

## Kensington Meadows Improvement Project – Initial Consultation Report

### SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

This community consultation was carried out between July and September 2018 as part of the Kensington Meadows Improvement Project – a plan to inform the future development of the green space led by Bath and North East Somerset Council's Parks and Green Spaces department.

The aim of the consultation was to:

- Understand who uses Kensington Meadows, how frequently and for what purpose.
- Identify key issues, priorities and aspirations for the site
- Inform and enable community participation within the design process
- Generate interest in forming/rejuvenating a forum or friends group to help increase local involvement in the green space

The consultation was primarily delivered through a questionnaire which was made available on the Council's website and in printed form. The questionnaire asked a range of closed questions but also gave respondents a number of chances to make comments.

The consultation was promoted in the following ways:

- Over 350 printed questionnaires were delivered to properties and businesses immediately surrounding Kensington Meadows including those on Meadows Lane, Kensington Place, Ringswell Gardens, Grosvenor Bridge Road and the south side of London Road
- Printed posters were displayed on entrances to Kensington Meadows, in Morrisons supermarket, at the council's One Stop Shop on Manvers Street and at various community venues in the area.
- The survey was promoted on Twitter and Facebook social media channels by BathNES Parks, B&NES Council, Wild Walcot, Bath Newseum, New Oriel Hall etc.



In addition to the questionnaire, members of the Parks and Green Spaces department spent time at Kensington Meadows speaking to users. This took place, as advertised, from 10am until 12 noon on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and was attended by around 40 people.

### Number of Responses

A total of 178 consultation survey responses were received. 57 copies (32%) were returned in hardcopy and the other 120 (68%) were submitted online.

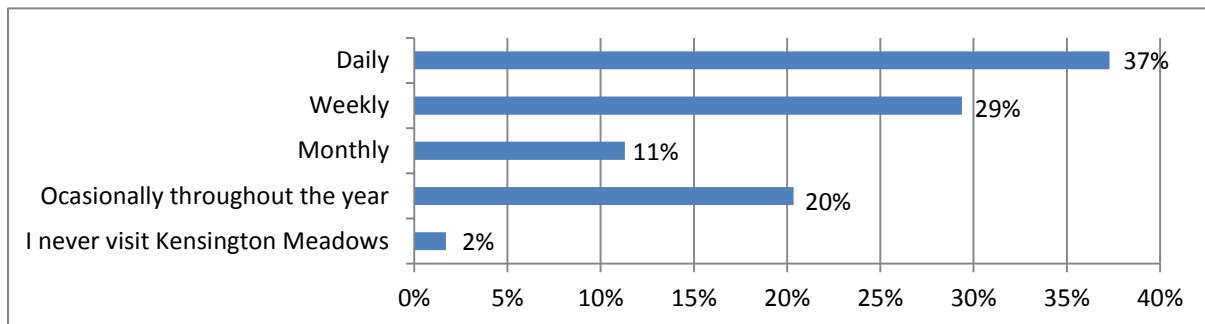
## SECTION 2 - KEY CONSULTATION FINDINGS

- Kensington Meadows is a much-loved green space which attracts users of all ages. Most visitors are from within the local area but the site also attracts some visitors from further afield. Most people walk to the site and spend up to an hour on a typical visit. The green space is valued as a semi-natural/wild place where people can escape the busy city, enjoy peace and tranquillity and get close to nature.
- The most likely reason for people visiting is as a cut through on-foot and by bicycle. Responses demonstrate that Kensington Meadows is a very significant 'green route' which people use to avoid the busy London Road. Other main reasons for visiting the site are to enjoy peace and tranquillity, get close to nature and to walk dogs.
- Survey responses show that poor access into the green space is a key issue. Many commented that the entrance points become muddy following wet weather and that there are too few access points. There were a significant number of comments requesting access points along the northern edge of the site where it borders Ringswell Gardens.
- The riverside walk is considered the best quality feature of the site at present. However, comments show that users would like to see improvements including more regular control of vegetation, improved access points and an opening up of the trees to create better views of the river. Seating is considered the lowest quality feature of the site with many requesting more seating – particularly on the north of the site and the along the riverside walk.
- Wildlife enhancements and tree planting are considered to be the highest priority improvements for the site. The survey responses show clear support for extending areas of meadow grassland and planting trees for shade and to improve the local environment. Other improvements considered a priority are more and better located seating and better routes/pathways through the site.
- The topic of a surfaced path featured fairly regularly in comments. Some were in favour of an accessible surfaced path for the many people who walk and cycle through the site. A small minority are against a surfaced path and would prefer the site to stay more natural.
- Kensington Meadows is a social place but there is some conflict caused by a minority of visitors who behave irresponsibly. There were notable concerns around dog fouling and out of control dogs. Littering is also a common concern, particularly during the summer months when the site is more heavily used and some visitors bring disposable barbeques.
- According to responses, improved play facilities are not considered a high priority - even though a quarter of people said that play was a main reason for visiting. Comments suggest that play for younger children would be welcomed. The initial consultation did not specifically consult with young people and the age profile of respondents shows that young people's opinions have not been captured. Additional consultation is required to understand the views and opinions of young people in the area.
- Responses suggest that there is an appetite amongst users to become more involved in the site – through one-off volunteering and events. The project should continue to consult with local people and facilitate community involvement in improving the Kensington Meadows for everyone.

## SECTION 3 – ANALYSIS OF SURVEY RESPONSES

### Q1) How frequently do you visit Kensington Meadows? (choose one)

Over 99% of respondents answered this question. 37% said they visit Kensington Meadows daily, 29% weekly, 11% monthly and 20% occasionally throughout the year. Only 2% of respondents reported never visiting Kensington Meadows



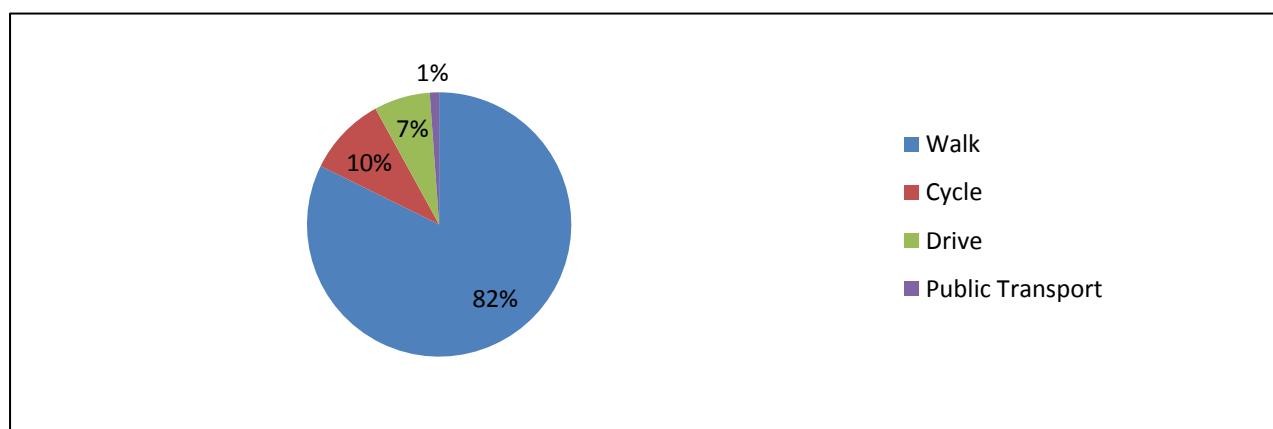
### If you never visit Kensington Meadows, please indicate why

All 3 respondents who never visit Kensington Meadows indicated that the reason was poor access into and around the site. Other reasons given were:

- Lack of facilities
- I live too far away
- Lack of benches
- Dog mess
- Free running dogs
- Lack of parking

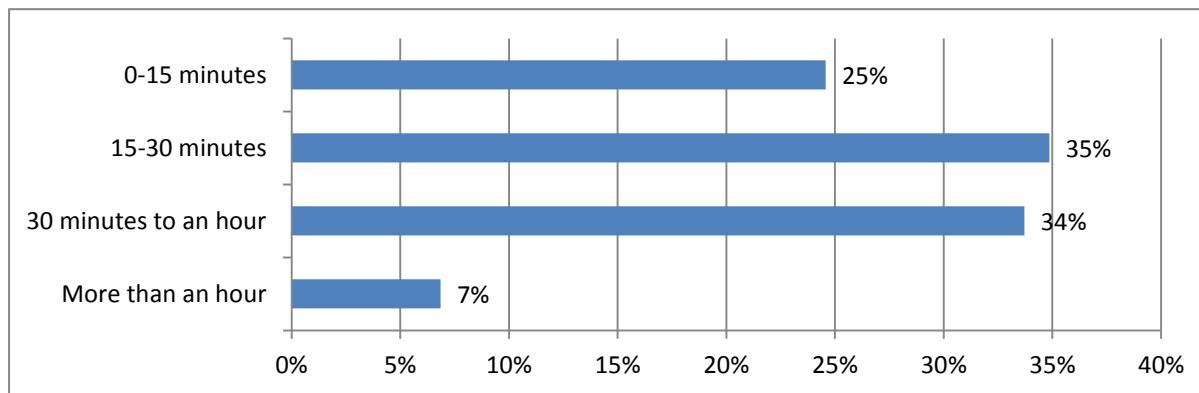
### Q2) How do you typically travel to the park? (choose one)

100% of respondents who visit Kensington Meadows answered this question. The vast majority of visitors (92%) either walk or cycle to the site. 7% of visitors drive.



**Q3) How long do you typically spend at Kensington Meadows? (choose one)**

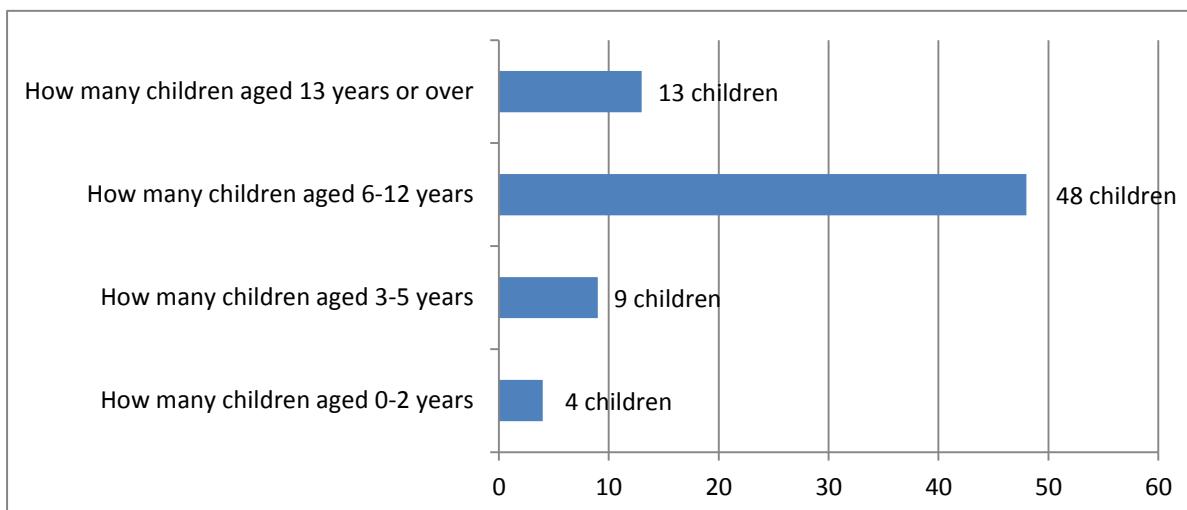
100% of respondents who visit Kensington Meadows answered this question. The responses showed that the majority of visitors (60%) typically spend up to 30 minutes per visit to the site. Only 7% spend more than an hour suggesting that the lack of facilities or attractions discourages people from staying longer.



**Q4) If you visit the park with children, how many and what are their ages?**

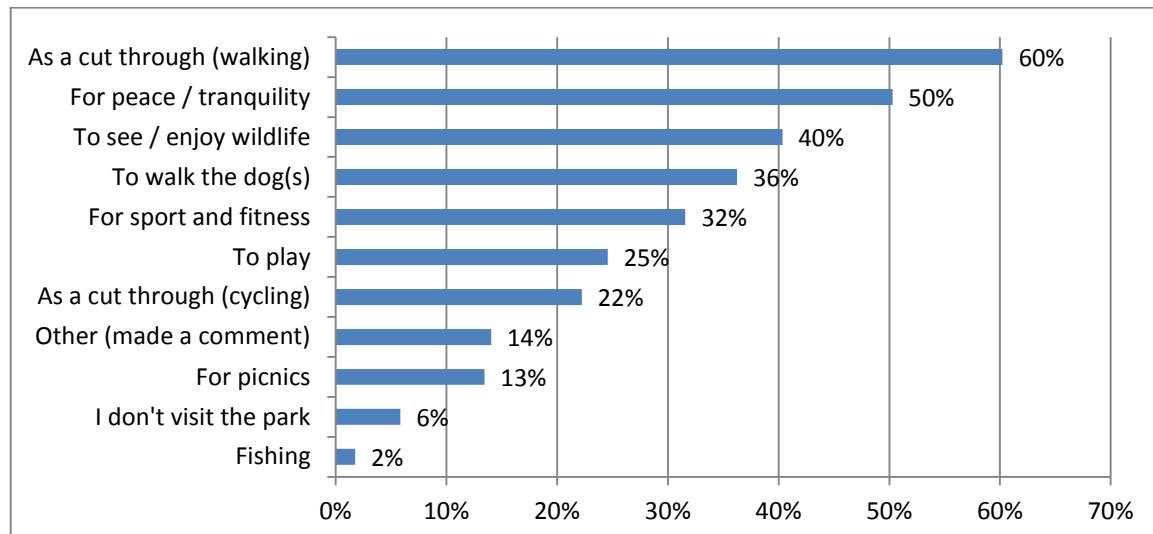
26% of respondents indicated that they visit Kensington Meadows with children. Responses suggest that 6-12 year olds are the most likely to visit – which could be a reflection of the type and age-suitability of play equipment currently on offer. Many of the comments relating to play say that the equipment on offer is very challenging and play opportunities for younger children would be welcomed. The football pitch does not seem to be used to any great extent.

Respondents reported bringing children of the following age ranges:



**Q5) What are the main reasons that you/your family visit Kensington Meadows? (choose all that apply)**

97% of respondents who visit Kensington Meadows answered this question. The top three reasons for visiting were: As a cut through (walking) 60%, for peace and tranquillity (50%) and to see/enjoy wildlife (40%). Other reasons included avoiding London Road and visiting the supermarket – again demonstrating that Kensington Meadows is used heavily as a ‘green route’.



**Other reasons for visiting Kensington Meadows:**

Reason	Number of respondents
To go running / walking	5
To avoid London Road	4
To visit the supermarket	4
For art (drawing/photography)	3
It is visible from my home	3
To meet friends/neighbours	2
Ball games	1
To sunbathe	1
To get close to the river	1
To pick blackberries/apples	1

**Q6) How do you rate the quality of current facilities at Kensington Meadows?**

97% of respondents who visit Kensington Meadows answered this question.

Responses show that the woodland/riverside walk, gates/entrances and signage/interpretation boards are considered the best quality facilities. Seating and the quantity of bins were considered the lowest quality facilities.

Facility	Aggregate score*	Very Good	Good	Adequate	Poor	Very Poor	Unsure/ Do not use
Woodland/Riverside walk	<b>40%</b>	14%	38%	32%	10%	2%	5%
Gates/entrances	<b>22%</b>	7%	33%	41%	12%	6%	1%
Signage / interpretation boards	<b>12%</b>	4%	25%	37%	13%	4%	16%
Play equipment	<b>8%</b>	6%	19%	31%	13%	4%	28%
Fishing Swims	<b>-1%</b>	2%	6%	7%	6%	3%	76%
Football pitch	<b>-1%</b>	3%	11%	26%	11%	4%	46%
Location of bins	<b>-6%</b>	4%	18%	39%	22%	6%	12%
Quantity of bins	<b>-23%</b>	3%	13%	33%	30%	9%	12%
Seating	<b>-33%</b>	1%	11%	30%	36%	9%	14%

\*Aggregate score = (very good + good)-(poor + very poor)

### Any other comments about the quality of the current facilities

39% of respondents to this question made an additional comment regarding the quality of current facilities. The most mentioned topic was access – mostly related to muddy entrance points and requesting new entrances from Ringswell Gardens. Issues relating to dogs also received a significant number of comments. The comments are summarised under the topics listed below. The full list of comments is included in section 4.

Topic	Number of responses
Access (including new entrance from Ringswell Gardens, less muddy entrances, better disabled access etc.)	26
Dog issues (including too many dogs, uncontrolled dogs, dog fouling, more dog-related bins, signage etc.)	17
Woodland walk (includes improved access to riverside walk and improved maintenance)	12
Littering / bins (including littering, more bins, more frequent emptying of bins and installation of BBQ disposal bins)	11
Seating (including better quality seating, more seating and seats located along river and on north of the site)	11
Play facilities (including more/better play opportunities)	11
Visual improvements (including removal of unsightly fencing, border management etc.)	8
Compliments on Kensington Meadows being a well-managed site (or better than it has been in the past)	4
Wildlife improvements (including tree planting and more meadow areas)	4
General improvement in maintenance of the site	4
Do not overdevelop the site	3
Request for surfaced path through the meadows	3
Access to swim or launch small watercraft in the river	3
Lack of sports / running facilities	3
Lighting	2
Against a surfaced path through the meadows	2
Toilets	1
Better signposts	1

**Q7) Please indicate which of the following potential improvements is a priority for you**

99% of respondents answered this question.

The responses show that there is strong support for wildlife enhancements, providing more opportunities to sit and planting more trees. Responses suggest that better sports/games area and welcome signs are not considered priorities for the site.

Potential Improvement	Aggregate Score*	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Not a Priority
Enhance the wildlife value i.e. improve/extend the wildflower area, create pond etc.	<b>68%</b>	61%	22%	10%	6%
More opportunities to sit	<b>54%</b>	35%	42%	18%	5%
Planting more trees	<b>44%</b>	48%	24%	22%	6%
Better routes/pathways within the park	<b>36%</b>	43%	25%	23%	9%
Improved drainage i.e. less standing water/flooding after heavy rainfall	<b>33%</b>	39%	27%	25%	9%
Improved entrance gates for easier pushchair/wheelchair access	<b>32%</b>	34%	32%	21%	13%
Soft landscaping i.e. more flowers / planting	<b>30%</b>	32%	33%	28%	7%
Better play facilities	<b>17%</b>	25%	34%	19%	23%
Picnic facilities	<b>14%</b>	21%	36%	25%	18%
Better opportunities for health and fitness i.e. installation of outdoor gym equipment	<b>8%</b>	32%	22%	22%	25%
Better sports / games area	<b>-8%</b>	16%	30%	29%	25%
Better signage i.e. community noticeboard, welcome sign etc.	<b>-21%</b>	12%	28%	35%	26%

\*Aggregate score is calculated using: (high priority + medium priority) - (low priority + not a priority)

**Any other suggested improvements**

41% of respondents to this question made an additional comment. Again, wildlife improvements and tree planting received most comments with requests for new access points from Ringswell Gardens and a surfaced path through the site also mentioned fairly frequently. The comments are summarised under the topics listed below. The full list of comments is included in section 4.

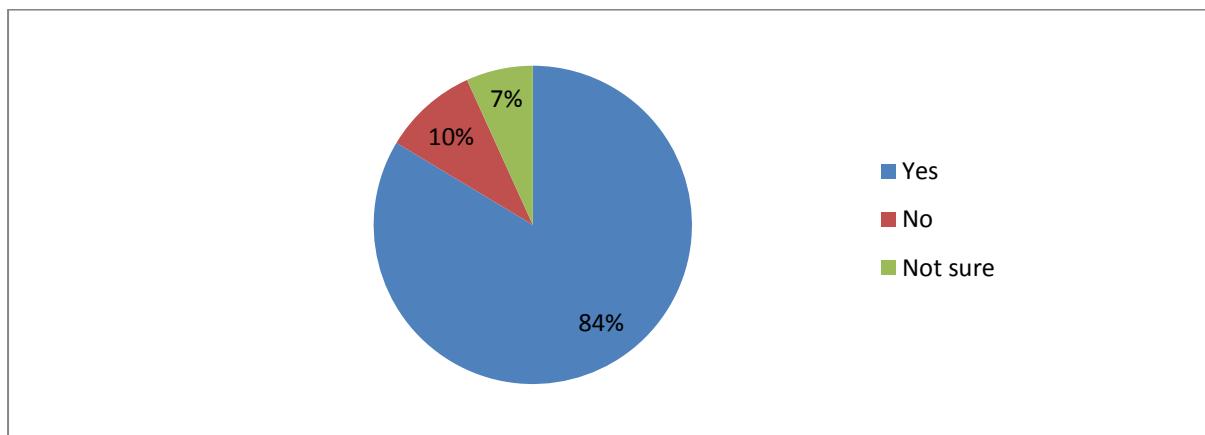
Suggested improvement	Number of responses
Wildlife improvements and tree planting	16
Improved access from Ringswell Gardens	10
Request for a surfaced path	10
Request for BBQ / Picnic facilities	8
Less dog fouling and better dog-related signage	8
Improved entrances / less mud	7
Play equipment improvements	7
Outdoor gym / fitness equipment	6
Seating	5
Signage / interpretation board	4
Events i.e. outdoor cinema	4
Dog exercise facilities / dedicated dog walking area	3

Running route	3
More bins	3
Better river views	3
Wild swimming / boat access to the river	3
Better vegetation management	3
Improve river walk access	3
Replace boundary fencing / improve boundary vegetation	3
Litter bins / littering / littering related signage	2
Against bikes	2
Riverbank erosion	2
Volunteering / action days	2
Toilets	1
Parking	1
Shelter	1
Leave the site as it is / do not overdevelop	1
Lighting	1
Bridge to Cleveland Pools	1
Community vegetable growing facility	1
Café	1
Sports equipment	1
Water tap	1

**Q8) Are you likely to visit Kensington Meadows more regularly if improvements are made?**

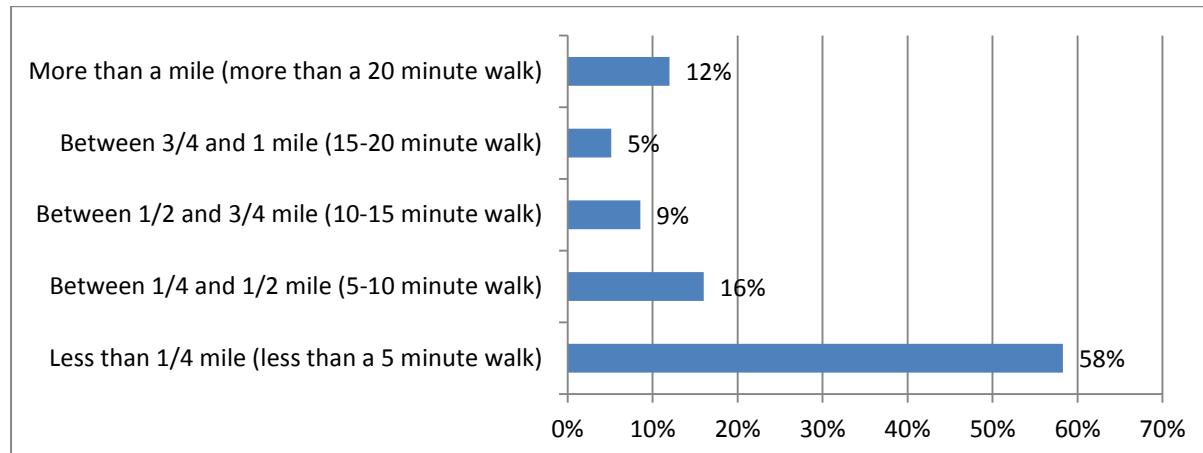
99% of respondents answered this question.

The majority of respondents said that they are likely to visit Kensington Meadows more regularly if improvements are made. The majority of those that answered 'No' or 'Not Sure' said it was because they already visit daily. Other reasons included too many dogs, dog fouling and lack of parking.



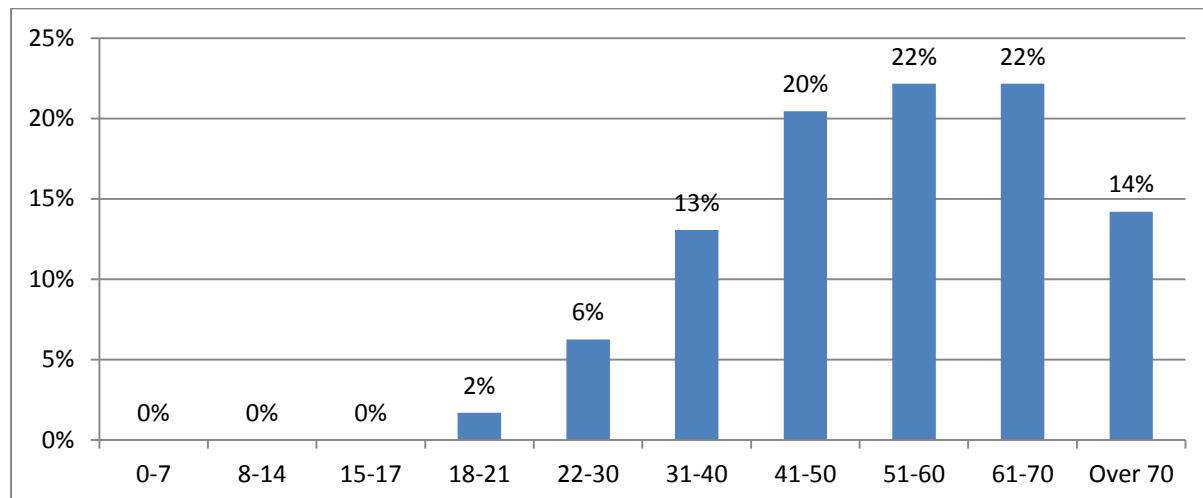
### **Q9) Roughly how far do you live from Kensington Meadows**

98% of respondents answered this question. Responses to the survey suggest that the majority of visitors (74%) live within a 10 minute walk of the site. Kensington Meadows clearly draws visitors from further afield – with 12% of those completing the survey living more than a mile away.



### **Q10) Your age**

98% of respondents answered this question. The survey was completed by mostly older people between the ages of 41 and 70. No under-18's completed the survey.



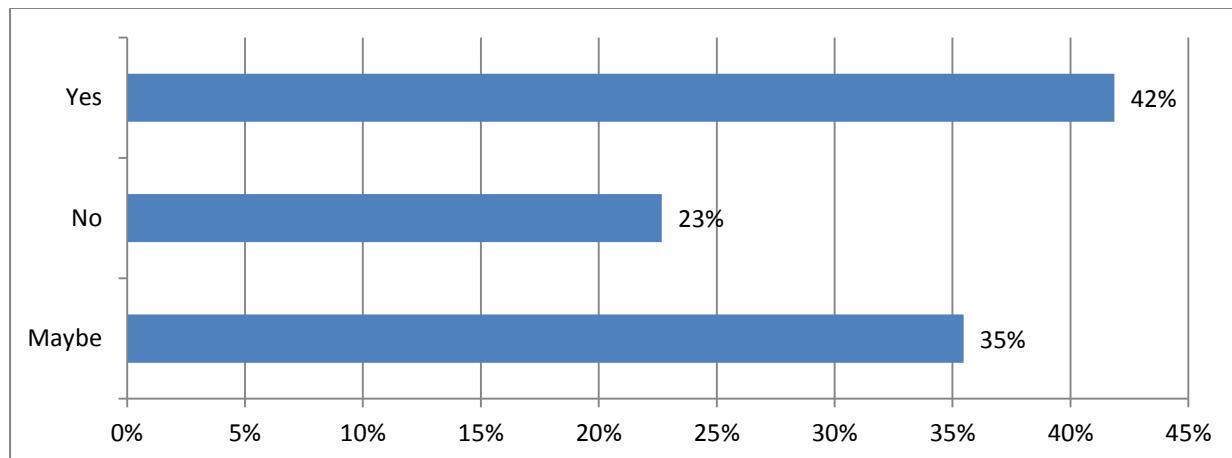
### **Q11) Do you have any other comments about Kensington Meadows, the current facilities or what improvements might be made**

51% of respondents to this question made an additional comment. Alongside the topics already highlighted there were a noticeable number of comments requesting that the site is not overdeveloped – that it should be enjoyed as a semi-natural site. The comments are summarised under the topics listed below. The full list of comments is included in section 4.

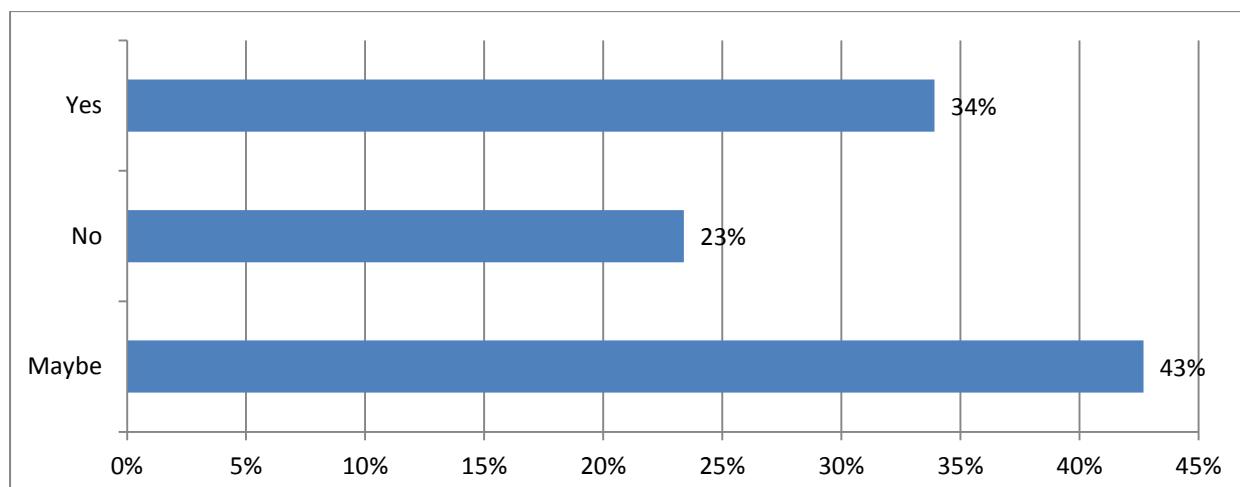
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
Wildlife improvements & tree planting	14
Less dog fouling and better dog signage	14
Do not overdevelop the site / leave it as it is	13
Improved entrances / less mud	12
Access from Ringswell Gardens	8
Play equipment (extend, more equipment etc.)	8
Commenting that Kensington Meadows is a great site	8
Seating / benches	7
Litter bins / littering / littering related signage / enforcement	7
Supporting the installation of an all-weather path / encouraging cycling	7
Improve river walk	6
Dedicated dog area / dogs on leads /	5
River access for boats / wild swimming	4
Better veg management around river walk and boundary	4
Enjoy the site for peace and tranquillity	4
BBQ / Picnic facilities	3
Outdoor gym / fitness equipment	3
Events	3
Community vegetable growing / edible plants / fruit trees	3
Against the creation of surfaced path	3
Anti-social behaviour	3
Replace boundary fencing	2
Reduce / ban cycling	2
Riverbank erosion	2
Shelter	2
General maintenance improvements	2
Events	2
Enjoy the site for meeting people	2
Create link to Cleveland Pools (i.e. bridge)	2
Dog exercise facilities	1
Running route	1
More bins	1
Better river views	1
Request for toilets	1
Request for parking	1
Request for lighting	1
Signage	1
Against creating access from Ringswell Gardens	1

### **Q12) Would you be interested in attending events at Kensington Meadows?**

The answers to the next two questions show that there is a good level of interest in people attending events at the park and taking part in volunteering events.



### **Q13) Would you consider taking part in one-off volunteering events at Kensington Meadows**



## **SECTION 4 – FULL COMMENTS**

### **Q6) Any other comments about the quality of the current facilities**

Woodland walk ie riverside path is good as long as the nettles are always cleared. This year it was only done at the beginning of July when some of the path was impassable, so clearing the path earlier in the year would be better
brambles are very overgrown, a section also needs to be made for BBQ disposal because they're always left.
the quality of current facilities is often ruined by thoughtless people chucking their litter around, or not picking up their dog poo.
Insufficient dog poo bins and signage both on the Meadow and the Riverside Walk. The Riverside Walk requires regular strimming to prevent plants, bushes and trees overgrowing and encroaching the path. The Riverside path also requires maintenance to remove wooden stakes protruding into the middle of the footpath (Health and Safety Hazard). The path requires maintenance and renovation with gravel. The access steps at the eastern end of the Riverside Walk requires renovation plus handrails and the western exit needs levelling to remove trip hazards. The Meadow requires more seating and the play area needs enlarging with children leisure apparatus.
The large green space looks fairly uninteresting
Access from Grosvenor Place is very poor, there are gates from Ringswell Gardens but they are always locked. All other entrances into the meadows could be improved and made more inviting.
River access should be improved. Currently overgrown with nettles.

People are throwing dog poo in the bramble bushes. Cut back the bramble bushes and put dog bin in middle.
Woodland walk is great when the pathway is cleared. Additional seating around the edge of the park would be good. In good weather bins often overflowing - encourages littering
Always very muddy - especially in wet weather
The play equipment especially the climbing structure was clearly designed by an adult. It doesn't really work. It's not child friendly and rarely gets climbed on. the bins overflow frequently. It needs other entrances on more than just each end.
In winter the entrance from Grosvenor Bridge gets very muddy. Morrisons end is woodchipped but not the other end. Why not?
Park is clean and grass kept well
Unusable once the ground softens by wheelchair or mobility scooter and difficult to use on a bike. Particularly a problem from September to May. Path needs to be high quality wheel friend surface similar to the quality of the upgraded towpath (asphalt with chip and spray).
The sign posting is not clear for people who are not familiar with the area. It would be great if there could be a pedestrian access gate at the far end of Ringswell Gardens (Morrisons side). It is too far to walk all the way around and people climb the gate often causing damage.
<u>It would be great if there could be some benches and bins across the meadows.</u>
If the locked gates which lead into Ringswell gardens were opened , the meadows would be much more accessible to more people. It would be much more pleasant to walk to Morrisons rather than along the London Road.
The climbing frame is hardly used and the wood is slippery to climb on. The meadows would benefit if something more suitable to younger children was available. There is limited seating there for the adults.
Kensington Meadows is a great asset to the community but we don't visit it often due to dog mess not being cleared up and it gets boggy during the winter. It's such a great, safe space and it would be great to see it made more of, especially for my two children who love being outdoors.
What is a fishing swim? Do you mean fishing or swimming? If yes, then 'poor' as there are no facilities if you would like to swim in the river.
The meadows are very much under-used and probably unattractive to many people. The key issue is whether this is supposed to be a "Park" (like Alice Park, for example), or whether it is supposed to be a non-urbanized semi-wild environment.
The most effective action to increase usage of the area would be to increase the number of entrances. On a lesser note, the climbing frame appears to be too difficult for most children. It isn't used much. I have sometimes seen older children (youths) hanging around the play area and that may put off young children.
Entrances not good after (during) winter rains. Thick mud at Grosvenor entrance
Know people have bbqs and picnics in the warmer weather but someone needs to make sure that they put the rubbish in the bins, often all over the field, dog walkers pick it up most days. Bins are often overflowing, could they be emptied more often and/or larger bins in the summer.
Also it does say there will be a fine for anyone not picking up after their dog but I have never seen anyone controlling this. There are regular dog walkers who do NOT pick up after their animals even if others say something. This needs to be enforced. It is mainly around the unit grass edges of the field where they think no-one will walk but they do.
Facilities are not well maintained. Not as much wood chipping laid this last winter, for instance, than in previous years - and only at one end. This made access very difficult. Bins are often overflowing.
The bland area of rough grass has hard tall-fenced edges to all but the river side and no visual buffer between it and that fencing or adjacent housing and garden buildings and fences.
Path along the river could be nicer, surfaced and lit
some new signage has recently gone up - great, works well. The play area is popular but there are zero sports facilities - wondering why as there are plenty of joggers. The pitch itself is in quite poor condition for playing due to dog mess mostly which also deters from having picnics. this could be prevented with designated walking paths, which at the moment are non-existent. A submerged wood chip path all around the pitch would be great, as would a doggy toilet patch / sandbox with sign.
On the river side of the meadows the shrubbery is too overgrown. Wild flowers can't survive. It's a mess
Bins always overflowing, benches dirty, burnt and broken and no toilet facilities so people often urinate and defecate on the field.
Kensington meadows used to be a much nicer green space but now, with the upsurge in dog ownership, it is basically a dog walking area and therefore not particularly clean and not particularly suitable for playing games, eg ball games, with young children.
The riverside path is often untended and overgrown. i would not want to see it converted to a cycle path or tarmaced but just to have the nettles etc cut back.
The grassy area is often untended and walking across it can be hard going. Just cut paths in the grass if you want to encourage wildflowers - which would be good. More wildflowers, please.
more picnic tables, benches and bbq areas. seating along the riverfront. exercise facilities on the meadow and lots of trees. beautiful.
Good site of dog poo bins. There isn't much seating & the play park is basic
More dog poo bins may encourage people to be tidier with their dog droppings so that kids don't step in them

when playing, but in general it's very clean. Love the riverside walk. Would love a beach or diving platform or jetty to make river swimming more accessible!!
It would be great to extend a cycle path through the meadows to the Bathampton/Batheaston cycle track to join things up
This is an extremely wet site and even when the woodland is not flooded is an important flood plain. There should not be the development which involves buildings or covering the ground in impermeable barriers.
Round the edges that back onto the houses could definitely be spruced up with some better border planting. Some wood chipped areas and nice planting could provide seating on the other side of the field rather than all down the water side, which is where they are at the moment.
I think that as a wider project, the provision for cycling connections from the canal to Morrisson should be considered, a gravel path similar to the one by the river between Batheaston and Bathampton. Ideally a cycle path should continue into the centre from here either along the river or as a separate cycle path by the roads.
Dog mess is frequently left all over the meadows
Woodland walk inaccessible during summer months, as the nettles overgrow the path. 'nature reserve' could be tidied up, by removing the weeds, and with different paths through the woods.
To make this area suitable for children and adults without dogs there must be a gated off dog area. Dogs run all over this park, they are off-lead and mess is not picked up. Cars come to Morrison's car park with the dogs. Dog walkers do the same with their commercial vehicles for dogs. For this area to be improved in any way a dog roaming area should be created, with dog mess bins, and directly accessed from each gate and the rest of the area must be dog free. Anything less than this and it is a waste of money.
There is a total lack of lighting that makes the meadows difficult to enjoy during the winter months. This also makes the meadows feel unsafe as a cut through route after a certain hour.
The entrances at either end get very muddy when weather is wet. Better coverage would be good
Entrance on Meadows Lane very dangerous entrance on blind bend with multiple car movements
Benches by the children's play area would be helpful
Fine, don't really feel the need for anything additional
What are "Fishing Swims"?
New climbing frame required!
The climbing frame in the play area has just been removed without any notice to residents. why and when is it going to be replaced? Need access from Ringswell Gardens
If the weather is wet then you have to walk through mud to enter and exit the meadows
It's a nice quiet space so doesn't necessarily need a lot of facilities. More events would be nice. Local fairs, fetes etc.
Maybe fence of play area from dogs in a nice natural way
Muddy entrances
Another bin or two would be good. However good signage is - it will always get vandalised
Lack of access from Ringswell Gardens.
No safe or adequate access for swimming in the river
Entrances could be improved as get very muddy in winter months
Recycling bins to separate rubbish would be good
Need more, larger and clear signs warning dogwalkers to pick up their dog mess. All areas of the meadows are affected by dog mess, particularly football pitch.
Kensington Meadows needs more bins inside park emptied more frequently - the one near Ringswell Gardens is always full. The park needs more seating arrangements - nice ones not hard uncomfortable metal types and more children's creative risk type play equipment .
Bins are sometimes overflowing, perhaps an extra bin or two might be helpful
The chain link fence needs to come down and be replaced by railings that do not obstruct the view. PS They look ugly
Not a lot for kids to do now the lovely climbing frame has gone
Grass gets very waterlogged - gets very muddy around entrances
Woodland walk needs to be kept clear of nettles and brambles
Entrances/exits become very boggy in wet weather. Seating is randomly placed and often in poor condition from breakage, barbecue fires and food litter left lying around. The steps leading down to the riverside walk are dangerous and slippery. There is no rail to hold onto. The wire fence which surrounds the whole meadow is very ugly and unnecessary. It means entrances and exits are needed and their frequent use makes them messy. Take away the fence altogether or in some places anyway, do away with it.
Where did the climbing frame go ?
Steps up from the riverside path at the Grosvenor Bridge end need a handrail for the infirm
Very uninviting/little seating/uneven ground/no real football pitch - no nets/no plants to attract wildlife
Riverside path could be surfaced
Riverside path could have some stairs
Handrails to and from the meadows

An improvement on previous facilities
Play equipment poor as council have had to remove the spider so this needs to be replaced and should not be taken out of this budget!
There is little there to entice families to visit. Grass quite often too long to play football. Poor access from Ringswell Gardens

## Q7) Any other improvements you would like to see at the park

People already picnic and have bbq but this usually leads to a load of mess, with bottles, plastic waste strewn about, so maybe bins in the area where there are seats already, or signs asking people to use the bins already there
BBQ area
I am a local responsible dog owner and am concerned at various attempts to restrict responsible dog exercising within the city. There is a healthy community of dog walkers using the meadow who live locally, and it would be amazing and innovative to embrace this and install some dog exercising equipment i.e. dog agility equipment. After all, a lot of local dogs are rescue ones from local homes. Also better dog poo bins to encourage visiting dog owners to pick up.
I also have a disability (recovering from brain tumour surgery) and I think it again would be innovative to have some outdoor fitness equipment for disabled people, older people and those with dementia. To have this in an area of peacefulness like the meadow would be perfect. this would embrace equalities but also help to promote healthy lifestyles for disabled and older frailler people. There is much in the city for able sporting people but nothing for people like me. Please do not allow cycles on the meadow. I cannot use the canal path anymore because of the speed and fierceness of cyclists. Because of my vision it scares me when cyclists come so fast up to me, I have been spat at and my dog deliberately ran into. I also would like to see much more tree and bush planting to encourage all types of wildlife but particularly to give food for the birds/bees and butterflies. In the winter, the meadow is so bare.
Outdoor gym, running route
More bins are needed nearer to the seating.
The lower path through the woodland area is being eroded by the backwash caused by the wake of the pleasure boats, which do not observe the 4 knot speed limit. The erosion of the bank is also destabilising several of the larger trees on the river bank. The river speed limit should be enforced.
Create some good sized open spaces with seating along the riverside walk. Tree planting to soften the big open green expanse. Some pruning of lower branches of trees along the river to improve views to river Create areas where the river can be seen from the higher plateau Better connection of the river walk with the upper plateau
what about some educational signs for kids ie bird watching; edible plants recognition trail...
Although I love the wooded area and the narrowish riverside walk is perfectly adequate as a pleasant "cut-through" for Morrisons,I can't help feeling that a clear section of riverbank,say 25 metres,where there is no foliage or trees obstructing the view of the River and perhaps extending back maybe 15 or 20 metres would be a pleasant addition.This could be below the midway point where the Childrens' Play area is or,perhaps, closer to Grosvenor Bridge giving an unobstructed view.
Improved and open access into the meadows from Ringswell Gardens, better access to the river, more inviting entrances to the meadows and better signage
Picnic tables and fire pits/ barbecue spaces. Something to soak up all the mud at the entrances to the meadows at each end. Provision of many accessible (for elderly and disabled people) spaces to get into the river for wild swimming, the creation of a mock beach so younger children can paddle. Don't allow commercial firms like Segway to use the space. Wild swimming club. Jetties to go in on boats. Summer parties with music, outdoor cinema etc.
Play equipment suitable for younger children as well as older Waterplay area? Paths for children to cycle/scoot Planting to attract bees
I like that it's not over developed. It has the right amount of play equipment. Would like to see more wildflower planting, and retain the pitch: would be a nice balance.
Both Morrisons and bridge access points would benefit from better surfacing/drainage as they become a quagmire in winter.
The existing signage/information boards are great!
Open up some more pedestrian entrances from Ringswell Gardens ... it's ridiculous it can only be accessed from either 'end' and the middle from Kensington Place.
More entrance gates - particularly from Ringswell Gardens
Cut back bramble or soon it will meet in the middle as it use to wider. 36 years resident here.

A gated play area to keep dogs out. They urinate against the stones & dog mess is often visible in the play area. I won't let the kids play there. It's disgusting.
More access points from Ringswell Gardens cul de sacs(High Priority)
More dog poo bins needed on Riverside walk plus signage to ensure pickups (High Priority)
Dog free area (High priority) Actual real meadow area (High priority) Plant fruit trees (Medium priority) - so that local people can pick their own fruit Plant edible borders (Medium priority) - so that local people can pick their own veg
Paths for cycling around the perimeter
It is absolutely critical that Parks do not consider a path surface similar to the one installed at Greenpark. This is a real problem in wet weather and creates unnecessary hardship for people in wheelchairs. Kensington Meadows is a major transport corridor for people living on the canal and there needs to be an all weather surface to Morrisons. It is key that Morrisons cannot 'close' access to their car park.
Please add a pedestrian access point at both ends of Ringswell Gardens.
Stop be entrances becoming a mud bath in the winter months.
Properly surfaced tarmac cycle/walking path
The meadows is a bit too dog friendly and I wouldn't want to sit down in case I sat on dog waste.
The meadows would benefit from being more friendly to a mixture of people. A mixture of open grass and introduce some meadow areas as well as a children friendly play area.
The meadows looks a rather unloved at the moment.
Could you insert a cycle path so that it could be used as a safer route to the east of Bath rather than having to use the <u>London Road</u> ?
I would like to have access through the metal gates in Ringswell Gardens which are locked. Otherwise lots of people use the hole in the fence at the top end of the meadows, which has been there in one form or another in the 25 years I have lived in Ringswell Gardens.
It would be very helpful if one or more entrances from Ringswell Gardens were opened to the public. It is unclear why the main gate from Ringswell Gardens is kept locked even to pedestrians. A handful of residents may prefer not being on a pedestrian through-route - but equally they might prefer to have close access to the meadows.
An artificial otter holt with cameras that provide online pictures to improve education across the city about the issues of biodiversity. (Helped build one on the Wear in Durham).
Paved path across the meadows to allow good access in winter (High priority)
More wild flowers to attract butterflies and other insects. These will, in turn, attract other kinds of wildlife. It is so wonderful to have such a green space so near one of the dirtiest and busiest roads into the centre. What ever you do, keep it green!
Electrical supply and other facilities to encourage future events in the space like the 'Boom Festival' in previous years. Considered perimeter planting as backdrop to retained main space and allowing upper window surveillance views through to park area. Better regime of care of grass area, including litter and dog mess removal.
Leave it as empty space but better path by river. Access points
no bearbeques
We need a four-season inclusive, accessible path connecting Morrisons to Grosvenor Bridge along the meadows.
I would like to see a 4 season wheel friendly bitmac path across the meadows to allow more people to use and enjoy these lovely meadows
BBQ Tables (metal base) Outdoor trampolines
Toilet facilities and community litter picking sessions!
that the whole place is better policed from the point of view of poor dog ownership eg dog poo left lying around definately more trees, would be good to see the whole area surrounded by trees which would look good and might also protect the surrounding homes from noise that increased usage of the area would make
Add an entrance on the Northern side of the meadows at the end of the Ringswell Gardens cul-de-sac where there is an appropriate opening, currently fenced in. Some seating on the North side would also be welcome as would seating in the shade for sunny days. The steps leading down to the Eastern end of the river pathway are uneven and could do with a handrail.
I would not want to see it tidied up out of all recognition and I think cycles should be confined to a single route. This should be a safe place for families and their dogs to play. I woudl like to see more dog bins. Given the wide use given to these meadows, is a football pitch relevant? I can't recall seeing anyone play there. It takes up a lot of space and as dogs wander across it, I query whether this is the best place for such a field. Would it be better use to make this a fitness trail?
Living in Ringswell Gardens I find it frustrating that there are only three entrances to the park. More entrances that would allow access with bicycles are needed.

<p>It's great to have grass area(s) for informal football etc, that's a priority, but I'm not sure how intensively it's used. I think maybe a third of the area could be sown with wildflower meadow - suitable to the damp riverside nature of the place. Maybe there could be wildflowers, with a few mown pathways through, all the way round the edges of the mown "green desert" playing field parts.</p>
<p>I don't feel upping the drainage should be an aim - we shouldn't aim for all open spaces to be the same. This a is a soggy -after-rain river side. Keep it that way.</p>
<p>Two ponds - one for wildlife with associated terrestrial habitats for amphibians and reptiles (woodpiles etc), and one for fish (because they add interest and visitors like to see them!) . Trees and wildlife corridors in more of the open area. Cut less of the grass to make meadow areas.</p>
<p>Outdoor gym equipment would be amazing as myself and others often workout here, and it would really add to the meadows. Additions to the play park would be good too</p>
<p>I have the concerns about idea to create a pond, if on the riverside walk this will flood regularly if it's at the field level I have strong concerns as this was a "free" tip up to the mid 50's and unknown waste was dumped there , speaking in the past to a lorry driver who used it then , in his words , we dumped anything and everything there"</p>
<p>The play facilities are excellent, some of the best in Bath because it's adventurous and caters to multiple levels and ages, would just like a little more! Fitness areas like pull up bars etc would be fun too.</p>
<p>Parking please.</p>
<p>The site should not be drained! It is a floodplain and soaks up water for the city. If you put that back in the river it will send floodwater elsewhere</p>
<p>some form of shelter so the space could be used during bad weather bbq stands could really maximise the use of the space in the summer Most important I think is more planting</p>
<p>A proper cycle link through</p>
<p>It's not a park, please don't mess about with it too much</p>
<p>More trees dotted around the field, and not crammed in one end.</p>
<p>I would suggest that in the small seated areas river side to build 4 brick BBQ's (simple brick with a grill built into brick work) &amp; tables with seats so people can just bring charcoal and not use disposable bbq's but also having tables will allow people to have picnics.</p>
<p>Dog bins. Gates for dog owners. Separation of dogs from rest of area.</p>
<p>Some designated barbecue spaces could improve the meadows and they would discourage people from using barbecue disposable kits during the summer months directly on the grass.</p>
<p>Introducing some lighting could make the meadows more enjoyable during winter.</p>
<p>Introducing some picnic tables with bins next to them would also discourage people that visit the park for picnics, from littering.</p>
<p>Insect hotels could improve the site's biodiversity and add some educational value to the site.</p>
<p>The site has really good play equipment but there are also great opportunities to encourage incidental (low-key) natural play by adding features such as log walks/ adventure trails.</p>
<p>Footpath next to river is quite overgrown and appears to be suffering some subsidence- would be nice if this was improved If seating areas are to be added there are plenty of potential sites overlooking the river. The area opposite the punting station/below Morrisons gate appears quite underused but is a nice area- could this be improved to include an area to safely launch and recover a kayak/paddleboard?</p>
<p>Fix the swamps at the entrances ie have a metalled path allowing pushchair, wheelchair and cycles to travel between the bridge and the supermarket. With some imagination, the path could continue to all the way to Bathampton and Batheaston. Really!</p>
<p>Seats on riverside path (Low Priority) Seats on north west side (Medium Priority)</p>
<p>Planting fruit trees &amp; community herbs</p>
<p>Remove link wire fencing: High Priority Install railings around the park: High Priority</p>
<p>An outdoor gym is a good idea</p>
<p>Tennis Courts Cricket Nets Basketball Square</p>
<p>Outdoor gym equipment - either as a circuit or grouped together. No outdoor gym in Bath</p>
<p>A pond Edible plants Educational nature trail (i.e. bird watching signs) Bee hives</p>

Signs telling dog owners to control their dogs and clean up dog mess. This will enhance all other facilities and allow children and young people to use the park freely.
Designated BBQ areas with appropriate tables
more bins so less dog poo on the field
Reduced rates so local clubs can use more often - High Priority
Regular campaigns / Education events to reduce litter and dog poo - High Priority
Regular wildlife talks and walks - High Priority
Picnic tables for those who wish to eat without attracting unwanted attention from dogs. A water tap. Seats along the riverside as this is a lovely place to sit and see wildlife - kingfishers, herons and otters on a good day. Also on a windy or rainy day, the riverside is quiet and protected from the worst of the weather so another reason to take a break down there.
Seasonal cafe/community veg beds
Handrails to help the "aged" get up and down to the riverside walk
I would most like to see a bridge erected between the meadow and Cleveland pools.
The entrances in winter get very muddy. Morrison end has woodchippings but we need it at Grosvenor Bridge end as well
Mini Cycle Track for children around meadow. All weather flooring under play equipment

### **Q11) Do you have any other comments about Kensington Meadows, the current facilities or what improvements might be made**

The meadows are a special place for wildlife and nature and it would be good to see this protected and valued.
I also feel strongly that some money needs to be made available for enforcing litter fines. Everyday I pick up rubbish thrown around, I also pick up other dog poo other than my own. At weekends the amount of rubbish everywhere is quite shocking. People must be made responsible somehow.
I would be happy to join a group picking up litter.
I would also like to stress how I love the meadow, it has been and remains my source of relaxation, rehabilitation from my brain surgery as well as a place to exercise my dog. I love its naturalness and quietness.
The meadows serve the local Community well and do not need improving. Just keep it maintained.
Don't do anything if you cannot be sure that the improvements will be maintained.
the meadows is a great opportunity to connect with outdoor and nature. We need more tree (edible trees like fruit trees) to provide shade as the summer are becoming more dry. this will protect the soil as well. If there was more edible plants, wilflowers to attract the bees etc it could also be used by school as an educational site, closely connected to the communities.
I would appreciate if the access to water was made easy ie a simple wooden steps into the water would be perfect.
what about hives and bees? this is critical to help insects and bees with trees; even school might be interested to visit and learn about the hives.
thank you for this project and taking care of the meadows. please keep is purpose focused to nature and wildlife, we don't need another play area ( we have alice park or victoria or Alexandra park for this purpose).
looking forward to hearing from this project and happy to help planting trees :)))
A bit selfishly,I'm not sure at the moment if there should be any improvements made to attract cycle riders to use the Meadows more - unless it could be done in a way to also improve wheelchair/disabled access.
We live at Grosvenor Place with impressive views across the valley and meadow, it is used regularly by dog walkers, runners and children and is a very important community asset. We would really like better access to the meadows from the western end of Ringswell Gardens where there is a gate but it is permanently locked, we currently can only access the meadow either via Grosvenor bridge road or meadows lane. There is some existing play equipment that is regularly used so there is an opportunity to add additional play equipment.
More benches, particularly in the shade.
Please don't fill it with excercise classes like Alice park.
Separate dog park to keep dogs away from pitches/playgrounds. They work effectively in places like New York and encourage social interaction for dog walkers as well as keep the mess contained.
It has very little shade. If climate change means hotter weather, we need more shade. Also, tree and shrub planting makes it more interesting for everyone. Any trees nad shrubs should be free of chemicals such as neonics. to encourage bees. Planting will also encourage more birds. In an age when our treatment of the environment is damaging us all, eco-friendly actions are far more important than signboards or even play areas. Let nature be the play area.
Access ... please open up access from the corner of Ringswell Gardens (near number 175) & the west end of Grosvenor Place. There is a padlocked gate there already, just let pedestrians have access.
In the past the meadows has been used as a festival venue (spigeltent). It should be used again to benefit the

community.
Bird spotting, wildlife etc. Get rid of all the bramble bushes and high grass on top. Its just a dog toilet. I would like to see Kensington Meadows back to how it was get rid of all the bramble bushes. Widen it. Put in a litter bin and a BBQ area. The trees were the boundary please keep the sides clear and tidy and cut the grass more than once a year on sides. Leave lower area alone. Trees and seats were the side boundary.
Its a shame people use the park during the summer evenings / nights drinking/eating and leave bottles/rubbish lying around where they have been, usually bench/seating areas. More bins needed in those areas please
Kensington Meadows is very important to those of us who live on the edge of it as the majority of us live in the flats without gardens so to have more seating to sit in the sun is important. It has vastly improved since I moved here with the entrances and the path along the river so to keep those maintained would be important to me.
I sincerely hope that areas of the meadow will NOT be fenced off as part of the 'improvement' - The wide open space allows for multiple uses/flexibility. Nor would I like the area scarred with additional formal pathways. I would also hope the blackberry bushes etc. are retained - they make a good area for wildlife / fresh fruit / privacy for near neighbours etc. A pond could create a hazard for little children, many of whom use the area. More visible litter bins & dog bins are essential.
Dog fouling is a major problem. Dogs should be kept on a lead. There are people who bring several dogs on to the Meadow and let them loose, there is no way that any person on their own, can watch all their dogs at all time, to ensure that any fouling by their dogs, is picked up by them.
More control over dogs and mess from dogs. Specific area for dogs required and better care and cut grass more
The area needs a reduction of dogs mess especially along the riverside path
My son has been terrified by too many dogs coming up at him, so we never go together anymore. I occasionally walk across the meadows. A shame as our house backs onto the Meadows. Currently the area offers little to the general public bar dog walkers. Dog mess is an issue. Dogs not supervised by their owners is an issue. It is mainly just a dog walking space. I wish it had more for other people. I wish I felt comfortable using it without needing to be concerned by dogs and their mess. Currently the meadows has little to offer myself or my 8 year old son.
While it is relevant to improve 'facilities' and in some cases, necessary, it should be done carefully to retain the basic quality of Kensington Meadows: the tranquillity and calmness in contrast to the hectic London Road. Cycling is to be encouraged but has a damaging effect when there are only a few access points.
At the minute I never sit on the grass at K.Meadows because of the vast number of dogs that are walked there. In essence this space is a massive dog latrine and I am yet to cross it without seeing dog poo. A dog free area is essential in my opinion.
Also, it is called K.Meadows but there is no real meadow. I volunteered at Avon Wildlife Trust planting meadows. It seems appropriate that an area is given to the creation of a meadow.
Please put further notices (on this project) on a noticeboard in the park
Particularly enjoy the walk by the river
It's a gem to be made a jewel
Improvements should be fed into the Active Travel and Accessibility Forum (Justin Reeve). Also Jessica Fox-Taylor and Alison Sherwin are in the process of developing the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan as part of a WECA initiative. Cycle Bath will be requesting that Parks also reference <a href="http://wheelsforwellbeing.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/v2-Nov-2017.pdf">http://wheelsforwellbeing.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/v2-Nov-2017.pdf</a> and use the accessibility requirements for mobility devices as defined in <a href="http://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/ha/standards/ians/pdfs/ian195.pdf">http://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/ha/standards/ians/pdfs/ian195.pdf</a> which requires any gate systems to accommodate 1.2m wide x 2.8m long devices. We will also be ensuring that any path choices, particularly through the park are 4 season bitmac at a minimum (surface dressings are optional but make it harder for wheelchair users). It should be recognised that Kensington Meadows is a high volume key active travel corridor and this needs to be considered as part of the design.
As I mentioned, it would be great if there was a cycle path as this could be used as an alternative to the London Road, when travelling eastwards. Please also improve the footpath so that it doesn't turn into a bog when wet.
The key observation is that the meadows are under-used, given the location and setting, and they should be made more accessible and more usable.
Improvements need to be kept to a minimum. Do not do anything to spoil this quiet area on the edge of city, placed between busy areas i.e. London Road
Improvements need to be kept to a minimum. Do not do anything to spoil this quiet area on the edge of city, placed between busy areas i.e. London Road
Stop cycles as this cuts up the turf in wet weather and also aggravates walkers with dogs and children
Access from Ringswell Gardens! At present only access via the road with No's 53-59 on it. I live at 8 Grosvenor Place and would like to access it from the 161-175 road. I would use it every day twice then, to walk to work, go to Morrisons and I know I would use it as a recreational space too.
A few years ago, a lot of time and money was spent improving access to the canal path from Grosvenor Bridge (adjacent to Kensington Meadows). As this new work has not been maintained, the path is again muddy and often difficult to negotiate as it can be so slippery. Whatever improvements you make, please put in place adequate maintenance budgets to sustain them. This means, for example, making sure the dangerous jungle of

nettles along the river walk is often cut back - not just once a season. This attitude on your part has been very uncaring - and worrying. How can you plan to make improvements, when you can't even programme basic housekeeping at Kensington Meadows now?
Ask Morrisons to contribute as an active and prominent entrance from their car park will bring more customers to their shop. Consider mooring or 'halt' to hire boats for hire from the boat station opposite.
Surface path by river, light it up and better access from path to meadows. Otherwise it is lovely having free, empty space
Getting rid of the dog mess all across the length of the pitch is my number one priority - could be improved with a circular walking chips path, signage re dogs and designated doggy toilet areas at both ends with more clear signage that this is the place - not the middle of the field where children play and families picnic. Perhaps if the field itself looked less neglected this would also happen less.
Please put notices up telling people on the meadows late at night to remember that it is a residential area and not to shout and scream until the early hours ( I think teenagers are to blame - at least that's what they sound like).
Could there be working parties to remove litter and dog mess?
There was at one time groups being led on bat walks, owl walks and herb walks - possibly we could have a star gazing expert?
I would like to see a 4 season wheel friendly bitmac path provided across the meadows to allow more people to visit and enjoy these lovely meadows
I think the pleasure boats that use the river should slow down, as there is so much erosion
It's a nice large green patch for people to relax - chill out. Please don't destroy its peace and tranquillity trying to please too many people. Thank you
Lots of people use the park for using heroine - any way you could monitor this? Also far too many dog owners don't pick up their mess (and humans don't pick up their own mess) so would be nice to have that monitored too!
some roofed area for shelter from sun or from rain
Kensington Meadows is not a park it is a recreational area. At the moment all users share equally and an "upgrade" could threaten this. Perhaps a small addition to the play area - where incidentally more teenagers than small children seem to hang out.
Gets really boggy at 2 entrances during winter months
I have used the meadow with my children and pets for the last 20 years. Any of these improvements will enhance public well being, education and health. Thank you.
It is a very good place in winter to get a view through the trees of the Cleveland Pools on the other bank of the river. They are not easy to see from anywhere else that I've found.
I enjoy walking through the Meadows and the Woodland walk. It feels clean and safe for a fairly urban park. Good that there's easy access to the canal. I like the mixed use - there are often dog walkers, fitness activities, sports going on. The play area is interesting but doesn't seem well used - needs consultation with children to find out why.
In general it's already great, it's a luxury to have such a wide open green space alongside a beautiful river walk. Would love a river access for swim at your own risk/wild swimming and an extended play area (the existing one is fantastic, so extend with the same type of style/design) and some picnic tables. What about free standing bbq grills so people only need bring their own charcoal and they can grill out without having any wasteful disposable bbqs? The picnic tables could also have simple pergolas over some of them or over a selection of tables so that picnics can even take place in the rain.
The meadows are regularly used by a huge variety of Bath people from all ages and demographics. It's a important green space amenity for locals and needs protecting. Council do a good job as is, I don't understand why a consultation is required when it is a well used and well working amenity/facility. Leave It as it is, any developments for increased play or fitness would be a reduction in green space which is lacking in the city. Have those in Alice Park or Victoria which are more manmade
I sometimes walk my dog in nearby Alice Park as there are parking spaces .... I would like to go to Kensington Meadows but there's no parking.,
flowers, trees and opportunities to sit on the other side of the fields, some way of blocking out the unsightly housing and fencing that surrounds the field would be good.
I love this area as it is untouched in many ways, it is a piece of calm green area close to the centre. I am all for improvement but do not spoil its current wilderness feel.
Gangs of teenagers frequently use it to the early hours of the morning during the summer. They scream, leave rubbish and much more worryingly can sometimes set fires.
It is lovely to have that green space - please do not build on it (unless it's a toilet block).
I think that due to the character of the location and environment this is best developed as a wildlife park. The river means it will never be ideal as a play area and it is mostly used by adults and dog walkers when I visit.
Improve muddy areas. Strimming/weeding in the woodland paths.
A set of concrete stairs by Grosvenor foot bridge into the river, a large number of people place their paddle boards, kayak's into the river this will allow them to do it safely, it would also double as dogs would be able to get safely into & out of the river.

<p>Drainage will be a priority.</p>
<p>Since Kensington Meadows is a site designated as a local nature reserve, I think it is really important that all proposals respect that aspect.</p>
<p>Its great advantage is as a 'wild' area. Please DO NOT over formalise it with "improvements"!</p>
<p>A gate for pedestrians at Ringswell Gardens / or residents maybe buy a key.</p>
<p>Very frustrating living within 50 yards of park and not being able to get in without walking some distance to an entrance.</p>
<p>I'm not sure whether the meadows might be better left unmanaged, or rather not OVER-managed. It is a unique place so close to the city centre. What about the idea of a full time Park Keeper?</p>
<p>The access point at the rear of Morrisons has the highest footfall and in winter is a quagmire. Putting down wood chippings helps but only briefly. In this area and that the Grosvenor Bridge entrance hardcore needs to be laid</p>
<p>It would be great if play facilities were improved. My daughter and her friends would go there instead of Alice Park,(which is farther away).</p>
<p>I really would like to see more of a community garden - fruit trees, herbs that people could pick and share. We loved the wild nature long grass you did. Wild flowers would be great.</p>
<p>We come over to walk our daughter's dog. She lives just a few minutes' walk away from Kensington Meadows. It is a bit of a boring dog walk tbh, but good for throwing a ball about! In the winter parts of the Meadows can be really wet underfoot and not at all pleasant to walk on!</p>
<p>My suggestion is that you take a look at the planted area next to the field just off Primrose Hill, which is much nicer - they have planted some small trees, there is long and short grass, paths, bushes and a small stream.</p>
<p>There needs to be a 4 seasons path from Morrisons to Grosvenor Bridge. Access from Ringswell needs to be established &amp; existing entrances need to be improved.</p>
<p>Is there a need for a gate at Grosvenor? If I can cycle through it then mopeds can do similar.</p>
<p>The meadows would be more used if there was an outdoor gym and some distance markers for the runners who use KM now. Also, of there was access beside the work access gate at Ringswell Gardens. The climbing frame needs to be restored. I avoid the meadows when there is a lot of dog shit just left around.</p>
<p>If the park was open i.e. without the ugly wire link fencing, then the park would be more inviting and beautiful. The high wire fence is a eye sore and ugly. If it was removed then there would be no muddy entrances. If you can't remove then make more entrances. It needs to be open and not all fenced in. An ugly fence at that. Maybe railings, or hedge?</p>
<p>Make signage about dog mess being cleared up.</p>
<p>I sometimes forget Kensington meadows is there! But I don't visit more frequently because of dog mess</p>
<p>It's a very nice area with friendly people</p>
<p>A nice big space</p>
<p>I love the river walk</p>
<p>Be nice to have some wilder areas, trees and meadow planting as still some grass</p>
<p>The occasional dumping of bark chippings by the entrance is, at best, pointless, and at worst actually makes these areas even less pleasant. It doesn't make them any drier, and kills the grass and plants. Planting saplings around the children's play area is also pointless, for they quickly get broken off or pulled up, just leaving nasty, dangerous holes in the ground. The money spent on both of these would be far better put aside for, for example, river bank stabilisation, since several areas of this have collapsed in recent years and more could undoubtedly follow if the banks aren't better maintained. Bring back the climbing frame!</p>
<p>Finally, I would like to receive your occasional email updates but cannot get the 'I am not a robot' part of your website to accept me.</p>
<p>Survey not even circulated to Walcot Terrace, Walcot buildings, Anglo Terrace. As with other issues of public realm, local residents of these locations effectively disenfranchised.</p>
<p>Exercise equipment for dogs</p>
<p>The meadows have been well used this summer, maybe brick built bbq's could be provided to prevent the grass being burnt by picnickers.</p>
<p>Additional seating on the opposite side of the meadows would be useful (Ringswell Garden side)</p>
<p>I love the meadows. Please keep it focussed on wildlife, opportunity to connect with nature.</p>
<p>Considering changes in more dry climate, Bath communities need more of a mini-forest, more accessible edible fruit trees and bush (i.e. raspberry, redcurrant, pears, apples etc). School could use it as an opportunity to educate kids about wildlife and food. What about edible flowerbeds so people can pick up their herbs and some veg?</p>
<p>Some parts could be used to support wildflowers to attract insects and in particular bees. Even better if we could have bee hives as an opportunity to educate kids.</p>
<p>Also improvements to the river side to access water</p>
<p>Many thanks for taking care of the meadows - that's an excellent news. Thanks</p>
<p>I have written to the council before about the issue of dog waste on Kensington Meadows and poor signage. I have seen many dog owners turn a blind eye to what their dog is doing. There are also some regular dogwalkers who walk multiple dogs together without picking up. This problem undermines all other attempts to improve the space and discourages families from using the park and the football pitch.</p>

I walk my dogs there and dog mess is a problem - more bins might help
It is already a nice green space which I feel doesn't need a lot of changes. Any small improvements for wildlife and planting makes for a good nature habitat. The entrance areas can get pretty boggy after heavy rains. Perhaps a fan shape hardstanding gravel area spreading into the meadows might be helpful.
I run a business in Meadows Lane which leads to the meadows from Kensington Place. There are often tractors with trailers full of leaves dumping them in the corner on the meadows by Morrisons. I don't have a problem with this except the tractors returning from the field often cover the road in mud. I do have the number for road sweeping at BANES but it is just an annoyance to have to ring up each time the tractors have been.
I feel the beauty of Kensington Meadows is that it is not a play park for children and it is not there for any particular group of people. It is just an open space where you can escape to from the busy London Road area. Two things that I would like to suggest is 1) a natural wood structure that provides temporary shelter for those who get caught out in heavy rain especially dog walkers like myself! It could be carved in a way that incorporates the nature of the meadows and 2) Keeping the childrens play equipment simple but providing disabled swings such as the ones at Victoria Park and a small slide. There is a very large slide which goes down to the water which is inappropriate for smaller children.
Removing the chain link fence and replace with railings. Desperately needs attention to both entrances. The Grosvenor Bridge entrance becomes so muddy that I do not venture into the meadow
more bins, lots of litter left in the summer months. Access the meadows from Kensington flats/garages not Ringswell Gardens
Kensington Meadows is a lovely peaceful, open space away from the noise from the city and London Road. It is a perfect place to meditate and focus on my wellbeing. It's already a social meeting place, dog walkers and other people walking through saying good morning and passing the time of day. It would be great if more local clubs could be encouraged to use it e.g. it's an excellent place for astronomy/star gazing, bat watching, older adults walking/exercising, young children learning about wildlife and the environment. It could generate an income by allowing events to take place, i.e. dog shows, dog agility, local vets information days, football tournaments, outdoor yoga events, photography opportunities, music events. But litter and dog poo is a big problem. In the summer the litter was appalling and it appeared to be from visitors to the meadow. Needs a massive clear up.
See comments at question 1. A designated dog walking area within the meadows is needed and dogs should be kept on a lead until they reach this designated area. A better, level all weather access to the meadows from Morrisons supermarket is needed. Pedestrian and vehicular access points should be kept well separated to avoid accidents when heavy plant/ vehicles access the meadows. Re-establish vehicular access through Kensington Place rather than through Ringswell Gardens. Before being able to comment positively whether we would be likely to visit the meadows more regularly, we would need to see what improvements are actually made.
An island of trees on the actual meadow would provide some much needed shade in summer. This is important for children, who could play among the trees without getting overheated. Seating beneath these trees would make a welcome resting point. Better seating around the borders of the meadow would be good too. Swathes of wild flowers around the trees and along the uncut borders would be good for wildlife. The newly appointed fishing sites are situated in places where dogs go into the river. Dogs and anglers are not naturally compatible. I was physically threatened by an angler on the canal when my dog went into the water too near his rod. It was very frightening. In Cardiff (Bute Park) they have made entry points for dogs. This would be very welcome and could eradicate completely the inevitable "dog stuck in the river" episodes which invariably crop up. The fire department would thank you for these as well as it is their job to rescue dogs who get stuck in the river.
I have lived adjacent to Kensington Meadows for 36 years and have helped plant trees and bulbs and pick up litter. My children, now grown up, have played there and now will be bringing their children. As a member of Friends of Kensington Meadows we helped to plan the play equipment and have lobbied for adult gym equipment too. We have held bat walks, moth identification sessions, star gazing evenings etc. I don't think we need a pond but more advice on disposing of barbecues would be useful as there have been several fires this summer when the ashes have been disposed of carelessly. No tarmac cycle paths please.
Please protect the grass expanse and do not 'tarmac path' it Encourage the public to consider paying for seats/benches as memorials to their "departed" - this would cover some of the costs
I believe the provision of a bridge linking the meadows with Cleveland Pools would enhance the entire recreational facilities of this valuable green space. Cleveland Pools would receive more visitors, and residents of / visitors to Kensington Place, and the surrounding streets, would gain some relief from the polluted London Road, as a result. Fingers Crossed!
[My family lives within a 5 minute walk of Kensington Meadows...] but access isn't easy from Ringswell Gardens area - although I live on London Road: means we have to walk through traffic fumes when it would be nicer to get access from Ringswell Gardens at the end near number 161. the gate is locked and children climbing over it. So not safe. There are no facilities here - one swing seat and the climbing frame no longer there. Seats tucked away near bushes which doesn't seem very safe. Usually has teenagers lurking on them. A proper track going round the perimeter for children to cycle and dog walk. More tree planting. Better access apart from meadow lane and Morrisons or its far end by Grosvenor Bridge - There is another gate but its locked. The play area doesn't have to be huge - think Bradford-on-Avon site near the Tythe Barn. ? maize clors (?) are like the one near Pulteney Bridge. Some exercise equipment around the track. Some access to Cleveland Pools - in the future. Better football pitch - some markings and grass kept shorter. Wild flower meadow to encourage wildlife. Picnic benches.
Better access from the street rather than just at Grosvenor Bridge end. Should have an access gate behind

Grosvenor Place (at the top end!).