

**SOUTH  
RIBBLE**

**BOROUGH COUNCIL**



**Green Links  
Consultation Report**



**June 2019**

Appendix B

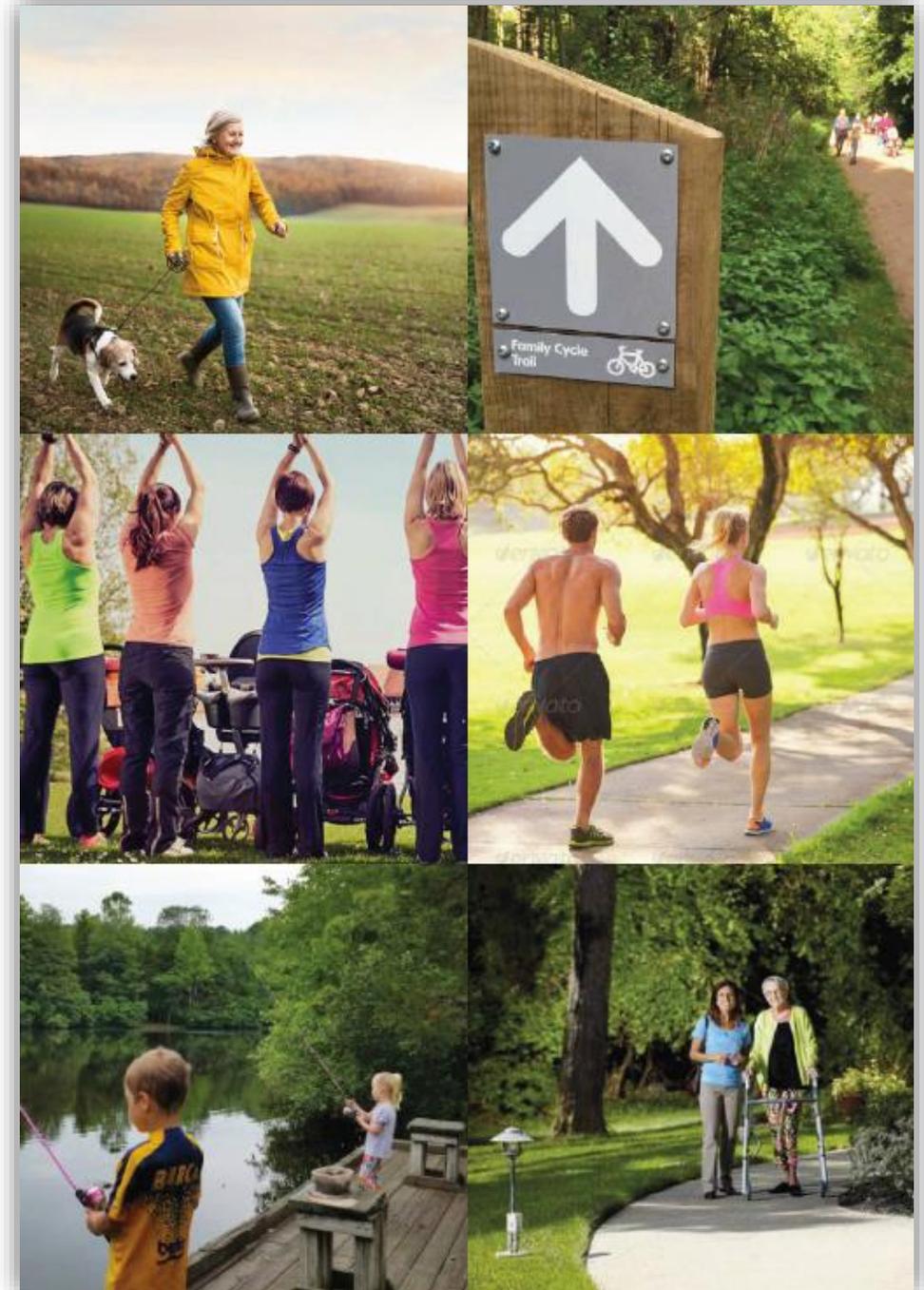


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## Document Control

Title	Version	Date
DRAFT	1.0	June 2019



# 1. Summary of Key Findings

A consultation exercise which engaged approximately 900 people was undertaken to understand what local residents and stakeholders thought about the proposals called 'Green Links'.

Green Links encompass features such as parks, local green spaces and potential for health, wellbeing and leisure campuses.

Residents and those working in South Ribble who engaged in the process gave us insight into the expectations, aspirations and needs of the local community.

Respondents told us....

## Green Spaces should be

- ▶ Protected and enhanced (supporting wildlife and natural habitats);
- ▶ Accessible (this includes for cyclists, walkers, horses and those living with disabilities);
- ▶ Safe (well-lit spaces);
- ▶ Spaces for communities to come together and or spend time relaxing.

## A Health, wellbeing and Leisure Campus should

- ▶ Provide a diverse offer – not just a gym or pool;
- ▶ Be local;
- ▶ Provide access to information, advice and support.

## Parks

- ▶ Have a huge role to play in being spaces for encouraging wildlife and natural habitats;
- ▶ Spaces where families and people come to relax and play;
- ▶ Be accessible to all users, with better paths.



## 2. Introduction and Background

The Council aims to support residents to stay healthy and maintain their wellbeing by providing the right spaces and facilities.

Green Links is a set of ambitious borough-wide plans to:

- ▶ Improve our Parks
- ▶ Improve Open spaces
- ▶ Deliver a new Health, Wellbeing & Leisure Campus with the first initially proposed for Leyland

Creating inter-connected Green Links is part of a much wider programme which will bring together neighbourhoods across South Ribble, enabling sustainable travel options, extensive walking and cycling routes and improved play facilities.

The programme will ensure that the network of Green Links across the Borough, can underpin all potential improvements in the future and are at the heart of the wellbeing agenda.

The consultation was formally launched via publication of a leaflet which was distributed to each and every household in the borough. Various methods were available for people to engage, through either face to face, written or online involvement.

While we have had a good level of engagement and generally the responses have been positive, context should be taken by issues arising from Balcarres Green and Bent Lane, which provided a significant response from residents focused around particular issues with housing.

Overall the results provide an indication of support for the Green Links approach, and that South Ribble's green and open spaces are particularly treasured.



68% of South Ribble is **green belt**

That's in comparison to **12.5%** of England which is designated as green belt.

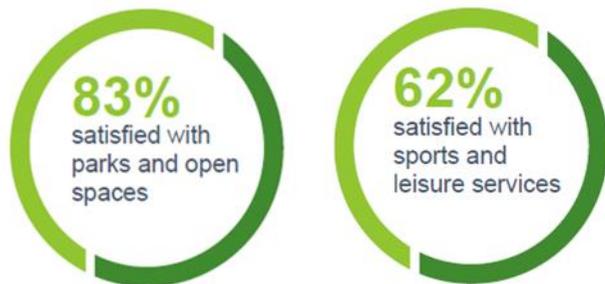
## What We Already Know

A number of earlier consultations have been undertaken.

Context and results of previous consultations were considered and we have sought to build upon earlier findings and develop them further as part of this consultation.

### Resident's Survey

The last resident's survey took place in 2017 and results indicated that there is a high level of satisfaction with our existing parks and open spaces, whilst leisure facilities rated much lower when people were asked how satisfied they were with the current provision.



### Community Survey 2018 (South Ribble Partnership)

Undertaken by South Ribble Partnership, a community survey took place in 2018 as part of the refresh of the Community Strategy. This consultation further identified the value placed on parks and open spaces as both were rated second highest when people were asked what they most like about South Ribble.

South Ribble Partnership's emerging Community Strategy recognised the need for managed growth against housebuilding and infrastructure for local communities.

Further consultations undertaken by partners have also told us that

- ▶ There needs to be more opportunities to stay active for those living with disabilities
- ▶ We need more areas designed for cycling and running
- ▶ Older people would like more opportunities to get and stay active
- ▶ There needs to be more on offer in all areas of the Borough, with good accessibility



### 3. Objectives

The consultation had a number of objectives that it set out to achieve. These objectives were to;

- ▶ Widen awareness of the Council’s Green Links approach and Health and Wellbeing Campus ideas
- ▶ Understand the needs and aspirations of our communities to shape what the Green Links, open spaces and a health and wellbeing campus could look like – providing clear direction on the types of environment and health and wellbeing facilities people want.
- ▶ Inform the wider Campus Programme – feedback which can be broken down in to geographic areas that can shape and influence areas for development across the whole borough.
- ▶ Provide a particular focus to shape the potential development of what a new health and wellbeing leisure campus in Leyland could like and the activities people want to do.

### 4. Consultation Programme

The consultation programme was intensive and took an approach of going out to communities, ensuring that there was at least one roadshow or workshop in each of the My Neighbourhood Areas.

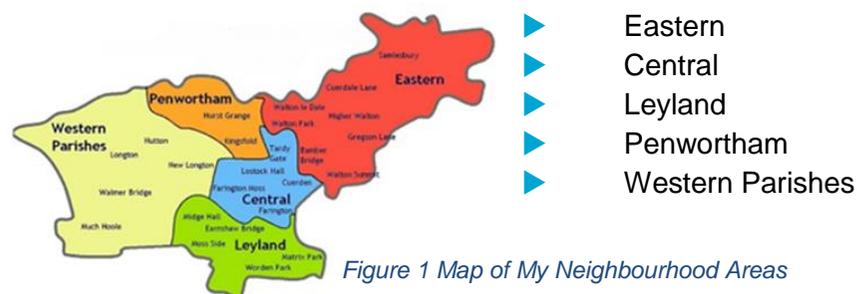


Figure 1 Map of My Neighbourhood Areas

The programme ran between 18<sup>th</sup> February and closed on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Timeline of Consultation Programme		
<b>Survey</b>		
	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2019 – 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Online and Paper
<b>Workshops</b>		
	<b>Date and time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Leyland Civic Centre
	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Moss Side Community Centre
	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Walmer Bridge Village Hall
	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Lostock Hall Library
	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Bamber Bridge Methodist Church
	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Penwortham Community Centre
<b>Roadshows</b>		
	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Leyland Leisure Centre
	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Leyland Leisure Centre
	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Penwortham Leisure Centre
	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	South Ribble Tennis Centre
	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre
<b>Stakeholder</b>		
	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Leyland Civic Centre

## Methodology

The methodology used to undertake the consultation included a range of ways that individuals could participate. A press release on ??



### Survey/Questionnaire

An online survey was launched 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and was open up until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019. This was posted to the website and social media accounts as well as distributed to each and every household in the Borough (49,600 approx.), to Partners requesting they share amongst their networks. Paper copies were also made available at the Gateway as well as on request.

It should be noted however, that promotion of the consultation was significantly reduced during Purdah. Purdah, or pre-election period, began at 5pm on 20 March up until 2 May. During this time the council was subject to publicity restrictions to 'not publish any material which, in whole or in part, appears to be designed to affect public support for a political party.' The council's approach during this period was to suspend all publicity activity save for that which was connected to communicating key information about the up-coming Local and European elections.



### Roadshows

A total of 5 roadshows were hosted at Leisure Centres across South Ribble, which provided an opportunity for people to drop in and find out information about Green Links as well as provide feedback via sticky notes to boards.



### Stakeholder Events

Stakeholders were engaged via individual stakeholder workshop sessions. These included;

- ▶ Community and Friends Groups
- ▶ Public Sector Organisations



### Planning for Real / Workshops

Planning for Real workshops focused around the Green Links proposed areas as well as a number of specific localities.

The principle of the workshops was to enable individuals to provide their knowledge and insight to any issues within their areas as well as ideas to help develop and improve.

The Planning for Real Process can be used further following the results to help prioritise and agree resources and involvement by residents/participants.

The workshops were split equally across the 5 Neighbourhood areas of South Ribble.

## Feedback and Response Methods

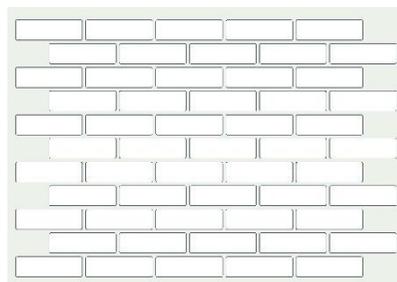
### Face to Face

The majority of the consultation and responses received were via face to face roadshows and workshop sessions. The purpose of the sessions were to assist participants in understanding a little bit more about what Green Links are and to facilitate and gather responses. Respondents provided their own unique comments on sticky notes on to an ideas board.

The advantages of this method is that it could provide more honest and open comments. It is, however more labour intensive and so in analysis each individual response is read and captured and then categorised to provide meaningful data.

### Idea Walls

Each wall was managed by a designated officer at each session and a colour coded response system was used for each themed area of parks, campus, green links and burning issues.



*Figure 2 Blank Ideas Wall Image*

The “burning issues” board was used to respond to all issues not directly related to the consultation but where respondents had strong feelings on particular issues. These issues generally related to house building and green space so have been included within the overall analysis.

### Planning for Real

The Planning for Real approach was a participatory activity where respondents were able to use pre-populated cards to help identify issues around the proposed Green Links route as well as their local neighbourhood.

The advantage of this method is that it enables those in the community with extensive local knowledge to highlight the issues important to them and to place it literally within a location. This was done on a small

neighbourhood scale at particular hot spot areas with concerns which were visibly apparent.

The disadvantages to the method is the limitation of map scaling. Scaling each area as a hot spot map was not possible so some sessions had to be based on a larger borough wide map which may not have enabled full exploration of particular areas and issues.

Further, the use of pre-populated cards could have guided responses. However, we provided blank cards for respondents to populate with their own responses should they feel issues important to them were not represented.

### Structured Workshop

A structured workshop with stakeholders took place and was different from other workshops, as discussion was facilitated and more structured. This enabled focused discussion on each area of the green links proposals, with a mixture of combined disciplines, including professionals and community groups.

### Survey

An online digital survey was launched via Citizen Space, a specialist product for surveys and consultations adopted by South Ribble Borough Council.

A chapter based approach was used, which meant that those responding to the survey only had to complete areas that were of interest to them, e.g. they could answer questions on parks but didn't need to answer questions around the campus if they didn't wish to.

Removing the requirement to answer questions can be a disadvantage as we may not get a full set of data per respondent. However it provides control to the respondent to engage as fully or as little as they wish without having to 'force' answer questions and thereby provide erroneous data.

A further disadvantage to the survey method was inability to promote during purdah which restructured the ability to effectively distribute via social media channels.

## 5. Findings

The following pages detail the analysis of the responses received through the various roadshows, workshops and survey. The key findings from each approach is summarised here.

Overall the approach to green links is welcomed by the community and partners.

There is clear recognition of the need to improve the local environment and this is linked with concerns over air quality and pollution. However, the data would indicate that people still see parking at parks and leisure centres as a priority, which infers that they will continue to use cars to navigate to leisure hubs and parks.

However, the consultation did raise concerns over safety when cycling and suggestions have included developing the cycling routes and lanes to improve confidence and safety on the roads.

Housebuilding and consideration to building on green space represents a significant challenge. It has been recognised within the consultation that there are housebuilding targets set by Central Government, which are outside of the council's control. However, there is a determination from respondents to ensure that we to protect local and small green spaces within existing communities, which are used for various reasons, but are accessible to those who have mobility or transport issues and made a more significant role in them being able to remain active.



## Roadshows and Planning for Real

These elements of the consultation involved face to face feedback via ideas walls and the planning for real approach. The findings from the sessions provide a number of clear messages with regards green and open spaces and leisure facilities;

- ▶ **Protect green spaces across South Ribble:** residents are clear that the small green spaces around the Borough should not be built on;
- ▶ **Improve and develop the natural environment;** more trees, wildflower meadows, highstreets with more trees and planters;
- ▶ **Improve the Leisure Facilities:** Current facilities are out of date and need improving/modernising. However, it is important to keep access local and they are valued facilities for the community;
- ▶ **Outdoor spaces can be improved:** The spaces outside could be better used for recreation and community based events, bringing our communities together and making a better environment for our physical and mental wellbeing;
- ▶ **Parking, traffic and air quality:** are issues that are of concern to residents.

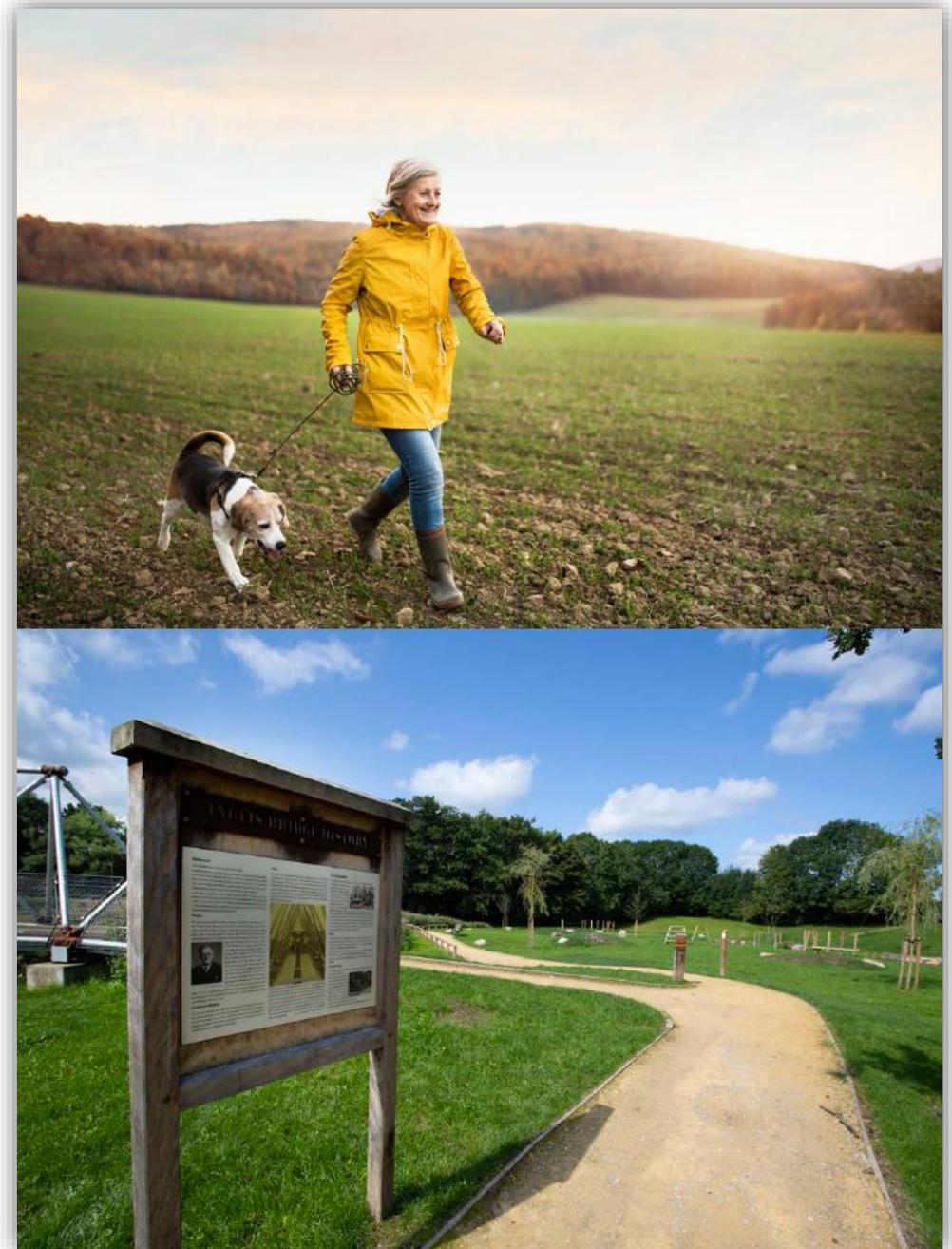
## Stakeholders

Stakeholders have expressed their wish that we continue to engage with them throughout so that opportunities for collaboration and co-production can be realised.

## Survey

The results of the survey support the findings from the roadshows and workshops.

- ▶ **Satisfaction levels with current leisure facilities are neither overly positive or negative:** This reflects the need to improve the offer;
- ▶ **Relaxation, Wellness and access to information rate highly as facilities/services are important to users:** This supports the green link approach to a health, wellbeing and leisure campus that provides a wider offer. It further provides opportunities for collaboration with local services to improve access and respond to the need for service reform;
- ▶ **Green Spaces are used very regularly and support physical and mental wellbeing:** the majority of respondents use these spaces for jogging/walking as well as a space to relax and unwind;
- ▶ **We need to improve our green spaces:** litter and cleanliness is a high priority as well as improving the spaces so they can be accessed more and utilised for leisure and recreation;
- ▶ **Our parks are important spaces to relax and to encourage local nature and wildlife:** these spaces provide an important role in mental wellbeing as places where people can relax. However we must ensure people can access them.



## 6. Analysis

### Ideas Walls

The Ideas Walls were used at the roadshow and planning for real sessions and were related to the specific areas of the Green Links programme. There were different themed boards for each element of Green Links which were split in to;

- ▶ Campus
- ▶ Parks
- ▶ Green Links/Spaces
- ▶ Burning Issues

All responses on the idea walls were individual and free text, providing good quality of data in terms of what people wanted to say in response to the ideas and suggestions being made as part of Green Links.

### Data Summary

There were a total of 828 free text responses which have been codified in to 951 categories.

The breakdown of responses by Neighbourhood area are;

- |                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| ▶ Leyland          | 75% |
| ▶ Penwortham       | 10% |
| ▶ Central          | 9%  |
| ▶ Eastern          | 4%  |
| ▶ Western Parishes | 2%  |

The majority of responses are with regard to Leyland. This is in large part due to underlying house build issues with Bent Lane and Balcarres Road. Two specific workshops were held with residents from those areas which accounted for 47% of the responses within the Leyland area.



However, the responses made within this area relate to the specific ideas walls for the Green Links Consultation and have therefore been included.

### Findings

Following analysis of the data, findings show that residents:

- ▶ Have a clear desire to protect green spaces and improve the outdoor environment for recreation and offering better green travel options;
- ▶ Current leisure facilities are in need of improving.

A full breakdown of the results are provided on the opposite page.

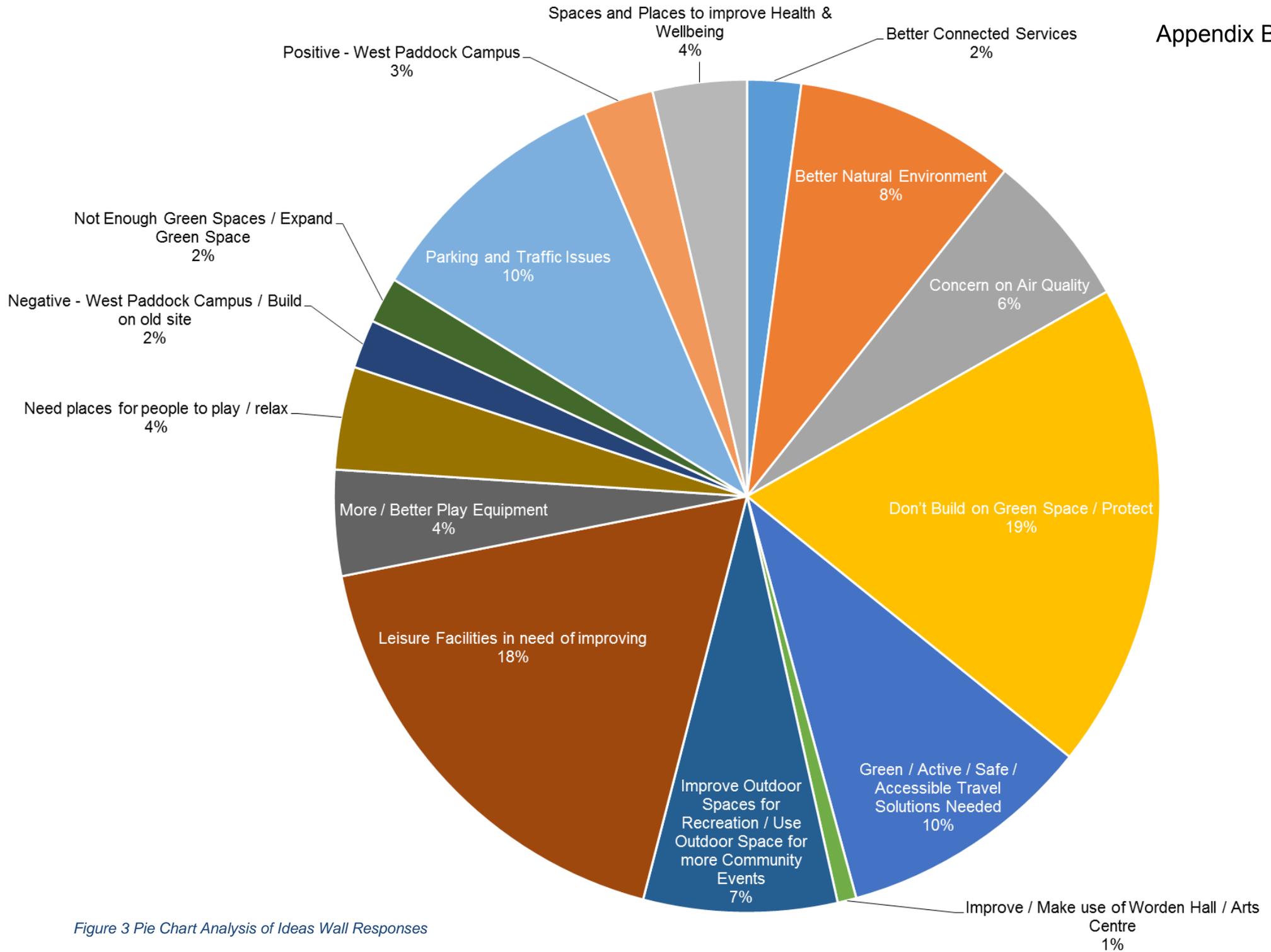
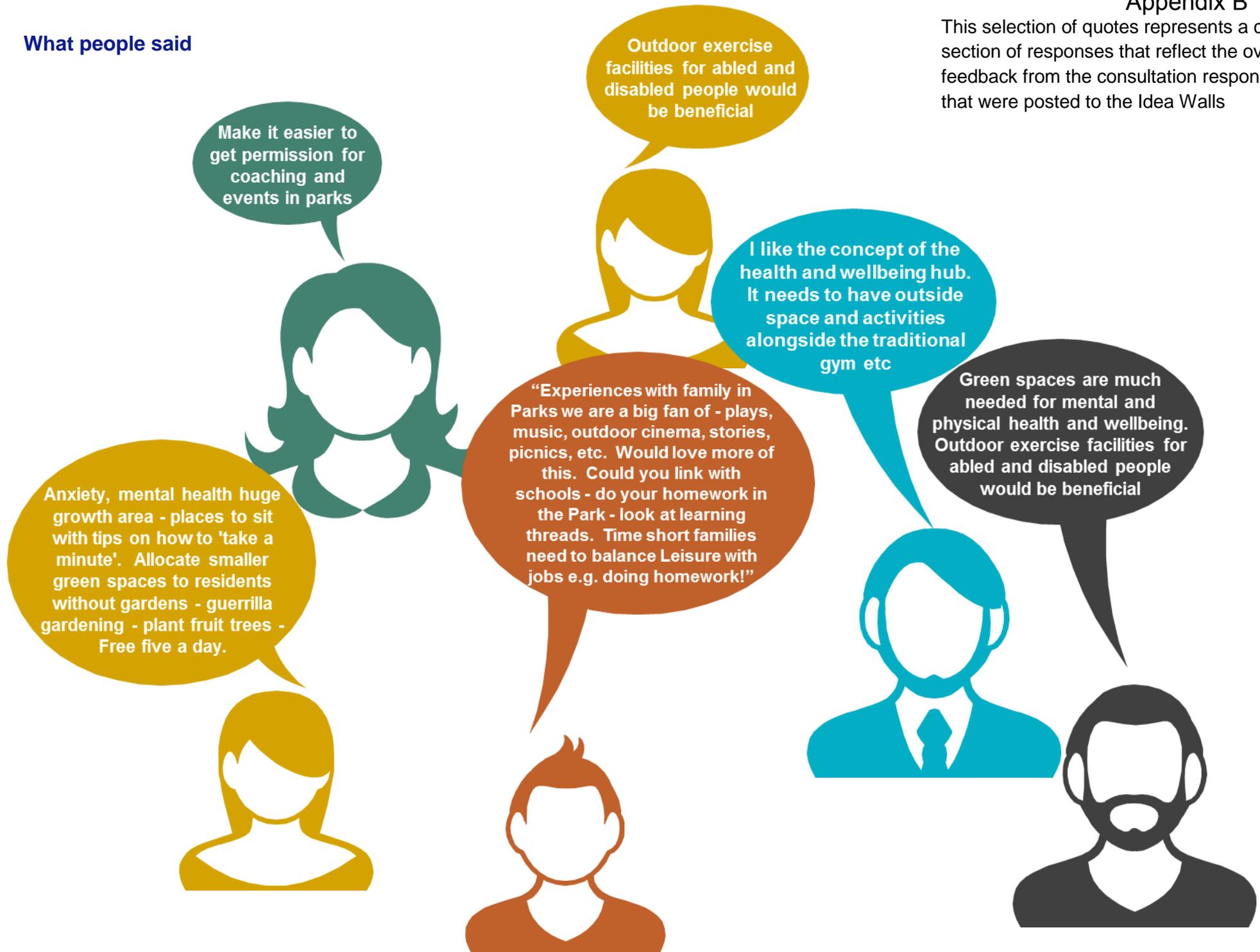


Figure 3 Pie Chart Analysis of Ideas Wall Responses

## Appendix B

This selection of quotes represents a cross section of responses that reflect the overall feedback from the consultation responses that were posted to the Idea Walls

### What people said



## Planning for Real / Workshops

The planning for real approach was used at the workshop events. There was one workshop in each neighbourhood area, together with two additional workshops for Bent Lane and Balcarres Road.

As an approach 'Planning for Real' is a method to involve communities in co-production and decision making. We used the first element of the planning for real process. There is potential for further sessions to be held to further develop and prioritise responses.

### Data Summary

There were a total of 485 suggestions and issues. Of those 423 were categorised in to groupings with the remaining ones that were particular unique and individual issues. However they are noted and available.

▶ Leyland	71%
▶ Lostock Hall	12%
▶ Penwortham	8%
▶ Bamber Bridge	6%
▶ Walmer Bridge	4%

Similar to the responses on the ideas walls, there were a significant number of responses that came from Leyland. Of those responses from Leyland

- ▶ Bent Lane represented 34% of responses
- ▶ Balcarres Road represented 23% of responses



### Findings

The responses to the Planning for Real exercise demonstrated again:

- ▶ Clear desire to improve and safeguard the local environment, including planting more trees, community gardens and nature;
- ▶ That there was a desire to provide activities for young and teenage children. This was predominately in Leyland, but these suggestions also came from Penwortham and Lostock Hall;
- ▶ Parking, traffic and air quality also present as a concern from communities and something that they see as very visible in the areas they live. Particularly those areas highlighting traffic volume and issues were Leyland and Lostock Hall.

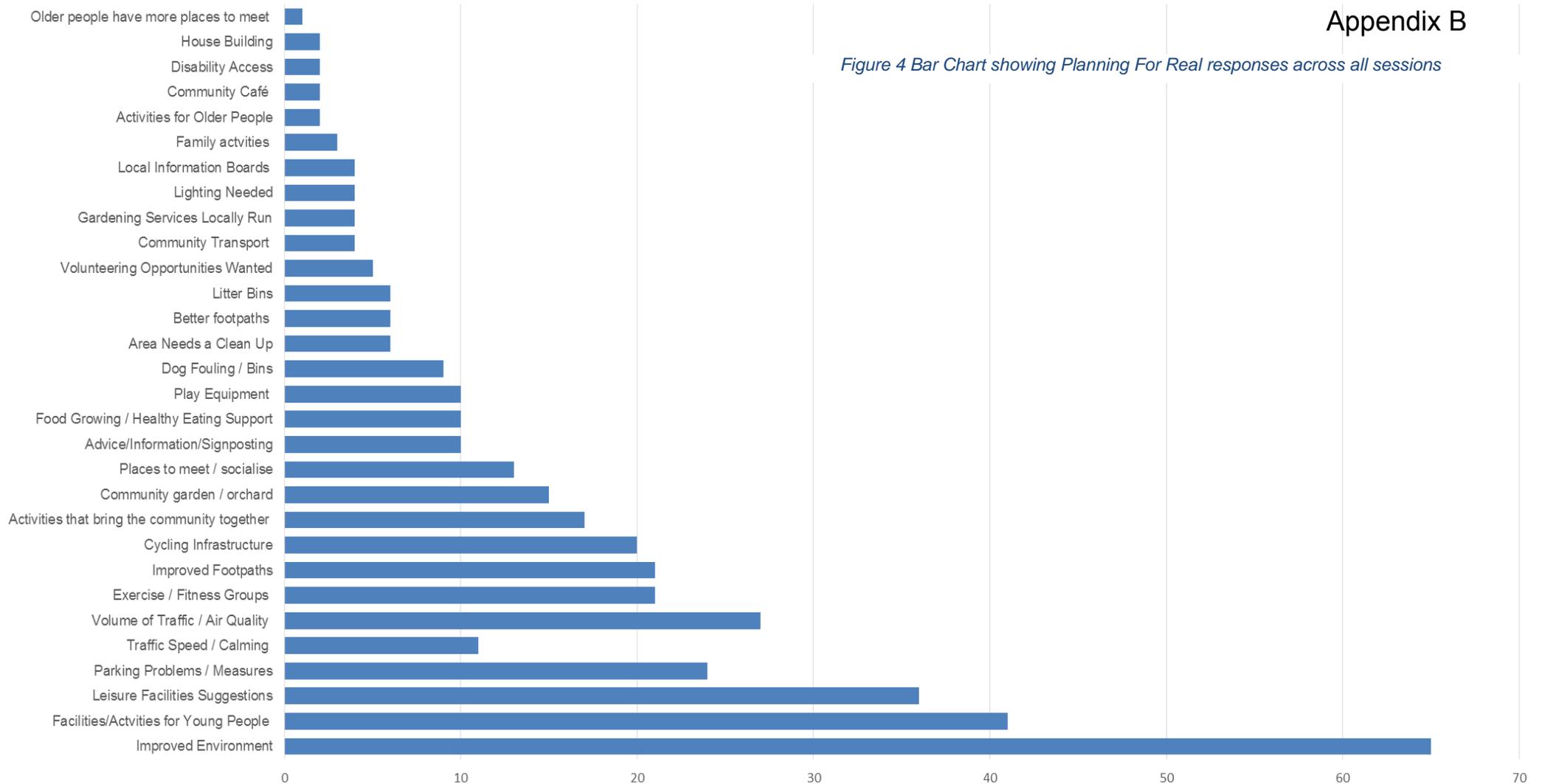


Figure 4 Bar Chart showing Planning For Real responses across all sessions

**Further detail on categories where there is a significant amalgamation of responses**

**Improved Environment**

This includes a range of responses that relate to, better seating, wildlife planting/meadows, trees, conservation, street planting and nature trails.

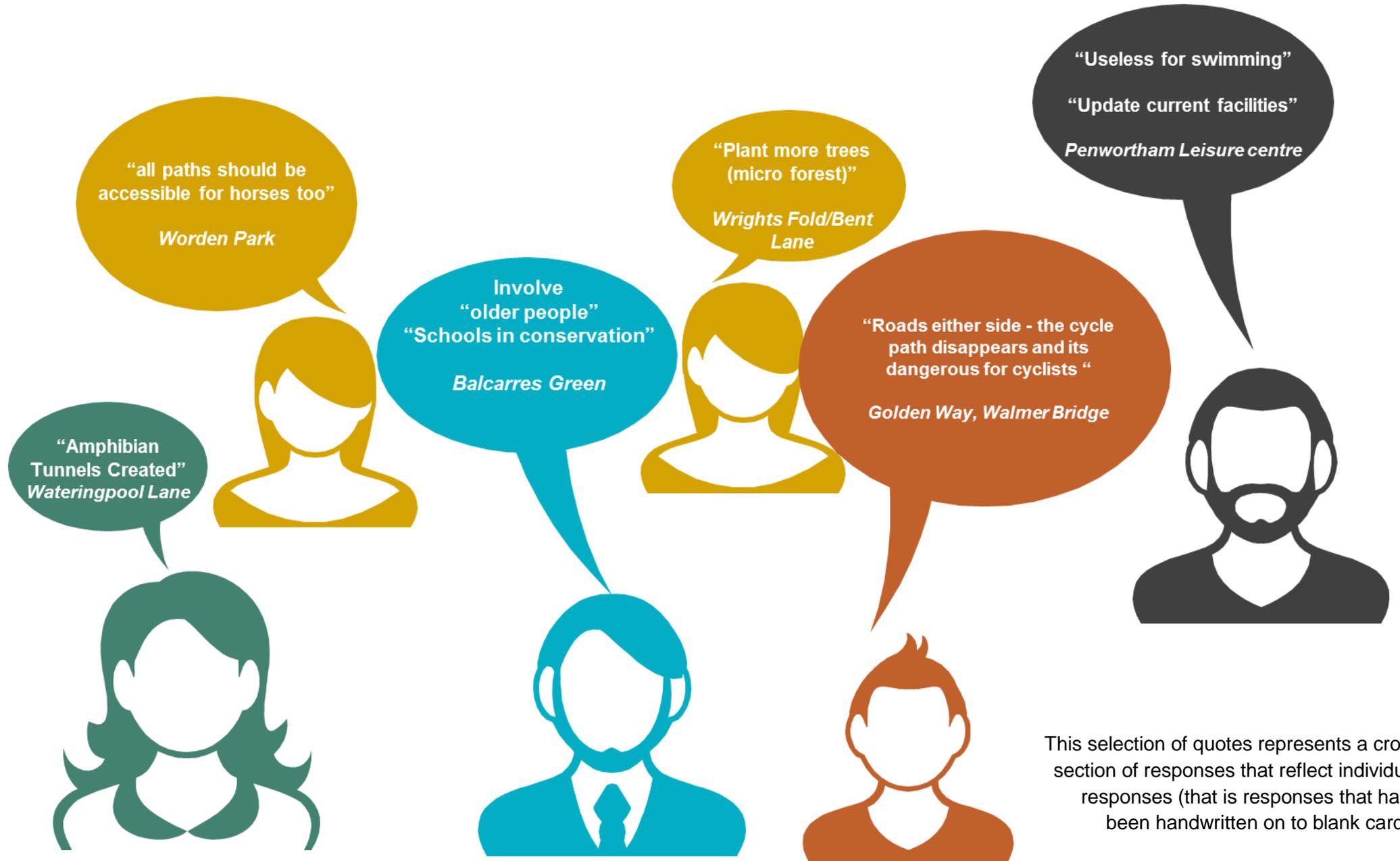
**Leisure Facilities Suggestions**

This includes an amalgamation of responses that relate to Astro Turf, Basketball hoops, Bowls – outdoors, Cricket Facilities, fishing, fitness trail football/kick about area wanted, Gym, Outdoor Gym, Recording Studio/Rehearsal room, Skate park, Spa & Wellness, Swimming Club, Swimming Pool and Tennis Court

**Further notes**

There are some categories with individual responses or very low and summarised below;  
Befriending service, Internet Café, Improvement of Shop fronts and paths accessible for horses

## What People Said



This selection of quotes represents a cross section of responses that reflect individual responses (that is responses that have been handwritten on to blank cards)

## Survey

The survey was available online, with paper copies available on request and was open between 3rd March 2019 – 30th April 2019.

### Survey Structure

The survey was split in to chapters that respondents could answer or skip at any point before submission. The analysis follows a similar pattern by way of splitting the responses in to sections.

- ▶ About You
- ▶ Health, Wellbeing and Leisure Campus
- ▶ Green Space and Links
- ▶ Parks
- ▶ Final comments

### Data

There were a total of 247 responses to the Survey of which the majority were people who live and work in South Ribble.

Of the 227 people that responded to the question of where they came from 95% stated that their either lived and or worked in South Ribble, with those living in South Ribble making up 61% of all respondents.

Townships and villages of the Western Parishes and other rural areas were not overly represented in the survey sample. The areas most represented in the Survey were

- ▶ Leyland – 38%
- ▶ Penwortham – 16%
- ▶ Bamber Bridge 10%
- ▶ Lostock Hall 9%

## Age Profile

The age profile is broadly representative of South Ribble, though younger people are underrepresented.

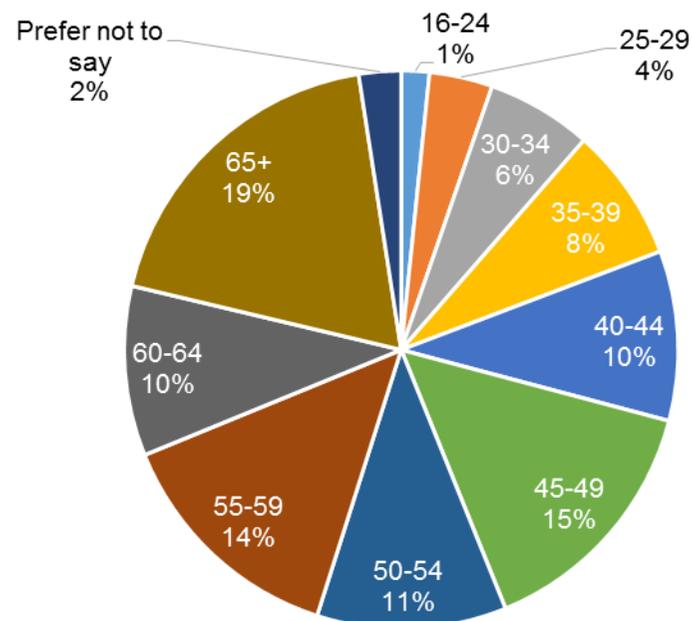


Figure 5 Pie Chart displaying breakdown of age profile

## Diversity and Equality

With regard to the diversity and equality characteristics of the survey;

- ▶ Male respondents made up 43%;
- ▶ Female respondents made up 51%;
- ▶ Those who preferred not to say made up 5%;
- ▶ Responses/engagement from the gay, lesbian and transgender communities was low;
- ▶ The majority of respondents defined themselves as white (English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British) 89%;
- ▶ When asked if respondents considered themselves to have a disability 13% responded that they identify as such.

**Health, Wellbeing and Leisure Campus**

**Which facilities do you use?**

We found that 27% of the respondents either don't use leisure facilities or use alternatives other than those provided by the council. For those that do use our facilities, the respondents predominately use the Leyland and Bamber Bridge facilities which should be placed in context when respondents provide feedback on quality and satisfaction with the facilities.

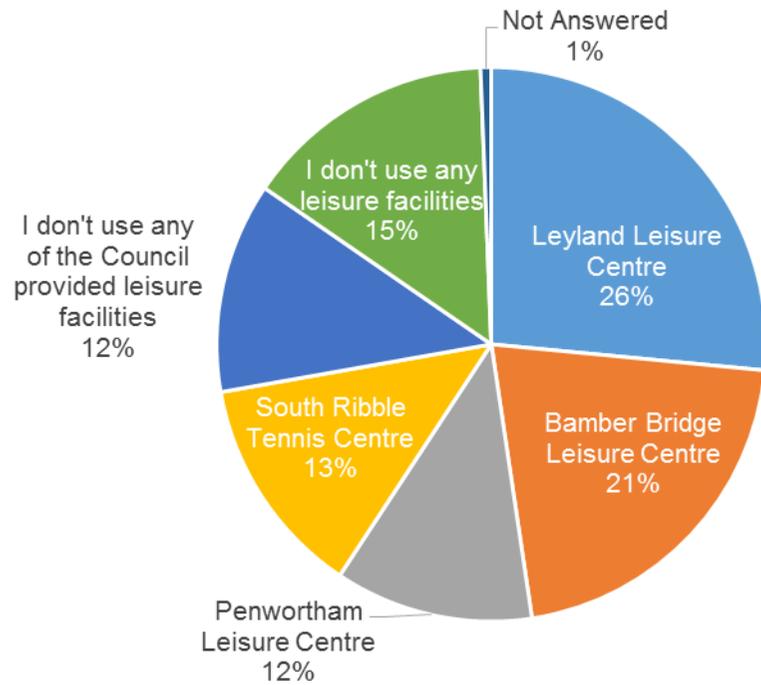


Figure 6 Pie Chart displaying breakdown of use by Leisure Centre

We don't know why those respondents do not use the facilities, but it may be a result of competition with the private sector or that the facilities do not offer the variety of activities or meet their needs.

**How satisfied are you with our facilities?**

Respondents were asked about each individual leisure facility based on which they use and of the facilities provided by the council.

When asked how satisfied they were with our facilities, for Leyland Leisure centre, 22% were very or fairly satisfied. However those who are neither satisfied or dissatisfied, fairly dissatisfied or very dissatisfied accounted for 25% of the responses which correlates to the feedback from the workshops and roadshows were people indicated our facilities need improvements. Of those not answered it is assumed they do not use the facility.

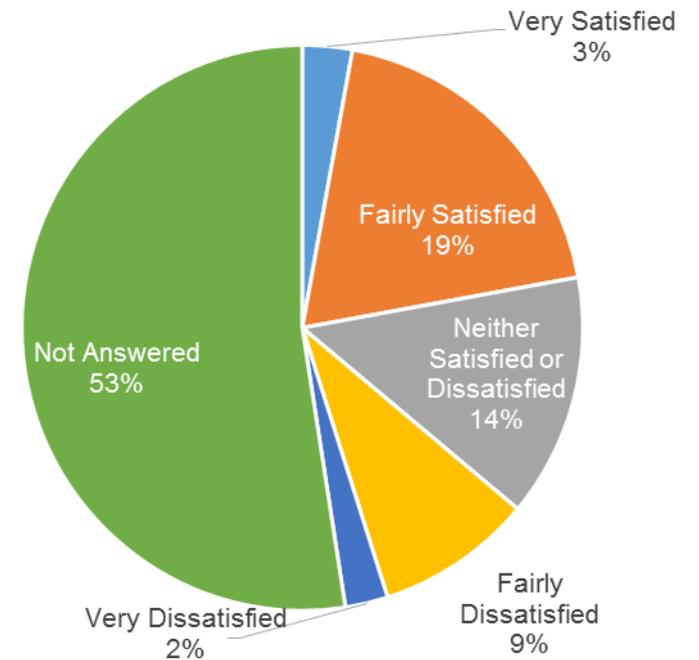


Figure 7 Pie Chart displaying breakdown of satisfaction of facilities at Leyland Leisure Centre

Across the other leisure centres the response was broadly the same with the exception of the Tennis Centre, where satisfaction of the facilities was above the other categories of neither satisfied or dissatisfied, fairly dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

**Those who use Council owned facilities told us which facilities they use and how often**

Respondents use the current leisure facilities for a variety of reasons and due to the sample it would be difficult to provide a definitive view on which facilities are most used. However the indication from the survey results is that the following activities are the most frequently used by those who attend a South Ribble operated leisure centre.

Based on use between daily to monthly the following are the most used facilities;

- ▶ Swimming 28%
- ▶ Gym 16%
- ▶ Fitness classes 12%

As this forms the predominant offer, it is not an unexpected answer. All remaining categories came below 10% (tennis, racket sports, indoor sports hall, café, all weather pitches, sports clubs/teams), however, this may as a result of the sample size and interests of respondents and does not include those using private facilities and those who do not use the facilities at all.



**How important are the following facilities/services to you?**

When asked about the different types of facilities that are important to them, responses did diverge away from the standard core offer of gym, pool and fitness classes. Whilst still very important, respondents also indicated that in the category of ‘very important’ and ‘important’ the following facilities scored above 50%

- ▶ Car Parking 70%
- ▶ Relaxation and wellness 61%
- ▶ Access to information and advice 58%
- ▶ Access to health related services 55%
- ▶ Place to meet with friends 53%

Where less than 50% identified a facility as very important this included;

- ▶ Safer cycle storage 48%
- ▶ Cafe 38%
- ▶ Indoor sports hall 37%
- ▶ All weather pitches 29%

These responses indicate that diversification of a leisure centre to a campus is desirable to meet the needs of users and widening usage for general wellness as well as access to services and support.

It further demonstrates that the need for parking indicates users will predominately be travelling to such facilities by car. However over 40% did identify better and safer cycle storage as important.



## Green Space and Links

### How often do you use your local Green Spaces?

When asked about how often people use their local green spaces, the response was overwhelmingly daily, which accounted for 51% of responses. This was closely followed by weekly at 32%, resulting in 83% of respondents indicating they use their local green spaces very regularly.

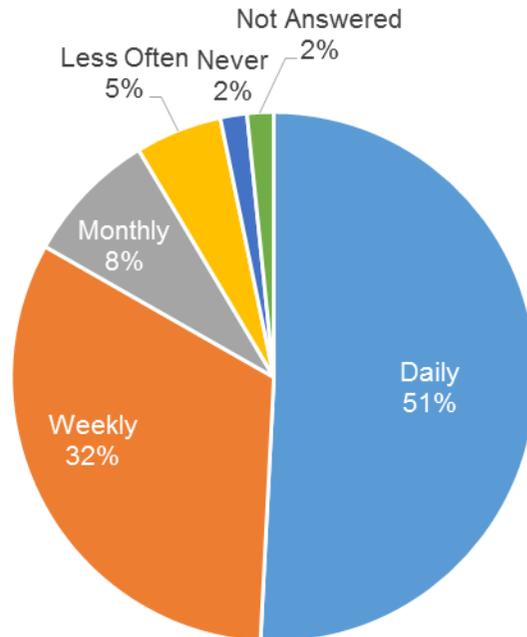


Figure 8 Pie Chart displaying breakdown by frequency of use of green spaces

### I use my local green spaces for...

When asked what they use their green spaces for and how often there were a number of key regular activities that took place daily and weekly;

- ▶ Walking/Jogging for Leisure 77%
- ▶ To relax and unwind 70%

The remaining categories were under 50% and reflected that the areas are used for a variety of reasons but less for the following activities;

- ▶ Cycling for Leisure 27%
- ▶ Walking the Dog 36%
- ▶ Use of playground 29%
- ▶ Other 9%

### What needs improving on our green spaces?

When considering what needs improving the most significant category was litter/cleanliness which reflects the concerns raised in the Residents survey 2017 which highlighted that street cleaning was the area in need of most improvement. Overall the general areas for improvements focused around the facilities available which included multi-generational and group activities. Of the respondents 11% stated safety as a concern and this is reinforced in the following question where respondents indicated the types of improvements important to them were around appropriate lighting.

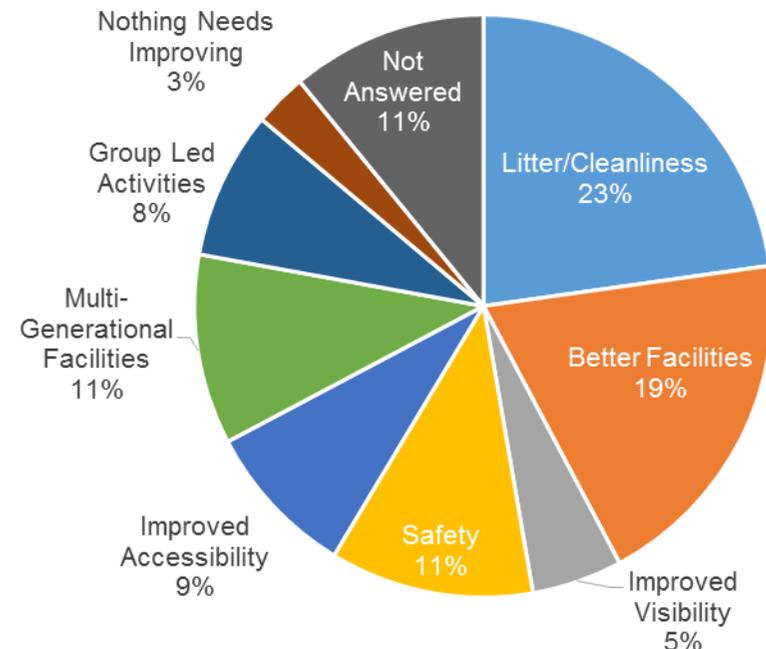


Figure 9 Pie Chart displaying breakdown by improvements identified for green spaces

**In accessing these green spaces, what is important to you?**

In response to this question the areas that were most important to respondents were about accessibility and safety;

- ▶ Accessible Paths 90%
- ▶ Appropriate Lighting 85%
- ▶ Places to sit and rest 84%
- ▶ Cycle Paths 65%

In the remaining category, 'safe cycle storage' 43% indicated that it was important to them, which still represents an area of consideration where cycling can be encouraged to reach green areas, rather than cars.

In the category of 'other' the comments reflected the desire to see improvements to the environment, which included protecting green spaces from building, encouraging wildlife and better maintenance, although it was appreciated that this can be impacted due to costs and impact on budgets for local government.



## Parks

### Which Parks do you use and how often?

This question was asked of each park and offered options on daily, weekly, monthly, less often, and never.

Predominately the main park used is Worden Park with 60% of respondents using it between a daily and monthly basis. However due to the sample size and the respondents predominantly from Leyland, this is to be expected. The remaining parks all have lower responses but is broadly in line with the limited responses from those areas.

### How would you rate your existing parks?

Predominately the park with the highest satisfaction rating is Worden Park where 80% of respondents rated it as very or fairly satisfied. Of the respondents only 5% didn't use the park and 6% didn't answer.

However with the remaining parks there were a significant number of respondents who do not use those parks or did not answer which makes a comparison difficult. Those that do not use or did not answer made up the following percentage;

▶ Farington	67%
▶ Hurst Grange	63%
▶ St Catherine's	60%
▶ Withy Grove	60%
▶ Longton Brickcroft	48%

Dissatisfaction with the parks was low across the board with an average of 2% stating that they were fairly or very dissatisfied.

### What do you use your parks for?

When respondents answered this question, their responses were for each individual park. An average was taken combining all scores for each response choice for each park to provide an indication of the type of activities that most people undertake.

▶ Relaxation	27%
▶ Exercise	21%
▶ Childrens Playgrounds	17%
▶ Dog Walking	14%
▶ Community Events	9%
▶ Other	4%

### What types of improvements could be made to our parks and how important are they?

Respondents clearly articulated in this question that parks are spaces for nature and to relax.

This was further reinforced with regards the importance of accessibility and lighting which enables people to use the parks conveniently and safely.

In considering play areas there was no significant difference between standard and natural play areas, though slightly more did indicate natural play areas as a more important improvement over the standard range of equipment.

▶ Nature and wildlife	95%
▶ Space to relax	90%
▶ Accessibility	88%
▶ Lighting	81%
▶ Natural Play Areas	76%
▶ Parking	73%
▶ Standard play areas	69%
▶ Family activities	63%
▶ Community Events	58%

It may be due to the sample size, but consistently, the need for safe cycle storage was one of the least important improvements with just 49% indicating this as a need.

## What People Said

This selection of quotes represents a cross section of responses that reflect the elements of Green Links, specifically, green spaces, parks and a health, wellbeing & leisure campus to blank cards)

I think the Green Links project and the Leisure Campus are much needed great ideas, however, the Green Links should also encompass an investment in all existing greens and play areas and NOT consider building on open areas such as Balcarres Green, Bent Lane nor any other similar sites within the town, I believe it would be morally wrong to be build on these areas."

"Stiles & gates are needed to minimise access to off road bikes, Quad bikes. Plenty of bins and notices saying, look after your green space, please take your litter home or use the bins provided. Please pick your dog mess up, it can be hazardous to young children. Enjoy this Green Space & it's facilities."

I think South Ribble should have a designated cycle path like Preston's guild wheel. Possibly 3 different ability levels signed with traffic light system according to difficulty

"I believe we are very lucky to have as many green spaces around where we live and it's nice to have these considered and looked after by South Ribble council. The current leisure centres also play an important role as these appear to be regularly used by residents in the local communities."

Any land proposed for the Green Links should be protected long term. This should be a committed project by the council. It is very important that all Green Spaces are protected from future development no matter how small. We seem to be losing a lot of Farm land to development at an increased rate in South Ribble. The Green Spaces left are becoming precious to our environment.



## Stakeholder Event

A stakeholder facilitated workshop was held in March 2019 with a focus on partners and existing park group users to respond to each themed area of the green links consultation. Stakeholders that were invited to the session included organisations who were able to represent;

- ▶ Local Authorities (County, District and Parish)
- ▶ Health Services and Organisations
- ▶ Sports and Physical Activity
- ▶ Civil Design and Works
- ▶ Community and Sports/Activity Groups
- ▶ Equality and Diversity
- ▶ Crime and Safety
- ▶ Registered Social Landlords
- ▶ Environment

## Findings

The findings of the session were positive and encouraging. Above all we need to ensure we have clear messages for stakeholders and residents and continue to engage.

### Partners see opportunities to work with the Council

- ▶ Providing training for outdoor activities / communities;
- ▶ Use of the parks by organisations for team building days (indoors and outdoors);
- ▶ Partners can co-locate with each other.

### We have opportunities to make our environment better

- ▶ Invest in nature and wildlife;
- ▶ Campus design can incorporate bio diversity, i.e. green roof.

### We can do more to support volunteers

- ▶ Better support for Friends groups to recruit more volunteers in the park;
- ▶ Volunteer litter picking.
- ▶ Partners can help with recruiting volunteers

## Attendees

*Table 1 List of Stakeholders who attended workshop March 2019*

### Organisation

Active Lancashire  
 Brothers of Charity  
 Lancashire Care Foundation Trust  
 Lancashire County Council  
 Penwortham Town Council  
 Progress Housing Group  
 Serco  
 Galloways Society for the Blind  
 Sport England  
 Balshaws High School  
 Friends of Paradise Park  
 Leyland Warriors  
 Malt Kiln Fold Conservation Trust  
 Ribblesdale Works  
 Sport England  
 The Bee Centre  
 Hurst Grange Park  
 Leyland Society of Model Engineers

## What our Stakeholders told us

### Health, Wellbeing & Leisure Campus

- ▶ Do not call it a Leisure Centre (it is so much more!), it is a Wellbeing Destination which is part of the green links connection.
- ▶ This destination needs to look welcoming, with an inviting entrance and others reasons to go there such as a café.
- ▶ Biodiversity in the design such as green roof and walls.
- ▶ Co-location with partners.
- ▶ Training rooms for wellbeing training delivered by partners.
- ▶ An aligned digital agenda.

### Green Links

- ▶ A wide range of accessible and achievable routes within the Green Links for walking and cycling (e.g. ranging from 3km to the full 70km), including links with neighbourhoods/estates and employment areas.
- ▶ Partners are able to assist with things such as training, planting, and maintaining safe spaces.
- ▶ Partners are able to provide advice regarding planning, engaging communities, consultation, and recruiting volunteers.
- ▶ Sign posts with a breakdown of distance, steps or calories etc.

### Parks

- ▶ Friends Groups – require further support from the council in regard to exposure to recruit volunteers, being kept informed, and with bidding applications.
- ▶ Parks can be used by partners for team building days, including both indoor and outdoor facilities (e.g. outdoor yoga).
- ▶ Parks require features to draw in residents e.g. toilets, cafes, community social events.
- ▶ Investment in nature and wildlife e.g. wildflower meadows and bees.
- ▶ Improve environment through things such as volunteer litter picking and sustainable drainage

### Miscellaneous

- ▶ Further engagement is required with wider partners, in particular neighbouring local authorities.
- ▶ Messages communication to residents and partners need to be clear.

## 7. Next Steps

This report will be published and provided to those who took part and requested to see the outcomes of the consultation.

It will help to shape the future of the green links approach and will be provided to the Cabinet of South Ribble Borough Council for consideration.

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