard Park	0.3%
Portsdown Hill	4%
Southsea Common & surrounds	16%
Stamshaw Park	0.7%
Tamworth Park	0.7%
Victoria Park	5%
Other	1%

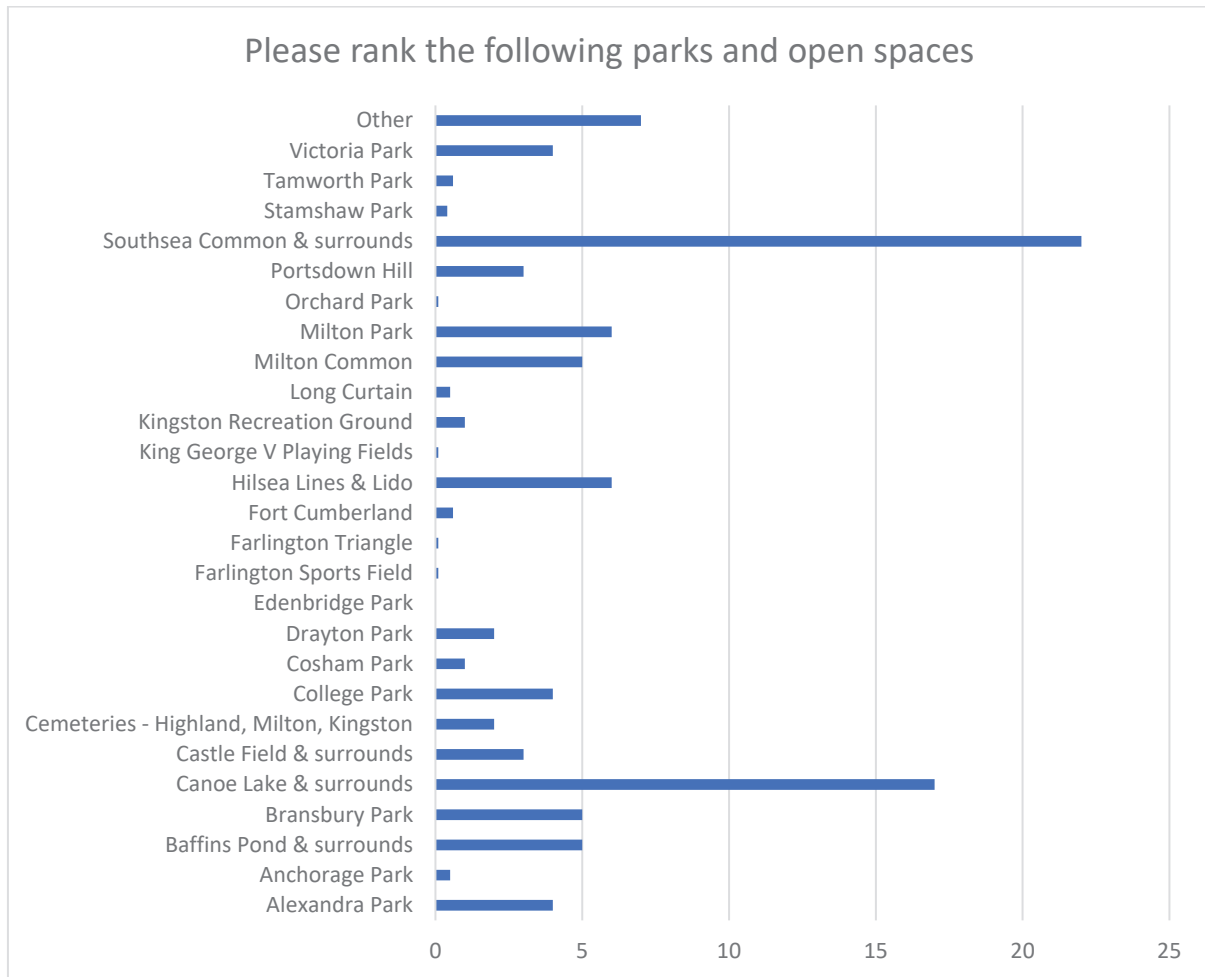
The most used parks were Canoe Lake and surrounds and Southsea Common and surrounds.

'Other' parks included:

- Great Salterns Open Space
- St James' Park
- Gatcome Park
- Knowsley Park
- Gurnard Park
- Beach at Southsea and Eastney

Question 7: Ranking

Please rank (up to 5) the following parks and open spaces.



Ranking	Percentage
Alexandra Park	4%
Anchorage Park	0.5%
Baffins Pond & surrounds	5%
Bransbury Park	5%
Canoe Lake & surrounds	17%
Castle Field & surrounds	3%
Cemeteries - Highland, Milton, Kingston	2%
College Park	4%
Cosham Park	1%
Drayton Park	2%
Edenbridge Park	nil
Farlington Sports Field	0.1%
Farlington Triangle	0.1%
Fort Cumberland	0.6%
Hilsea Lines & Lido	6%
King George V Playing Fields	0.1%
Kingston Recreation Ground	1%
Long Curtain	0.5%

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Ranking	Percentage
Milton Common	5%
Milton Park	6%
Orchard Park	0.1%
Portsmouth Hill	3%
Southsea Common & surrounds	22%
Stamshaw Park	0.4%
Tamworth Park	0.6%
Victoria Park	4%
Other	7%

Respondents' choices consistently show the following parks and open spaces as the highest ranked:

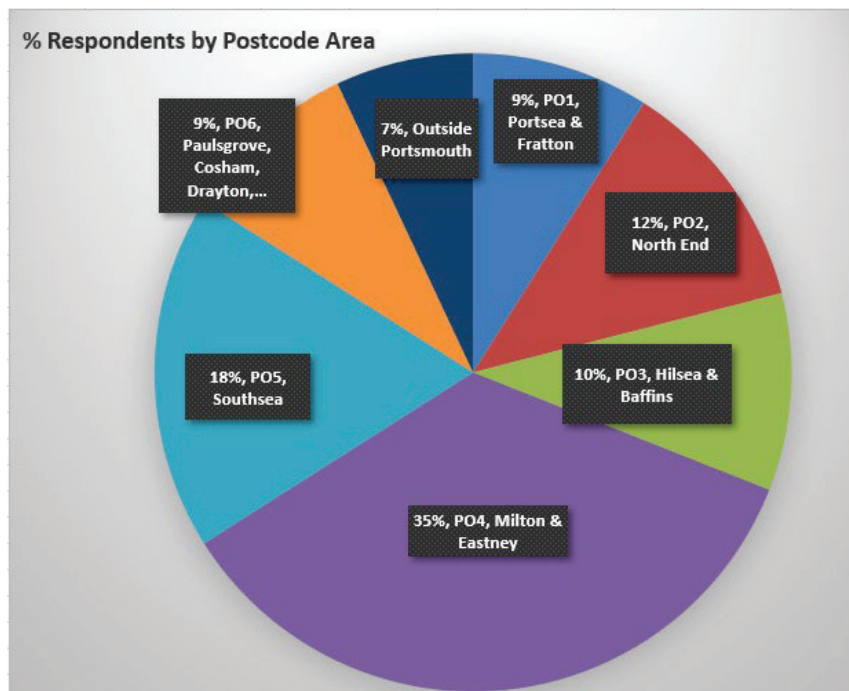
- Canoe Lake and surrounds
- Southsea Common and surrounds

Survey Demographic Data

Whilst the consultation has generated the above material, it is recognised that demographic breakdown may need to be considered alongside.

Responses by geographical area

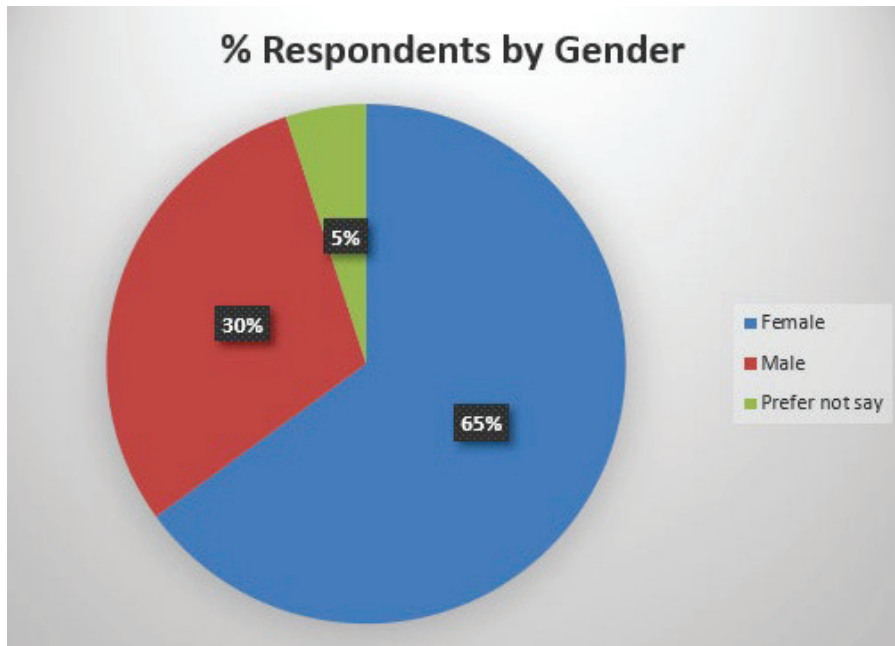
Take up of the survey was more concentrated from some areas of the city than others. The majority of responses were received from PO4 postcode, Milton and Eastney residents. Breakdown by postcode area is shown below.



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Responses by gender

There was a marked distinction, with the majority of survey responses being submitted by females.



This is significant, as it is important to create gender inclusive public spaces. The charity Make Space For Girls argues that where open spaces are designed through a default male lens, this affects the long term physical and mental health of girls.¹

Responses by age group

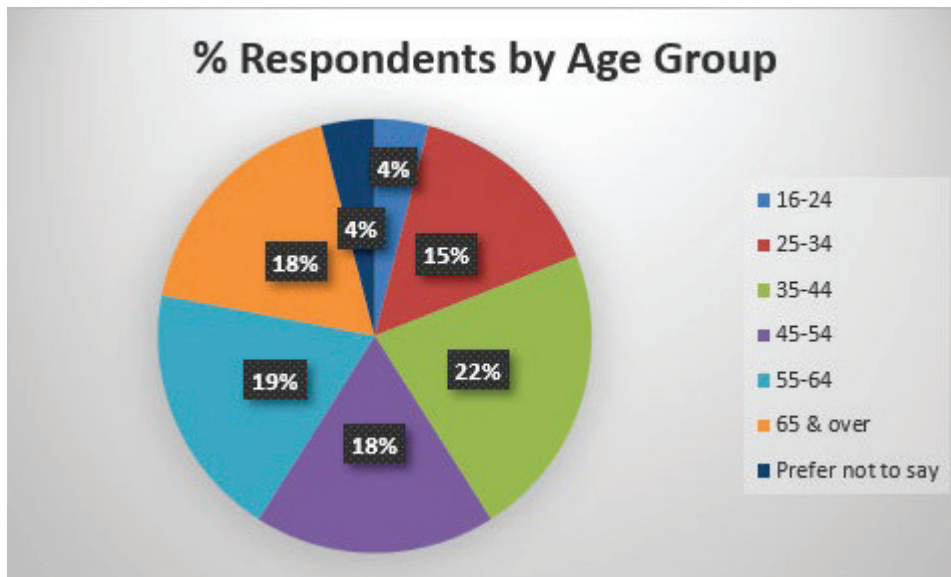
Responses were reasonably spread across all age groups, aside from fewer responses received from the 16-24 age group. It may be that respondents in this age group selected 'prefer not to say' or did not want to complete this section of the survey.

The age groups 16-24 and 65 and over are important to consider as the 2022 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment identifies population growth in these age groups over the next 25 years.²

¹ <https://inews.co.uk/news/parks-designed-women-girls-safety-campaign-make-space-for-girls-1204606>

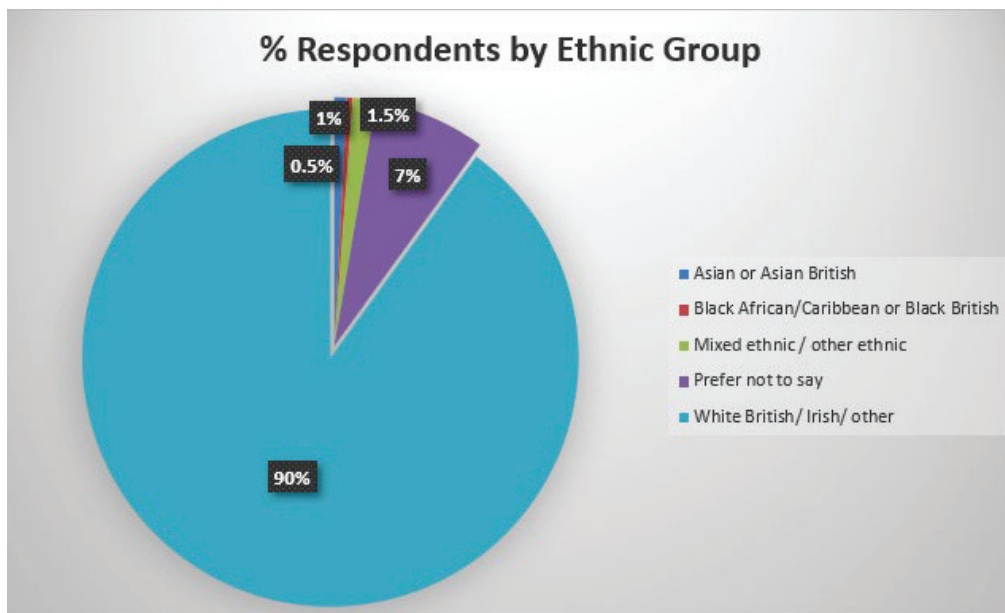
²

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinenglandz1>



Responses by Ethnic Group

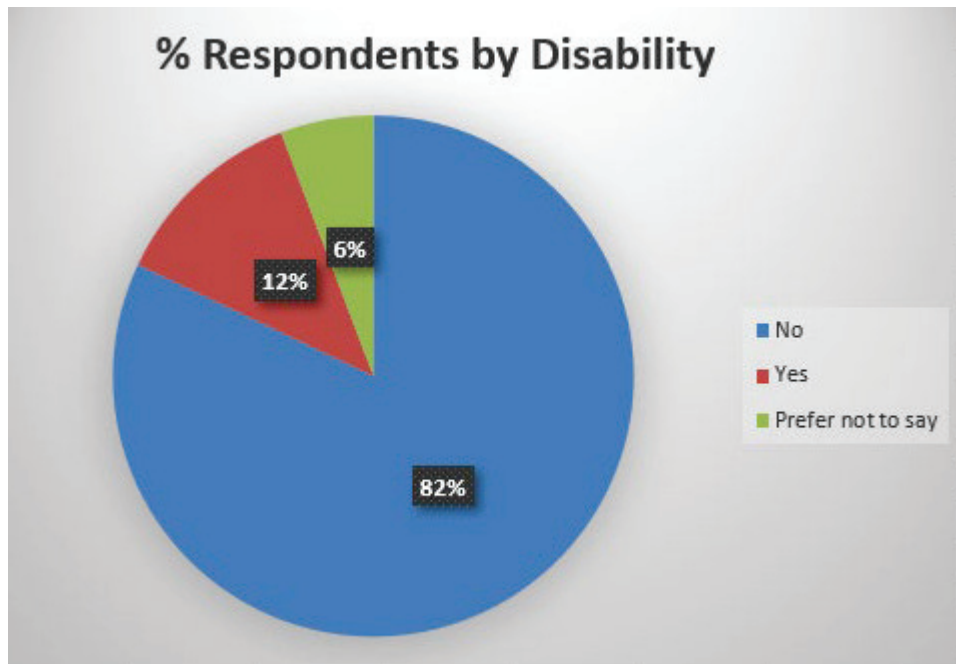
The majority of responses (90%) were submitted by white/British/other ethnic group. However, 16% of the city's population comprises ethnicity other than White British /White Irish. When considering the south of the city, this figure is 22%.³



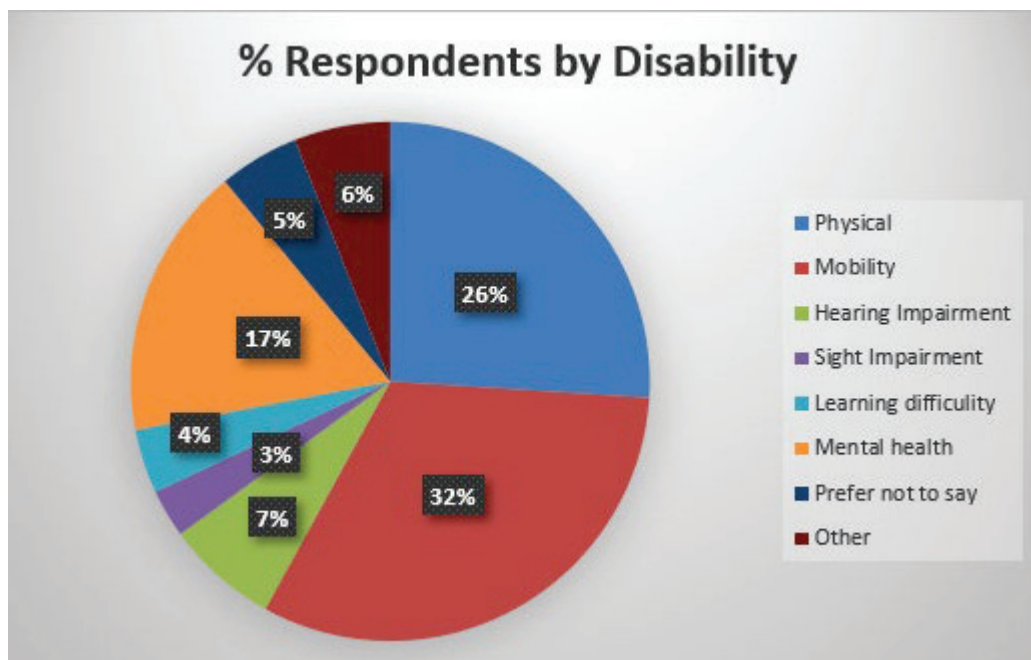
Responses by disability under the Equality Act 2010

The majority of the respondents (82%) did not consider that they had a disability as defined by the Equality Act 2010.

³ <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/health-and-care/health/joint-strategic-needs-assessment/#dem>



Of the respondents who responded that they did have a disability (12%), the type of disability broke down as follows:



Physical disability and mobility disability make up 58% of overall responses. Future parks redesign will incorporate consideration of access and mobility requirements, such as wide pathways, level surfaces and appropriate parks infrastructure, where this can be incorporated.

'Other' disabilities (6%) included: limited ability to grip, neuro disability, asthmatic/breathing disability, chronic fatigue and autism.