Tachbrook Country Park

Consultation analysis summary report

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 As part of the preparation of a planning application for the development of a country park in Leamington Spa, Warwick District Council undertook a consultation between March 30th 2020 and June 30th 2020. This consultation provided opportunities for the community and stakeholders to provide feedback on the proposals in advance of the submission of the application.

1.2 Responses received

1.2.1 During the period of the consultation a total of 1,294 responses were submitted.

1.3 Structure of this report

1.3.1 This report summarises the feedback received.

1.3.2 The remainder of this report is structured under the following main topics on which feedback was sought:

- Character and purpose of the park
- Paths and connections
- Food growing
- Play areas
- Provision of other uses
- Monitoring questions

2. Character and purpose of the park

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Within this section of the consultation a total of five questions were asked, these were:

1. *Do you agree with the intention to create a park which is primarily for use by the local community?*
2. *Would you be interested in helping to design, plant or manage a community venture such as a community garden or a community orchard?*
3. *Do you think that the inclusion of a 'community hub/café' within the country park will be a useful resource for the local community, and help to encourage people to get involved in community initiatives such as community gardens, community orchards and tree planting initiatives?*
4. *Do you think we should prioritise the delivery of footpaths/food growing areas, cycle ways, habitat creation and play areas?*
5. *The country park will be situated on land adjoining a small stream called the Tach Brook, near to the village of Bishop's Tachbrook. Considering its location, which name do you think best reflects the country park?*

2.1.2 The section below provides a quantitative representation of the responses to each of the questions followed by a summary of the qualitative matters raised where additional space was provided for comments.

2.2 Creating a park for the local community

Introduction

2.2.1 Question 1 within the consultation requested feedback to the following question:

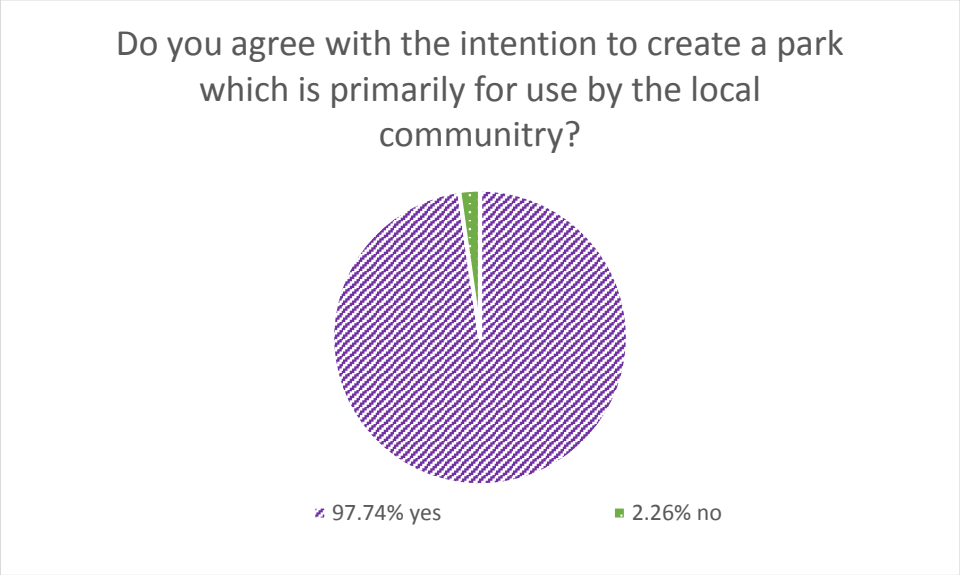
"Do you agree with the intention to create a park which is primarily for use by the local community?"

2.2.2 Further detail was also requested where people had responded negatively to the question by stating, if you answered 'No', please let us know why.

Quantitative responses

2.2.3 Of the 1,294 consultation responses received, 1,284 provided an answer to question 1. A total of 1,255 respondents or 97.74% agreed with the intention to create a park primarily for use by the local community.

2.2.4 A further 29 respondents or 2.26% said they did not agree with the intention to create a park primarily for use by the local community.



Qualitative matters raised

2.2.5 Of those respondents that indicated that they did not agree with the intention to create a park primarily for use by the local community, 27 provided further justification for their response. The main comments received were:

- the area should be used for natural habitats/woodland rather than the creation of a park;
- the park should be for the use of everyone in the area and visitors to the area rather than just the local community;
- concerns about anti-social behaviour and additional visits to the area; and
- concerns about the costs of the park and the diversion of spend from other services or projects in the district.

2.2.6 In addition, 22 of these who answered yes to the question provided further commentary to support their response. The main comments received in support of the proposal were that it would provide access to green open space/recreation and that it would be good for local wildlife.

2.2.7 A number of respondents that expressed support for the principle of the park said that it should be much larger, that non-community uses (school playing fields, SUDS drainage and allotments) took up too much space and that its size and function was being eroded by nearby housing developments.

2.3 Creating a community venture

Introduction

2.3.1 Question 2 within the consultation requested feedback to the following question:

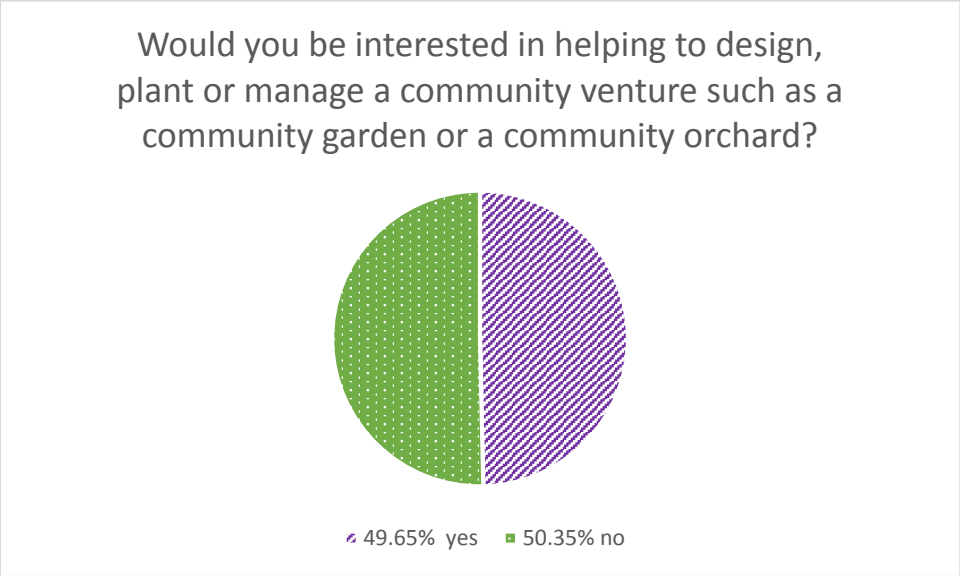
"Would you be interested in helping to design, plant or manage a community venture such as a community garden or a community orchard?"

2.3.2 Further detail was also requested where people had responded negatively to the question by stating, if you answered 'No', please let us know why.

Quantitative responses

2.3.3 Of the 1,294 consultation responses received, 1,271 provided an answer to question 2. A total of 631 respondents or 49.65% confirmed that they would be interested in helping to design, plant or manage a community venture such as a community garden or a community orchard.

2.3.4 A further 640 respondents or 50.35% said they would not be interested in helping to design, plant or manage a community venture such as a community garden or a community orchard.



Qualitative matters raised

2.3.5 Of those respondents that indicated that they would not be interested in helping to design, plant or manage a community venture such as a community garden or a community orchard, 287 provided further justification for their response. The main reasons cited for not being interested were:

- Time – most respondents cited a lack of time or existing work/family/leisure commitments as reasons why they would not be able to be involved.
- Lack of knowledge – many respondents indicated that design or gardening was not their area of expertise and as a result they were not qualified to help or would offer little contribution.
- Health/age – a number of respondents highlighted existing disabilities, health conditions or age as reasons why they would not be able to help.
- Not local enough – some respondents indicated that they did not live locally or lived too distant from the site.

2.3.6 Feedback was also received that indicated that if there were opportunities to involve children in the design, planting or management activities then they would be more likely to be involved. A small number of respondents also suggested that professional horticulturalists/rangers or other agencies (such as ARCIC) would be better placed to undertake these activities and that these should be funded by the developers of local housing.

2.3.7 In addition, 15 of these who answered yes to the question provided further commentary to support their response. The main comments received indicated that community orchards should be planted, the park should be used to support education for local children and that a proper maintenance regime must be put in place to ensure that the area looks nice and is not affected by anti-social behaviour.

2.4 Provision of a community Hub/Cafe

Introduction

2.4.1 Question 3 within the consultation requested feedback to the following question:

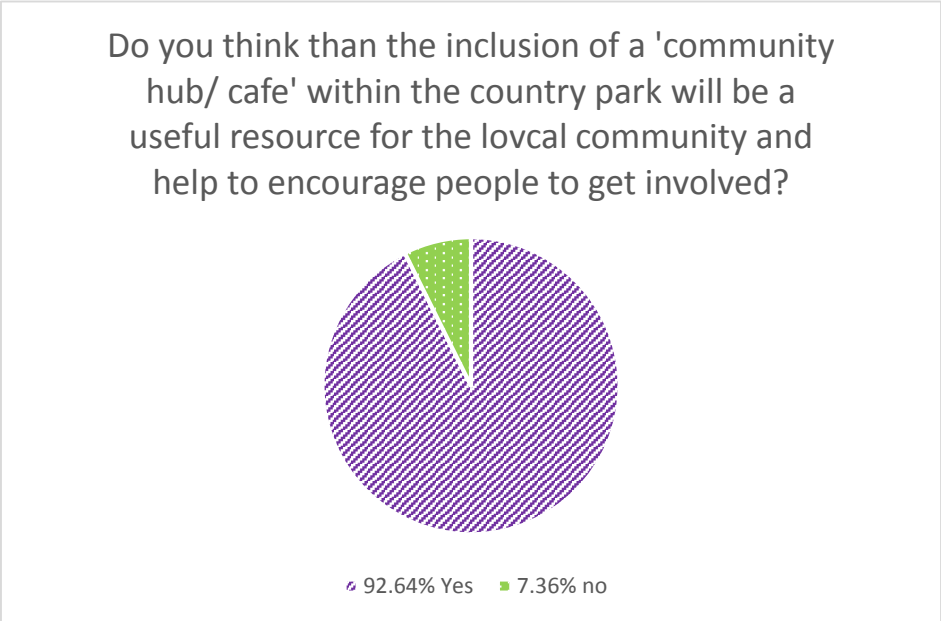
"Do you think that the inclusion of a 'community hub/café' within the country park will be a useful resource for the local community, and help to encourage people to get involved in community initiatives such as community gardens, community orchards and tree planting initiatives?"

2.4.2 Further detail was also requested where people had responded negatively to the question by stating, if you answered 'No', please let us know why.

Quantitative responses

2.4.3 Of the 1,294 consultation responses received, 1,278 provided an answer to question 3. A total of 1,184 respondents or 92.64% confirmed that the inclusion of a 'community hub/café' within the country park would be a useful resource for the local community, and help to encourage people to get involved in community initiatives.

2.4.4 A further 94 respondents or 7.36% said they did not agree with the inclusion of a 'community hub/café' within the country park.



Qualitative matters raised

2.4.5 Of those respondents that did not agree with the inclusion of a 'community hub/café' within the country park, 70 provided further justification for their response.

2.4.6 Most respondents that did not agree with the inclusion of the community hub/café felt that it was not needed, would take up space and would detract from the purpose of the area as open space and an area for wildlife. Many cited other similar facilities in the local area and queried whether it would be commercially viable.

2.4.7 A number of respondents considered that the introduction of a café would encourage anti-social behaviour, litter and pollution. They said that this would result in increased maintenance costs and may affect wildlife and habitats in the country park.

2.4.8 A number of respondents considered that the café would not be used by local people and would encourage people to drive or travel to the park. Linked to this were concerns about an increase in people driving to the park and the associated issues of parking in surrounding residential areas.

2.4.9 In addition, 35 of those who answered yes to the question provided further commentary to support their response. The main comments received were that the facility:

- must allow dogs and include dog friendly facilities;
- must be large enough and contain sufficient facilities, including toilets;
- must not add noise to the local area or affect the local environment. A number of respondents also suggested that locally sourced and environmentally sustainable products should be used (e.g. no single use carrier bags/plastics etc);
- should be designed sensitively; and
- should include café space as well as social space/community centre where local groups and organisations could meet.

2.4.10 A small number of respondents suggested that the community hub/café was a good idea but that it should be relocated to a centralised area within the park or to the main community area.

2.5 Prioritising facilities

Introduction

2.5.1 Question 4 within the consultation requested feedback to the following question:

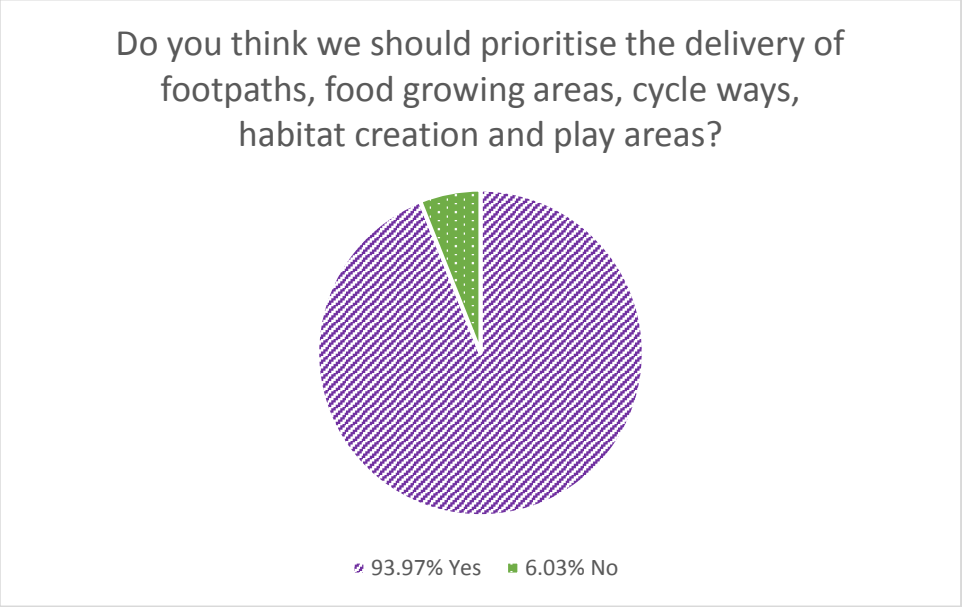
"Do you think we should prioritise the delivery of footpaths, food growing areas, cycle ways, habitat creation and play areas?"

2.5.2 Further detail was also requested where people had responded negatively to the question by stating, if you answered 'No', please let us know why.

Quantitative responses

2.5.3 Of the 1,294 consultation responses received, 1,276 provided an answer to question 4. A total of 1,199 respondents or 93.97% confirmed that the delivery of footpaths, food growing areas, cycle ways, habitat creation and play areas should be prioritised.

2.5.4 A further 77 respondents or 6.03% said they did not agree that the delivery of footpaths, food growing areas, cycle ways, habitat creation and play areas should be prioritised.



Qualitative matters raised

2.5.5 Of those respondents that did not agree that the delivery of footpaths, food growing areas, cycle ways, habitat creation and play areas should be prioritised, 69 provided further justification for their response.

2.5.6 Numerous respondents highlighted the importance of preserving nature and the natural environment. They considered that preserving and enhancing wildlife and nature within the country park was incompatible with some of the other uses proposed, in particular parks and food growing areas. Many respondents considered that the priority should be cleaning up the area and preserving as many natural green spaces as possible.

2.5.7 Some respondents expressed concern about the introduction of footpaths and cycleways, considering that they would encourage anti-social behaviour and littering. A number of respondents suggested that tracks or naturally formed footpaths/cycleways should be used instead to minimise effects on wildlife and retain a natural feel to the country park. Comments were also received which suggested that any cycleways must be incorporated into a district wide cycle plan.

2.5.8 A number of respondents commented that food growing areas should not be created. Concerns were expressed that such areas would result in unkempt vegetation, sheds and greenhouses and would necessitate vehicular access and parking.

2.5.9 Respondents commented that there are numerous play areas in the local area and queried whether they are necessary to fulfil the purposes of the park. Concerns were also expressed about their potential to attract anti-social behaviour. Where support was expressed for play areas it was often without justification or highlighted that areas should be as natural as possible.

2.5.10 In addition, 46 of those who answered yes to the question provided further commentary to support their response. The main comments received were:

- footpaths/cycleways were the most frequently commented on, with many respondents indicating that these must be put in place first to ensure adequate access and use of the area. A number of respondents highlighted the importance of separating walkways and cycle routes, measures to control the speed of cyclists and large numbers of bins along footpaths;

- a number of respondents considered that food growing areas were located too close to housing, whereas others indicated the importance of locating them close to housing so that they are close to the people they serve;
- a number of respondents considered that habitat creation should be a priority but didn't provide any further justification; and
- respondents expressed contrasting views in relation to play areas. Some highlighted that they should form part of the development whereas others indicated that play areas should cater for a range of ages and should include adventure play facilities.

2.5.11 Suggestions were also received for open water swimming areas, a tree height walkway, amenities for children to learn about nature, fishing facilities and for parking areas to avoid impacts in nearby residential streets.

2.6 Naming the country park

Introduction

2.6.1 Question 5 within the consultation requested feedback to the following question:

"The country park will be situated on land adjoining a small stream called the Tach Brook, near to the village of Bishop's Tachbrook. Considering its location, which name do you think best reflects the country park?"

A. Tach brook Country Park

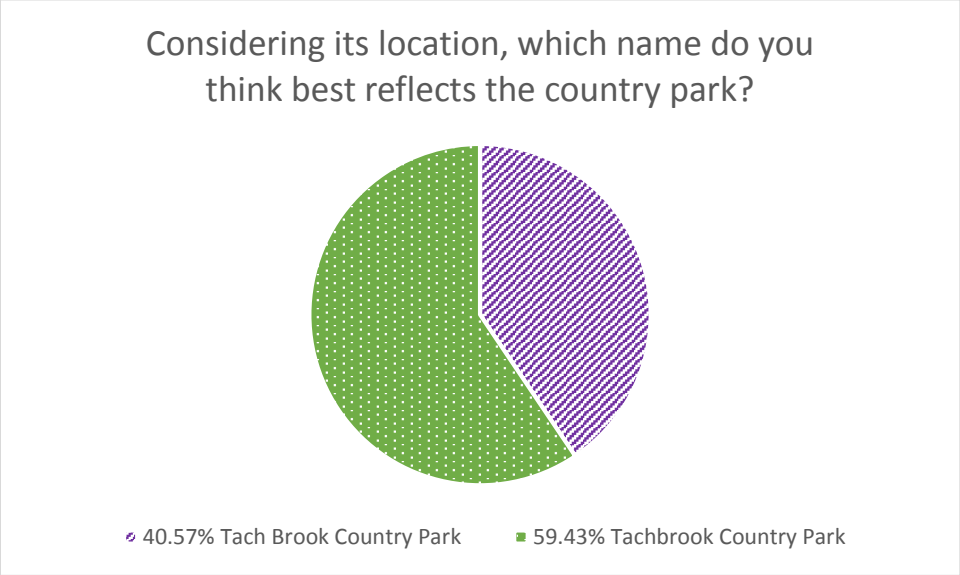
B. Tachbrook Country Park

Quantitative responses

2.6.2 Of the 1,294 responses received from the consultation, 1,267 provided an answer to question 5.

2.6.3 A total of 514 respondents or 40.57% said that they considered that the name Tach Brook Country Park best reflects the country park.

2.6.4 A total of 753 respondents or 59.43% said that they considered that the name Tachbrook Country Park best reflects the country park.


Considering its location, which name do you think best reflects the country park?
40.57% Tach Brook Country Park
59.43% Tachbrook Country Park

3. Paths and Connections

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Within this section of the consultation a total of two questions were asked, these were:

1. *Do you think that the paths shown on our concept masterplan are in the correct location?*
2. *We are proposing that the main paths within the country park are 3m wide (as a minimum) and laid with a surface suitable for use by cyclists and pedestrians. Do you agree with allowing cyclists to use the country park?*

3.1.2 The section below provides a quantitative representation of the responses to each of the questions followed by a summary of the qualitative matters raised where additional space was provided for comments.

3.2 The layouts of the paths in the masterplan

Introduction

3.2.1 Question 6 within the consultation requested feedback to the following question:

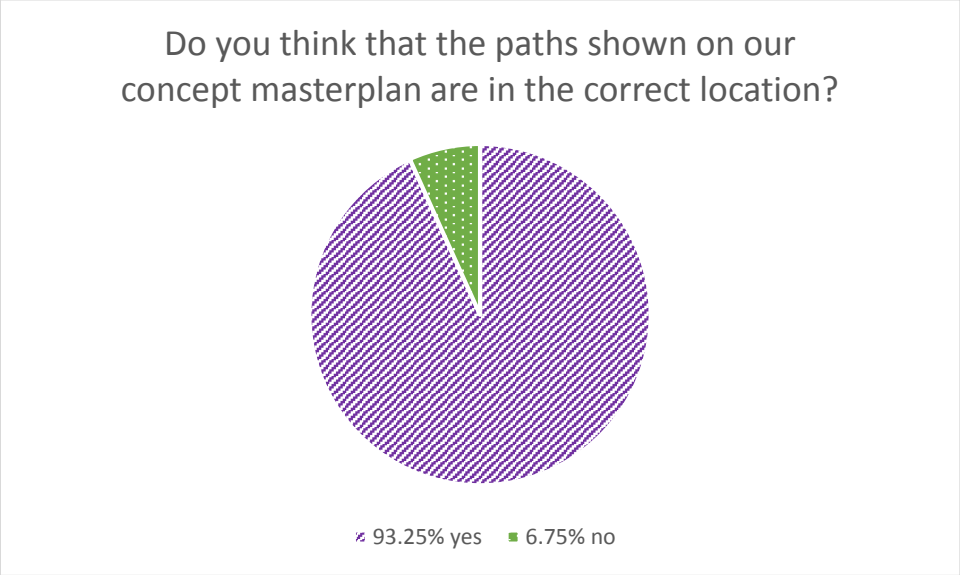
"Do you think that the paths shown on our concept masterplan are in the correct location?"

3.2.2 Further detail was also requested where people had responded negatively to the question by stating, if you answered 'No', please let us know why.

Quantitative responses

3.2.3 Of the 1,294 responses received to the consultation, 1,229 provided an answer to question 6. A total of 1,146 respondents or 93.25% confirmed that the paths shown on the concept masterplan are in the correct location.

3.2.4 A further 83 respondents or 6.75% said they did not agree that the paths shown on the concept masterplan are in the correct location.



Qualitative matters raised

3.2.5 Of those respondents that did not agree that the paths shown on the concept masterplan are in the correct location, 77 provided further justification for their response. The main comments received were:

- it would be preferable to be able to walk around the entire park in a circular route;
- the footpaths need to connect both sides of the park;
- the footpaths are too close to residential properties and there should be a bigger buffer;
- footpaths should link the park with the wider footpath and cycle network to provide direct links with the centre of Leamington and Warwick;
- the entrance in front of Tandy Gardens is unnecessary;
- concerns that the paths venture on to private land, which is unnecessary;
- concern that a section of footpath to the west of Point 4 takes people out of the park and back in;
- the main path should be consistently the same width;
- paths must be designed to a sufficient standard to allow disabled access;
- there are too many footpaths and the area should be preserved for nature; and
- paths should be allowed to develop naturally.

3.2.6 A number of respondents also said that the plans were unclear and difficult to interpret and as a result they could not comment on the suitability of the routes proposed.

3.2.7 In addition, 23 of those who answered yes to the question provided further commentary to support their response. The main comments received were:

- footpaths are important to allow people to walk in the local area from their homes;

- walking will be the main activity in the park so there should be a good number of paths and they should link up; and
- footpaths and cycle paths must link up to existing networks. Some respondents expressed concern that some of the paths appeared to stop abruptly at the site boundary or did not link up with other features.

3.2.8 Suggestions were also received that careful consideration should be given to the material used for the paths to promote access, and that winter walkways should be considered in areas where it gets muddy e.g. the edge of Warwick Gates.

3.2.9 A number of alternatives were suggested to the proposals, these included:

- there should be a route into the park through the new houses from the junction of Harbury Lane and Oakley Wood Road;
- bridges should be installed across the brook to link to the Public Right of Way south of New House Farm;
- there should be a path to Whitnash;
- an additional north-south route along the western boundary of Severn Trent should be installed;
- a bridge over Europa Way to provide a safe route to the school is needed; and
- the park should be accessible from Farm Walk/Croft Close in Bishops Tachbrook.

3.3 The use of the paths in the masterplan

Introduction

3.3.1 Question 7 within the consultation requested feedback to the following question:

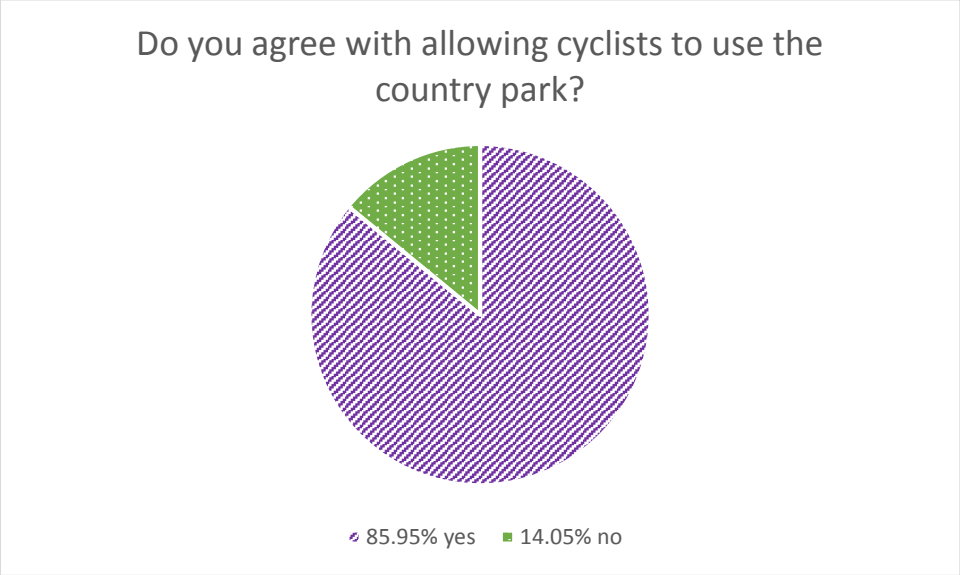
"We are proposing that the main paths within the country park are 3m wide (as a minimum) and laid with a surface suitable for use by cyclists and pedestrians. Do you agree with allowing cyclists to use the country park?"

3.3.2 Further detail was also requested where people had responded negatively to the question by stating, if you answered 'No', please let us know why.

Quantitative responses

3.3.3 Of the 1,294 responses received from the consultation, 1,281 provided an answer to question 7. A total of 1,101 respondents or 85.95% confirmed that they agree with allowing cyclists to use the country park.

3.3.4 A further 180 respondents or 14.05% said they did not agree with allowing cyclists to use the country park.



Qualitative matters raised

3.3.5 Of those respondents that did not agree with allowing cyclists to use the country park, 156 provided further justification for their response.

3.3.6 The most frequent reason for disagreeing with cyclists using the country park was concerns about safety. Numerous respondents highlighted concerns about the safety of pedestrians, children and other users of the park due to the speed of cyclists and their inconsiderate use of paths.

3.3.7 Whilst some respondents disagreed completely with allowing cyclists to use the park, others who answered no to the question clarified their response, indicating that cyclists should only be permitted if separate paths are provided or that only young children should be permitted to cycle within the park.

3.3.8 A number of respondents said that the country park should be as natural and peaceful as possible for the use of pedestrians only. Linked to this were concerns that cycling would destroy the tranquillity of the park and would be incompatible with wildlife habitat areas.

3.3.9 A number of respondents disagreed with cyclists using the park as they considered there were multiple safe roads, cycle routes and Sustrans routes in the surrounding area for cyclists to use already.

3.3.10 A small number of respondents who disagreed with cyclists using the country park also commented that the footpaths needed to be three meters wide to allow for pedestrians to social distance.

3.3.11 In addition, 73 of those who answered yes to the question provided further commentary to support their response. The main comments received were:

- cycle paths should be clearly marked and if possible, separated from the pedestrian footpaths – the use of coloured markings and raised kerbs were mentioned as possible ways to achieve this;
- speed restrictions should be put in place and enforced;
- areas of park should be cycle free;

- there should be measures to restrict access to the park to motorised bikes and electric scooters;
- paths should be wider to ensure safety of all users, including people with prams and disabled users; and
- allowing cyclists will encourage greater cycle use and will provide a safe place for families to cycle.

4. Food Growing

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Within this section of the consultation two questions were asked, these were:

1. *Do you agree with the food growing locations proposed?*
2. *Although food growing is often interpreted as traditional allotments, the food growing area does not necessarily have to be traditional allotments. Which option do you think would be most suitable within Tach Brook Country Park? Please order the below in preference, where 1 is most preferred and 4 is least preferred.*

4.1.2 The section below provides a quantitative representation of the responses to each of the questions followed by a summary of the qualitative matters raised received where additional space was provided for comments.

4.2 The locations of food growing area

Introduction

4.2.1 Question 8 within the consultation requested feedback to the following question:

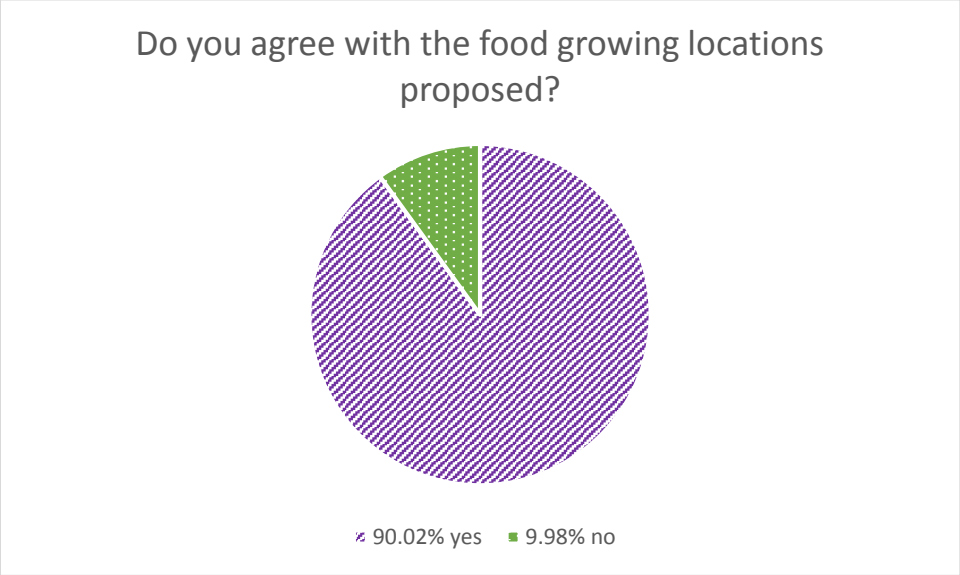
"Do you agree with the food growing locations proposed?"

4.2.2 Further detail was also requested where people had responded negatively to the question by stating, if you answered 'No', please let us know why.

Quantitative responses

4.2.3 Of the 1,294 responses received from the consultation, 1,242 provided an answer to question 8. A total of 1,118 respondents or 90.02% agreed with the food growing locations proposed.

4.2.4 A further 124 respondents or 9.98% said they did not agree with the food growing locations proposed.



Qualitative matters raised

4.2.5 Of those respondents that did not agree with the food growing locations proposed, 103 provided further justification for their response.

4.2.6 Most respondents who did not agree did so as they considered that food growing was not needed or was not an essential function of a country park. Often linked to this were concerns that the growing areas would take space away from more essential functions. Some respondents also indicated that that there are lots of other allotments in the area and as a result further provision is not necessary.

4.2.7 A number of respondents considered that the locations proposed were too close to houses and/or private land. Suggestions were received identifying alternative locations for the growing areas, these included: within the housing estates; close to the school; closer to roads or car parks for access; into the community area; away from play areas; and away from wildlife areas. A small number of respondents also commented that the areas should be better incorporated into the overall design of the country park.

4.2.8 Some respondents expressed concern that food growing would not be a long term solution, they cited the example of the community growing hubs in the old town which are unused and abandoned. Linked to this were often suggestions that the growing locations should be more natural/wild or that they should comprise a community orchard.

4.2.9 Some respondents also expressed concern about access to the growing locations. These often comprised concerns about parking in (or near) residential areas, access for cyclists and anti-social behaviour.

4.2.10 In addition, 18 of those who answered yes to the question provided further commentary to support their response. The main comments received were:

- the allotments must be properly maintained and looked after to avoid being scruffy and unappealing;
- the allotments must provide equal opportunities for people to volunteer and access food. They should also provide an educational resource for vulnerable groups and children;
- access must be restricted to the allotments from the park to avoid anti-social behaviour;

- the allotments should be prioritised for the people of Tachbrook; and
- beehives should be included.

4.3 The options for approaches to food growing

Introduction

4.3.1 Question 9 within the consultation requested feedback to the following question:

"Although food growing is often interpreted as traditional allotments, the food growing area does not necessarily have to be traditional allotments. Which option do you think would be most suitable within Tach Brook Country Park? Please order the below in preference, where 1 is most preferred and 4 is least preferred.

a) Community food growing areas: the space is used by the whole community who take ownership of growing, harvesting and distributing fruit and vegetables

b) Community orchards: the space is used by communities to plant, manage, restore and harvest from their own orchards

c) A mixture of all of the above

d) Traditional allotments: the space is divided into patches owned by individuals for growing and harvesting food

Quantitative responses

4.3.2 Of the 1,294 responses received from the consultation 1,264 provided response to question 9. Set out within table 4.1 below, are the preferences identified by respondents collectively, ranked in order where the overall rank of 1 is the most important and 4 is the least important. As is identified within the table the total score for each of the options is a weighted calculation where the score is the sum of all weighted rank counts from responses.

Table 4.1

Approaches to food growing	**Total Score[1]**	**Overall Rank**
Community food growing areas: the space is used by the whole community who take ownership of growing, harvesting and distributing fruit and vegetables	3385	1
Community orchards: the space is used by communities to plant, manage, restore and harvest from their own orchards	3286	2
A mixture of all of the above	3152	3
Traditional allotments: the space is divided into patches owned by individuals for growing and harvesting food	2817	4

Score is a weighted calculation. Items ranked first are valued higher than the following ranks, the score is a sum of all weighted rank counts.

5. Play Areas

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Within this section of the consultation a total of two questions were asked, these were:

1. *Do you agree with the location that we have proposed for play areas?*
2. *In keeping with the countryside character of the site, we are proposing that the play areas will be designed to blend into the natural setting, please see what will be in the country park (opens in a new tab). Do you like the idea of natural play areas?*

5.1.2 The section below provides a quantitative representation of the responses to each of the questions followed by a summary of the qualitative matters raised where additional space was provided for comments.

5.2 The locations of play areas

Introduction

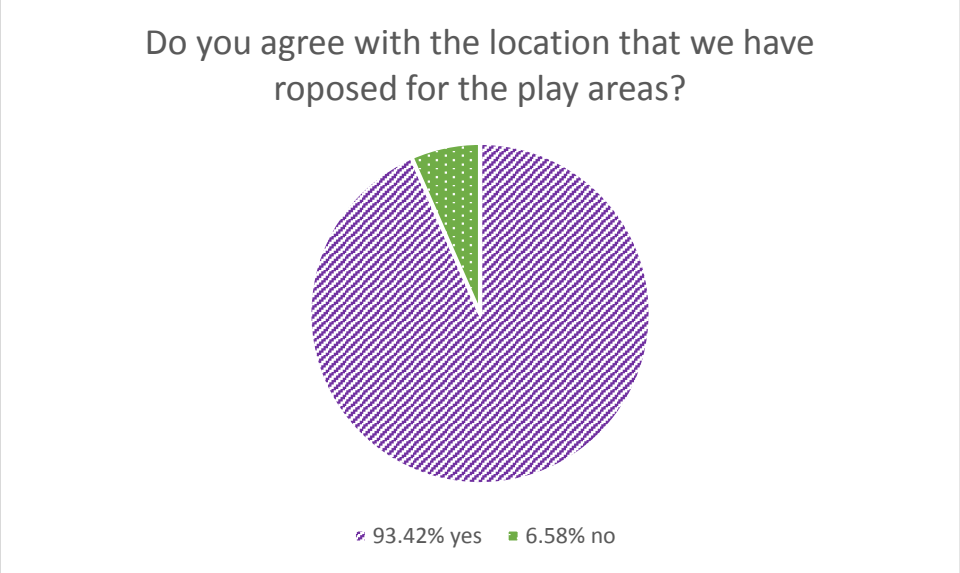
5.2.1 Question 10 within the consultation requested feedback to the following question:

"Do you agree with the location that we have proposed for play areas?"

Quantitative responses

5.2.2 Of the 1,294 responses received from the consultation, 1,247 provided an answer to question 10. A total of 1,165 respondents or 93.42% agreed with the location proposed for play areas.

5.2.3 A further 82 respondents or 6.58% said no, they did not agree with the location proposed for play areas.



Qualitative matters raised

5.2.4 Of those respondents that did not agree with the location proposed for the play areas, 69 provided further justification for their response.

5.2.5 Most respondents who did not agree did so as they considered that the play areas should be located either in the middle of the park or near the boundaries. Others suggested that the play areas should be further away from Europa Way, located near to parking or entrances to the park or located near to other facilities such as the community hub, the café or Heathcote School.

5.2.6 Some respondents said that the majority of features, including the play areas were all located on one side of the park. They said that they should be at either end or both sides of the park instead. Some respondents considered that the play areas have been positioned to only benefit the new housing and should instead be closer to Bishops Tachbrook.

5.2.7 A number of respondents considered that there should be no play areas, most commonly as respondents consider that they defeat the purpose of a country park. Other said that the emphasis should be on habitat creation and wildlife areas or areas for imaginative play and forest schools.

5.2.8 Some respondents expressed concern that play areas will be misused by older children, and are also often not properly maintained.

5.2.9 In addition, 16 of those who answered yes to the question provided further commentary to support their response. The main comments received were:

- the play areas should not be the focal point of the park and must not be too close to the wetland and wildlife areas so as not to disturb nature;
- access should be considered for a range of disabled people for these locations, i.e. not just wheelchair users;
- concerns about anti-social behaviour, and that they may attract unnecessary attention; and
- concerns about resident's privacy.

5.3 The design of play areas

Introduction

5.3.1 Question 11 within the consultation requested feedback to the following question:

"In keeping with the countryside character of the site, we are proposing that the play areas will be designed to blend into the natural setting, please see what will be in the country park (opens in a new tab). Do you like the idea of natural play areas?"

Quantitative responses

5.3.2 Of the 1,294 responses received from the consultation 1,276 provided an answer to question 11. A total of 1,123 respondents or 88.01% confirmed that they like the idea of natural play areas. 14 respondents or 1.10% said no, they did not like the idea of natural play areas.

5.3.3 139 respondents or 10.89% that answered this question did so indicating that they would like to see a range of different types of play equipment.


Do you like the idea of natural play areas?
88.01% yes
10.89% would perfer to see a range of play areas
1.10% no

6. Provision of other uses

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Within this section of the consultation a total of two questions were asked, these were:

1. *On the basis of the above, would you support the idea of extending the country park, in principle?*
2. *If additional budget were to be made available in the future for Tach Brook Country Park, how would you like the money to be spent? Please order the below in preference, where 1 is most preferred and 6 is least preferred.*

6.1.2 The section below provides a quantitative representation of the responses to each of the questions followed by a summary of the qualitative matters raised where additional space was provided for comments.

6.2 Extending the country park

Introduction

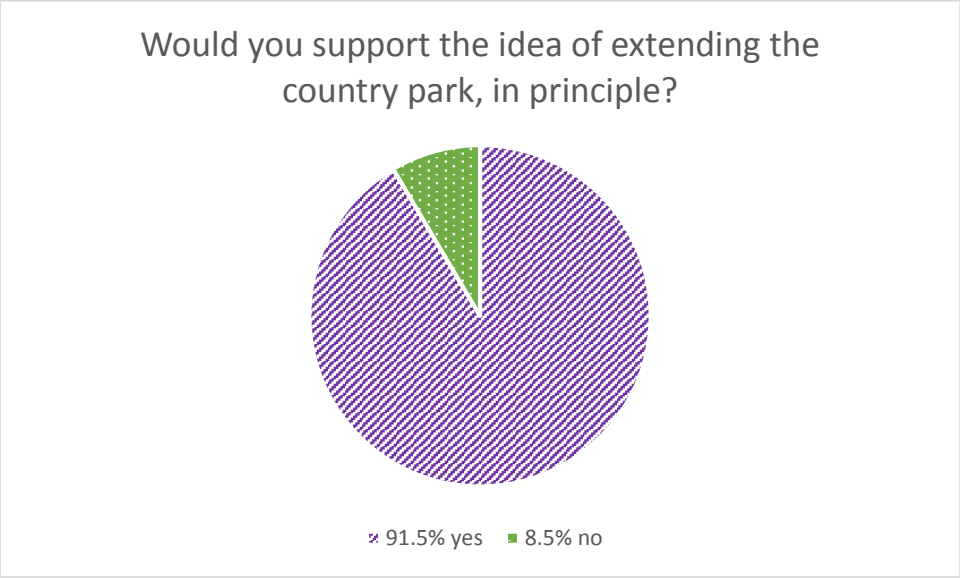
6.2.1 Question 12 within the consultation requested feedback to the following question:

"On the basis of the above, would you support the idea of extending the country park, in principle?"

Quantitative responses

6.2.2 Of the 1,294 responses received from the consultation 1,271 provided an answer to question 12. A total of 1,163 respondents or 91.50% confirmed that they support the idea of extending the country park, in principle.

6.2.3 A further 108 respondents or 8.50% said no, they did not support the idea of extending the country park.



Qualitative matters raised

6.2.4 Of those respondents that did not agree with the principle of extending the country park, 83 provided further justification for their response.

6.2.5 Most respondents who did not agree did so as they considered that a country park should be more about the natural environment, walking and wildlife. Other comments received suggested that the park should not include sporting facilities. Often these comments were further qualified suggesting that they will only attract a small number of people from the local communities and commercialising a natural area was not needed given that there were other similar facilities already established in the local area.

6.2.6 Some respondents expressed the view that the road network would not cope if the park was further extended and the additional resources required to maintain the facilities would increase costs. Linked to this were views that the money could be better spent elsewhere within the community.

6.2.7 Some respondents expressed the view that they would prefer either a swimming pool or disk golf but not both facilities. Respondents often considered that disk golf could be better integrated around the existing plans for the country park.

6.2.8 Other comments received stated that Newbold Comyn should be brought back in to use rather than building a new set of facilities in the country park, it would be better to ensure that the country park is being well used in advance of considering any extensions to it and that support would only be provided for an extension to the country park if no further houses were to be built in the vicinity.

6.2.9 In addition, 29 of these who answered yes to the question provided further commentary to support their response. The main comments received were:

- strong support for the expansion on the provision that it included open water swim facilities; and
- strong support for the expansion on the provision that it could be extended for further natural habitat rather than activities, unless they were fully integrated in the natural environment;

6.3 Additional budget

6.3.1 Question 13 within the consultation requested feedback to the following question:

"If additional budget were to be made available in the future for Tach Brook Country Park, how would you like the money to be spent? Please order the below in preference, where 1 is most preferred and 6 is least preferred."

a) To fund an extension of the country park to the south

b) To construct a walkway/viewing platform on higher ground, overlooking the surrounding countryside

c) To construct a more permanent and larger visitor centre/community building

d) To provide a car park for the sole use of the country park

e) To construct an outdoor swimming pool

f) To provide a bridleway

Quantitative responses

6.3.2 Of the 1,294 responses received from the consultation 1,274 provided a response to question 13. Set out within table 6.1 below, are the preferences identified by respondents collectively, ranked in order where the overall rank of 1 is the most important and 6 is the least important. As identified within the table the total score for each of the options is a weighted calculation where the score is the sum of all weighted rank counts from responses.

Table 6.1

Additional budget	**Total Score[2]**	**Overall Rank**
To fund an extension of the country park to the south	5885	1
To construct a walkway/viewing platform on higher ground, overlooking the surrounding countryside	4734	2
To construct a more permanent and larger visitor centre/community building	4338	3
To provide a car park for the sole use of the country park	4202	4
To construct an outdoor swimming pool	3970	5
To provide a bridleway	3625	6

[1] Score is a weighted calculation. Items ranked first are valued higher than the following ranks, the score is a sum of all weighted rank counts.

7. Monitoring Questions

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Within this section of the consultation a total of six questions were asked, these were:

1. *Please select your gender*
2. *Please select your age group*
3. *What is your ethnic origin?*
4. *Do you consider yourself to be living with a disability?(The Equality Act 2010 defines disability as a 'physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term (12 months or more) adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities')*
5. *If you have answered "yes" - please select the definition(s) from the list below that best describes your disability/disabilities. Please select all which apply.*
6. *Are you completing this questionnaire on someone's behalf?*

7.1.2 The section below provides a quantitative representation of the responses to each of the questions.

7.2 Gender

Quantitative responses

7.2.1 Of the 1,294 responses received from the consultation 1,278 provided an answer to question 13. Set out within table 7.1 below, are the respondent gender classifications provided within the responses received.

Table 7.1

	Gender	Response Percent	Response Total
1	Male	43.35%	554
2	Female	54.77%	700
3	Prefer not to say	1.88%	24

7.3 Age

Quantitative responses

7.3.1 Of the 1,294 responses received from the consultation 1,279 provided an answer to question 14. Set out within table 7.2 below, are the respondent age classifications provided within the responses received.

Table 7.2

	Age range	Response Percent	Response Total
1	Under 16	0.08%	1
2	16 - 24	2.97%	38
3	25 - 34	23.92%	306
4	35 - 44	24.78%	317
5	45 - 54	21.27%	272
6	55 - 64	14.46%	185
7	65 - 75	9.62%	123
8	Over 75	2.89%	37

7.4 Ethnic origin

Quantitative responses

7.4.1 Of the 1,294 responses received from the consultation 1,279 provided an answer to question 14. Set out within table 7.3 below, are the respondent ethnicity classifications provided within the responses received.

Table 7.3

	Ethnic origin	Response Percent	Response Total
1	White - English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	82.49%	1055
2	White - Irish	1.49%	19
3	White - European	5.55%	71
4	Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups: White & Black Caribbean	0.63%	8
5	Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups: White & Black African	0.23%	3
6	Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups: White & Asian	0.94%	12
7	Indian	3.13%	40
8	Pakistani	0.23%	3
9	Bangladeshi	0.08%	1
10	Chinese	0.39%	5
11	African	0.00%	0

	Ethnic origin	Response Percent	Response Total
12	Caribbean	0.08%	1
13	Arab	0.00%	0
14	Prefer not to say	3.60%	46
15	Other	1.17%	15

7.5 Living with a disability

Quantitative responses

7.5.1 Of the 1,294 responses received from the consultation 1,279 provided an answer to question 16. Set out within table 7.4 below, are the respondent disability classifications provided within the responses received.

Table 7.4

	Living with a disability	Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	8.13%	104
2	No	89.37%	1143
3	Prefer not to say	2.50%	32

7.6 Identification of a disability

Quantitative responses

7.6.1 Of the 1,294 responses received from the consultation 128 provided an answer to question 16. Set out within table 7.5 below, are the respondent disability identifications provided within the responses received.

Table 7.5

	Disability type	Response Percent	Response Total
1	Hearing (such as deaf, partially deaf, or hard of hearing)	9.38%	12
2	Mobility (such as wheelchair user, artificial lower limb(s), walking aids, rheumatism or arthritis)	23.44%	30
3	Learning difficulties (such as dyslexia)	7.81%	10

	Disability type	Response Percent	Response Total
4	Vision (such as blind or fractional/partial sight. Does not include people whose visual problems can be corrected by glasses/contact lenses)	2.34%	3
5	Reduced physical capacity (such as inability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, debilitating pain and lack of strength, breath, energy or stamina, asthma, angina or diabetes)	18.75%	24
6	Mental illness (substantial and lasting more than a year, such as severe depression or psychoses)	10.94%	14
7	Speech (such as impairments that can cause communication problems)	1.56%	2
8	Severe disfigurement	0.00%	0
9	Physical coordination (such as mental dexterity, muscular control, cerebral palsy)	0.00%	0
10	Prefer not to say	14.84%	19
11	Other disability	10.94%	14

7.7 Completing the questionnaire

Quantitative responses

7.7.1 Of the 1,294 responses received from the consultation 1,275 provided an answer to question 19. Set out within table 7.6 below, are the respondent confirmation of whether the questionnaire is being completed on behalf of someone else or for the respondent themselves.

Table 7.6

	Completing the questionnaire	Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes, I am completing this questionnaire on someone else's behalf	0.55%	7
2	No, I am completing this questionnaire for myself	99.45%	1268