



Portsmouth  
CITY COUNCIL

# Parks and Open Spaces Consultation

---

Research and Engagement, Corporate Services



# Introduction

---

# Introduction

## Background and methodology

The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy identifies policy priorities for parks and open spaces in Portsmouth and how the council will address and action these priorities moving forward. Portsmouth's previous strategy ran from 2012-2022 and now needs to be refreshed. This new strategy looks ahead to the next 15 years. A consultation was launched to gather feedback on the proposed priority themes and action principles.

A quantitative online survey launched on Tuesday 21 February 2023 and closed on Wednesday 19 April 2023.

## Objectives

The main aims of the research were to:

- Understand levels of agreement with the proposed priority themes
- Understand levels of agreement with the proposed action principles

## Response rate

**In total the survey received 698 responses.** It is difficult to calculate the statistical robustness of this consultation because it is unclear how many individuals interact with Portsmouth's parks and open spaces. Assuming a "total population" of 170,818 (the latest 2021 census data from the Office for National Statistics for people aged 16+ in Portsmouth) this volume of responses ensures a 95% confidence level with a margin of error of 4%, well within acceptable parameters, although this does exclude the visitor population.

The strategy also received five substantive responses from stakeholders and external organisations.

## Respondent profile

There is good representation for age groups between 35-74 and a higher proportion of respondents are female (60%) compared to 40% males. The majority are White or White British and do not have a disability. The majority of respondents were responding as an individual and visit parks and open spaces at least once a month.

## Priorities

The vast majority of respondents agree or strongly agree that the council should prioritise each of the themes identified, although a higher proportion are unsure about the theme 'parks as spaces for lifelong learning'. 'Access to parks and open spaces' and 'parks for our health and wellbeing' are the themes respondents most agree with.

## Principles

The vast majority of respondents also agree or strongly agree with each principle associated with the themes.

## Key improvements to each principle

*'To ensure no-one is excluded from using parks and open spaces'*: physical features include access measures and maintenance, ensuring parks are accessible, welcoming, and safe for all, and providing adequate supervision such as parkkeepers, CCTV and community patrols.

*'To protect biodiversity, tree coverage and increase wildflower habitat'*: Plant more and diverse greenery including outside of green spaces, plant and maintain more wildflowers, and improve specific and trained staffing such as gardeners, parkkeepers, and park wardens.

*'To support Parks Friends, volunteering and opportunities for children'*: Engage closely with children and young people, better advertising and communication about what's available and who Parks Friends are, and more green community events and volunteering initiatives.

*'To provide opportunities for outdoor fitness and the enjoyment of flora and fauna'*: more and free/affordable outdoor fitness and leisure equipment, improve fauna and flora, and encourage and enable walking through marked trails and guided walks.

*'To provide welcoming entrances for all users'*: Better signage, make entrances more accessible for users, and keep entrances well-maintained.

*'To provide safe parks facilities for all users'*: More staff, policing, and/or park patrols on foot, ensure good lighting and visibility, and crack down on anti-social behaviour.

*'To financially resource our parks'*: Assess/maximise use of current budget/ revenue from council tax, more funding/ investments into parks, and utilise fundraising and income-generating events such as with charities or festivals and fairs like Victorious.

## Stakeholder feedback

Responses from stakeholders give general praise for the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, consider protected sites, wildlife and biodiversity, and encourage continued collaboration with other departments to achieve shared and separate goals.

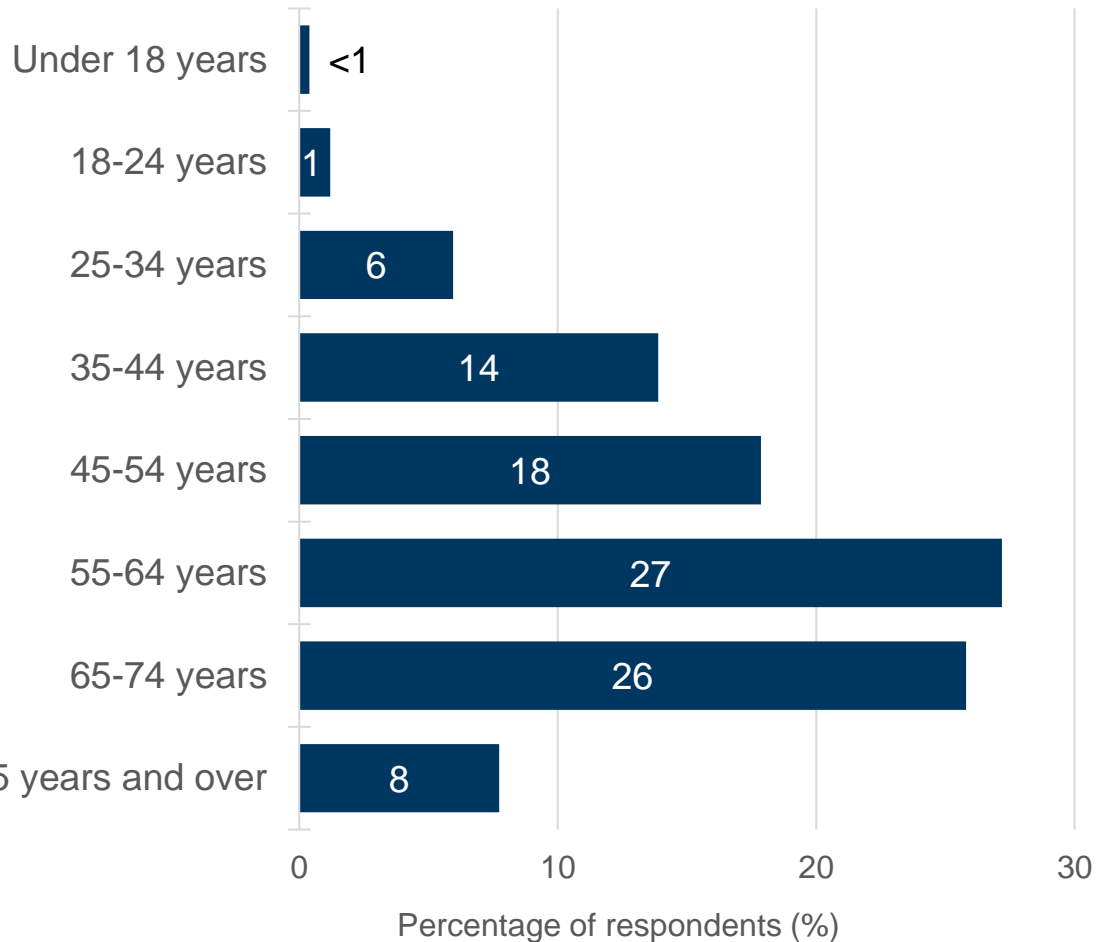


# Who we engaged with

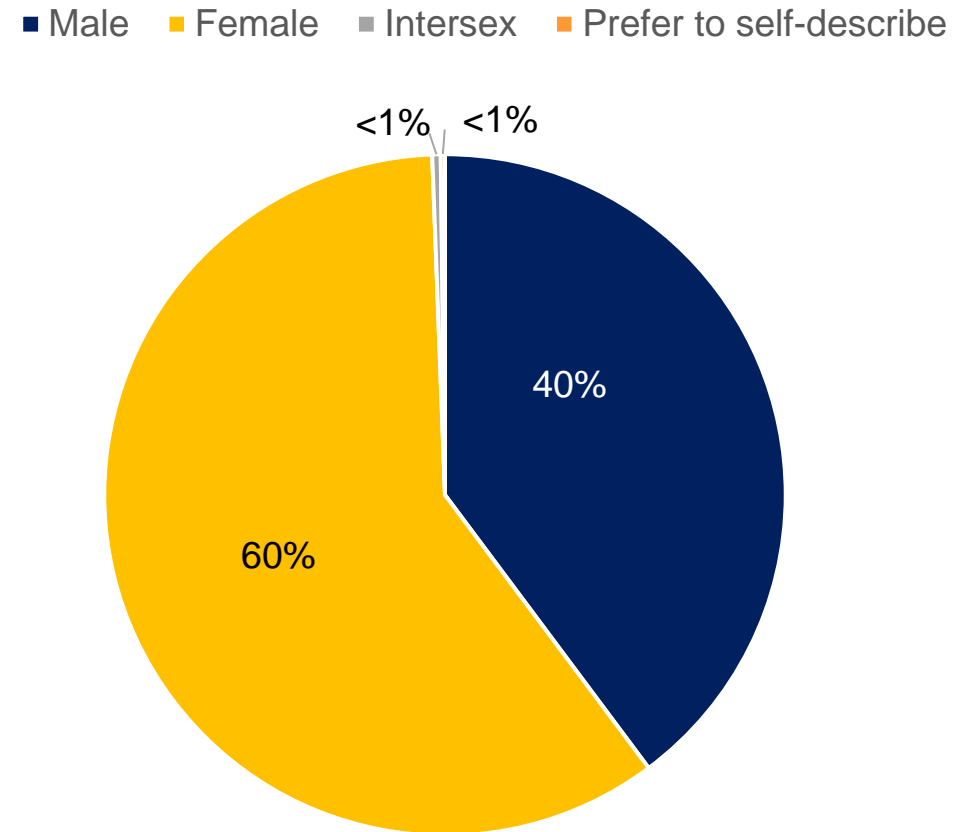
---

# Age and sex

Q: **'What is your age group?'** | Base: Total sample (504)



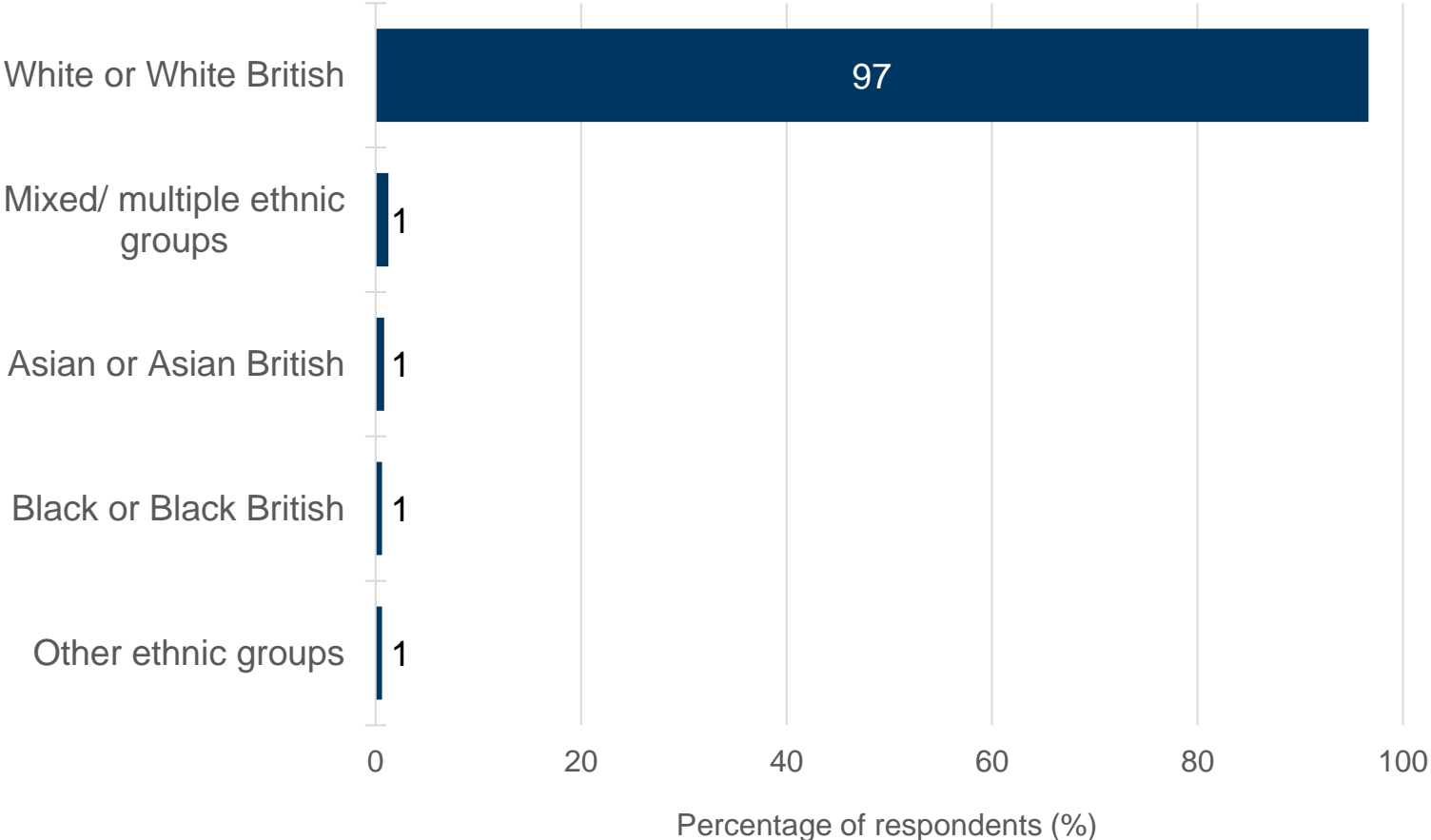
Q: **'What is your sex?'** | Base: Total sample (500)



- There is good representation for age groups between 35 and 74, with just over a quarter of respondents aged between 55-64 or 65-74. Less than 10% of respondents are under 35 or over the age of 75. These figures are consistent with social research, where individuals aged 45+ are more inclined to interact with public consultations
- A good mix of males and females was achieved in the consultation sample; there are more females achieving a majority of 60%

# Ethnicity

Q: 'Which of the following ethnic groups do you belong to?' | Base: Total sample (476)

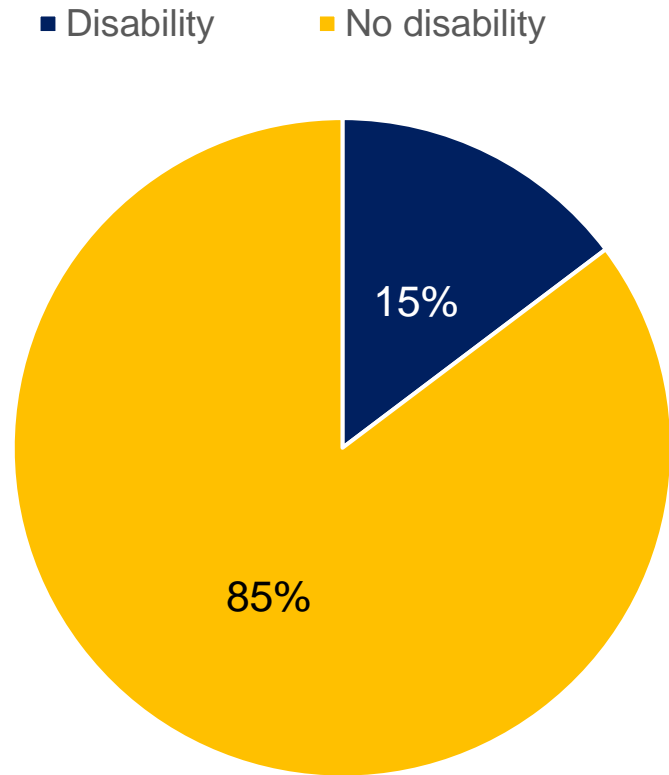


- The vast majority of respondents are White or White British (97%), whilst 1% each are from mixed/ multiple ethnic groups, Asian or Asian British, Black or Black British, or from other ethnic groups

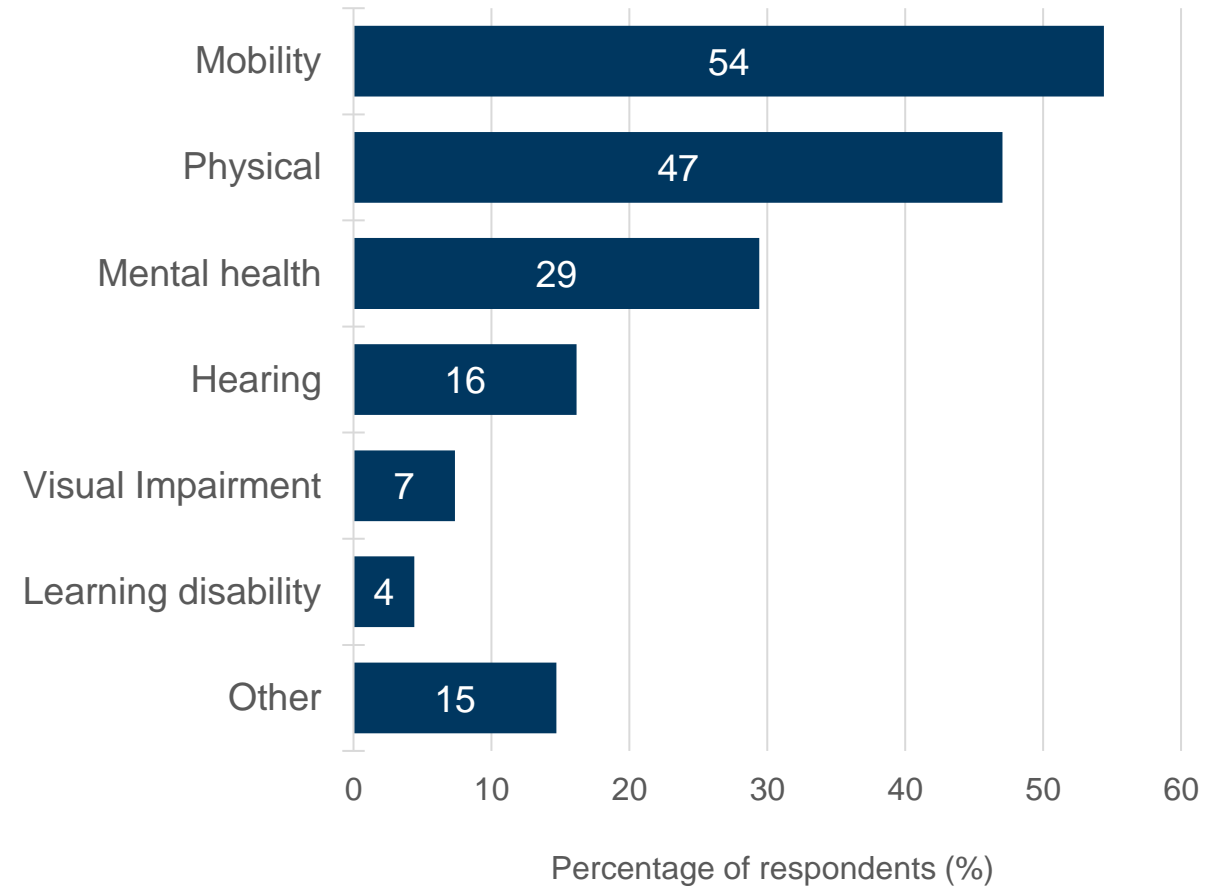


# Disability

Q: 'Do you consider yourself to have a disability under the Equality Act 2010?' | Base: Total sample (496)



Q: 'What type of disability do you have?' | Base: Those with a disability (68)

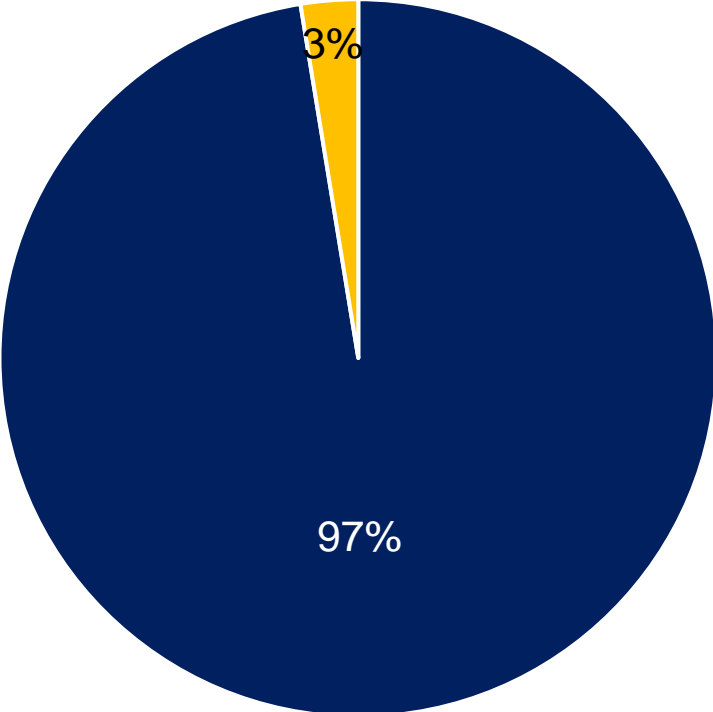


- The majority of respondents do not have a disability (85%), whilst 15% do have a disability
- Of those with a disability, just over half have a mobility disability (54%), followed by 47% with a physical disability

# Respondent type

Q: 'Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of a group or organisation?' | Base: Total sample (698)

■ Individual ■ Group or organisation



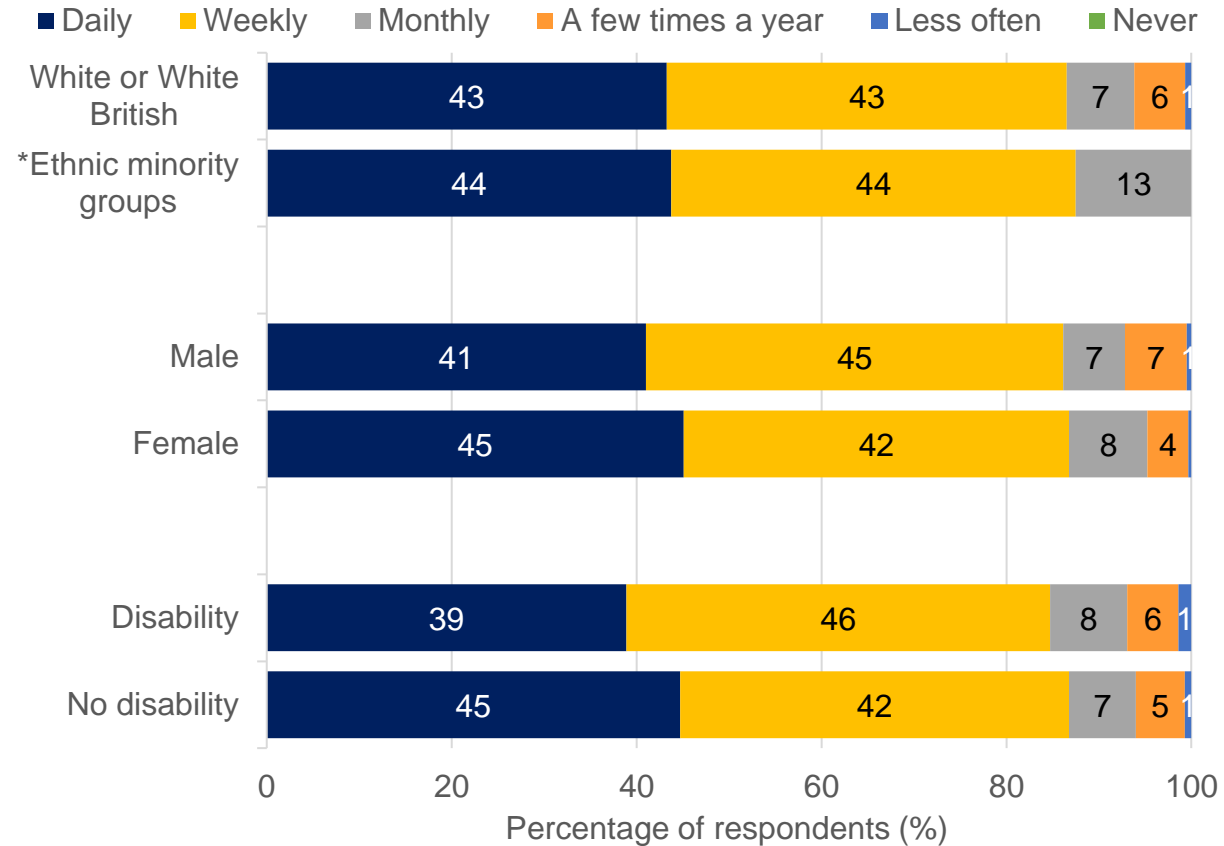
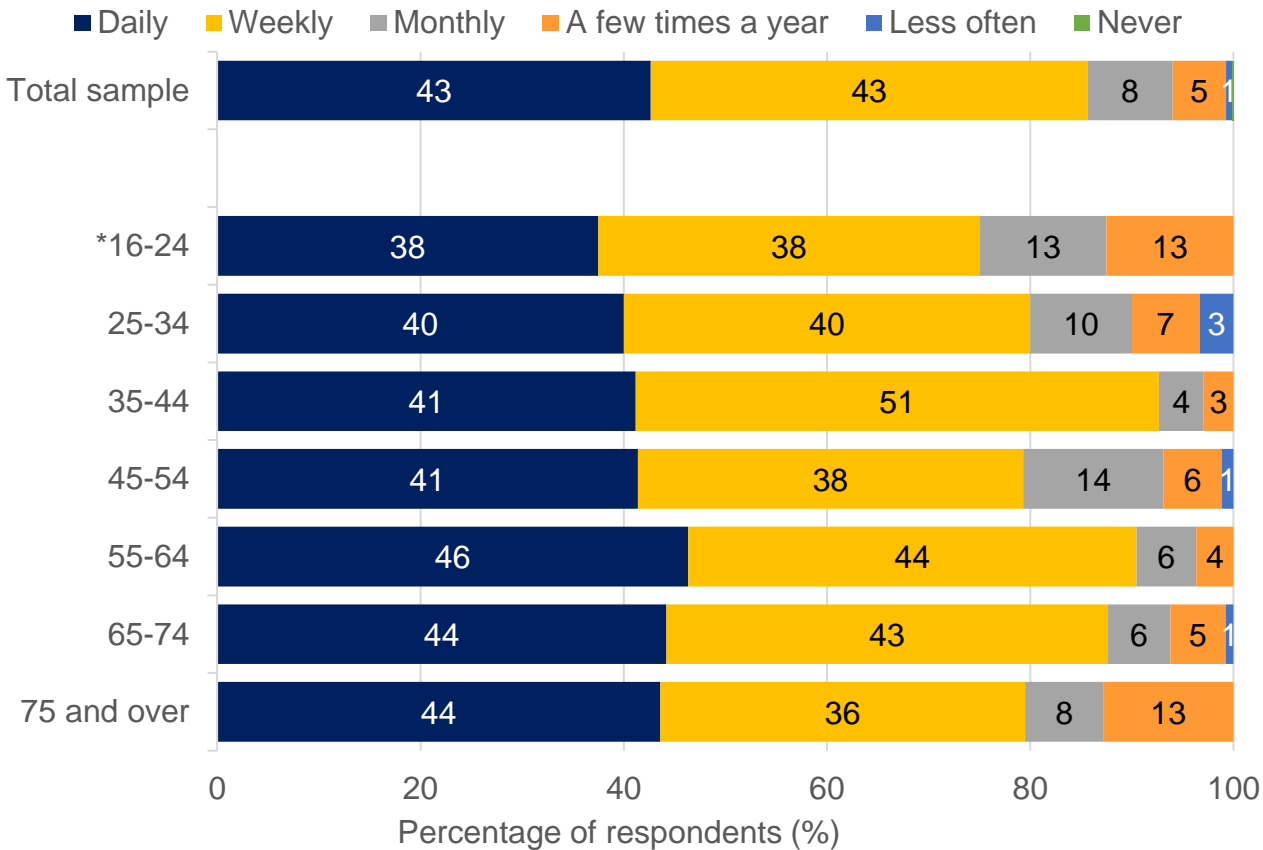
Q: 'Please tell us the name and the group or organisation you are representing' | Base: Businesses (18\*) \*Caution small base

Groups and organisations
Sport England
Bird Aware Solent
PCC Transport Department
Home-Start Portsmouth
Run-Walk-Local Portsmouth
Portsmouth Creates
Hilsea Lines Volunteers
Longmeadow allotments
Pompey Pals Project
Salisbury Road allotments
PCC Public Health

- The vast majority of respondents were responding as an individual to the consultation (97%), whilst 3% were responding on behalf of a group or organisation

# Frequency of visit

Q: **'How often do you visit parks and open spaces in Portsmouth, including the sea front?'** | Base: left chart, from top to bottom – total sample (668) | (8\*), (30), (68), (87), (136), (129), (39) | right chart, from top to bottom (453), (16\*) | (195), (295) | (72), (416) \*Caution small base



- The same proportion of respondents visit parks and open spaces daily or weekly in Portsmouth (both 43%), meaning the majority of respondents are visiting parks and open spaces at least once a week (86%), whilst a further 8% visit them monthly. Less than 1% never visit parks and open spaces
- Frequency of visiting parks and open spaces is fairly consistent between different ages, ethnicities, sexes and abilities, although slightly higher proportions of respondents aged 35-44 and 55-74 visit parks daily or weekly

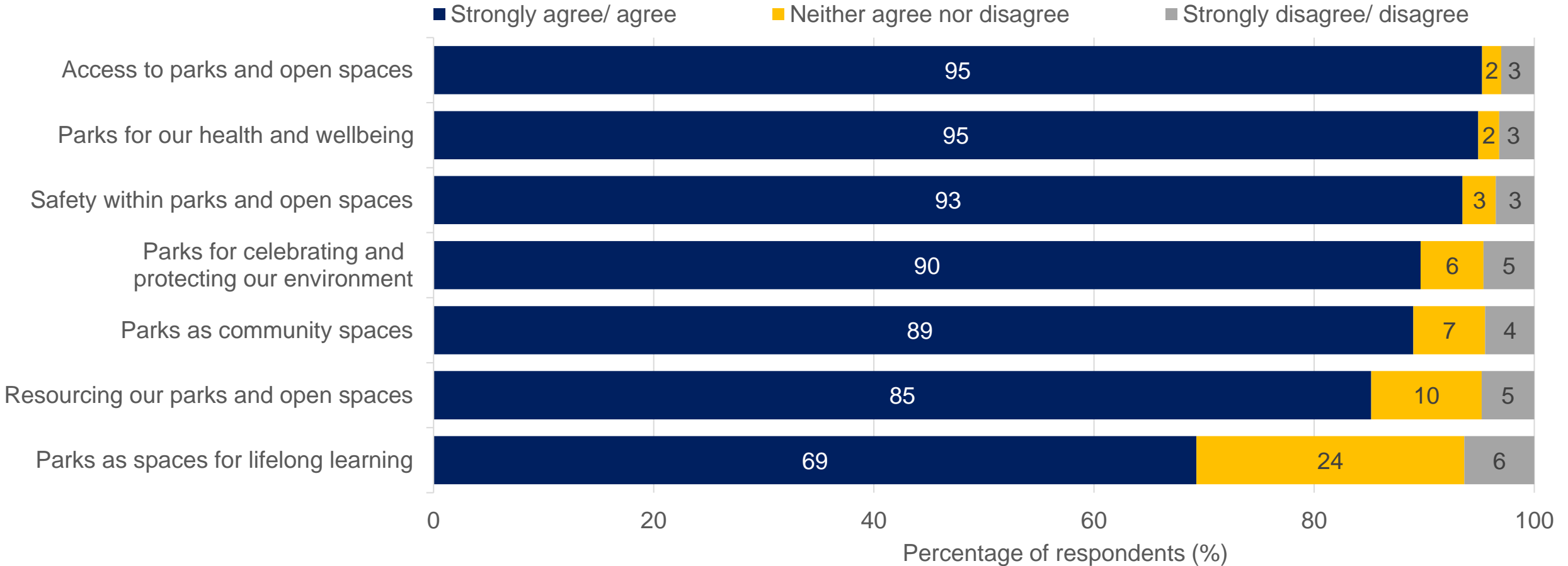


# Priorities

---

# Priorities

Q: *'Thinking about the seven themes we have identified in the strategy, to what extent do you agree or disagree that these are the things we should prioritise?'* | Base: Total sample (632), (628), (630), (630), (628), (628), (629)



- The vast majority of respondents agree or strongly agree that the council should prioritise each of the themes identified, although nearly a quarter of respondents are unsure about the theme 'parks as spaces for lifelong learning'
- 'Access to parks and open spaces' and 'parks for our health and wellbeing' are the themes respondents most agree with (95%)
- There are low levels of disagreement with all themes identified in the strategy (all 6% or less)



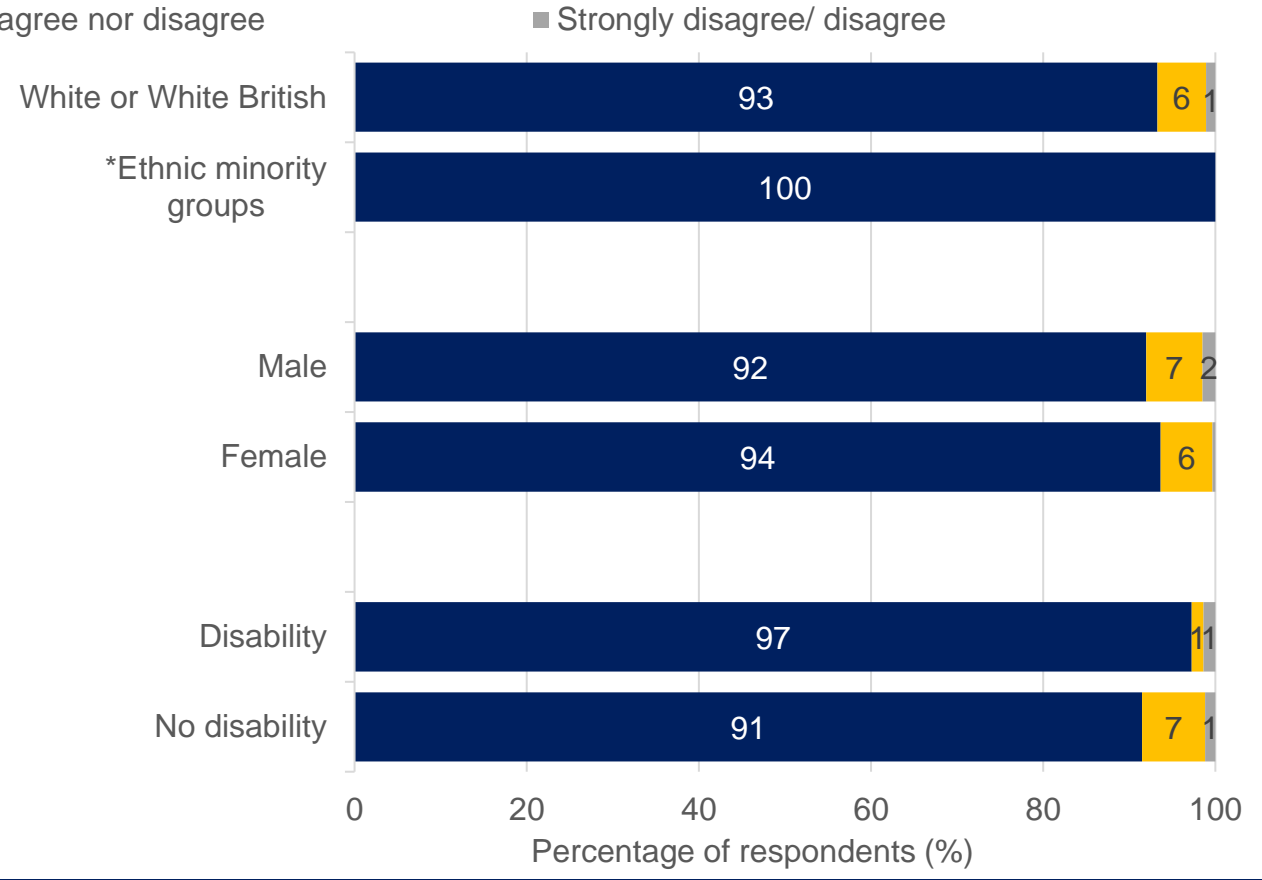
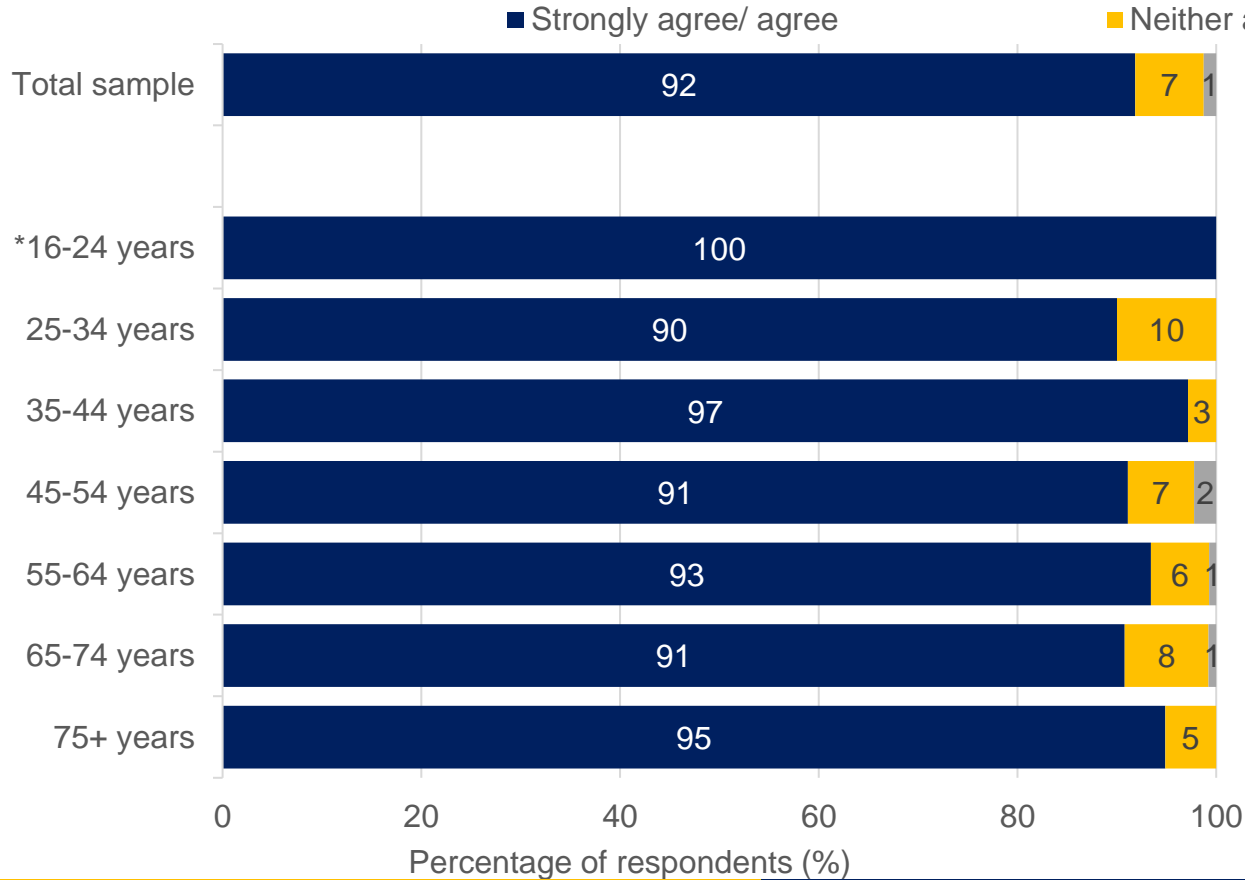
# Parks as community spaces

---

*To ensure that no-one is excluded from using parks and open spaces on the grounds of ethnicity, gender, age or disability.*

# Agreement levels *To ensure no-one is excluded from using parks and open spaces.*

Q: ***'To what extent do you agree or disagree with the principle: "To ensure that no-one is excluded from using parks and open spaces on the grounds of ethnicity, gender, age or disability."?'*** | Base: left chart, top to bottom – total sample (638) | (8\*), (30), (70), (90), (137), (130), (39) | right chart, top to bottom (460), (16\*) | (199), (298) | (73), (423) \*Caution small base



- The vast majority of respondents agree with the principle of ensuring no-one is excluded from parks
- This is consistent across different demographics where at least 90% of respondents from each group agree or strongly agree with this principle

# Disagree with principle *To ensure no-one is excluded from using parks and open spaces*

Q: **'Why do you disagree with the principle?'** | Base: Respondents who disagree (6\*) \*Caution small base

## Summary of reasons for disagreeing with this principle:

- Not feeling that exclusion is an issue for parks and open spaces
- Concerns about what it means for the environment to facilitate complete access for everyone, particularly about the physical implications for providing wheelchair access, for example

*"It is just daft. A park is a park and anyone can use it, why bring equality legislation into the debate?"*

*"Why would anyone object?"*

*"What has sex and race to do with it?"*

*"Because to give 100% access to all abilities may mean changing the nature of some areas i.e. Farlington, Foxes Forest."*

*"Complete straw man, daft principle. If a space is open, how are specific genders and ethnicities excluded? Agree on protecting access for age / disability but come on... this sounds daft."*



# Improvements *To ensure no-one is excluded from using parks and open spaces*

Q: **'How can the council help to improve things in this area ?'** | Base: Total sample (638)

Key themes	%
Physical features: access measures e.g. paths, ramps and gates, maintenance	18
Ensure parks are accessible, welcoming, and safe for all	15
Supervision: parkkeepers, CCTV, community patrols, reducing anti-social behaviour	11
Play equipment: accessible for physical disabilities, appropriate for different ages	6
Provide enough and appropriate seating – benches, picnic tables, cafés	6
Engagement: inclusive events, education, and consultation with relevant groups	5
Sufficient signage: multiple languages, how to report issues, rules of open space	4
Dogs: allow in more parks (on-lead), enforce fines, restrict access	3
Toilet facilities, including accessible facilities	3
Considerations for all disabilities – visual impairments, sensory areas, quiet areas	2
Consider travel links to make accessing parks easy, particularly with active travel	2
Already doing enough in regards to inclusion	2
Other	4
<i>No relevant comment</i>	58

- The most commonly suggested improvements to ensuring no-one is excluded from parks and open spaces relates to their physical features (18%), including considering physical access measures like paths, ramps and gates, as well as maintenance (e.g. removing obstacles from paths)
- Respondents also suggest ensuring parks are generally accessible, welcoming, and safe for all (15%) and suggest improving the supervision of these spaces (11%), such as through physical presence or CCTV



# Celebrating and protecting our environment

---

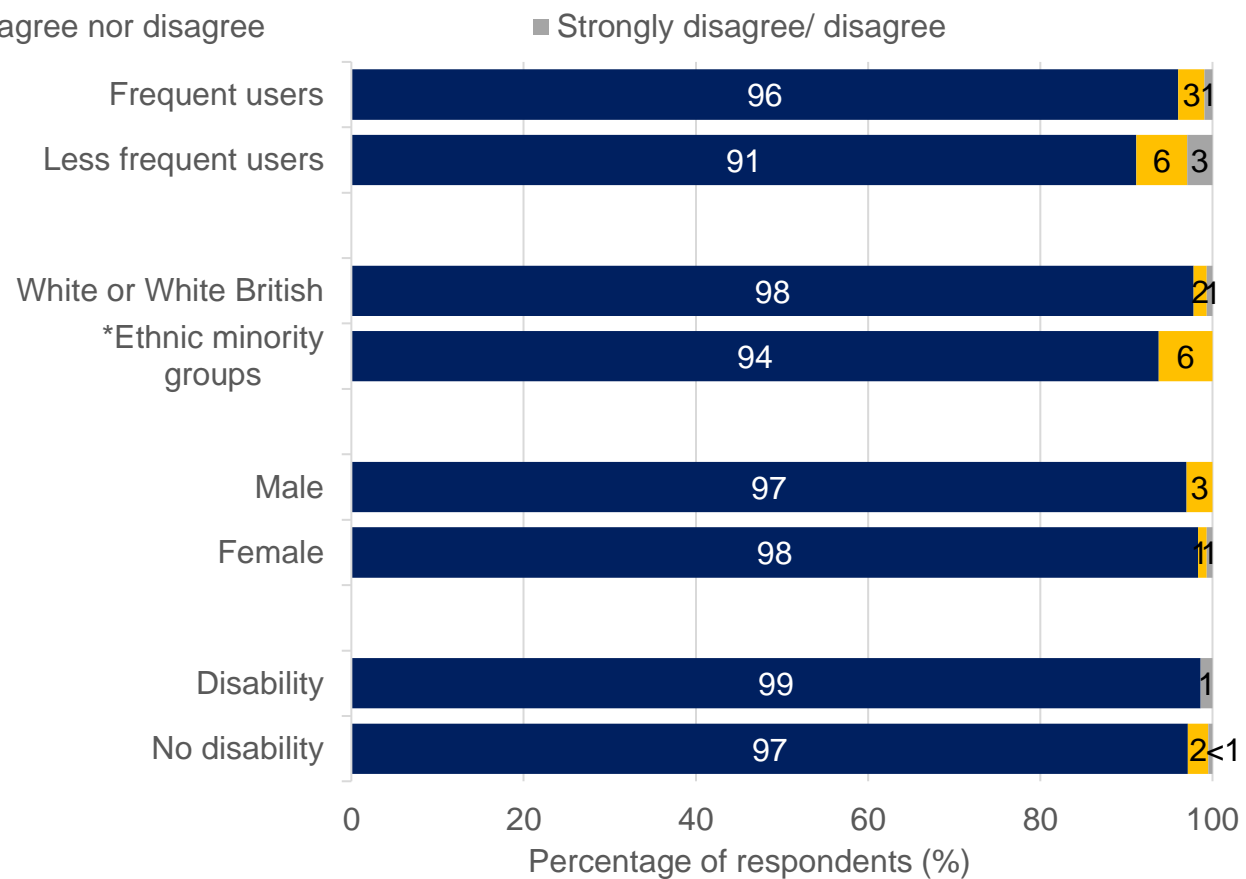
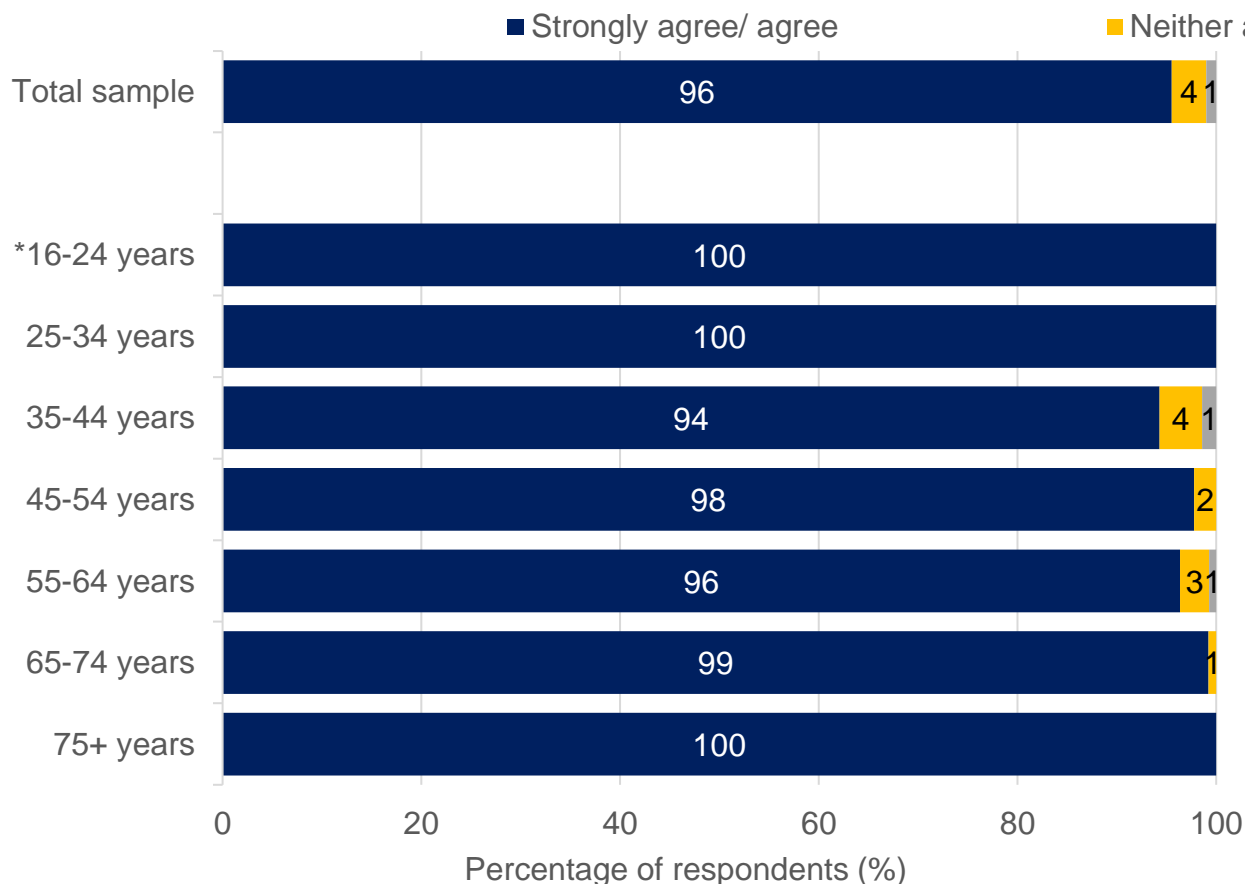
*To protect biodiversity, tree coverage and increase wildflower habitat.*

# Agreement levels *To protect biodiversity, tree coverage and increase wildflower habitat.*

Q: ***'To what extent do you agree or disagree with the principle: "To protect biodiversity, tree coverage and increase wildflower habitat."?'*** |

Base: left chart, top to bottom – total sample (600) | (8\*), (30), (70), (90), (137), (130), (39) | right chart, top to bottom (553), (34) | (460), (16\*) | (199), (298) | (73), (423)

\*Caution small base



- The vast majority of respondents agree with the principle of protecting biodiversity, tree coverage and increasing wildflower habitat
- This is consistent amongst various demographic groupings, including ethnicity, sex, and disability
- A slightly higher proportion of less frequent users of parks and open (less than once a month) are undecided on, or disagree with, this principle than frequent users

*Frequent users are respondents who visit parks and open spaces at least monthly.*

# Disagree with principle *To protect biodiversity, tree coverage and increase wildflower habitat.*

Q: *'Why do you disagree with this principle?'* | Base: Respondents who disagree (6\*) \*Caution small base

## Summary of reasons for disagreeing with this principle:

- Not feeling there are benefits to the everyday life of Portsmouth residents
- Concern about how this would be implemented, for example, whether maintenance of flora would be halted allowing weeds to grow in 'wildflower' areas
- Not feeling it should be a top priority
- Concern about how effective this protection would be

*"Not if it's an excuse to tear out flowers and let weeds grow and call it wild flowers."*

*"I don't see any benefit added to the daily life."*

*"Due to some mindless vandals scraping off the bark of them young trees which now have cages around them."*

*"Your focus should be on ensuring outdoor leisure space for everyone."*

*"Lake Road meadow planting is beautiful but the wildflower planting on old commercial road and all saints road on the way to Charles Dickens birthplace is unsuccessful very scruffy and looks like a load of old weeds (formerly it was mown grass slope which was dull but smart). Currently the space feels less safe and like wasteland rather than the walking and cycling route to a significant landmark."*

# Improvements *To protect biodiversity, tree coverage and increase wildflower habitat.*

Q: **'How can the council help to improve things in this area ?'** | Base: Total sample (600)

Key themes	%
Plant more and diverse greenery e.g. trees, shrubs including outside of green spaces	19
Plant and maintain more wildflowers	16
Improve specific and trained staffing – gardeners, parkkeepers, park wardens	14
Leave some areas wild and/or introduce no mow zones	11
Practice thoughtful planting e.g. native species, seasonal, wildlife corridors	9
Community involvement/engagement e.g. groups, projects	8
Encouraging wildlife e.g. bug hotels, bird boxes, bee friendly	8
Education e.g. through signage, schools	5
Gardeners/ groundskeepers	3
Council are currently doing a good job/ continue with current work	3
Work with specialist partner organisations to maximise impact	2
Limit use of pesticides/ weedkillers or other chemicals that may damage flora	2
Other	5
<i>No relevant comment</i>	29

- Just under a fifth of respondents would like the council to plant more and diverse greenery in these areas, including outside of green spaces
- Respondents also suggest planting and maintaining more wildflowers (16%), improving specific and trained staffing to tend to parks and open spaces (14%), or leaving some areas wild and/or introducing no mow zones to allow biodiversity to thrive (11%)



# Spaces for lifelong learning

---

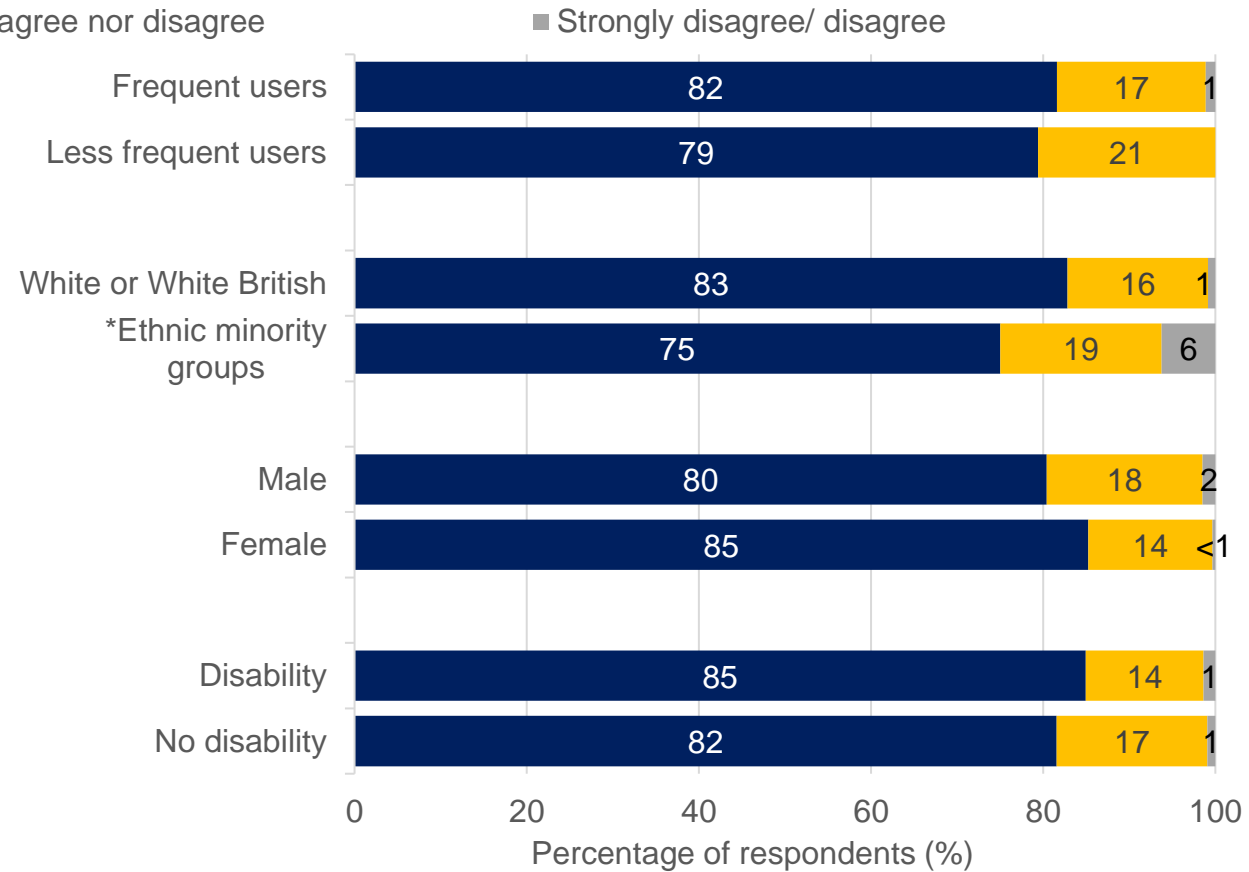
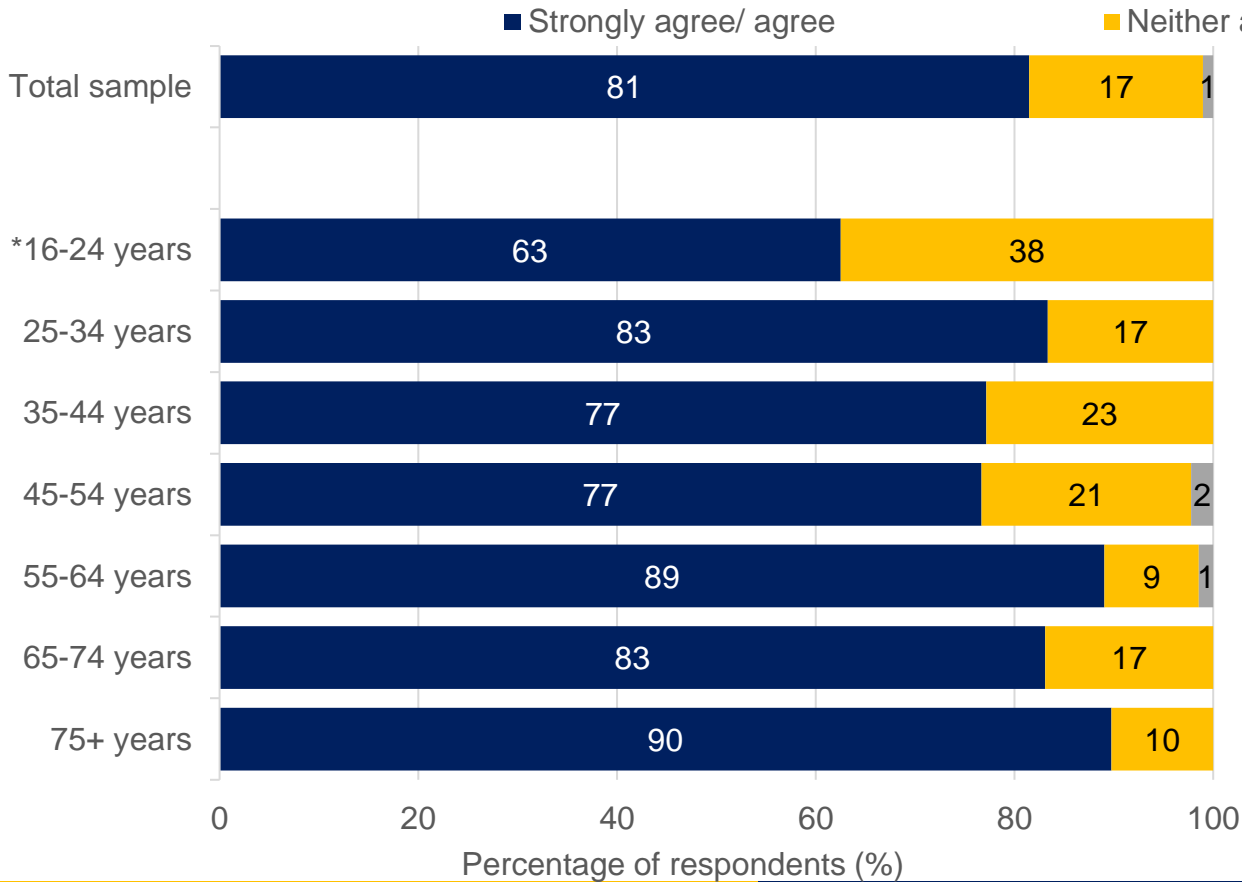
*To support Parks Friends, volunteering and opportunities for children.*

# Agreement levels *To support Parks Friends, volunteering and opportunities for children.*

Q: ***'To what extent do you agree or disagree with this principle: "To support Parks Friends, volunteering and opportunities for children."?'*** |

Base: Left chart, top to bottom – total sample (578) | (8\*), (30), (70), (90), (137), (130), (39) | right chart, top to bottom (532), (34) | (460), (16\*) | (199), (298) | (73), (423)

\*Caution small base



- The majority of respondents agree with the principle of supporting Parks Friends, volunteering and opportunities for children (81%), whilst 17% neither agree nor disagree, and 1% disagree
- This is fairly consistent amongst various demographic groups, including ethnicity, sex, and disability
- A slightly higher proportion of respondents in ethnic minority groups disagree with this principle, although there is a small base for this group

# Disagree with principle *To support Parks Friends, volunteering and opportunities for children.*

Q: **'Why do you disagree with this principle?'** | Base: Respondents who disagree (6\*) \*Caution small base

## Summary of reasons for disagreeing with this principle:

- Being unsure how it relates to the priority of 'lifelong learning'
- Not feeling it should be a spending priority
- Being unsure how opportunities would be provided for children

*"How to engage with children?  
There are some communal  
gardens at Canoe Lake."*

*"What has lifelong learning to  
do with it?"*

*"Nothing wrong with the  
concept, I just don't support it  
as a spending priority."*

*"Principle is great, not sure  
how you connect it to the  
statement "lifelong learning". If  
principle involves facilitating  
community ownership and care  
of open space - brilliant. Do we  
really need to call it life long  
learning?"*



# Improvements *To support Parks Friends, volunteering and opportunities for children.*

Q: **'How can the council help to improve things in this area ?'** | Base: Total sample (578)

Key themes	%
Engage closely with children/ young people e.g. school trips, work experience	16
Better advertising/ communication about what's available and who Park Friends are	13
More green community events and volunteering initiatives e.g. litter picking, planting days	8
More park rangers/ other staff e.g. to facilitate learning, make it a safe space	6
Work with all sections of community to encourage volunteering, education, and usage	4
Community growing areas with allocated budget e.g. allotments, gardening clubs, orchards	3
Better play equipment for all ages e.g. well-maintained, wider range of sports	3
More arts/ entertainment events (amateur or professional)	3
Learning and information boards/ signs in the parks	3
Council to help with set-up of new groups/ support existing ones	3
Dedicated funding	2
Specific areas for different needs e.g. dog-free, quiet, sensory	2
Other park infrastructure e.g. groups of benches, barbecue stations, drinking water fountains	1
Other	3
<i>No relevant comment</i>	48

- Respondents suggest engaging closely with children and young people (16%) as well as better advertising and communication (13%) to support Parks Friends, volunteering and opportunities for children
- Respondents would also like more green community events and volunteering initiatives (8%), as well as more park rangers and other staff, to facilitate learning and ensure parks are a safe space for getting involved (6%)



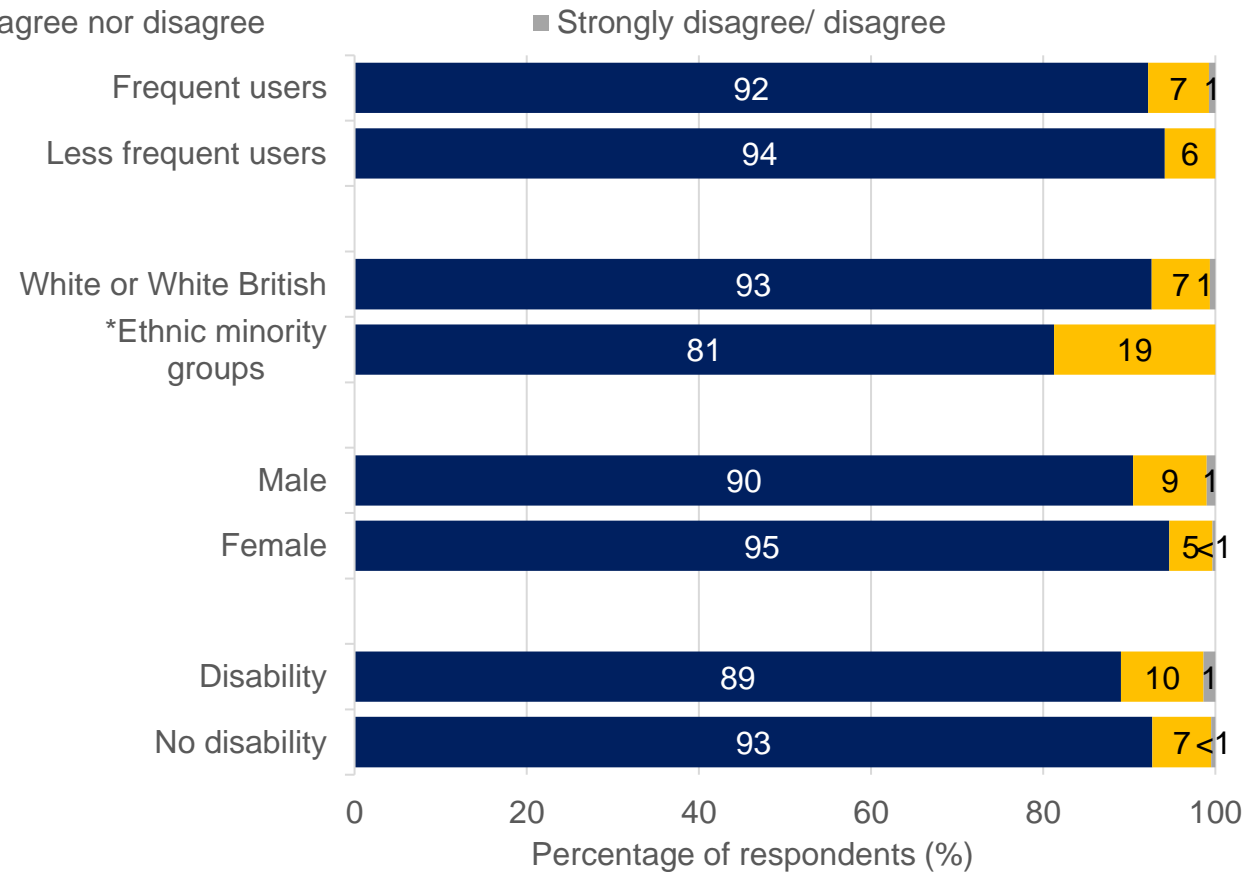
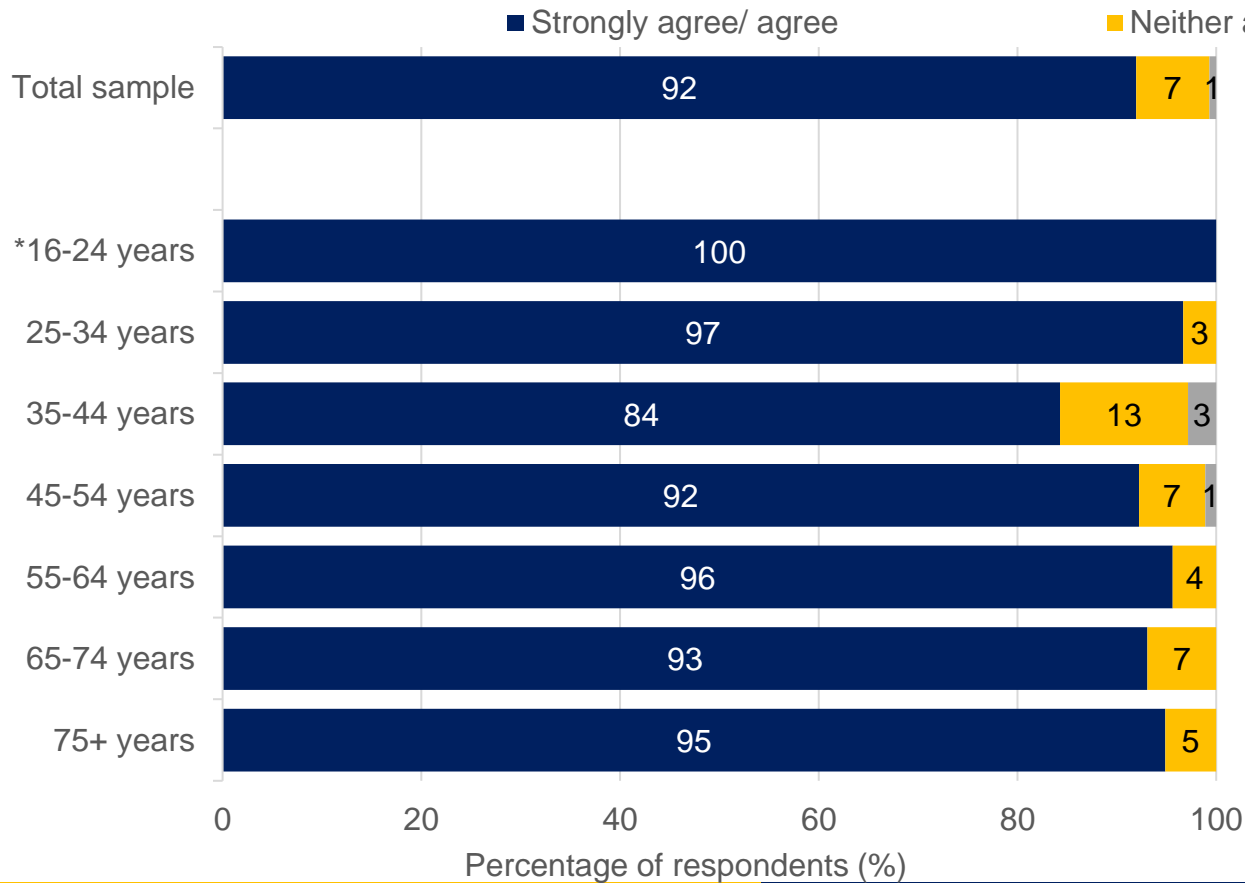
# Parks for our health and wellbeing

---

*To provide opportunities for outdoor fitness and the enjoyment of flora and fauna.*

# Agreement levels *To provide opportunities for outdoor fitness and the enjoyment of flora and fauna.*

Q: ***'To what extent do you agree or disagree with this principle: "To provide opportunities for outdoor fitness and the enjoyment of flora and fauna."?'*** | Base: left chart, top to bottom – total sample (571) | (8\*), (30), (70), (90), (137), (130), (39) | right chart, top to bottom (525), (34) | (460), (16\*) | (199), (298) | (73), (423) \*Caution small base



- The majority of respondents agree with the principle of providing opportunities for outdoor fitness and the enjoyment of flora and fauna (92%)
- This is fairly consistent across various demographic groups
- Slightly higher proportions of respondents aged 35-44 and those from ethnic minority groups are unsure on this principle or disagree with it
- *Respondents who disagree with this principle feel parks and open spaces should not be used for any commercial gain associated with fitness classes, or are concerned about outdoor gyms in terms of hygiene and valuable usage*

# Improvements *To provide opportunities for outdoor fitness and the enjoyment of flora and fauna.*

Q: **'How can the council help to improve things in this area?'** | Base: Total sample (571)

Key themes	%
More and free/affordable outdoor fitness and leisure equipment e.g. trim trails, exercise info boards, outdoor gyms	16
Improve fauna and flora e.g. more trees/flowers, diverse and thoughtful planting	9
Encourage and enable walking e.g. marked trails, guided walks, info boards, spotter sheets	7
Specific areas for different needs e.g. organised recreation, dog-free, wildlife conservation	6
Maintenance and safety – employ more parkkeepers and gardeners	6
Council supported physical exercise activities and classes e.g. Tai Chi/yoga classes, children's	6
Facilitate running and cycling/ active travel e.g. marked/ joined up routes, lanes/ tracks	5
Funding and financing (from council, gyms and PTs, exercise classes, maintenance programme)	5
More park infrastructure e.g. seating, picnic benches, litter bins, dog poo bins, drinking fountains	5
Work with community groups/ volunteers to maximise physical exercise, wellbeing and nature opportunities	4
Other e.g. more swimming options, accessibility, parking, keeping as they are	6
<i>No relevant comment</i>	39

- Respondents suggest providing more free or affordable outdoor fitness and leisure equipment to encourage outdoor fitness (16%), as well as improving the fauna and flora in open spaces for users to enjoy, such as planting more diverse and native/seasonal trees and flowers (9%)
- Respondents would also like to see walking encouraged and enabled, such as through marked trails or guided walks (7%)
- The same proportion of respondents suggest specific areas for different needs in open spaces, improving maintenance and safety through parkkeepers and gardeners, and council support physical exercise activities and classes (all 6%)



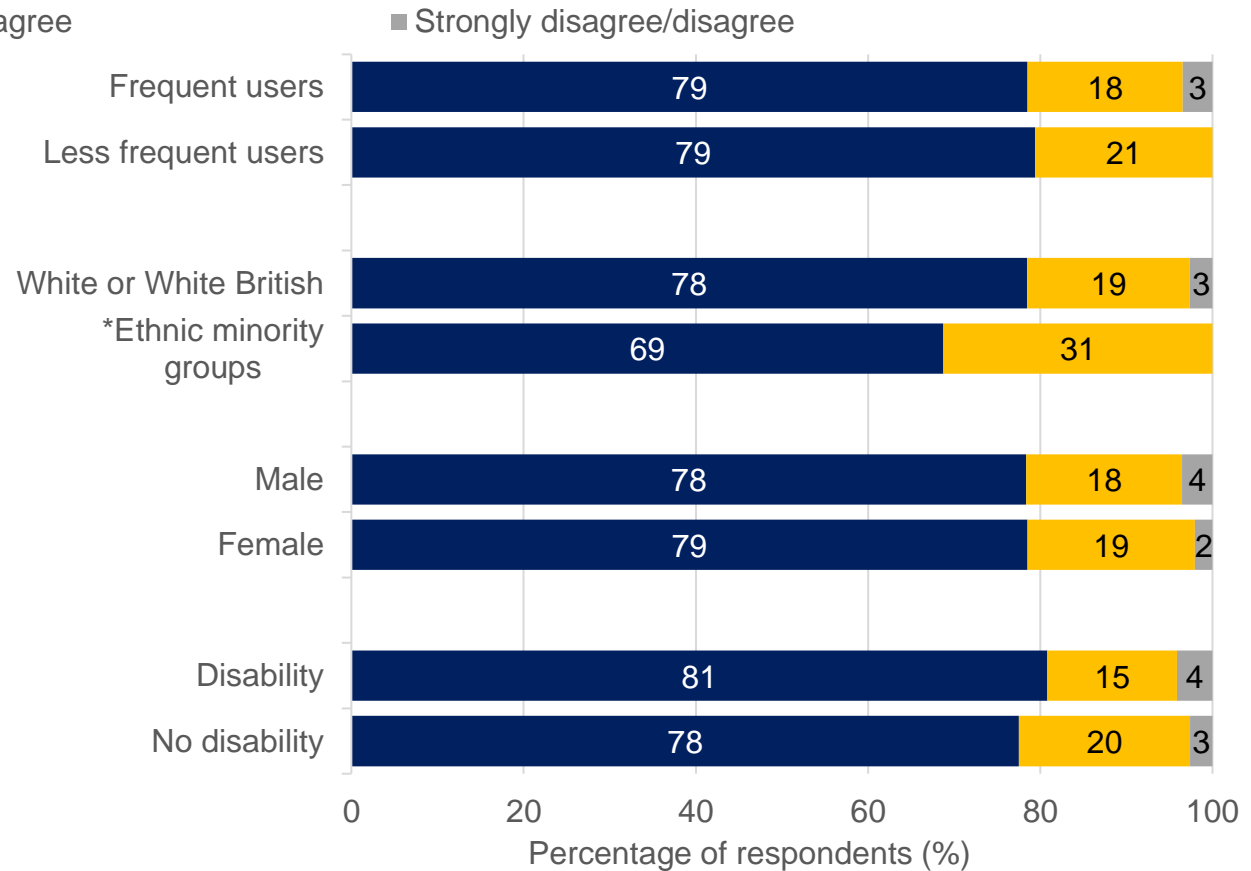
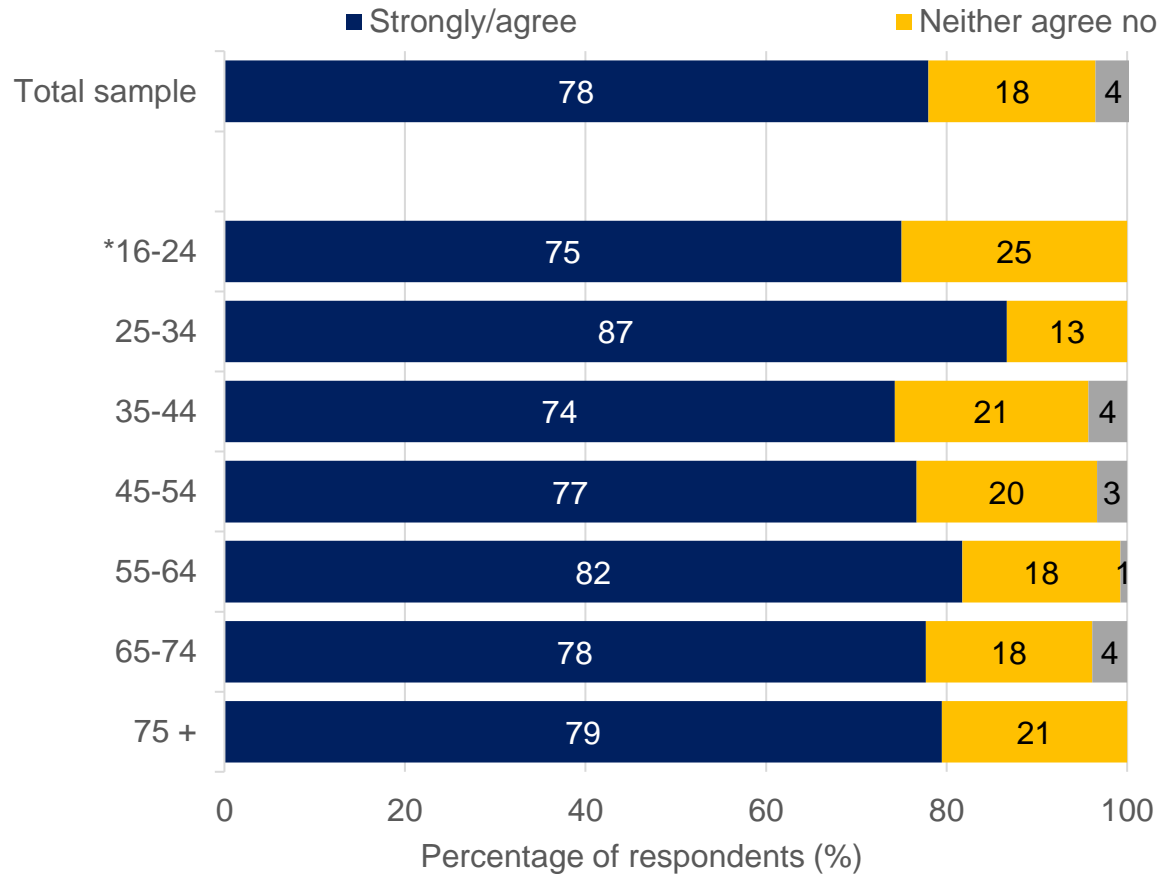
# Access to parks and open spaces

---

*To provide welcoming entrances for all users.*

# Agreement levels *To provide welcoming entrances for all users.*

Q: **‘To what extent do you agree or disagree with this principle: “To provide welcoming entrances for all users.”?’** | Base: left chart, top to bottom – total sample (568) | (8\*), (30), (70), (90), (137), (130), (39) | right chart, top to bottom (522), (34) | (460), (16\*) | (199) (298) | (73), (423) \*Caution small base



- A majority of respondents agree with the principle ‘to provide welcoming entrances for all users’ (78%)
- Agreement levels are high across all ages but more so in those aged 25 to 34 (87%) and 55 to 64 (82%)
- Differences in agreement levels are seen between respondents of different ethnicities where ethnic minority groups are less likely to agree with this principle (9 percentage points difference) however just under a third neither agree nor disagree (31%)

# Disagree with principle *To provide welcoming entrances for all users.*

Q: **'Why do you disagree with this principle?'** | Base: Respondents who disagree (19\*) \*Caution small base

## Summary of reasons for disagreeing with this principle :

- Feeling it should not be a spending priority/ money should be put into the park itself rather than the entrance
- Uncertainty about what is meant by a 'welcoming entrance'
- Feeling most parks and open spaces do not actually have 'entrances' so this is not relevant to most of these areas
- Not feeling that *everyone* should be welcomed into parks e.g. those on illegal bikes or e-scooters
- Feeling that focusing on 'welcoming entrances' is overthinking the concept of accessibility

*"Don't waste money on the entrance. Put it into the park itself. You don't have to market a park!"*

*"Should not be a spending priority."*

*"Other than Ravelin Park most of the outside spaces don't exactly have 'entrances'"*

*"A park just needs to be accessible. It does not need any fancy entrance structure. We go there for what's inside the boundary, not how pretty the entrance is."*

*"What matters is people can use the space equitably. There is no requirement for wasting money on this topic, it's a distraction from what is important."*

# Improvements *To provide welcoming entrances for all users.*

Q: *'How can the council help to improve things in this area ?'* | Base: Total sample (568)

Key themes	%
Signage - more, different languages, maps, walking routes, rules	15
Make more accessible for users e.g. wheelchairs, pushchairs, level paths, no gates	11
Keep well maintained - working gates, clear up litter, broken glass and dog poo	8
Make entrances more visible/ inviting/ aesthetics - artistic gates, arches, sculptures	5
Safety - wardens/ community officers, tackle anti-social behaviour, dog control, fines	4
Greenery and wildlife - flower beds, shrubs, plants to encourage wildlife	4
Lighting	2
Less fencing/ enclosing parks and open spaces	2
Add facilities - car parking, seating, toilets, café	1
Work with community and groups to ensure welcoming for all	1
Other	4
<i>No relevant comment</i>	55

- To provide welcoming entrances for all users, respondents suggest maximising the use of signage, such as in different languages or including maps and walking routes (15%), as well as making entrances more accessible, for example for wheelchair and pushchair users (11%)
- Respondents also suggest keeping entrances well maintained, such as ensuring gates are working and keeping entrances clear of litter and dog poo (8%), as well as making them more visible, inviting or considering the aesthetic quality of entrances (5%)





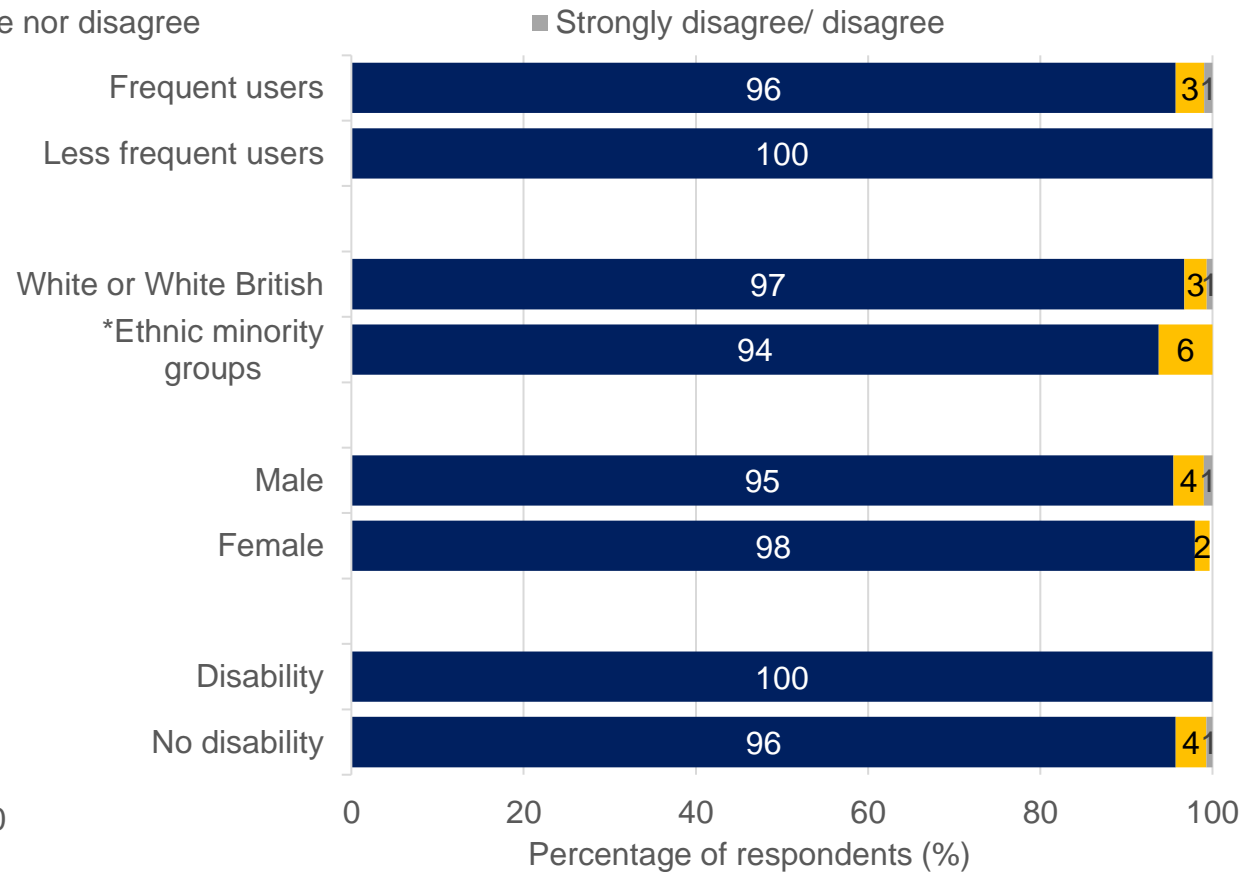
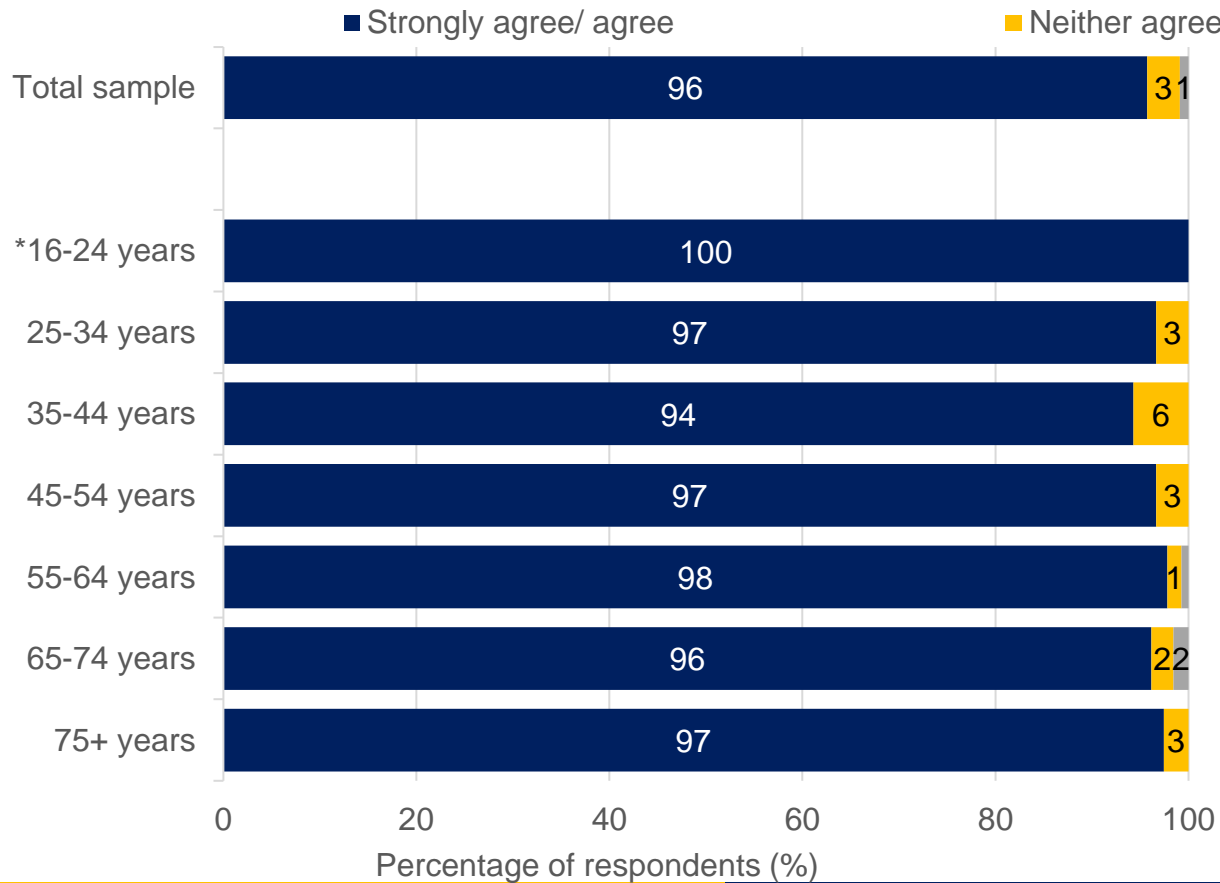
# Safety within parks and open spaces

---

*To provide safe parks facilities for all users.*

# Agreement levels *To provide safe parks facilities for all users.*

Q: ***'To what extent do you agree or disagree with this principle: "To provide safe parks facilities for all users."?'*** | Base: left chart, top to bottom – total sample (563) | (8\*), (30), (70), (90), (137), (130), (39) | right chart, top to bottom (518), (34) | (460), (16\*) | (199) (298) | (73), (423) \*Caution small base



- The vast majority of respondents agree with the principle 'to provide safe parks facilities for all users' (96%)
- There is little variation in levels of agreement across all demographics

# Disagree with principle *To provide safe parks facilities for all users.*

Q: **'Why do you disagree with this principle?'** | Base: Respondents who disagree (6\*) \*Caution small base

## Summary of reasons for disagreeing with this principle:

- Feeling a distinction should be made between 'all users' and particular activities e.g. not for users who take part in illegal activities or anti-social behaviour in parks
- Concern about the meaning of 'safe' – if this means enclosed it could encourage anti-social behaviour
- Unsure if providing facilities like toilets is a valuable use of funds and/or feel facilities will not be clean
- Feeling parks are already safe

*"There's no point spending our money on toilets as they'll be disgusting day of opening, more recycling bins and baby changing would be great."*

*"For all legal activities, not all users."*

*"Who says parks aren't safe spaces already?"*

*"Safe means enclosed which encourages anti social behaviour - parks should be more flow through."*

# Improvements *To provide safe parks facilities for all users.*

Q: *'How can the council help to improve things in this area ?'* | Base: Total sample (563)

Key themes	%
More staff, policing and/or park patrols on foot	35
Good lighting and visibility e.g. limit large areas of shrubs, no hidden corners	15
Crack down on anti-social behaviour - drug use, alcohol abuse, bullying	11
Maintenance – equipment/infrastructure, paths and walkways, clean and tidy	10
CCTV	6
Okay as it is/ happy with the current set-up	3
Restrict access for dogs e.g designated off-lead areas	2
More general safety measures (unspecified)	2
Safer children's play areas e.g. gated, separate from older children, clean floor	2
Security gates and railings/ locked at night	2
Make sure cyclists/ e-scooter users are considerate of pedestrians	1
More toilets	1
Other	6
<i>No relevant comment</i>	32

- Over a third of respondents suggest having more staff, policing and/or park patrols on foot to provide safe parks facilities for all users (35%)
- Respondents would also like good lighting and visibility in parks and open spaces (15%), a crack-down on anti-social behaviour (11%), and improved maintenance of equipment/infrastructure, paths and walkways, and to ensure open spaces are clean and tidy (10%)



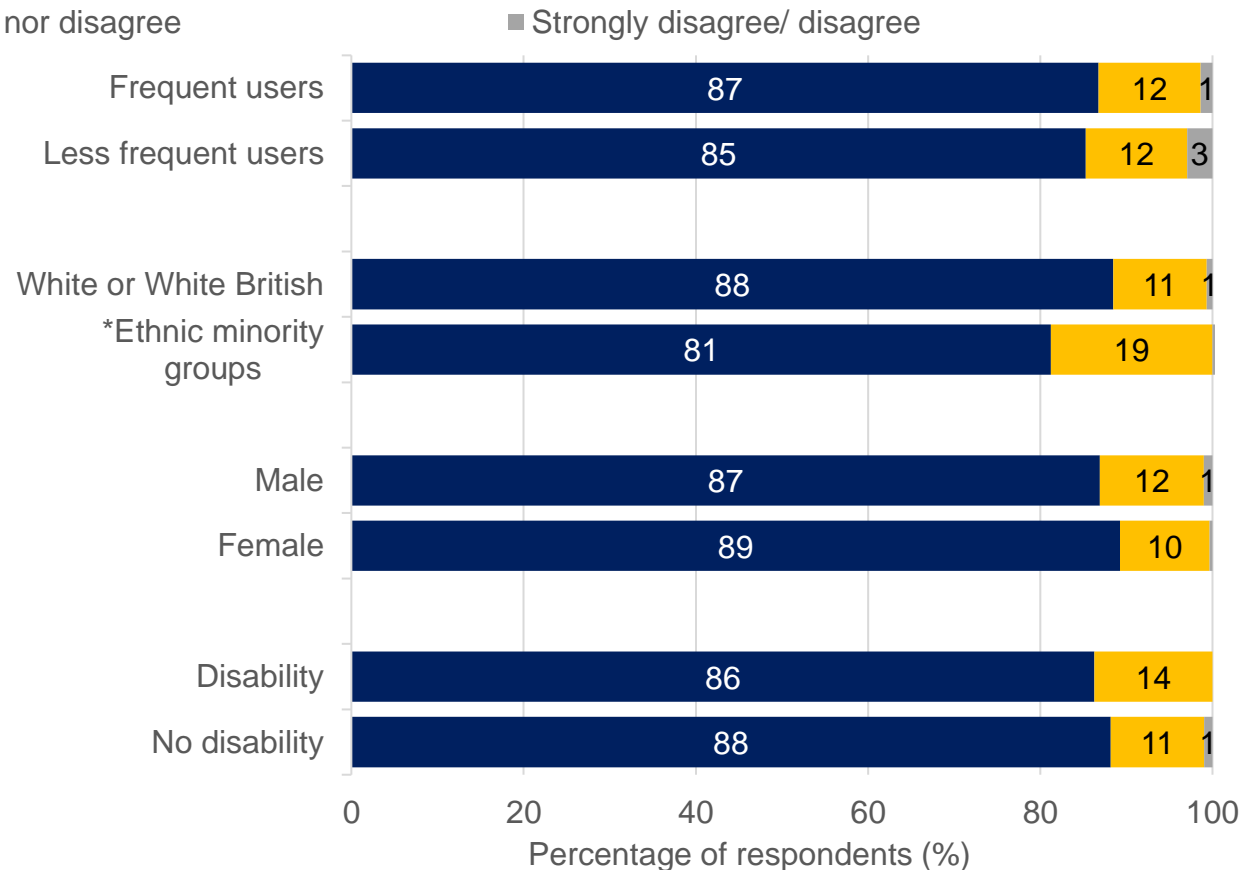
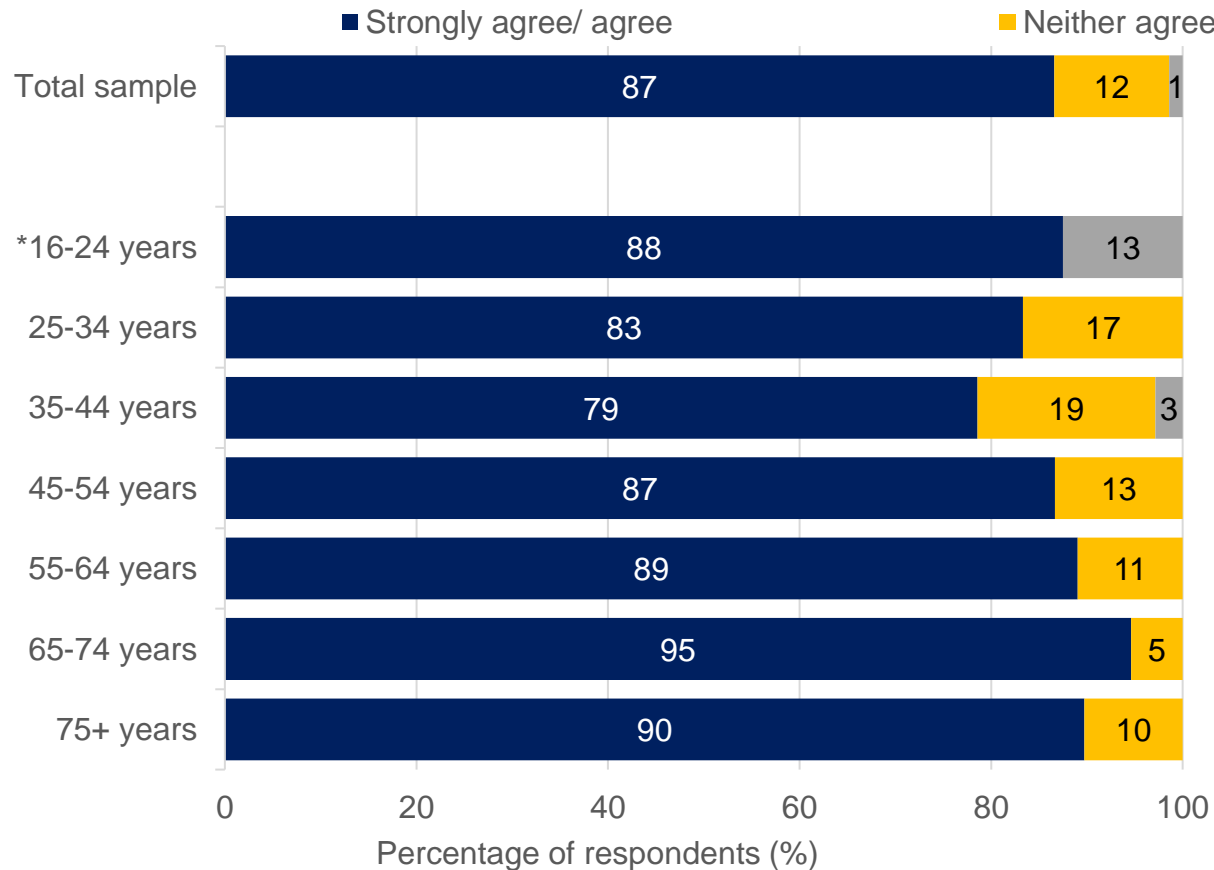
# Resourcing our parks

---

*To financially resource our parks.*

# Agreement levels *To financially resource our parks.*

Q: ***'To what extent do you agree or disagree with this principle: "To financially resource our parks."?'*** | Base: left chart, top to bottom – total sample (559) | (8\*), (30), (70), (90), (137), (130), (39) | right chart, top to bottom (522), (34) | (460), (16\*) | (199) (298) | (73), (423) \*Caution small base



- 87% of respondents agree with the principle 'to financially resource our parks'
- Older respondents are more likely to agree with this principle – 83% of 25 to 34-year-olds agree compared to 90% of over 75's
- Ethnic minority groups are slightly less likely to agree with this principle – 81% of ethnic minority groups agree whilst 88% of White respondents agree
- There are little differences seen between other demographics

# Disagree with principle *To financially resource our parks.*

Q: **'Why do you disagree with this principle?'** | Base: Respondents who disagree (5\*) \*Caution small base

## Summary of reasons for disagreeing with this principle:

- Concern that residents will shoulder additional fees or taxes in order to finance parks and open spaces
- Feeling financial resourcing of parks should be kept within the council
- Concern that financial resourcing of parks and open spaces may impact their ability to use them e.g. charged entrance fees, restricted opening times

*"I hope this doesn't mean the council will start charging an entrance fee!"*

*"Keep it within the council."*

*"Should be open to everyone at all times. Shouldn't have to pay to go to the park."*

*"I find it very wrong that I have to pay for everything I do in my own town. I cannot even go to the beach without having to pay."*

# Improvements *To financially resource our parks.*

Q: **'How can the council help to improve things in this area ?'** | Base: Total sample (559)

Key themes	%
Assess/maximise use of current budget/ revenue from council tax	9
More funding/ investments e.g. grants, lottery, crowdfunding	8
Fundraising and income-generating events e.g. charities, donation boxes, Victorious, fairs	7
Commercial/ community group sponsorship e.g. an area of a park, playground, flower bed	6
Resources/ recognise green spaces for their benefits to physical and mental health	5
Use more volunteers	4
Reduce costs/ use services wisely e.g. less mowing, more wild areas, park wardens to give fines	3
Cafés or other food/drink outlets in parks	3
Charge for use of park for certain activities e.g. fitness/sport groups, community events	3
Already doing a good job/ generally positive	2
Higher council tax	1
Use parking revenue	1
Other	4
<i>No relevant comment</i>	61

- To financially resource parks, respondents suggest the council assess and maximise their use of the current budget/ revenue from council tax (9%), or give more funding or investments to parks (8%)
- Respondents also suggest fundraising or income-generating events such as through charities, donation boxes, or festivals and fairs like Victorious (7%)





# Stakeholder feedback

---

**The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy received five substantive responses from stakeholders. These include:**

PCC Transport Department

The Hampshire Countryside Access Forum

Bird Aware Solent

Natural England

PCC Public Health

Responses from stakeholders give general praise for the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, consider protected sites, wildlife and biodiversity, and encourage continued collaboration with other departments.

## General praise for the Parks and Open Spaces strategy highlights the strategy as:

- Well-considered and presented
- Balanced and holistic, considering conflicting demands of Portsmouth's green and open spaces, including protected sites, sustainability, and connecting people with nature
- Informative about the city's parks and open spaces
- Striving for inclusivity, particularly regarding the key principle set out by the strategy of ensuring no-one is excluded from the city's parks and open spaces

*“Overall the strategy is very informative and contains a lot of useful information about the city’s green space and parks. It is also good to see that one of the key principles is ensuring all members of the community can enjoy the city’s green space.”*

*- PCC Transport Department*

*“We are supportive of the strategy and recognise the importance of connecting people with nature, while also balancing the management of the many protected sites and the role of nature recovery and ecological connectivity across the area.”*

*- Natural England*

*“We generally regard this as a well-considered and well-presented draft which balances the conflicting demands of local access to both natural and manicured greenspace for all members of the community with environmental and practical considerations.”*

*- Hampshire Countryside Access Forum*

**Continued collaboration with other departments is encouraged to ensure:**

- Parks and open spaces and transport strategies generally support each other to achieve respective objectives and function holistically
- Accessibility is appropriately accommodated in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy
- To help achieve sustainability and environmental goals