

Frecheville Public Health Improvements 2022

Consultation 1 Report



1. Background

Parks and Countryside Services have received Public Health Funding to make improvements to sites across the city that will benefit people's health and wellbeing. As part of this Frecheville has been allocated funding which will be used alongside other funding to help deliver improvements.

The proposals are:

- Playground – Some new pieces of equipment, the replacement of swing, and the replacement of the soft surfacing around the remaining equipment, with playground carpet.
- Disused tennis court - Retain and enhance the current ecological value that has developed and open the area up to the public as a nature garden with path, meadow and native planting.
- Dis-used basketball court - Create an area for physical activity and socialising.
- If these proposals are implemented, they will bring the two disused and inaccessible sports courts back into public use and increase the variety of ways people can use the park.

2. Consultation aim

To ensure the proposals develop in line with community interest and need we need to hear the opinions and preferences of local people and park users.

The online survey was the first of two consultations about these proposals.

From this first consultation we have established a better understanding of how people use the site and the priorities of the local community and other park users. This feedback will help us to produce detailed designs for the changes.

The aim of the second consultation is to gain feedback on the detailed proposals, to improve and finalise the designs.

3. Consultation method

We created an online survey which was open for completion between 24th January 2022 to 6th March 2022. To increase awareness of this consultation we promoted it through our online media streams, put up laminated QR codes in the park, and forwarded it to local councillors and community groups such as Friends of Frecheville Pond and Friends of Cowie and Frechy Pond. Paper copies were made available on request and a letter drop took place to houses overlooking the park.

4. Summary of Main Findings

4.1. Overall Picture

There were 317 responses to this survey with all but eight people from the S12 area. 72% (229) of those that responded were women, half the people (160) were between 25 and 44 years old, and only 15 people responded that were below the age of 24. The ethnicity of respondents broadly represents that of the local community with 92% of respondents identifying as from a white background, with 14% (45) of respondents having a disability or long-term health condition.

84% of people who responded visit Frecheville park and pond at least once a week.



Walking was the most popular activity chosen by people (63%) with exercise (36%) and visiting playground (49%), feeding ducks (48%), watching wildlife (40%) and dog walking (36%) all popular. 24% of people also use the site as a green route between neighbouring areas.

4.2. 3.2. Positives

From the responses given the following positives are apparent:

- The wildlife and nature.
- The community and friendly feel.
- The calm and relaxing nature.
- The park is used for active relaxation and rejuvenation, such as walking (including dog walking); being in nature and around the wildlife; and visiting the playground.
- Over 84% of the respondents visit Frecheville park and pond frequently, doing so at least once a week.

4.3. Negatives

From the responses given the following negatives are apparent:

- The playground and equipment are tired and rundown.
- There is disappointment that the courts are derelict and not available for public use.
- There are concerns about antisocial behaviour, litter and dog poo.

5. Conclusion and Next Steps

This was the first of two consultations and the responses have broadened our understanding of the site, how the community use it and their priorities for use of the funding associated with this project.

The simple message from this survey is:

Frecheville Park & Pond is a very well loved and frequently visited park. The community would like to see investment in the playground and the two disused courts brought back into public use.



Responses suggest that on the site of the current disused basketball court, an area for small bikes and scooter and/or outdoor gym equipment, would be welcome additions to the park. Also, an adjacent seating area for socialising. The budget will not allow for all of these elements, but we will undertake further investigation into the feasibility of all three, to determine which will be the best use of funding.

An off-lead dog area is a popular mentioned by respondents in the survey. We have looked at this as an option and discussed with the Area Maintenance Manager. Our conclusion is that this is not an appropriate option with this current funding for the following reasons:

- From the experience of council officers this sort of area would need a hard surfaced area to minimise the leaving of dog poo by owners and keep maintenance to a minimum. Both disused courts have developed brownfield habitats considered of high ecological value. It is a legally requirement that any Local Authority owned land that is of high ecological value, be replaced if lost during development. There is limited space in Frecheville Park in which to locate alternative areas of high ecological value, especially if the proposal for a hard surfaced bike track and seating area are agreed upon.
- Nearly half the budget is from Public Health funding and must be spent in a way that maximises value to public physical, mental and emotional health. Development that provides this benefit to a broad a range of park users as possible must be prioritised.
- Frecheville Park is a small. As a Parks Service we must consider how many people will benefit from any proposal.

With the agreement of 62% of respondents we shall develop the plan to retain and enhance the current ecological value that has developed on the disused tennis court and open the area up to the public.

The concerns about the culture of antisocial behaviour, dropping litter and leaving dog poo are consistent across all public green spaces. These concerns have been acknowledged and passed to relevant officers. These concerns will be considered when producing the detailed designs, however they are outside of the remit of this capital project to address specifically (there is already a high density of litter bins on site).

Few young people took part in this consultation. Due to the nature of some of the proposals, it is thought that this has negatively affected the quality of the results. To ensure proposal

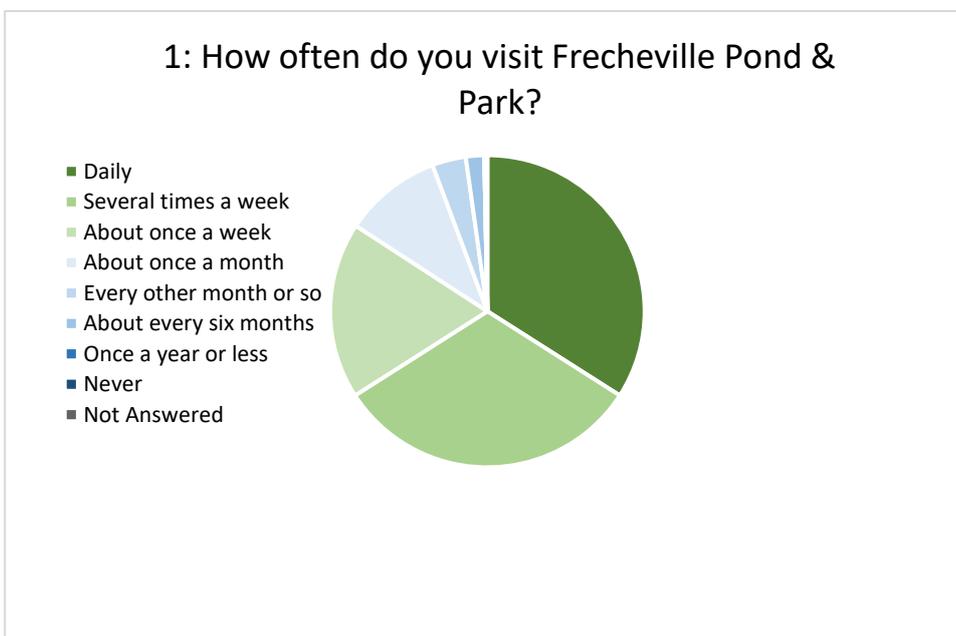


are in line with the requirements of the young people in the area we will undertake an engagement exercise to create an opportunity for young people to contribute their ideas towards the design of elements of the project.

6. Questions

6.1. How often do you visit Frecheville Pond & Park?

Option	Total
Daily	108
Several times a week	101
About once a week	58
About once a month	32
Every other month or so	11
About every six months	6
Once a year or less	0
Never	0
Not Answered	1

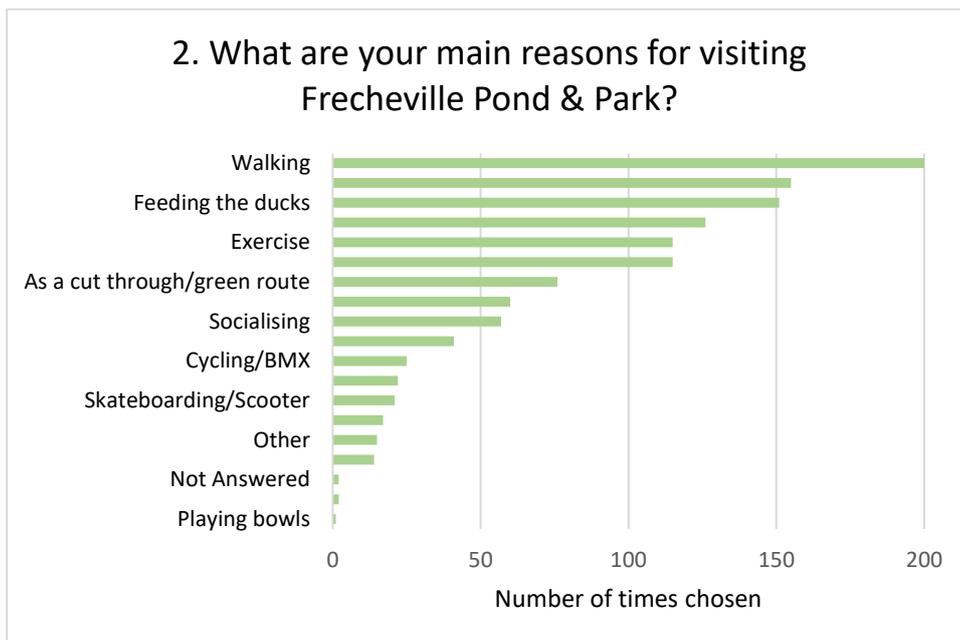


6.2. What are your main reasons for visiting Frecheville Pond & Park?

Option	Total
Walking	200
Visiting playground	155



Feeding the ducks	151
Wildlife watching	126
Dog walking	115
Exercise	115
As a cut through/green route	76
Relaxing	60
Socialising	57
Playing football	41
Cycling/BMX	25
Picnics	22
Skateboarding/Scooter	21
Playing basketball	17
Other	15
Running	14
None of the above	2
Not Answered	2
Playing bowls	1



6.3. Overall what is the one thing you most like about Frecheville Pond & Park?

There were 297 references to the **wildlife and nature** associated with the pond and park:

- *“The amount of wildlife we have on our door step, we are very lucky to have this place...”*
- *“It is a beautiful space with lovely wildlife and is very picturesque”*

- *“Lovely place to take kids to feed the ducks”*

There were 65 references to the value of the park for **meeting members of the community, friends and family**:

- *“It a lovely peaceful community place to visit with my children”*
- *“The community(of all age groups) has a safe space to go...”*
- *“My children love meeting there friends here after school”*

50 comments referred to the **peaceful, relaxing and calm** nature of the space:

- *“It a lovely peaceful community place to visit with my children”*
- *“Its a lovely oasis in the middle of a busy estate.”*

There were 48 mentions of the **playground and play**:

- *“We love taking our little one to the playground...”*
- *“It’s a spacious area for my young son to play”*

There were 50 mentions of **walking and exercise**:

- *“great place for walking*
- *“To have a place (to) walk my dog & jog for exercise”*

There were 13 positive mentions of **fishing**:

- *“One of only a small number of free fishing ponds in the city.”*

6.4. What makes you NOT want to visit Frecheville Pond & Park?

There were 69 mentions of the **playground and the play equipment**:

- *“The playground is outdated and needs updating and also needs to be more desirable for disabled children”*
- *“...the playground .(is)... poorly maintained.”*
- *“...such a shame the playground has just been forgotten about”*

There were 61 mentions of the **antisocial behaviour**



- *“Anti social behaviour from groups of older kids”*
- *“Sometimes there is a small amount of anti social behaviour which can be off putting”*

The **disused courts** were mentioned 50 times:

- *“The disused tennis courts look scruffy and seem a waste of space.”*
- *“The disused basketball court is very sad and a waste”*

Litter was mentioned 47 times:

- *“litter and dog mess that isn’t picked up by inconsiderate people.”*
- *“Despite the good number of bins, there is a litter problem.”*

Dog poo was mentioned 42 times:

- *“Dog poo can be an issue”*
- *“The disused Court areas full of dog poo so the kids can't play”*

Comments such as **rundown, tired and outdated** were mentioned 38 times:

- *“The park is very tired and needs more on it”*
- *“the park has, very outdated equipment, which is very worn and tired”*

Activity and negative results of **fishing** were mentioned 13 times:

- *“people discarding their fishing equipment”*

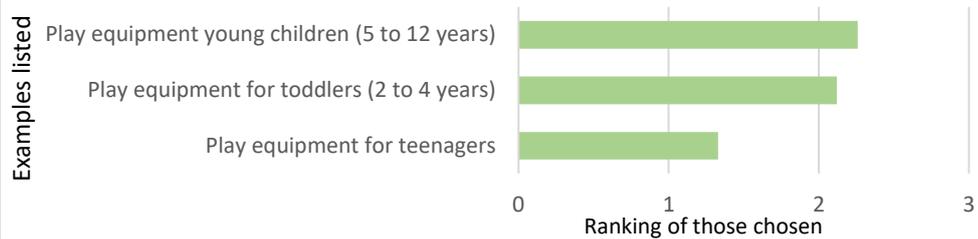
6.5. Existing playground: Ranked importance of play equipment for the three age ranges given?

Both equipment for 5 to 12 and 2 to 4 were ranked highly in the responses.

Item	Ranking
Play equipment young children (5 to 12 years)	2.26
Play equipment for toddlers (2 to 4 years)	2.12
Play equipment for teenagers	1.33



5. What age range do you feel would most benefit from new play equipment in the existing playground?

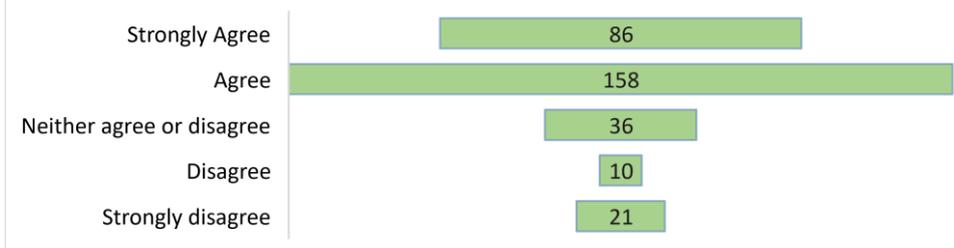


6.6. The existing swing frames are structurally sound. Proposal is to renovate and repaint these and provide 4 x flat swings and 4 x cradle swings.

Over ¾ (244) of respondents agreed with this proposal.

Option	Total
Strongly Agree	86
Agree	158
Neither agree or disagree	36
Disagree	10
Strongly disagree	21
Not Answered	6

6. Renovate and repaint swing frames and provide 4 x flat swings and 4 x cradle swings (311)



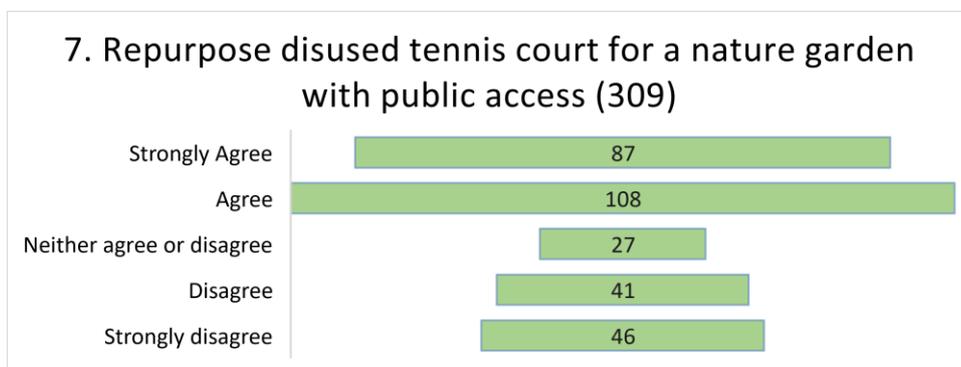
6.7. Disused tennis court: Proposal to retain and enhance the current ecological value that has developed and open the area up to the public as a nature garden.

Of those that answered, 62% (195) agree with this proposal.

Option	Total
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Strongly Agree	87
Agree	108
Neither agree or disagree	27
Disagree	41
Strongly disagree	46
Not Answered	8

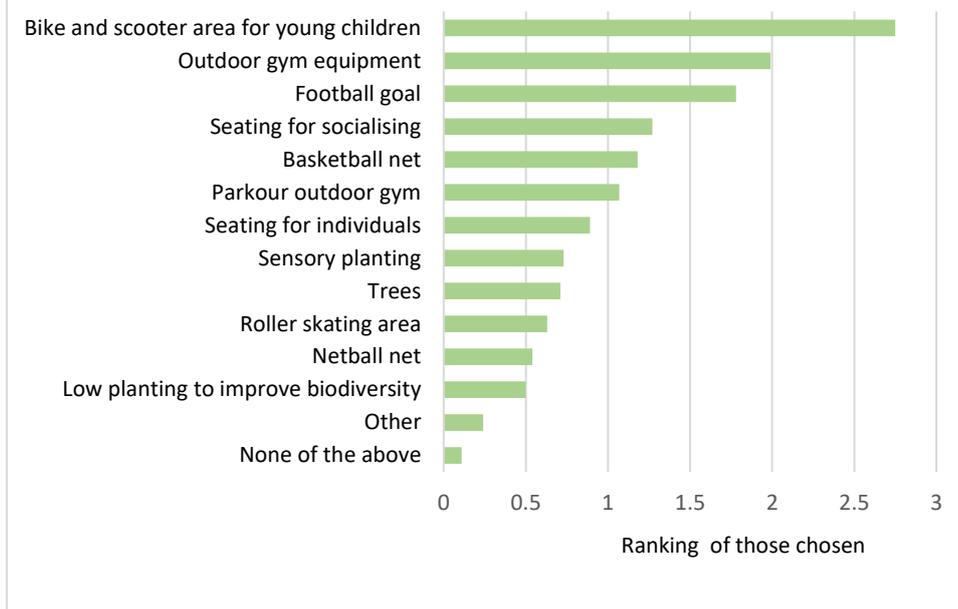


6.8. Disused basketball court: Proposal to create an area for physical activity and socialising. Ranked importance of benefit of the top 5 options chosen.

A bike and scooter area for younger children was significantly more popular than any other choice, with outdoor gym equipment, a football goal, a seating area, and a basketball net also being popular choices.

Item	Ranking
Bike and scooter area for young children	2.75
Outdoor gym equipment	1.99
Football goal	1.78
Seating for socialising	1.27
Basketball net	1.18
Parkour outdoor gym	1.07
Seating for individuals	0.89
Sensory planting	0.73
Trees	0.71
Roller skating area	0.63
Netball net	0.54
Low planting to improve biodiversity	0.5
Other	0.24
None of the above	0.11

8. Which options do you feel would be most beneficial for a physical activity and socialising area on the disused basketball court



6.9. Is there anything that would encourage you to visit Frecheville Pond & Park more?

There were 64 mentions of **playground and equipment**:

- *“A better playgroup with new equipment to make it more exciting”*
- *“A safe and better playground and faculties for the children”*

An **off-lead fenced dog area** was mentioned 42 times:

- *“An area we’re we can let our dogs if the lead would be most beneficial”*
- *“I think there should be a grassed and fenced area where we can train dogs.”*

An area for **bikes and scooters** was mentioned 29 times and a **skatepark** 8 times:

- *“My children would love a skate park or somewhere to ride bikes and scooters...”*
- *“A bike / scooter track (like Norfolk park) for somewhere for my daughter to ride her bike / scooter safely thats local”*

There were 36 mentions of **seats and benches**:



- *“Some picnic benches would be nice”*
- *“...nicer benches around the pond...”*

Lighting was mentioned 18 times:

- *“...better lighting for earlier mornings and evenings”*

There were 17 mentions of **picnics and tables**

- *“I think some picnic tables on the grassed area would be a nice addition...”*

A **café** was mentioned 17 times:

- *“Permanent cafe area”*

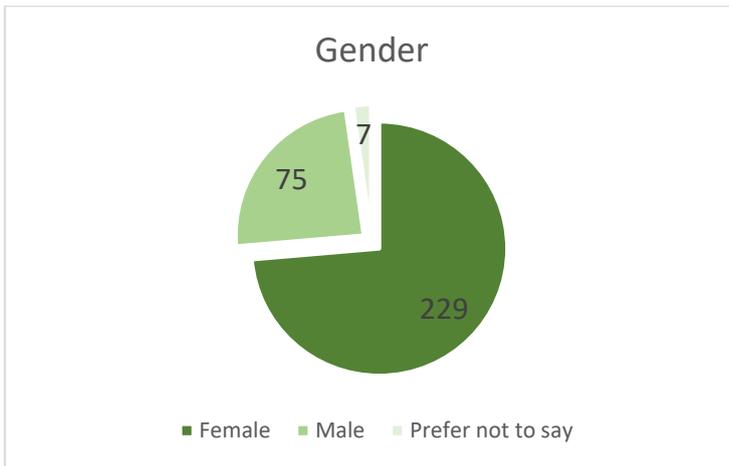
Gym and exercise was mentioned 14 times:

- *“More activity based structures, gym equipment for example”*
- *“Outdoor gym equipment good for the fitness of all ages”*

6.10. 14: Gender

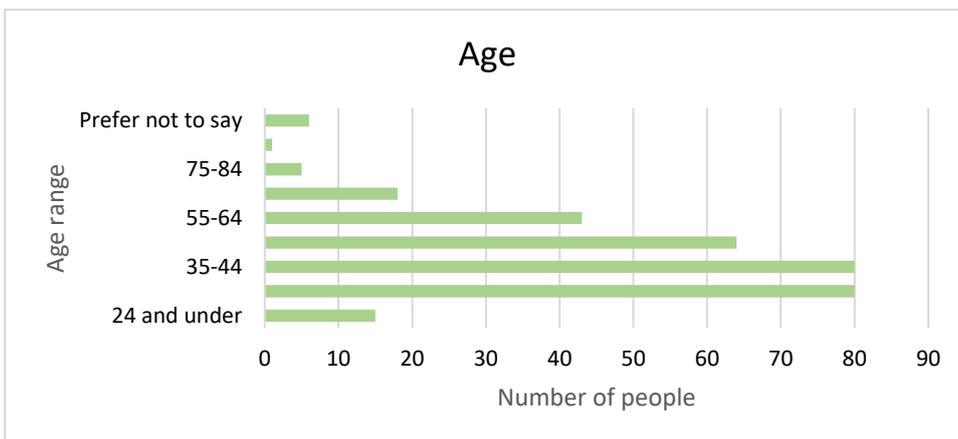
Option	Total
Female	229
Male	75
Prefer not to say	7
Other (please describe below)	0
Not Answered	6





6.11. 16: Age

Option	Total
24 and under	15
25-34	80
35-44	80
45-54	64
55-64	43
65-74	18
75-84	5
85 +	1
Prefer not to say	6
Not Answered	5

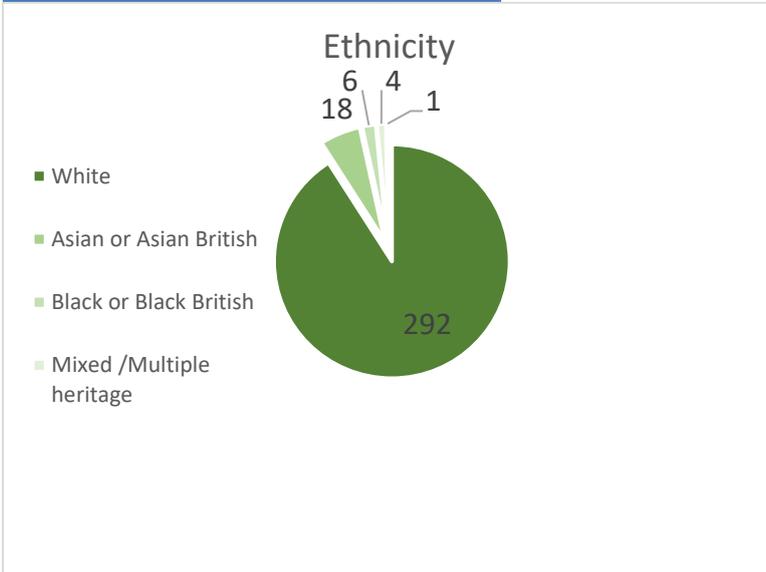


6.12. 17: Ethnicity

8% of respondents identify as black and minority ethnic in comparison with 5% within Birley ward as a whole.

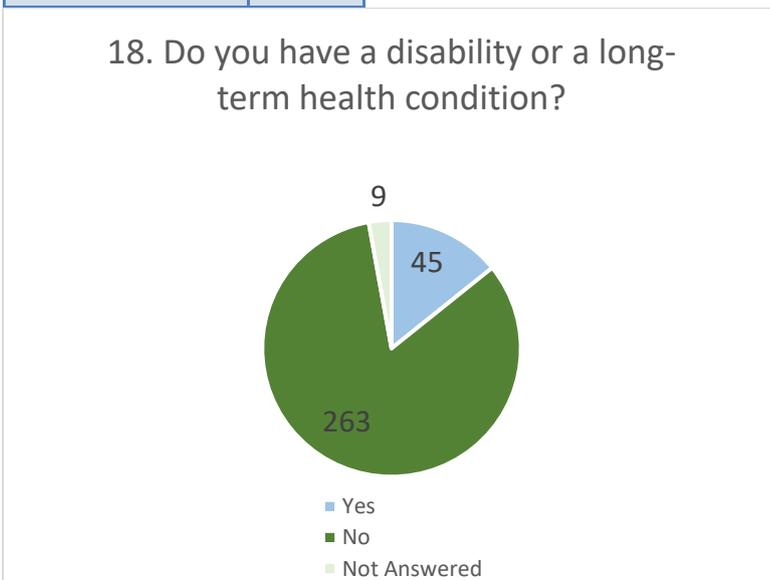


Option	Total
White	292
Asian or Asian British	18
Black or Black British	6
Mixed /Multiple heritage	4
Other ethnic group	1



6.13. 18. Do you have a disability or a long-term health condition?

Option	Total
Yes	45
No	263
Not Answered	9



- Keep in touch with the Parks and Countryside Service

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