

Innox Park Improvement Project – Initial Consultation Report

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

This community consultation was carried out between July and September 2018 as part of the Innox Park 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 Innox Park, how frequently and for what purpose.
- Identify key issues, priorities and aspirations for the park
- Inform and enable community participation within the design process
- Generate interest in creating 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:

- 150 printed questionnaires were delivered to properties immediately surrounding the park on Freeview Road, Highland Road, The Brow, Shophouse Road and Innox Road
- Printed posters promoting the consultation were displayed on entrances to the park and in local community facilities
- The questionnaire was promoted online (Twitter, Facebook and email newsletters) by BANES Parks and Green Spaces, Cllr Tim Ball, Blooming Whiteway, Bath City FC, Twerton and Whiteway News, Proud of Twerton, Whiteway and Southdown etc.



In addition to the survey, members of the Parks and Green Spaces department spent time at Innox Park speaking to users. This took place, as advertised, from 1.30 until 3.30pm on Saturday 8th September 2018 and was attended by around 25 people

Number of Responses

A total of 50 questionnaire responses were received. 20 copies (40%) were returned in hardcopy and the other 30 (60%) were submitted online.

SECTION 2 - KEY CONSULTATION FINDINGS

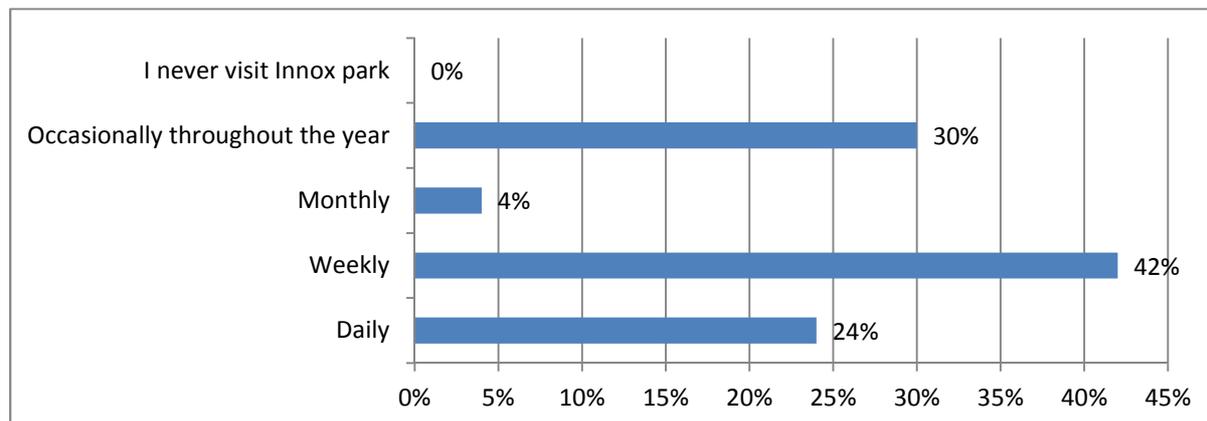
- Innox Park is an important green space which attracts users of all ages. Most visitors are from within the local area but the site also attracts some visitors from further afield. Most people walk to the site and spend up to an hour on a typical visit. Despite the park's relatively small size and limited facilities, over 10% of people spend more than an hour on a typical visit.
- The park is particularly valued for the views it offers out over Bath and the surrounding countryside and as a place to enjoy peace and tranquillity. Whilst not identified as a high priority, wildlife enhancements such as extending wildflower areas and tree planting are supported and would help enhance the site as a peaceful and natural space. Parents attending the drop-in event at the park said that on hotter days there is very little shade for families to escape the heat.
- People are most likely to visit to enjoy the view, play and cut through the park on-foot.
- The facilities at Innox Park are generally considered poor – particularly the lack of good quality seating, too few bins and very little signage. The surfaced path running through the park is considered the best quality feature.
- It is clear that poor access into and around the park is a key issue. Many commented that the entrances into the park are difficult, if not impossible, to navigate with pushchairs or wheelchairs because the gates are too narrow. Unsurfaced routes through the park get wet and muddy, particularly in the winter months, and there is an appetite for more surfaced paths so that people can cut through the site at all times of year. Comments in the surveys and conversations with park users highlight that surfaced pathways to the entrance points in the north of the site (Shophouse Road and Highland Road) are considered a priority.
- Half of respondents visit the park with children - with the highest percentage aged between 3 and 12 years old. Play is the second most likely reason for people visiting the park but play provision is considered poor and play improvements are ranked as a high priority. The vast majority of users support new play facilities and have shown a preference for a mixture of traditional and natural play opportunities. In the comments there were requests for a larger play area with equipment for a wider range of ages and self-closing gates to keep dogs out. Older children attending the consultation event would like more challenging play opportunities in other parts of the site – away from the fenced play area. They would also like to see improvements to the ball games area – particularly goals and a basketball ring.
- Outdoor gym equipment was popular in the survey comments and with many of those who attended the drop-in consultation event at the park.
- Innox Park is a social place but comments suggest that a small number of users behave irresponsibly and that there is some low-level anti-social behaviour. Littering, dog fouling and badly behaved dogs were mentioned as somewhat of an issue at the park but not to any great extent and certainly no more than other parks within the district.
- 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 Innox Park for everyone.

SECTION 3 – ANALYSIS OF SURVEY RESPONSES

Q1) How frequently do you visit Innox Park? (choose one)

Response Rate: 100%

All of those that completed the questionnaire visit Innox Park at least occasionally throughout the year. Around a quarter visit the park daily and almost 50% visit weekly.



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

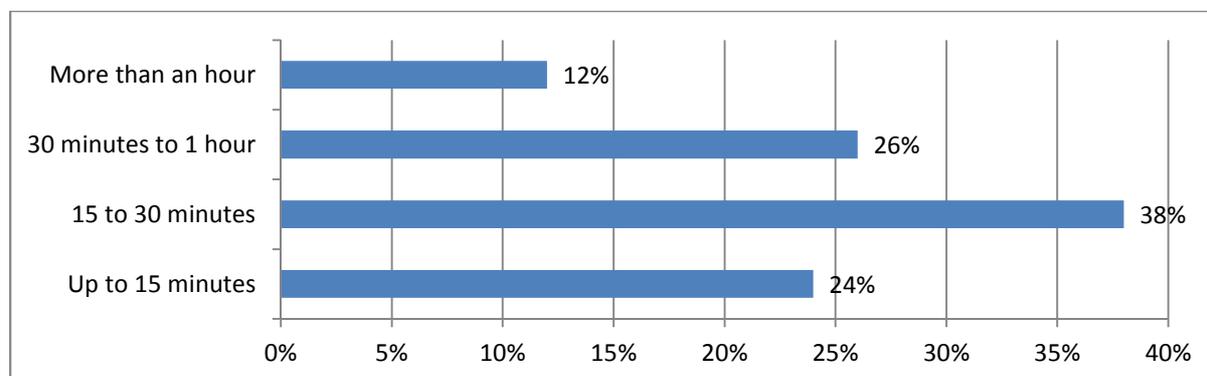
Response rate: 100%

All of those who answered the questionnaire said that they typically travel to Innox Park on foot rather than driving, cycling or taking public transport. This suggests that the park mainly attracts people from within the local vicinity and is perhaps a reflection of the size and range of facilities on offer.

Q3) How long do you typically spend at Innox Park? (choose one)

Response Rate: 100%

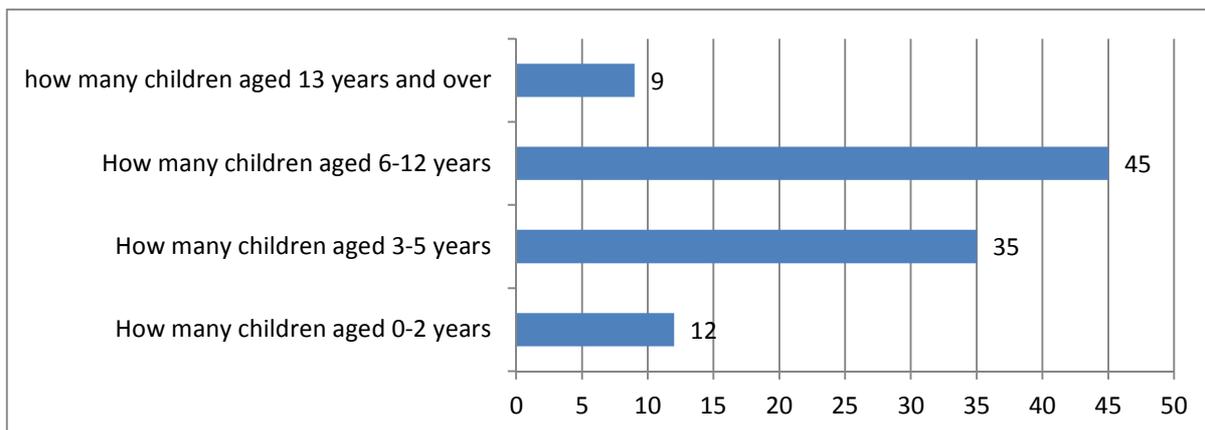
The responses show that the majority of visitors (64%) typically spend between 15 minutes and an hour per visit to the site. Interestingly, 12% spend more than an hour on a typical visit – which is a relatively long time given the size of the green space and the range of facilities on offer.



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

52% of respondents indicated that they typically visit the park with children. Responses suggest that 3-12 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. Older children are also more likely to visit the park unaccompanied.

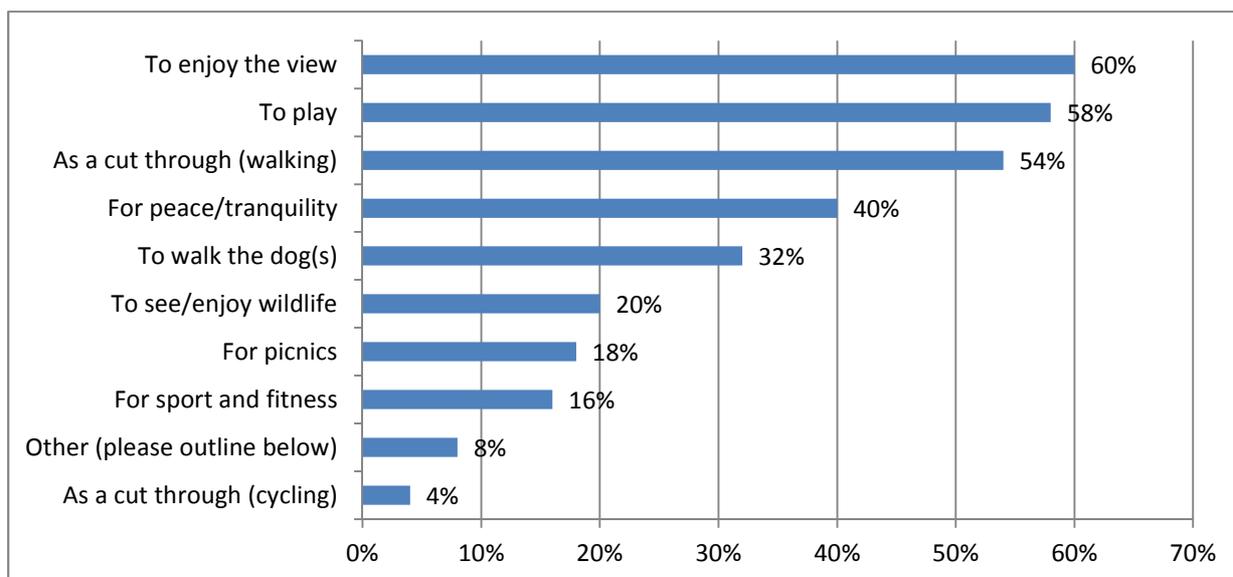
Respondents reported bringing the children of the following age ranges:



Q5) What are the main reasons that you/your family visit Innox Park? (choose all that apply)

Response Rate 100%

The main three reasons for visiting are to enjoy the view, to play and to cut through the park on-foot. Responses to this question show how much people value the views from Innox Park. Other reasons for visiting include to walk up to the Bath City Farm and to pick blackberries.



Q6) How do you rate the quality of current facilities at Kelston Road Park?

Response rate: 100%

Responses to this question show that people generally feel the current facilities are poor. The surfaced path through the park was the only feature which was considered to be good quality. The quantity and quality of seating and bins, signage and play equipment are considered particularly poor quality.

	Aggregate Score*	Very Good	Good	Adequate	Poor	Very Poor	Unsure/Do not use
Surfaced path through the park	32%	8%	36%	42%	8%	4%	2%
Gates/entrances	-22%	4%	12%	44%	30%	8%	2%
Ball games area	-32%	0%	6%	36%	20%	18%	20%
Play equipment	-44%	0%	4%	34%	30%	18%	14%
Location of bins	-44%	0%	6%	38%	34%	16%	6%
Signage	-52%	0%	0%	26%	34%	18%	22%
Quantity of bins	-58%	0%	2%	34%	46%	14%	4%
Seating	-66%	0%	2%	26%	38%	30%	4%

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

Any other comments about the quality of the current facilities

28% of respondents made an additional comment regarding the quality of current facilities. The most mentioned topics related to poor play facilities, difficulties accessing the site and a lack of seating. The comments are summarised under the topics listed below. The full list of comments is included in section 4.

Topic	Number of mentions
Play	6
Access (gates, entrances, paths)	5
Seats/benches	4
Antisocial behaviour (vandalism / motorbikes)	2
Sports / fitness facilities	2
Dog issues (dog fouling, separate dog walking area)	2
Safety concerns	2
General improvements / better maintenance required	3
Additional lighting requested	1
Against additional lighting	1
Bins / littering	1
Signage	1
Scooter track	1

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

Response Rate: 96%

Answers to this question show that there is strong support for improving access into and around the park, the play facilities, providing more opportunities to sit and the sports/ball games area.

Responses suggest that better picnic facilities, planting more trees and new signage are considered lower priority.

Potential Improvement	Aggregate score	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Not a Priority
Improved entrance gates for easier pushchair/wheelchair access	79%	63%	27%	8%	2%
Better play facilities	67%	67%	17%	4%	13%
More opportunities to sit and enjoy the view	66%	49%	34%	15%	2%
Better sports / games area	53%	51%	26%	13%	11%
Improved drainage i.e. less standing water/flooding after heavy rainfall	42%	29%	42%	17%	13%
Better routes/pathways within the park i.e. a path with steps on steeper parts of the site	40%	34%	36%	23%	6%
Enhancements for wildlife value i.e. improve/extend wildflower area, create pond etc.	35%	30%	37%	28%	4%
Better opportunities for health and fitness i.e. installation of outdoor gym equipment	29%	29%	35%	19%	17%
Soft landscaping i.e. more flowers / planting	25%	27%	35%	27%	10%
Installation of signage i.e. Community noticeboard, welcome sign etc.	19%	30%	30%	26%	15%
Planting more trees	17%	30%	28%	33%	9%
Picnic facilities	9%	14%	40%	43%	3%

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

Any other suggested improvements

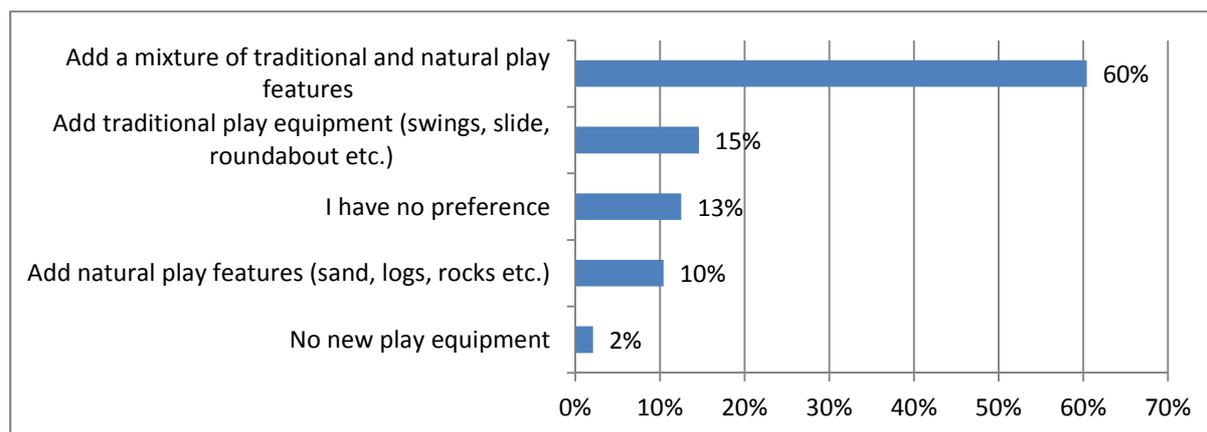
35% of respondents to this question made an additional comment. Better sports/fitness facilities were a common topic and it is notable that outdoor fitness equipment was requested by a number of people. There were four requests for the site to be better managed with more regular grass and hedge cutting.

Topic	Number of responses
Sports / fitness equipment	7
Better maintenance / management of the site	4
Wildlife enhancements (trees, additional planting)	2
Access improvements	2
Lighting	2
Play	1
Reduction in anti-social behaviour	1
Seating	1
Bins / litter	1
More to attract people to the viewpoint	1
Visual improvements	1
Signage	1
Scooter / bike track	1
Teen facilities	1
Dog issues	1

Q8) The play equipment at Innox Park was installed over 10 years ago and is reaching the end of its life. For safety reasons it will need to be removed in the near future. As part of this improvement project new play facilities *could* be added. Would your preference be: (choose one)

Response Rate: 96%

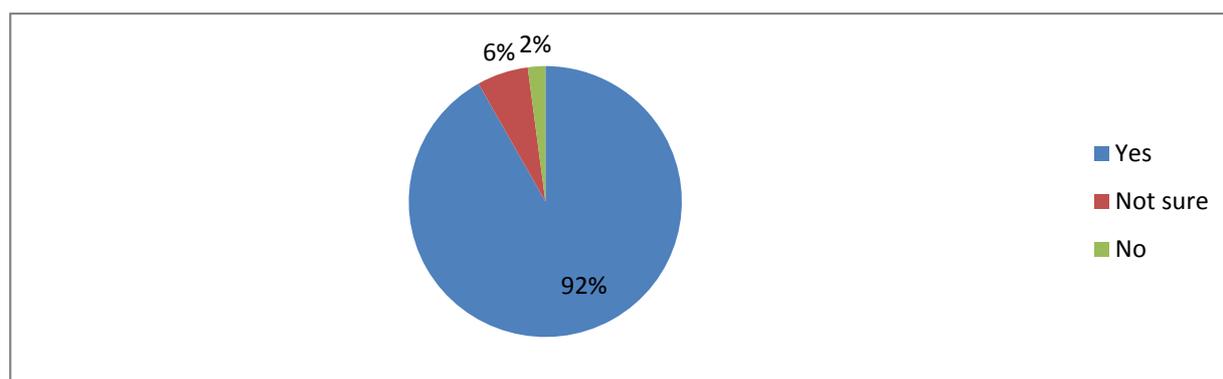
There is strong support for new play facilities at the park and the majority of people would prefer a mixture of traditional and natural play features. Comments relating to play included requests for a larger play area with more equipment and self-closing gates to keep dogs out.



Q9) Are you likely to visit Innox Park more regularly if improvements are made?

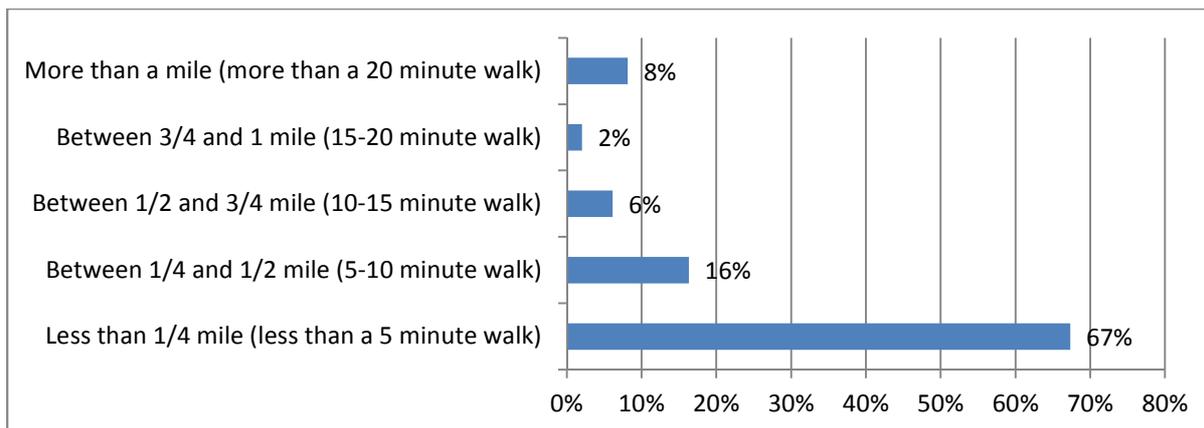
98% of respondents answered this question.

The vast majority of respondents said that they are likely to visit Innox Park more regularly if improvements are made. Those who answered 'No' or 'Not Sure' said it was because they only use the park to walk dogs or to go to Bath City Farm allotments.



Q10) Roughly how far do you live from Innox Park

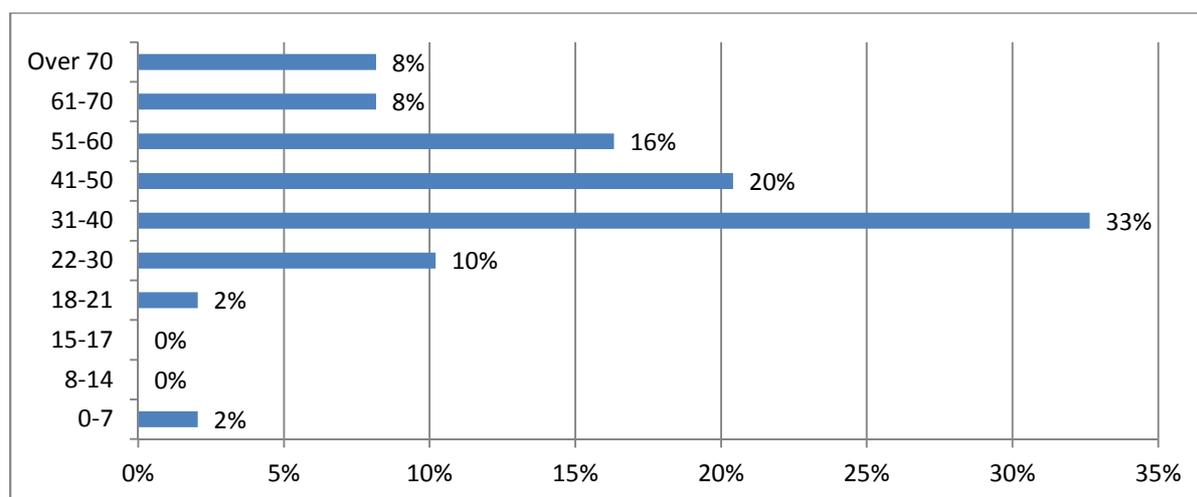
98% of respondents answered this question. Responses to the survey suggest that the majority of visitors (83%) live within a 10 minute walk of the site. The park attracts some visitors from further afield.



Q11) Your age

Response Rate: 98%.

The survey was completed mostly by people between the ages of 22 and 60. Very few young people between the ages of 0 and 21 completed the survey, although some attended the drop in session in the park and put forward their opinions.



Q12) Do you have any other comments about Innox Park, the current facilities or what improvements might be made

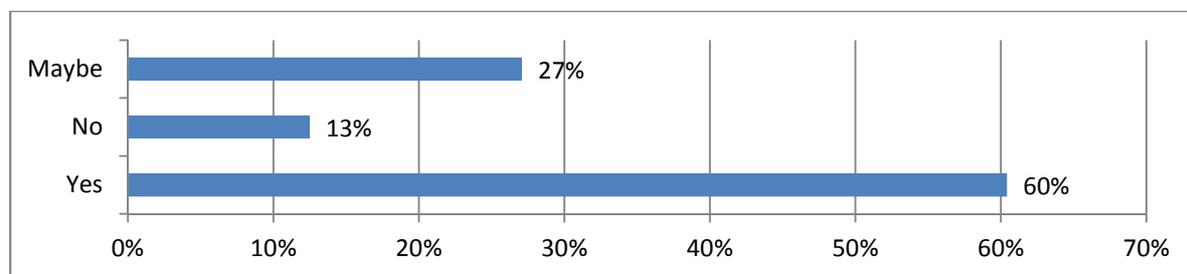
38% of respondents made an additional comment. The comments demonstrate once again that access is considered an issue at the park. Visitors with pushchairs or in wheelchairs have significant difficulty getting through the gates into the park. People would like to see a broader network of surfaced paths – particularly linking the existing paths to entrances from Shophouse Road and Highland Road. Concerns were raised that the entrance point from garages on The Brow has not been adequately maintained. Other notable issues raised were a lack of seating and requests for better sports and fitness equipment. The comments are summarised under the topics listed below. The full list of comments is included in section 4.

Topic	Number of mentions
Access	7
Seats / benches / picnic facilities	6
Sports/fitness	5
Play	4
Bins / litter	4
Dog issues	4
It is a lovely site	3
Better maintenance/management required	3
Nature enhancement / tree planting	2
Viewpoint feature	2
Lighting	2
Bike / scooter track	2
Signage	1
Better links to Bath City Farm	1
More for teenagers	1
Against tree planting	1

Q13) Would you be interested in attending events at Innox Park?

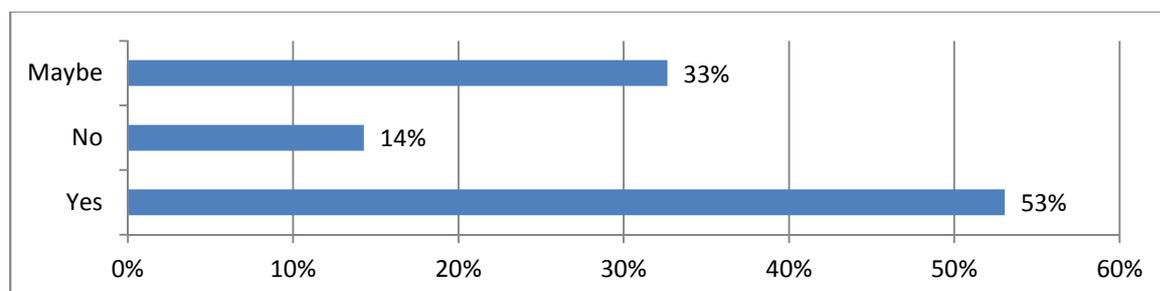
Response Rate: 98%

Answers to the final three questions show that there is a good level of interest in people attending events at the park, taking part in volunteering events and staying in touch about the improvement project



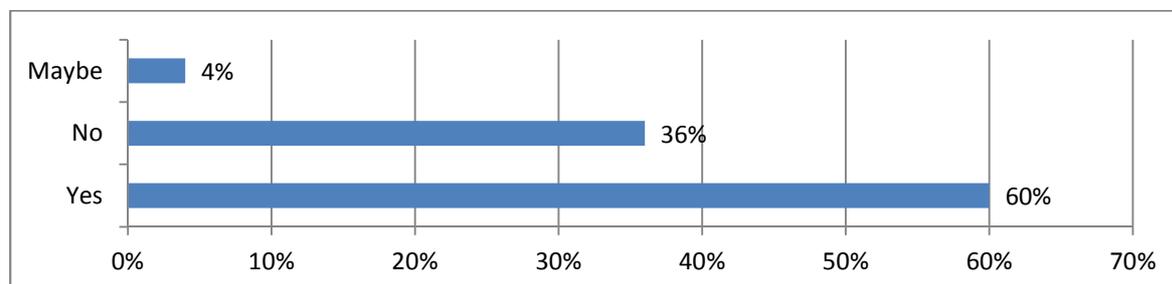
Q14) Would you consider taking part in one-off volunteering events at Kelston Road Park?

Response Rate: 99%



Q15) Would you like to be kept up to date by email regarding the Innox Park Improvement Project

Response Rate: 100%



SECTION 4 – FULL COMMENTS

Q6) Any other comments about the quality of current facilities:
I live on highland Road very difficult to get up in the winter as no path to get to the field does by make sense. The play area is not enclosed properly, play equipment is old and could do with new equipment. Lighting I don't think is an issue because if you did it would encourage anti social behaviour with children.
The benches are at the top of the field. We need some at the bottom as many can't manage the walk to the top.
Dog mess of course
Basic - more & variety needed. Safety a prime consideration. Perhaps dog walkers need separate area?
Entrance from Shophouse Road very poor gate entrance and pathway surface
Only 2 benches, one of which has been vandalised. In terms of signage I don't think there is any? Ball games area needs expanding. Not sure what else can be done to stop motorcycles and quad bikes being ridden
The play equipment looks worn out.
The entrances at the top next to the Brow/allotments is overgrown and unusable, but is the most important entrance for us.
More play equipment for very young children. Something for older children (say 8 years) - Freeview road is a very busy road and somewhere for scooters etc. would be good.
Facilities are more suited to younger children and it would be good to provide facilities for young adults and adults
Gates are better now that they've been changed. Would like an extension to the path so it goes to the bottom left gate.
Compared to other small parks in Bath the children's play equipment is very poor
Seats needed at the bottom of the park for the elderly

Q7) Any other priorities for the park
Proper football goals and improved surface. New play equipment for a variety of ages. New trees which can be protected from being damaged.
Please improve the walk way as I cannot access the field from my house. Can't get a pushchair in. Highland road I live.
Outdoor gym would be good as they do in other countries also there is a pond but it does need refurbishing
Definitely benefit from outdoor gym equipment that could be used by the whole community
Pathways made to go off to the steps for both slipways. Hedges surrounding the houses should be regularly trimmed. These have grown at least 6ft and have not been cut back for years, this does not help with lighting and security for houses looking out onto the park. The lamp post is even covered by the overgrown trees so we do not benefit from any street lighting whatsoever.
Lighting along the path.

Border hedges trimmed (High priority) More seating (Medium Priority) Bins emptied & litter picked (High Priority)
More of a peaceful oasis, trees, flower beds
No trees along the footpath as it blocks the view and attracts vandalism
Attraction to the top for great view (High priority) Ascetically more pleasing to the eye (High priority) Perhaps signage for walk to Bath City Farm (Medium priority)
There are plenty of trees and a pond nearby in Bath City Farm. The wildflower area is great, but needs signage as people are unaware of it. Obviously wildflower area needs correct management. The ball games area needs expanding with bigger flat area.
A flat rectangle or loop of tarmac which could be used by small children on bikes and scooters would be great (and cheap to create): most gardens aren't big enough for this and there isn't anywhere safe for this activity nearby.
Installation of outdoor Gym equipment would be extremely welcomed. The area suffers from high obesity rates, this is a direct correlation with the poverty in the area. If free to use outdoor gym equipment was available this would help those who are lower income access facilities to improve their health.
Things to help teenagers use the park as a resource e.g. a shelter like the wooden one in the upper Brickfields area: High Priority
Separate dog walking area: High priority
Outside gym equipment - Medium Goal posts for children - High
It would be good if the council committed to regular grass cutting.

Q8) Additional comments about the potential for new play facilities
Small cycle track which was there before or could go around the park.
Equipment that can't be tampered with.
A bigger park area if possible
Now In parks you can get the double swings so an adult or older child can sit opposite a baby/toddler. This is a great way for bonding and to get involved having fun with family and friends.
The play area is a disgrace. It needs to be a lot bigger with a wider range of equipment.
Football posts in ball game area (fixed) Basketball net / courts
A zip wire and trampoline would be amazing
Climbing apparatus (natural)
Somewhere to play on bikes and scooters.
I feel that often parks are only focused on children, there are a number of play equipment close by to the park(i.e City Farm, brickfields). There should be a focus on providing facilities for the older generations who often are forgotten. Councils set out that key users are children, dog walkers etc. They focus on delivery facilities for those users rather than encouraging new users i.e young professionals, the elderly who would use gym facilities. However, there is little gym equipment that I know of across Bath, let alone in the area. The parks should be used by everyone.
Suitable for young children aged 2-5
Scooter / skate area. Increase the quantity and quality of play equipment
Outdoor gym equipment would be amazing
Outdoor gym equipment needed
Playrangers after school
do both - traditional & modern nature play - but do them both really well.

Q12Any other comments
More trees, new goal for the football area and better surface, basketball court, more bins, some sort of cycle track, more family seating for picnics which could also be placed around the park. Astro turf or rubber floors instead of grass for low maintenance.
Innox park is the most beautiful place in Bath.The play area needs to be extended and steps leading up to the farm
It would be nice to have more seats in the park as we only have one at the top of the park, it is a beautiful view from there and everyone wants to sit there. I have lived in Freeview Road for 54 years and my children and grandson's loved it as well
Maybe something for the older generation like basketball or football facilities.

Lighting along the path. More dog-poo bins. Bins that are already situated in the park, to be emptied more often. More seating/picnic benches.
It is a large field with room to make a larger park with better facilities for children of all ages to enjoy. More benches and better fences so that dogs can run freely. Gates on all exits. Also needs gates that open for wheelchair and buggy access.
Definitely need a need gate at Freeview Road end that doesn't bang on closing! Path to the bottom corner onto Shophouse Road would be good, especially when the grass gets really wet!
The current facilities are poor, damaged and inadequate. the play area is not secure for children as both gates do not close allowing dogs to run freely. The entrance gate to the park on Freeview road side is sloping and bangs noisily every time it is used. It is also difficult to use for children / elderly cyclists.
It's a lovely place. Blighted by inconsiderate dog owners 'oh they won't hurt you'! Dog mess. Not enough seating and nature
Visit mainly with grandson Could be linked with Bath City Farm i.e. extension of...as popularity of Bath City Farm is growing. A more attractive picnic area, play area, viewpoint to Innox Park would surely follow?
Park grass-cutting and up-keep of hedges surrounding the park needs more cutting and over-growth of edges of pathway Shophouse Road very often overlooked by green-keepers. New gate entrance also required at Shophouse Road - nightmare for mothers and cycles Shophouse pathway and road surface needs re-doing (poor) entrance
There are sometimes people sleeping rough in the trees at the top of the park. A litter bin by the benches at the top MIGHT stop littering by the groups of youths who after school and around dusk.
Fresh air gym equipment would be great. Footpath extended to other gates
Lights along the path
Nothing to help teenagers use the park as a resource or meeting place
Generally good, but more gravelled paths to match the routes that people actually walk rather than ignoring them. In winter the grass gets very wet at the bottom and the walk through to the high street is really bad because of that. Also, the entrance at the top of The Brow next to the allotments is unusable and dangerous, but is used heavily.
I would like to see gym facilities for adults, more dog bins and council cleaning
Outdoor gym equipment needed
1) I am quite angry at being asked to complete this survey when the basic requirement of the hedge being cut is not met. This should surely be a priority 2) I am strongly opposed to trees being planted as these contribute to antisocial behaviour