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| Feedback report on results of the 2023 user survey for Victoria Park |

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## Who answered the survey?

The survey was answered by 380 persons. Females made up 62.6% of the respondents, with men at 33.4% and the remaining preferring to self-describe (0.8%) and the remainder preferring not to say. This ratio is broadly in line with the 2018 and 2014 survey.

For majority of these the gender was the same as at birth (93%) and 6.5% preferring not to say, only 0.5%- 2 responders, stated that their gender identity had changed.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Q27. Please select your age group | | | |
| Answer Choice | | Response Percent | Response Total |
| 1 | 0-4 Years Old | 0.0% | 0 |
| 2 | 5-10 Years Old | 0.0% | 0 |
| 3 | 11-14 Years Old | 0.5% | 2 |
| 4 | 15-18 Years Old | 0.8% | 3 |
| 5 | 19-25 Years Old | 1.3% | 5 |
| 6 | 26-36 Years Old | 15.2% | 57 |
| 7 | 37-48 Years Old | 27.9% | 105 |
| 8 | 49-59 Years Old | 21.3% | 80 |
| 9 | 60-70 Years Old | 16.5% | 62 |
| 10 | 71+ Years Old | 14.6% | 55 |
| 11 | Prefer not to say | 1.9% | 7 |

When asked ‘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'. 9.1% responded yes and 4% preferred not to say. As a subsequent question, 28 provided answers on how this affected how they use the park. This further feedback was asked if the respondent answered yes, in order to get a better understanding of the user experience of using the park if they had a disability. This is provided in full in appendix 4.

## Friends of Victoria Park data collection

28% of respondents were interested in joining Friends of Victoria Park and this information has been provided to the group for inclusion in their marketing and membership.

The questions in appendix item 1 were devised in conjunction with Friends of Victoria Park. The starting point was the previous questionnaire which was reviewed but given the extensive changes in the park and the need to be able to evaluate these additional questions were added.

Originally the intended questionnaire survey period was to start at the end of May 2023, but delays meant that this was changed to include all of July 2023 to include the summer holiday period.

# Results

## Understanding who uses the park and why

The main purpose for visiting Victoria Park, is cited as being ‘for a walk/stroll’ at 50%makes it clear that the benefit of movement in the fresh air is the main purpose of a visit to the park. Victoria Park is considered an ‘active park’ with high levels of independent exercise, tennis courts, ball games and bike/scooter riding, as a focus for activities is clearly successful with a wide variety of activities being undertaken.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Q1. What was the main purpose of your most recent visit to Victoria Park? (select up to 3 that apply)** | | | |
| **Answer Choice** | | **Response Percent** | **Response Total** |
| Peace and quiet / relaxation in the fresh air (31%) | 31% | 116 | 31% |
| Visiting the play area and/or paddling pool (38%) | 39% | 146 | 39% |
| Using the tennis courts (9%) | 9% | 36 | 9% |
| Organised exercise e.g., running club/ Nordic Walking /fitness class (4%) | 4% | 14 | 4% |
| Independent exercise - cycling, jogging, using gym equipment (18%) | 19% | 73 | 19% |
| A walk/stroll (50%) | 50% | 190 | 50% |
| Picnic/lunch (11%) | 11% | 41 | 11% |
| Observing wildlife (6%) | 6% | 21 | 6% |
| Dog walking (21%) | 21% | 81 | 21% |
| Meeting friends and family (19%) | 19% | 72 | 19% |
| Visiting café (17%) | 18% | 67 | 18% |
| Shortcut to somewhere else e.g. to work/shops (8%) | 8% | 31 | 8% |
| Kickabout (2%) | 2% | 6 | 2% |
| Bike/scooter riding (7%) | 7% | 28 | 7% |
| Attending an organised event (4%) | 4% | 14 | 4% |
| The skate park (5) | 5% | 18 | 5% |
| The bowling greens (2%) | 2% | 7 | 2% |

A question was asked separately ‘I/my family feel safe when we visit the park’ 28% strongly agreed, 58% agreed, 8% had no opinion, 4% disagreed and 2% strongly disagreed.

86% have a perception of safety in the park which is a positive factor for the park user experience. This coupled with the diversity of activities available in the park is important in ensuring there are sufficient opportunities in the park to enjoy activities in the park for all users, ages and demographics.

For users of the park that visit in a high frequency, there is a clear indication that they use the park significantly more in summertime rather than winter which reflects the lived experience of park usage with user activity being significantly less in the winter months.

In summertime,23% of those responded visited the park ‘more or less everyday’, and 37% ‘once or twice a week’. This shows that the park is principally visited by users on a very frequent basis who know and utilise the park.

There is a significant increase in the frequency of use of the park from the 2018 survey, particularly in regular users, although this could be that the methodology of the previous survey captured less regular visitors to the park with the interaction with members of the Friends of Victoria Park active questioning.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Comparing Q2. How often do you visit Victoria Park at different times of the year? Comparing In 2023 and 2018 | | | | |
|  | 2023 | 2023 | 2018 | 2018 |
|  | **summer** | **winter** | **summer** | **winter** |
| More or less every day | 23% | 16% | 13% | 7% |
| Once or twice a week | 37% | 34% | 43% | 24% |
| Once or twice a month | 29% | 32% | 21% | 15% |
| 3 - 6 times per year | 10% | 13% | No info | No info |
| About once a year | 0% | 2% | No info | No info |
| Rarely | 1% | 3% | No info | No info |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **What time of day do you usually visit the park?** | | | |
| **Answer Choice** | | **Response Percent** | **Response Total** |
| 1 | Early morning (before 9am) | 14.8% | 56 |
| 2 | Morning (9am - 12pm) | 48.9% | 185 |
| 3 | Middle of day/lunchtime (12pm - 2pm) | 31.5% | 119 |
| 4 | Afternoon (2pm - 5pm) | 47.4% | 179 |
| 5 | Late afternoon/evening (after 5pm) | 25.9% | 98 |

The park has a good variety of usage throughout the day, although before 9am use is lesser, however this could be before facilities are open or before the park is perceived as open. The late afternoon use does not support this theory but could be affected by the high level of independent exercise activity undertaken in the park.

Approximately 80% of park users are within walkable distance of the park which shows how well used it is used by the local community. The park is principally used by residents of Warwick District with 94% of visitors being from within Warwick district.

## How people access the park

The use of taxi is an area not previously asked in former questionnaires and the inclusion of scooter and skateboard/ blade is new.

The issue of cycles is an area that is in wider discussion in the parks. Current byelaws express that cycles are forbidden in parks, however this is at odds with the sustainable travel objectives of the council and also the opportunities that the parks afford to getting into Leamington without a vehicle as well as part of a wider travel mode between Warwick and Leamington.

A question was asked separately if ‘It is good that there is cycling in the park?’, 20% strongly agreed, 47% agreed, 19% had no opinion, 9% disagreed and 5% strongly disagreed. This shows a clear preference to include the park as a place for cyclists and where cycling is expected to happen.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | |
| Q.5 How do you travel to the park? (select all that apply) | | | | | | |
| Answer Choice | | Usually | | Usually as % | Sometimes | Usually as % |
| Walk | | 205 | | 54% | 57 | 15% |
| Cycle | | 19 | | 5% | 65 | 17% |
| Car | | 139 | | 37% | 60 | 16% |
| Taxi | | 0 | | 0% | 2 | 1% |
| Bus | | 7 | | 2% | 4 | 1% |
| Scooter | | 3 | | 1% | 6 | 2% |
| Skateboard/blade | | 0 | | 0% | 1 | 0% |
| Train | | 1 | | 0% | 0 | 0% |
| Motorbike | | 0 | | 0% | 0 | 0% |
| Walk/Scoot as family | | 2 | | 1% | 0 | 0% |
| Run | | 5 | | 1% | 1 | 0% |
| Wheelchair | | 1 | | 0% | 0 | 0% |

This can help inform levels of provision for cycle and scooter storage in the park as well as informing future development for example consider a drop off area in a car park for taxis, understand that scooter storage would be best to be sited near to parent seating etc.

### Change from 2018.

The 2018 survey looks at 4 modes of transport with Walk at 38%, Drive at 23%, cycle at 3% and public transport at 1%- presumably the remaining 35% did not answer the question. When this is compared with the result of the 2023 questionnaire, it is proudly the same- with 2% higher car use.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Q6. If you drive, where do you normally park?** | | | |
| **Answer Choice** | | **Response Percent** | **Response Total** |
| 1 | Archery Road/”Old Tennis Courts” car park | 48% | 93 |
| 2 | Victoria Street/Road | 5% | 10 |
| 3 | Avenue Road | 3% | 5 |
| 4 | Princes Drive car park (by railway bridge) | 56% | 109 |
| 5 | Adelaide Bridge car park (by the Irish Club) | 4% | 7 |
| 6 | Other local roads | 7% | 13 |
| 7 | Other car parks in town | 4% | 8 |
| 8 | Other (please specify): | 3% | 5 |

Question 6 above, was predicated by the answer to the previous question and only was asked if the respond and stated they drove to the park. Most park users use the car parks within the park and do not tend to access the park from other car parks. There is a preference for Princes Drive (XX spaces) is compared to Archery Road.

This is useful in terms of wayfinding and signage in the park as well as wayfinding around the town centre and to the riverside walk, for event management of the site and ongoing management of the park.

In the 2023 survey, Q17 asked whether they agreed with the statement ‘There is sufficient parking for easy access to the park’ to gauge whether there is sufficient provision to serve the needs of the park user. 7% strongly agreed, 31% agreed, 33% had no opinion, 21% disagreed and 7% strongly disagreed.

This is generally, but not overwhelmingly positive. This could be a number of factors- time of visit, peak activity, local or visitor to the park etc, but as a one off snapshot of opinion shows that generally there is adequate levels of provision for most park users.

## Type of user of the park

To understand the duration of visits to the park, the question from the 2018 survey was changed from the “longest period of time” spent in the Park, to how much time do you generally spend in the park. This was to understand the general length of visit to gain an overall understanding of the length of time spent in the park rather than the longest one off duration.

Roughly a third of people said 30 mins to 1 hour and another third between 1-2 hours. This provides understanding of the usual duration of park visits for car parking and understanding activity within the park. This is compared to the 2018 survey where the majority (57%) say 1-2 hours is the “longest period of time” spent in the Park: just under 4% claim more than 4 hours. This could have implications for car park planning.

This gives a clearer understanding that the usual duration of visit to the park is shorter than the 1-2 hours set out previously, and the turnover of visits is greater than previously understood.

When the figures above are compared with the 2018 survey, the results does indicate a change in use. In 2018 the percentage of people coming to the park alone was 21% whereas in 2023 its 28%. Also the percentage of people coming to the park with a dog has increase from 13% 19%. This is likely to reflect the growth in dog ownership since the pandemic.

The number of people visiting the park with children 11 to 16 years has significantly decreased from 29% to 6%. There is no clear explanation for this decline.

## Views of the park

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### Natural experience in the park

**The Circular Footpath is the most popular facilities in the park,** 63% regularly using this facility in the park, with 88% of visitors classing is as good and excellent.

The Riverside Walk is a very popular facility in the park with 51% using it regularly and 21% occasionally using the Riverside Walk. This aligns with the visitor experience of views of the river that are rated highly with 74% considering them good or excellent.

The Open Grassed Area is also appreciated in the park albeit less, with 44% saying they regularly use the open grassed area and 22% occasionally using the area.

The open grassed area, circular path and views of the river are all scored particularly highly, with high good and excellent scores. This indicates the positive character of the site in terms of landscape setting and relationship with the river and layout of the park is of high value to the public and a significant value to the park.

### Play Area

Over 1/3 use the children’s play area with 54% considering the play area excellent and 40% good- so 94% being positive about the play area which is an outstanding result.

The 2018 reflected a conflict between dog users and the play area of the park. This is not mentioned at all in this survey or mentioned in the feedback and is considered resolved by the fencing around the play area.

The popularity of the paddling pool is positive with 59% considering the pool good or excellent .

The skatepark is shown as 4% however this could be a flaw of the questionnaire not reaching the relevant age range which use this facility the most, as it does not reflect lived experience in the park of this popular activity area. However for those who have rated the skatepark, 24% consider it excellent and 49% good which demonstrates its value to that community.

A question was asked separately if ‘colourful street art would brighten up the skate park’ 12% strongly agreed, 34% agreed, 33% had no opinion, 12% disagreed and 9% strongly disagreed. With one third having no opinion shows an ambivalence towards this proposal and another third supporting this proposal. This result is considered with the context of the lack of engagement from the principal users of the skate park – older children and teenagers. Given this consideration it is unlikely that this would significant objection to park users if brought forward.

### Other facilities in the park

Swirls café is considered good or excellent by 63%and the outdoor gym at 54%

The outdoor gym, and general park infrastructure such as signage, seating, cycle racks are generally positive and viewed as good within the park. are all rated over 50% as being good or excellent.

### Areas of improvement

The baby changing facilities are scored poorly with 42% of those that have an opinion on hem rate them as very poor, poor or below average.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Information on Good and Excellent rating for Q11. How would you rate the amenities at Victoria Park? | | | |
|  | **Good** | **Excellent** | **Total percentage good and Excellent** |
| Open grassed area | 48% | 35% | 83% |
| Children's play area | 40% | 54% | 94% |
| Paddling pool | 42% | 17% | 59% |
| Outdoor Gym | 58% | 27% | 84% |
| Basketball Area | 44% | 7% | 51% |
| Circular footpath - walking, running, cycling | 52% | 40% | 93% |
| Skate park | 49% | 24% | 72% |
| Zip Wires | 52% | 21% | 73% |
| Tennis courts | 48% | 41% | 89% |
| Bowling greens | 15% | 79% | 95% |
| Swirls Café | 42% | 21% | 63% |
| Toilets | 35% | 6% | 41% |
| Baby changing facilities (in toilets) | 26% | 3% | 29% |
| Cycle racks | 53% | 18% | 70% |
| Local parking | 42% | 14% | 55% |
| Views of the river | 49% | 28% | 76% |
| Signage | 53% | 19% | 72% |
| Seating | 50% | 13% | 63% |

The results for activities such as the skate park, zip wires and bowling greens, basketball area have a high ‘no opinion’ rate, however are generally viewed well when reviewed. An exception to this is the outdoor gym results which have a high response and positive feedback results.

The toilets and baby changing facilities scored poorly.

## Views on the play area

Part of the purpose and aim of the survey has been to be able to review the large capital investment in the play area and to review the play offering in Victoria Park following the new play area.

The results for the new play area equipment is significant in the positive responses all achieving over 85% with the “Tree House” climbing/slide structure showing an exceptional score of 90%.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| If you/your family use the play and exercise facilities, what do you think of the following? | | | | |
|  |  | very poor, poor or below average | average | Results either good or Excellent |
| 1 | Sandpit | 11% | 19% | 70% |
| 2 | Other Toddler Equipment | 7% | 15% | 78% |
| 3 | “Tree House” climbing/slide structure | 3% | 7% | 90% |
| 4 | Smaller Climbing Structures & Slides | 3% | 11% | 86% |
| 5 | Seesaws & Swings | 2% | 12% | 86% |
| 6 | Paddling Pool | 19% | 28% | 53% |
| 7 | Dual Zipwire | 10% | 15% | 75% |
| 8 | Outdoor Gym | 5% | 11% | 84% |

The paddling pool has significantly poorer results than the other play and exercise facilities in the site, the new equipment being viewed in a positive manner.

Q13 was a free text question ‘Are there any improvements you would like to see in the play area?’ which was open to respondents who said they used the play area.

There were 124 responses to this question with all responses provided in appendix item 3. .

Some respondents gave multiple improvements they would like to see, these have been categorised and split up to aggregate the information.

The largest area of response was the paddling pool and the second at 17% was age-appropriate play equipment. Feedback was that the existing equipment was not suited to all children who wished to use it- an example given was the treehouse and parents felt that it need parental supervision to be suitable.

These often had a cross over with additional play equipment – so respondents who wanted more play equipment within he play area, this frequently crossed over with a desire for more age-appropriate play equipment, of these

15 of the 35 wanted more toddler equipment, 8 wanted equipment for younger children and 12 for older children, 1 more imaginative play and 1 just more play equipment.

9 respondents out of the 38 who gave comments wanting additional or more age-appropriate play equipment want more toddler swings specifically.

A question was asked separately if ‘There should be more recreational facilities for 10 - 18 age group’. This was asked to all about older children/ teenager provision in the park. 12% strongly agreed, 32% agreed, 45% had no opinion, 7% disagreed and 4% strongly disagreed. This shows a general trend towards wanting more provision for older children in the park, but the above analysis shows that this does not necessarily need to be in the form of additional play equipment.

## Accessibility in the Play Area

The results of Q13 which gave an overall impression of the play area made it clear that a lack of disabled play equipment was not a significant issue in the park with there not being a significant number of responses (4%) who thought that this needed further improvement.

Whilst reassuring, the Green Space team are keen to understand where gaps could still exist and if this area of provision could be improved further. Q14 asked whether the play area meets the needs of disabled children and has sufficient accessible play equipment.

**63% responded that it met the meets of disabled children** and was sufficient accessible play equipment. If no, the respondent was asked to provide information on this area.

Of the remaining 37%, over half felt unqualified or were unable to expand on the question. 10 out of the 62 respondents felt the play area was not sufficiently equipped, 6 felt there was not enough accessible equipment. 3 felt there were issues with the surfacing for wheelchairs. 5 stated that more options were needed for children in wheelchairs. 2 were more specific in that one would prefer a designated area within the play area and one stated that the play area is too busy for their child’s needs but was able to use the remainder of the park.

## Changes to the Paddling Pool

The popularity of the paddling pool is positive with 59% considering the pool good or excellent

However to look at the area more specifically, question 15 was ‘Thinking about the paddling pool, would the following changes help you/family enjoy the pool and pool area more?’. Out of the positive responses three areas of adding another water play features e.g. jets and fountains (61%) provision of shade (59%) more benches (57%) were well received suggestions.

The changing screen ideas is not well received (33%) and the suggestion of a change of design from a pool to a splash pad was not supported (No- 32% Yes 23% and 45% had No opinion) - especially in comparison to adding other water features to the existing pool.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes | No | No opinion |
| More benches | 57% | 5% | 37% |
| Provision of shade | 59% | 5% | 35% |
| Changing screen | 33% | 17% | 50% |
| Adding other water play features - e.g. jets, fountains | 61% | 11% | 28% |
| Change of design from a pool to a splash pad | 23% | 32% | 45% |

## Future Investment in the park

Although the park has received significant investment in recent times, however there is a desire to understand if future investments in the park and what the public feel they should be focused on. The results showed an interesting discordance between what the public would use and what would benefit them personally versus what their perception of what should be the highest priority for WDC.

Q. 16 If further funds were available for park facilities, which are you or your family likely to use and which do you consider high priority?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Most likely to Use | More tables/benches | 174 |  | Highest Priority | Lighting along Riverside Walk | 103 |
| Drinking water fountain | 147 |  | Improving biodiversity in the park | 97 |
| A bridge across the river from within the park | 135 |  | Drinking water fountain | 89 |
| Lighting along Riverside Walk | 121 |  | Lighting around the circuit | 87 |
| Lighting around the circuit | 109 |  | Resurfacing the paddling pool | 80 |
| Pétanque/Boules area | 96 |  | More tables/benches | 57 |
| Resurfacing the paddling pool | 94 |  | A bridge across the river from within the park | 54 |
| Table tennis table | 94 |  | Changing from pool to splashpad | 37 |
| Net climbing pyramid in the play area | 84 |  | Net climbing pyramid in the play area | 32 |
| Improving biodiversity in the park | 75 |  | Mini football goals | 28 |
| Changing from pool to splashpad | 73 |  | Lighting for the Skatepark | 21 |
| Mini football goals | 70 |  | Pétanque/Boules area | 17 |
| Better signage | 33 |  | Table tennis table | 17 |
| A shelter near the skatepark | 28 |  | Better signage | 15 |
| Lighting for the Skatepark | 23 |  | A shelter near the skatepark | 13 |

Interestingly, when the scores are amalgamated, the highest scores are **drinking water** **fountain** and **more tables/benches in the park** within **lighting along river side walk** and **lighting around the circuit** coming in 3rd and 4th respectively.

Lighting along the Riverside route and also around the circuit scores highly in terms of increasing likelihood of use of the park and also in terms of being considered a priority for the park. The issue of lighting is one that is based in amenity rather than a perception of an issue with security with 86% of saying they feel safe in the park.

Small additional play improvements such as Pétanque/Boules area, net climbing area, mini football goals the table tennis table are all higher in being most likely to use, but are considered less of a priority for resources in the park. A shelter and lighting for the skatepark come in low in terms of scores, but this could be a consequence of the lack of respondents in the principle users age range, but could also be considered that this facility in the park is suitable as is and there is no desire to grow or improve this facility further.

Apart from the proposals already undertaken since 2018, many of the most popular proposals were the highest scoring in the 2018 survey, showing a consistency in the responses between surveys.

Improving biodiversity in the park scores very highly in being a priority despite scoring low in terms of use, this is due to the improvements being less of an activity but highlights the desire for biodiversity improvements in the park above activities for the park user.

When asked in separately if ‘The river bank is an area that should be more natural to encourage wildlife ’, 25% strongly agreed, 44% agreed, 22% had no opinion, 7% disagreed and 3% strongly disagreed. This shows a clear desire to encourage wildlife in the park with limited opposition to improving the natural setting of the riverbank. This aligns with the natural values showing that this is one of the key areas that people enjoy in the park and would like to see retained and improved.

# The park looking forward

There is a desire to understand the direct that the park users wants to see changes in the parks and how they envision adaptive changes to the park occurring, to understand the scale and nature of the changes and how ambitious the adaptive changes should be.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Q. 18 Climate change and the ecological emergency is a key focus for Warwick District Council. What measures would you like to see in Victoria Park to address this?** | | | |
| **Answer Choice** | **High priority** | **No opinion** | **Low priority** |
| More bee friendly planting within the park | 72% | 16% | 12% |
| More wild flowers throughout the park | 68% | 17% | 15% |
| Selected areas of the park to left to be wild to encourage biodiversity | 61% | 19% | 20% |
| Solar roof panels to roofs of park buildings to maximise solar energy to public buildings | 61% | 23% | 16% |
| More areas of shade in the park | 42% | 30% | 28% |
| Change to more drought resistant planting and reduced bed planting | 34% | 42% | 24% |
| Reduced car parking near the park | 7% | 34% | 58% |

From the answers provided, there is a clear steer on the types of improvements that the park user would like to happen. These are principally to the existing park and buildings to improve the existing in a way that supports local ecology and reduces energy consumption. There is less support for more shade, although it is not inconsiderable support at 42%.

However, there is a clear lack of support for reduced car park near the park which would require a change for a significant number of park users (37%) in how they usually travel to the park, or alternatively and unwillingness to lose that facility to the park.

## Understanding views on events in the park

### Commonwealth 2022 Games

In Q. 17, a view was sought on the popularity of hosting the Commonwealth Games was great for Leamington, 38% strongly agreed and 37% agreed, 15% had no opinion and 6% disagreed and 4% strongly disagreed. This shows significant support for Leamington hosting the Commonwealth Games.

The park was used as the home for the bowls tournament and 82% felt it was a good use of the park and 35% of respondents attended the event.

### Reoccurring/ annual events in the park

National Blows Championships (takes place every year) is well supported use of the park with 86% considering the annual event a good use of the park, however it is attended by only 20% of the respondents if the survey. This shows an understanding of the importance and status afforded to the park by hosting the event, even if it is not particularly a draw for park users.

A generic question regarding events was asked which scored 66% support as being a good use of the park, Fake Festival and Pub in the Park receive similar support in terms of the events being considered a good use of the park, however pub in the park achieves a 32% attendance rate compared to Fake Festival which is 18%.

It demonstrated that there is a set level of support for the use of the park with approximately two thirds supporting the park as an events venue, however the type and nature of the festival and how well it appeals to the park user will depend on the event.

## Analysis

The questionnaire has been designed to find out the following objectives with reflections on the outcomes from the questionnaire.

#### How do the public use the park

The park is extremely positively viewed and the facilities in the park are well valued. The park is well used by the local community and a significant number of the park users use the park on a high frequency basis. The high perception of safety in the park is positive feedback.

The park is valued for the natural qualities as an outside space with a walk/stroll and peace and quiet in the fresh air being main purpose for the visit. Activities in the park such as visiting the dog walking and independent exercise are significant and more sociable activities (meeting friends, using the café, attending an event) form about one fifth of all activities in the park.

There is an increase in the number of people visiting the park alone and as a place to walk the dog.

The duration of the park falls between 30 mins to 2 hours for most users, although this reduces to less than 30 mins to 1 hour in the winter time.

The feedback shows a level of support or ambivalence on the issue of cycling in the park with 67% supporting cycling in the park and 19% having no opinion. The negative feedback on the question from disabled park users indicated that cyclists/ scooters can generate a level of fear of a crash from those with mobility issues on the path areas.

#### How to they feel about the park with recent changes,

The feedback on the play area is overwhelmingly positive with 94% being positive about the play area. The mix of feedback which seeks increased play equipment across the age ranges indicates that this may be biased by user experience and that the mix is generally positive in providing a positive play experience for all ages, including the skatepark which is viewed positively with 73% considering it good or excellent.

When asked for improvement in the play area generally, only 4% wished to see improved disabled play equipment. However, when asked specifically, the play area is considered to be accessible generally with 83% being satisfied or feel unqualified to provide further comment. 12% feel that more accessible or disabled equipment is needed.

The parking is considered to be a positive element of the park and there is a strong resistance to this being removed from the parks offer.

The events in the park are generally well received with two thirds of respondents supporting events and a consistent level considering attendance. The National bowls championship has a high level of support although a low rate of attendance and could be linked to the legacy of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022 which is positively viewed with three quarters of respondents having a positive view of the games.

#### What improvements do they want to see in the park

There are 4 areas which score highly in terms of being likely to use and being a high priority and show a clear consistency with the 2018 survey. these are **more tables/benches**, **drinking water fountain**, **lighting along Riverside Walk** and **lighting around the circuit**. 60% say they agree with the statement that ‘Lighting in the park would make me more likely to use it during the evening’. The type of use or increase in activities that lighting the Riverside Walk and Circuit would enable is unknown, but the park is known to support a high level of independent exercise (18%) and dog walking (21%) which are often solitary activities which given that 28% of park users are usually alone and 22% occasionally visiting the park alone could be a reason why lighting would be preferred.

The **paddling pool** is clearly an area where play users value highly but consider the park requires improvement (27%) with concerns regarding maintenance and the surface showing concern. The data shows that there is a preference for shade and seating in the pool area with more jets, fountains included. There is limited support to redesign this area into a splashpad.

Additional seating in the play area scored 11% and is an area where the park area could be improved. Within the play area the feedback for additional equipment was biased towards needing more **toddler swings** as a clear means of improving the toddler offer of the play area.

Feedback on climate change adaption focuses on landscaping improvements- such more **bee friendly planting, more wildflowers, re-wilding** within the park. **Solar roof panels** on park buildings was also popular at 61% high priority. However the importance of the riverside is crucial in the enjoyment of the park and the added amenity it provides to park users.

## Future opportunities

The feedback on the park shows how clearly it is valued by the local community and residents within the district with 95% of park users are from within the district or 45 mins walk.

However, this information reflects that the park is not well used beyond the district and opportunities to attract visitors beyond the district could be realised with only 2.9% of respondents being from outside the district but within a 30 mins drive. It could be that this type of park user is unlikely to engage in a survey of this nature, but this should be considered as an opportunity to support the café, bowls area and tennis club operating in the park as well as raise the profile of the district.

Toilet improvement and signage to the toilets is an area which should be reviewed in the park, 28% rate the toilet facility in the park and as very poor, poor and below average, and 25% as good or excellent. This shows that there is a mixed picture of the facility. Some of the written feedback in the questionnaire implies that awareness of where the toilet facilities are is missing. This should be reviewed, and consideration given as to whether this needs to be improved.

## Feedback for FoVP

The park is clearly well loved and respected by the local community and there is considerable support for the changes undertaken in the last 5 years. The status of the park appears to have benefited from the Commonwealth Games and the significant investment from WDC as part of this event.

There is a range of activities to suit most ages of the community and the park provides a good offer in terms of meeting the needs of the community. The park user highly values the natural qualities of the site, but shows an awareness of how the park will need to adapt to be climate change ready and to provide an opportunity to improve the biodiversity and natural qualities of the site seems to be a key area of growth for both the park and for the Friends group being a point of possible community engagement.

Whilst the survey, is less in numbers of respondents than the 2018 which FoVP was so engaged in, it is more comprehensive and allows a clear reflection on the changes and future direction of the park and we are very grateful for the support of FoVP in bringing about the survey both as a form of reflection and as a means of approaching change.

## Appendix item 1. List of Questions included in the Questionnaire

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * Who uses the park and why | * 1 | What was the main purpose of your most recent visit to Victoria Park? (select up to 3 that apply) |
| * 2 | How often do you visit Victoria Park at different times of year? |
| * 3 | What time of day do you usually visit the park? |
| * 4 | Please select the option below that best describes where you live in relation to the park. |
| * How people access the park | * 5 | How do you travel to the park? |
| * 6 | If you drive, where do you normally park? |
| * 7 | What entrance(s) do you normally use to access the park? |
| * Type of user of the park | * 8 | How much time do you generally spend in Victoria Park on a visit at different times of the year? |
| * 9 | When you visit the park, do you come alone or with others? |
| * Views of the park | * 10 | When you visit the park, what facilities do you use? |
| * 11 | How would you rate the amenities at Victoria Park? |
| * Views on the play area | * 12 | If you/your family use the play and exercise facilities, what do you think of the following? |
| * 13 | Are there any improvements you would like to see in the play area? |
| * 14 | Do you think the play area meets the needs of disabled children and has sufficient accessible play equipment? |
| Future investment in the park | * 15 | Thinking about the paddling pool, would the following changes help you/family enjoy the pool and pool area more? |
| * 16 | If further funds were available for park facilities, which are you or your family likely to use and which do you consider high priority? |
| * 17 | Please rate how you agree with the following statements. If you are unsure or don’t know, please select the "No opinion" option. |
| * 18 | Climate change and the ecological emergency is a key focus for Warwick District Council. What measures would you like to see in Victoria Park to address this? |
| * Understanding views on events in the park | * 19 | Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games |
| * 20 | National Bowls Championships (takes place every year) |
| * 21 | Fake Festival |
| * 22 | Pub in the Park |
| * 23 | Other large events held on the grass |
|  | * 24 | If you have any further comments or suggestions, please provide them below. |
| * FoVP data collection | * 25 | Friends of Victoria Park is a community group that represents Park users by encouraging improvements to park facilities. Would you be interested in joining Friends of Victoria Park? |
| * 26 | Please provide your name and email address |
| * Questionnaire responder information | * 27 | Please select your age group |
| * 28 | Do you consider yourself to be living with a disability? |
| * 29 | If you do have a disability or health condition, how does this affect how you use the park, and how would you like to see this addressed? |
| * 30 | Please select your gender |
| * 31 | Does your gender identity match your sex assigned at birth? |
| * 32 | What is your ethnic origin? |

## Appendix Item 2. Results on question 11 regarding views on amenities at Victoria Park.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Q11. How would you rate the amenities at Victoria Park** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Answer Choice** | | **Very poor** | **Poor** | **Below average** | **Average** | **Good** | **Excellent** | **No opinion** | **Response Total** |
| 1 | Open grassed areas | 2 | 3 | 4 | 53 | 174 | 128 | 7 | 371 |
| 2 | Children's play area | 1 | 1 | 3 | 12 | 115 | 153 | 64 | 349 |
| 3 | Paddling pool | 6 | 13 | 15 | 69 | 104 | 42 | 94 | 343 |
| 4 | Outdoor Gym | 2 | 2 | 4 | 26 | 126 | 58 | 122 | 340 |
| 5 | Basketball Area | 1 | 7 | 13 | 26 | 42 | 7 | 220 | 316 |
| 6 | Circular footpath - walking, running, cycling | 1 | 1 | 1 | 23 | 182 | 141 | 16 | 365 |
| 7 | Skate park | 4 | 0 | 7 | 19 | 53 | 26 | 214 | 323 |
| 8 | Zip Wires | 1 | 4 | 9 | 28 | 81 | 32 | 173 | 328 |
| 9 | Tennis courts | 1 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 65 | 56 | 185 | 321 |
| 10 | Bowling greens | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 17 | 87 | 211 | 321 |
| 11 | Swirls Café | 2 | 4 | 13 | 78 | 112 | 56 | 76 | 341 |
| 12 | Toilets | 11 | 21 | 24 | 64 | 71 | 12 | 133 | 336 |
| 13 | Baby changing facilities (in toilets) | 7 | 6 | 3 | 11 | 10 | 1 | 277 | 315 |
| 14 | Cycle racks | 1 | 0 | 5 | 11 | 30 | 10 | 256 | 313 |
| 15 | Local parking | 11 | 12 | 15 | 68 | 99 | 33 | 106 | 344 |
| 16 | Views of the river | 3 | 3 | 14 | 62 | 169 | 97 | 12 | 360 |
| 17 | Signage | 6 | 4 | 5 | 57 | 136 | 48 | 88 | 344 |
| 18 | Seating | 1 | 6 | 19 | 90 | 155 | 42 | 41 | 354 |
| ***answered*** | | | | | | | | | **376** |

## Appendix item 3. Unedited feedback on any improvements like to see in the play area (Question 13)

|  |
| --- |
| Climbing net pyramid |
| Better quality paddling pool. Improved drainage on basketball court |
| Would love it if we could add some sprinklers to the paddling pool! |
| More bench seating / picnic tables |
| Since the refurbishment, this area is excellent, a great range of equipment suitable for all ages. We will use this for many years to come even though it can get very busy at weekends. |
| Toddler play area needs an update. I’m tired of maintenance for the parking pool being saved until open season. Sort it before the pool opens! |
| Monkey bars are very steep. Daughter fell off. Fractured arm. Other than that all the recent changes have been excellent |
| No comments on this. We come to the park purely to relax and enjoy the walks within it. But it's good to see the play area so well used. |
| More sand in sandpit, more equipment for older toddlers, perhaps cctv in the underpass, wildlife areas in the centre of the park |
| No opinion - child only a baby |
| Get rid of the sand - it’s a nightmare to play in. The treehouse is inviting for little ones (under 5), but impossible for them to climb up, so an adult has to help, which is difficult. Older children congregate in there which is intimidating for smaller children.  The smaller climbing frame & slide seems to be the size fit 2-5 year olds, but has been designed poorly so the can’t climb up to the slide - an adult has to help.  The children’s play area has the potential to be so great, but it is completely disappointing.  I do like that it is all fenced in. It could do with more seating. |
| Boat rides on the river. |
| Outdoor gym is mostly used as an extension to the kids play ground enabled by the parents so isn’t cost effective. This puts off adults wanting to use it. Why not make it adults only like the playgrounds are kids only. Need to provide facilities for all ages not just kids please. We all need opportunities to exercise. |
| No. It is great |
| Glad that dogs are banned from children’s play area. Don’t tend to walk on grassy areas in case dog poo has been left. The big slide is ambitious but quite hard for eg 5 year olds and as a parent who has had to rescue a child from the top, the slide cd be a bit bigger to allow an adult to slide down it more comfortably. Ps I am slim! Metal slide also a bit of a problem in the heat. |
| Equipment maintenance |
| No |
| More seating & bins |
| Treehouse is not suitable for any children over 8 years. My grandaughter was so disappointed to find she is too tall to climb the inside without crouching down to avoid hitting her head. Swing style roundabout which is used by teenagers and therefore gets damaged regularly. |
| More parking needed. Concerned that regular parking in front of double access gates might be needed for emergency vehicles. Toilets very far from play areas and not sign-posted. Local By-Laws not sign-posted at entrances. Skateboards and cyclists on footpaths are a hazard to pedestrians. Dog fouling in grassed areas. |
| The paddling pool should be improved with more features/things to do. It needs regular maintenance when bits come away it’s dangerous for children. These improvements should be done when empty in the winter not when the summer season has started. The big treehouse in the playground is very dangerous and has big empty holes where children first starting to use it can fall down. I’ve heard of may people falling and hurting themselves. If these were more covered up, it would be much better as lots of children seem to like it. |
| No |
| Toilets???must have missed those I thought they were closed,if open maybe better signage |
| Another big climbing frame similar to the treehouse, and better swings. |
| The paddling pool is a great size, however, there is very poor seating around for the parents, the gravel floor around is so rough and sharp, it's painful to walk on without shoes and my children frequently graze knees or cut feet. The inside of the pool last year was also very sharp too and they hurt themselves in the water too.  I like the fence around though, for security. |
| The sand pit is a nice idea but doesn’t work in reality. It goes everywhere! The digger can’t dig effectively anymore given the lack of sand in the pit |
| Paddling pool is always in need of repair |
| Speedy maintenance to zipwire (now dragging on ground), exercise equipment (striders now clunking!) and clear-up of any broken glass etc. More benches in the play area for parents. |
| More swings |
| The paddling pool was closed when we wanted to use it recently. When we used it last year, there were bits of plaster coming off the bottom of the pool. |
| Padding pool could do with a refresh, it would be handy to heave more seating within the fencing and somewhere to store bags |
| There seems to be a lack of suitable equipment for 4-5year olds - some is too big and some is too small - nothing just quite right.  More seating for adults. Toilets near to the playpark. |
| Fix the floor of the paddling pool. More toddler play park toys |
| Opening times on the paddling pool - otherwise you’re waiting around with children and don’t know for how long.  Some shade over the padding pool, and repaired flooring in the pool.  Fireman’s pole feels dangerous in the playground. |
| Equipment that can be used for disabled children. |
| Better floor surface for my wheelchair |
| Even more equipment that is suitable for wheelchair users. A wheelchair swing would be great and something like a ramped sensory trail |
| More disabled play facilities suitable for wheelchair users such as a wheelchair swing, ramps onto play structures or equipment that a wheelchair user can fit their legs underneath. The offering at present is very poor. Having the adapted swing seat on the circular swing structure that spins is not a suitable place for it. There is very little for my wheelchair using child to use. I am very disappointed that more wasn't included in the new play area that was installed. |
| More assessable equipment for children in wheelchairs. |
| Putting the sandpit in by the toddler play stuff means it is always covered in sand. This makes it slippery for small children on their play equipment.  That whole end of the play area is covered in sand. Feel the sandpit should have been fenced off separately if has to be there.  More toddler swings would be good - only 2 in a park that is often very busy with small children. |
| n/a |
| Yes, a gate or bigger sign or bars around the outdoor gym. There are always kids using it without parents using it as a play ground -standing on the seats and jumping off the equipment. |
| Clean the sandpit more regularly please Maintain the paddling pool - better signage (hard surfaces, slippery) Shade required |
| We love the park here… one of the better ones we think! |
| Would like to see the paddling pool open more |
| Paddling pool was not worked on the whole winter. As soon as the summer weather came, it was re-developed. But then had to close because it wasn’t up to standard. How is this acceptable? There are also not enough toddler toys, or climbing frames. The park is geared more to older children. |
| The play ground being fenced in. I find it hard to look after 2 children with one running off |
| Safer paddling pool - as young children can go barefoot, is it sometimes no very safe and can cause cuts/grazes.  Also, more seating around the edge would be good |
| Not enough seating or shade for adults! |
| The surface of the pool is very rough. My daughter often has scratches from it. |
| A youth shelter and lights around the skate park |
| There arent enough toddler swings often for the demand and you have to wait a long time for them. Especially considering the apart from the swings, sandpit and a couple small other elements, the other things to do in the park feel much more suitable for older children. |
| The upgrades are great, looks so much better than before! Not sure what else to add, my nephew enjoyed it all when he came to visit. |
| A few more swings |
| The outdoor gym should be enclosed and signposted as not a child's play area as it often has kids jumping all over it stamping mud into all the seats and impossible for use as a gym, also it will be a shame when an accident happens that could've been easily avoided with signage telling parents that it is an exercise area not a playpen. |
| Gates are heavy. More seating. Desperate need of toilets nearer park. |
| When I last went the pool had lots of holes on the floor and bits of paint floating around. One of the zip wires was also broken and the children were touching the floor when on it. |
| No, it’s a nice play area - safe for children to climbs and suited for all ages. |
| Signage to the toilet We looked around last time as I needed the loo but could see any so walked to the library More seating in paddling pool area |
| More for toddlers |
| The new playground equipment is great, partly because it shows the town how much the park is valued. My child has always loved the big logs and other natural play 'equipment' so please never take this away! I can't think of any improvements - it's a really great area. |
| The zip wires don't really work, there is not enough of a vertical height difference |
| The decline of the zipwire is not steep enough and heavier children on one wire hit the floor There are not enough play kit items for children that are 7 plus - heavily toddler/younger kids focused - needs a larger climbing frame/equivalent Paddling pool needs some shade  tree house - the metal bar on the mid level - kids hit their heads on it when running round to go down the firemans pool area - needs padding |
| A few more challenging things for older children |
| The grabber in the sandpit is too difficult for youngsters to use and it can swing and catch other children unawares. Only one child can play on it and it takes too much room.  The zip wires are good but they need a non slip surface where you get on and all around that area as the mud gets everywhere. At the bottom of the large slide also needs a better surface as the mud has formed a hole which fills with water just where the children get off at the bottom and then they climb up again taking mud onto all the hand holes. |
| Younger kids struggle to climb the tree house and if they come back down there aren't enough ways up/down to allow for the amount of kids on it - you could do with a second tree house at times! |
| Circular path- clear leaves in autumn and winter Add more seating Improve toilets |
| Yellow door for entrance to paddling pool would be nice.  Sand pit toys that are built in are all very hard to work if they even work. ex: bucket to pull up sand is very, very difficult, spinner for sand to spin does not spin.  Small climbing structure has missing components.  The "grass" over the tunnel into the sandpit should be redone. No grass is growing and the black mat is very slick and doesn't look appealing . |
| More seating to sit and observe children |
| If possible, it could be expanded |
| They look good and happily used |
| More for under 2s, need more swings also (this is an issue with every park they only ever have 2 baby/toddler swings) |
| Keep the pool open! |
| Some of the equipment that was installed last year is not very usable. Fox example, the obstacle course gets very sandy and kind of dangerous for the kids. |
| The paddling pool seems to always be closed at peak times, very inconvenient and frustrating especially with no notice. |
| There is very little for a child age 3-5. The tree house is too difficult, resulting in child crying, stuck near the top. For future playgrounds, look at who did the wooden one in Priory Park in Malvern, Worcestershire - it is amazing and suitable for all ages. |
| No |
| More baby swings because there’s always a queue for the 2 that are there. The wobbly bridge on the toddler climbing frame is incredibly slippery, it could do with a grip on it. |
| No. Without any experience of it, it looks fabulous. I wish I had an excuse to use it e.g. young grandchildren |
| None come to mind. I love it there. Love the trees, the walks, the different things other people are doing. Wish the cafe was better though....it lacks inspiration. |
| Nope |
| The tree house is brilliant but gets incredibly crowded at busy times. The paddling pool flooring is really crumbling and both myself and my daughter hurt our feet in a couple of places. |
| More for older children. |
| The paddling pool has been refurbished, I believe, but the surface of the bottom of the pool is still very poor in places and could scratch the children's feet. Bigger kids and adults use it to kick a ball around in, and I don't think that should be allowed  The sandpit is a bit messy and not easy to use. It would be nice to have more areas to encourage imaginative play. |
| A middle ground set of slides between the baby one and the big one The paddling pool with more play type water structures, fountains etc |
| My daughter is 12 years old and disabled. We love the round about and the sunken trampolines. But we can’t get her onto the disabled swing. It’s really odd and disappointing that you only have one on the multi use equipment. 9 out of 10 times we are there a typical child is in it, my daughter wouldn’t be able to use it at the speed typical children like to go. On the flip side there is no one there to use it with so we can’t keep her seated or safe whilst trying to counteract the weight using equipment to get it to spin round which is impossible. the major issue now is we cannot get her into the chair in the first place. It’s not stable due to what it’s on and she’s too heavy to lift and help her secure herself as she’s unable to do it herself. The disabled swing in the cubbington park is even worse, so high and totally unusable unless they are light enough to lift and again have other children at the park who would get bored for not being able to go at a speed for them. For us as a family we would use the park (s) more if there was simply a full chair swing on its own alongside the other single swings or anywhere knowing she will get the full enjoyment of being able to use one of her favourite things to do. |
| More baby swings. Worst thing is a toddler waiting to go on a swing and a parent not wanting to take their child off!!! With only 2 baby swings every time I’ve been it’s been a nightmare!!! |
| More seating Better pavements walking surface . More litter removal . |
| More for 1-2 year olds ideally |
| More picnic tables  Dedicated parking for tennis courts |
| It was disappointing about the pool being shut as it got hot.  It’s great though although my children are 9&10 and I’d LOVE to see a slightly deeper one or deeper end, just so they aren’t crawling in the pool to get wet ..! Or a splash pad instead or add some mini fountains etc … But it’s still appreciated..  maybe also a small ramp area away from where all the teens go (although I love that they have somewhere)  An electronic sign saying if any parking available before you go in the car park… |
| More things for bigger kids |
| The sandpit is poor. The digger is unusable as is the pull chain bucket on the climbing frame. The sand is also always blown over on the surrounding pavement and the lining of the pit is now showing. You need more baby swings, 2 is not enough. The equipment is often broken. Your need shade for the paddling pool, it is why we rarely use it. |
| Sign posts for toilets |
| No |
| The gear of the small slide and sandpit maintenance |
| The zip line to be quicker and to fix the cross fit on the gym |
| Segregation of toddler and bigger kid areas, too many swings flying about for small toddlers to walk into.   Tree house is too difficult for an adult to access to help children. It feels like it's made for children of an older age that wouldn't visit that play area. |
| Stop killing the trees |
| Zip wire access is very slippery to get onto |
| signs to indicate appropriate ages of children . teenagers are playing in toddler areas |
| The zip lines seem to dip very low to the ground |
| I wish my kids were young enough to benefit from it. It's brilliant |
| More seating for the elderly |
| More baby/toddler swings.  Sand from sandpit swept up on regular basis.  More shade around paddling pool. |
| The Zip wire is too low even for my 6yr granddaughter |
| We like directly opposite the play area on the other side of the River Leam. The children’s play area has been well improved but this brings an increase in noise. Any future works should guard against Noise Ploution |
| Restriction of play area to children for whom it’s intended. Monitoring use to prevent young adults misusing it or using substances and vaping there. The new equipment is really goid |
| I’d like the outdoor pool to not be closed in the summer for repairs |
| My children are older now so I don’t use them |
| Seating with back rest. |
| More seating  Revamped or renewed paddling pool. Crazy golf |
| The outdoor gym is NOT a child's playground yet often children are using the equipment. Today I saw a toddler get hurt because a stupid mother let the youngster climb onto the equipment. I did remonstrate with her but I feel it fell onto deaf ears. On one item the handle bar was had lost its grip which exposed a metal threaded end of the bar. Dangerous in my opinion. It needs some fencing surrounding it and clear NO Children posters. |
| Sometmes the sand from the sandpit makes the nearby plastic netted areas very slippery. |
| The paddling pool feels like it needs a revamp as it quite quickly gets a little run down in my experience. This prevents us from using it as much as we could. |
| Don’t know |
| More access for wheelchair users especially children they need more wheelchair height things to play with. |
| no |
| It’s very crowded but there’s not much you can do about that. Tree house is a good feature but children who are too young go up and then get stuck or won’t go down the slide and you can see them/get to them to sort it out |
| More kit for 10-15 yr old, climbing frame |
| Zip wire is not set up well too low. Machines on gym creak and are not maintained |
| I don't use the play area but it looks fantastic compared with my local ones at Eagle Rec and Rushmore Street.  Spread the joy, people!! |
| Although clean and functional the paddling pool is dated and requires yearly painting and repairs. I feel it needs updating and it would be nice to have fountains such as those in St Nic’s park in the pool |
| Something for older children |

## Appendix item 3. Unedited feedback on events in the park (Question 24)

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| Pump Room Gardens - large amenity-free space nearer to town - is better suited to hold major events (except those using the bowling greens or circuit) |
| This park is a drain on parking for the locals - no provision has been made - it is a nightmare at weekends to park - sort it out |
| Park is a precious amenity. I cannot afford to attend commercial events and thus I am prevented from using a communal space. You can no longer call it a park when the events are getting more and more frequent. Unfair on people just trying to get a bit of fresh air |
| I wouldn’t attend most of these events, and the noise can be annoying in our flat, however, on the assumption these generate revenue for the council, I feel these are a good use of the park.  However, I wouldn’t want the park to be constantly taken over by such events. |
| Thank you for the investment so far, it's a wonderful place to spend time! The kids area is brilliant. |
| Common Wealth was a one off but generally the large 'music / drinking events' in the park tend to service a less broad section of the community |
| I live near the park and some of these large events are disruptive of access for too long in advance in settting up and afterwards in dismantling.  Could this be more regulated? |
| I resent the state in which the International Bowls leaves the park in especially as they are more likely to boil an egg in their kettle than eat out in town. And also, how much space they require during the school holidays. I don't think they should be allowed to camp overnight. Their should be a park and ride system in place and a campsite used instead. It's a ridiculous indulgence and takes vital resources from townsolk and their families during a long holiday and also a much need income stream from cafes/restaurants and hotels. I think it's an absolute cheeky if they are allowed to set up their own eating/drinking facilities of their own on site. Greedy. |
| These events damage the grass. The Commonwealth Games was a debacle particularly with regards to updating the tennis courts. Very unhappy with the way the tender process was carried out for those as well. |
| The success of any event is reliant on the consideration and respect of local people who the events impact most. Insociable and loud noise (circular saws being used at 1am, portaloos being emptied at 3-4am) in the early hours and each day that the Commonwealth Games was held was totally unacceptable and should not have been allowed. Greater controls need to be put in place to enable events and residents to co-exist and the inability of residents to park in areas for which residents pay for parking is a huge issue which currently isn’t being taken addressed and requires early action. |
| The long term use of the park by a homeless person living in a tent close to the Archery Road entrance has been tolerated far too long. She is often drunk and has approached me and others and used foul language. It is an eyesore, especially with the clothes line and plastic sheets around the area. If this is not discouraged it will invite others to abuse the park in the same way. It puts me off using the park and does not make the park feel safe. |
| My main objection to the Commonwealth Games was the decimation of tennis training at the park. The games and the subsequent delays in resurfacing courts meant an ongoing argument between VP Tennis and the council, ultimately resulting in the demise of VP Tennis. My daughter has not played tennis for over a year as a result of this. As for other large events, I used to live on Victoria St and was never a fan of the disruption. I no longer live near the park. |
| The large area of grass in the centre of the park is under utilised compared to other areas. Is there any potential for encouraging a return of cricket? Or could there be planting in the centre? The underpass from York Walk gets very slippery in the wet. Can it be resurfaced? |
| I'm glad the Pub in the Park lasts only a few days - if it brings in revenue to you, then good, but I just dislike these sort of huge events that take over an otherwise haven of relaxation. |
| please be careful not to give in to the temptation to rent out the park to profit making events that will net money fo r the council. the local community should be able to access the park the vast majority of the time. It is really disruptive not to be able to use the park as normal when there is an event on. We put up with it during the bowls and commonwealth games but dont think it should be more than a very rare occurrence. Some parks in London are impossible to access for the local community due to being rented out for music festivals too often. dont do that! also stop people parking on the grass for events. I was astonished to find cars given priority over pedestrians during the games. this seems all wrong. we had to stop for the cars to cross the path and park! |
| Shouldn’t be to the detriment of the regular park users example tennis courts out of action for commonwealth games over peak period of summer was disappointing and for too long. |
| Larger events are fine as long as part of park retained for free, public use. Prices also prohibit access to many households, creating social exclusion. |
| Need changing areas at paddling pool as feel unsafe with adults only in pool area when changing children. |
| You put in a lovely skating surface and it isn’t swept often enough. It’s quite dangerous in roller skates when the surface isn’t swept frequently. I think this is a lovely park and my partner and I often remark that it needs lighting we would use it in the evenings for exercise if it had better lighting. Thanks |
| I would be much more interested to see performances by the many excellent local musicians we have in Leamington than these high profIle expensive festivals. |
| Taking over the tennis courts for the CGs was a disgrace - there was the large grassy area nearby! |
| Happy to see the park used for large events so long as access is still open to footpaths |
| Object strongly to monetising the park and it not being available to residents at popular times of year. Commonwealth games were 1 off but every year half the park is taken up with bowls and events. Makes me very cross! |
| Events for a wider age range and not just loud music and bar events. More films and theatre and wider music tastes. More arts and creative events or world music and classical music please. |
| I appreciate that events bring much needed income but it is frustrating that our open civic spaces are frequently closed off from public use on a commercial basis. There should be a stronger set of principles to make sure events are delivered in line with sustainable outcomes. Things like ensuring the grass is not used for car parking, events encourage community, wellbeing and fitness, and lasting incremental improvements to the park environment are made each time an event is held. |
| Where is the Cafe and where are the toilets? Perhaps signage to where they are would help. I've been to the park many times and have not found cafe or toilets. |
| Why are local open spaces being used for events that charge to attend when the use of the park is meant to be free? It makes access for people with mobility issues near impossible. It makes using the small space left very uncomfortable |
| I live in Portland place west. The noise from The park is sometimes awful, not just bands, but shouting from the PA for eg sports events. People in Avenue road get compensated with eg entry to events. I love to see public places used, some recognition of the disruption to locals people in a slightly wider area would be appreciated |
| Feel that there are enough events which take up the greenspace at the centre of the park |
| Adult keepfit equipment is set too close to other equipment and each time I go to use it, it is being used by youngsters. Toilets are disgusting even with recent upgrade. Shocked with the state of the overgrown riverbanks - in past years these were beautifully kept and a joy to walk along the river or picnic on the river banks:however they now are so high and untidy the river cannot be seen as you walk. Even during the Commonwealth Games they were so overgrown anyone visiting L/Spa would not be encouraged to re-visit the town giving totally the wrong idea about how beautiful the town once was. |
| Better signage and toilets needed close to the kids play area. |
| Thanks for not disrupting the tennis courts with these events |
| The bowls is absolutely a great use of the park, but the parking situation is ridiculous. The green space shouldn't be used as a car park. There are plenty of options nearby that could be used. Colleges and schools who have parking facilities and shuttle buses would be much better. |
| Events should not take up the whole of the central grass area as they make it off limits to normal users. The Commonwealth Games only used part of the grass, but the tennis courts were closed for a time. This was a one-off event, though. |
| Please find a park ride for these events,it limits the park for what it should be used for Make them more affordable for residents eg a discounted ticket |
| Free festivals would be good. Pub in the Park (for example) is very expensive and therefore not an accessible event. |
| Using the park as a car park for the bowls feels wrong. I know it is convenient but it really does ruin the space |
| Commonwealth games & Pub in the park were great! Parking good too. |
| Making sure play area and track are still accessible, despite events, is key |
| Cafe, restaurant and picnic facilities should be improved. More toilets |
| I would prefer that the large scale events held in the park were free/ low cost, family friendly and more beneficial to the local community. Or at least balance out the pricier festivals with some community events also. |
| Environmentally I totally disagree with events such as pub in the park, which seem to create huge amounts of rubbish |
| Fake festival was dangerous with cars driving around the park whilst children were cycling on the path |
| Noise from Pub in the Park has been unbearable |
| The cafe could be improved. If it was a located in the centre of town, it wouldn’t compete with the quality and opening hours of other cafes. |
| Events brings people to the town - which helps the local economy and so should be highly supported! |
| I do hate that we can't use the park during the bowls in the Summer Holidays |
| Attended the pub in the park, Again grass far too long, not been cut lately, unkempt.Not a good look for visitors. Our beautiful town seems neglected. |
| The park was made for people to there for peace away from the busy and noisy town. Events being placed there are stopping the people going the daily to get peace and quiet. The pub in the park was way to loud you could hear it from five streets each away. |
| Common Wealth, didn't like the whole park being shut down. Couldn't use it as a thoroughfare to get from A to B |
| Those houses/streets disrupted by parking on their streets and noise during big events could be compensated with complimentary tickets. |
| I am happy when the park is used for communal activities that benefit the town. But I don't like events like pub in the park that are just a commercial enterprise and bring lots of litter and damage to the grass. |
| Too many events prevent the park from being used by those who do no wish to attend the events. |
| Occasional events in the park are great, particularly when it brings in revenue to the area. But it must be balanced with respect to residents living in close proximity to the park. |
| So much of park for these events is then not accessible for people to enjoy. Commonwealth was especially like that with tennis courts out of action!! The irony there!  It would be brilliant if Leamington could have 100% renewable power sources for festivals. This could be a marketing strategy too.. a great national story.  Talk of an outdoor swim centre near Pump Gardens I heard is likely to be shelved which is very disappointing. If that is the case, could any of the stretches by Victoria park be adopted instead, making Victoria park about being active for combined family / interest use. |
| Free activities, festivals so there is no financial barrier for families and single people, couples.  There used to be the Latin festival which was free. |
| For people like myself and my family who use the park regularly, whenever there is an event it mucks everything up. We can't get parked in the car park and then when we do get in there, instead of there being a nice park to enjoy walking around, you're looking at metal fencing and cars parked on the grass. Sometimes the car park is manned with 2 hour passes and that works well, but it's not consistent. The Commonwealth games year was especially bad for that. I don't have a problem with the actual events. But I do have a problem that the park effectively becomes a parking site for those periods. |
| Although I dont personally attend these events I do think its great for the local area. |
| A couple of pages back, choosing high/low priority for new things, there was no place to indicate 'no thank you, I don't want this at all'. |
| Pub in the park was far too loud and much to late almost midnight when the music stopped |
| It is concerning that this survey repeated refers to cycling I hope that the powers that be have familiarised themselves with the paperwork associated with the park as there are restriction esp when it comes to cycling and these need to be abided by |
| Ticketed events are a bit exclusive given that it's a well-loved park, but they are well publicised and don't last long. Events that are open (including things like the Regency Run) are a nice way to spread community feeling. Even though I don't follow bowls it's nice to know that we have such a good venue, and it's not particularly intrusive for other park users. |
| The bowls in particular takes up far too much of the park over the summer period. The council should provide parking provision elsewhere to avoid taking up so much space meaning children can’t maximise their usage. Pub in the park is too expensive, festivals should be cheaper or free for all |
| There are plenty of other spaces that could be used for theses events and not take away the availability to use the park. |
| the parking in the local roads victoria street, victoria road and archery road is now at a dangerous level - people drive too fast down the roads, take up residents parking and park dangerously for the park goers - there needs to be a better parking provision for the high footfall to the play area Any events should have no parking in these roads and respectful staff that manage the roads The new operator on the tennis courts is very disappointing - the local tennis players have lost access to lots of coaching sessions and individual sessions - there is no one managing the courts so they are getting full of litter and not being used they were after all this investment. Skate boards and bikes and large groups are often on one court as no - one checks them. The promised offer is yet to happen and only the company are making money but non delivery of services to the community. |
| Am happy to see a couple of large events plus bowling championships every year but would not like any more. |
| There is not enough green space for families to use and senior citizens to enjoy who live in central Leamington. To take away Victoria Park by hosting large events frequently destroys the grass in the central area and attracts visitors in cars from distances away. These events are frequently costly making it difficult for families and seniors just to enjoy their normal activities. |
| When there are events at the park that cause increased traffic / disruption to locals to the park it should be a requirement to offer free / heavily reduced tickets to the local residents. Adelaide Road should become a parking permit road like other roads in the area. |
| I would caution against too much exploitation of Victoria Park as a commercial venue for such events as the 'Pub in the Park'. Maybe one or two events a year, but largely it should remain what it has always been - a park close to the town centre where you can for a peaceful stroll anytime and a place where kids can play safe. |
| There was someone camping in the park for about 2 weeks recently who wasn’t moved on quickly enough.  Access to the carpark from the other end near the main road would be good for traffic.  Coffee shop with good internal space and not focussed on ice cream. |
| It is extremely frustrating for so much of the park to be taken up for parking when the bowls competitions are on. When they occur in the summer holiday period I can't see why they do not use alternative parking , for example at the college. I think as a group, they are incredibly lazy and often arrogant |
| Not happy when events lead to car park being full of people participating in the events. This is specially true of the national bowls. Also not sure of the benefit to the town if people park their caravans in the park. |
| I think these events are great to have in the park as it brings people to Leamington. I don’t know what they are already doing but I do think if they are using a public space though they should be doing some local social value measures to mitigate the fact they are essentially taking public space away from people for a period of time and making our lives difficult while it is on. |
| The skate board area needs a larger flat area , this can be achieved by diverting the path in that area. It’s a very dangerous corner for people like me walking. Skate area is well used and would create more enjoyment for the youngsters. |
| I find that the events that use the grassed area restrict access for the rest of the community, especially the bowls, no parking near by means that for the duration those of us with toddlers cannot access easily |
| Large events stop people using the park. Few events is enough. |
| Lighting should be a real priority along the circular path |
| I love the big events, this really helps the town and they usually clean up very well afterwards. Access for runners in the park is considered and I’ve never felt like it had a huge impact.  My only feedback is I wasn’t able to run around the park during the common wealth games; all other events were good in this regard. |
| Given numerous reports of muggings and assaults in Victoria Park recently (as reported on numerous social media sites) I think that given there are already good facilities there and that its a popular place to visit, the security of visitors should be prioritised. I am less inclined to use it since learning of people being threatened by young men in hoodies (and sometimes masks) and its a shame that this has not really been acknowledged in the survey. |
| Everytime events are held in the park they are to the detriment of normal pak users. |
| Less ticketed events in the open grass area that destroy the open area grass. Commonwealth Games were one in a lifetime, but it seems it has sparked lots of fenced/ticketed (and very costly) events that make the park less accessible over weekends and adjourning days. |
| More large events for children. |
| Bowls is long standing and happens every year. It’s nice to have one or two things like that which are high profile for the town. I would ask the council to be careful not to see this vital open space that residents rely upon as a cash cow and sweat the asset too much by way of private hire for closed events. |
| Move large events to Newbold common unless it is eco and environmental event |
| Keep dogs out of play area. Teens congregate and smoke by the skate park which isn't pleasant! |
| More cafe facilities |
| Most uses of the park when it’s used is good as long as as much of the area is preserved and not damaged too much. The parking for the commonwealth and the amount of metal railings up made it horrible and unrelaxing as every time we were there we were interrupted by barriers or cars blocking the way. |
| Local car show would be better placed here than in Pump Room Gardens. More space for displays and better access via parking areas. Local interest could be generated with automotive companies E.g. JLR, Aston Martin etc who have strong links with community and employment. |
| I love festivals and fun fairs and events - I think Warwickshire are great for events with atmosphere!  I’d like more family friendly ones, even like little hunt the X animals (wooden ones) or something allowing made up play like a big pirate ship or little tee pee type cabins |
| These events make the rest of the park less accessible so we tend to avoid completely when they are on |
| I visited the park yesterday and entered by the tennis court gates. I had no idea there was a cafe. I may have missed relevant signage but if there is any it didn’t shout out to me. |
| It is a local Park for Local People, why is it being hired out for corporate events? |
| I really don’t like the green space being used for private companies to make profit eg fake festival and pub in park. The parks are the kings of Leam to be available to all. Why do you want people coming to drink and eat in enclosed space all profits going to organisers ? Not businesses in our town. Also the noise is awful. I live in Portland place west and I heard every word of the songs sung at fake festival !!! |
| paddle court would be nice addition to the tennis court or touch tennis courts |
| The commonwealth games, and the annual bowls championship are things that bring in visitors to Leamington, which is great, but also being sporting in nature are of benefit to the whole community. While Pub in the Park was great at St Nick's because of the parking across the river, the parking at Victoria Park was woeful - the traffic was horrendous, it took me so long to get to Sainsburys that I missed my click n collect slot. People were parking in side streets, in The Shires, it was awful. I don't think closing off a town-centre adjacent public space for a private ticketed event is warranted. There must be other locations (like St Nics) or Newbold Comyn that are more suitable. |
| I don’t enjoy seeing the damage to open grass area after a big event like fake festival and definitely do not appreciate the resulting litter in surrounding areas. |
| Grass is always in terrible condition after these larger events (apart from bowls championship) |
| I attended pub in the park but unfortunately did not consider it a good use of facilities. Cost was expensive and loss of park for nearly 2weeks not justified. Noisy for residents, would not attend again in future. |
| Occasional use is good. No more than six times a year max. |
| Although I love the events there needs to be some thought to protecting the grass areas which get destroyed every summer by the roads put down |
| Events take the park out of service for local residents and this should be minimal |
| Stop feeling the trees cut grass all borders to safe water table |
| Lighting would greatly improve the ability to use the facilities of Victoria park |
| cycling should be banned |
| Above questions about festivals give limited scope for answers. Such as festivals are good to attract different parts of the community, but hours, number of days, noise should all be considered. A full weekend of an event from early morning to late evening can be intrusive and exclude other park users but one day might be fine  For example a local friendship group for vulnerable families with young children planned a recent picnic event in Victoria Park but because it coincided with Pub in the Park we had to go to St Nicholas Park instead, not half as convenient for our group who depend on buses. |
| The park should be somewhere you can go for peace and quite not for more noise. |
| Continue the park ad an area of individual relaxation |
| Too much mess, inconvenience to regular users and expense |
| Please be careful to avoid overkill . As well as a reasonably tranquil park it is also the garden to a large number of home and apartment owners all around .Please be careful to avoid noise and light polution |
| Predominantly a natural park. Recent improvements in perennial planting etc are really good. I like the low key atmosphere. The tennis Pavillion should provide shelter from showers for tennis players.  There should be control Of inappropriate use of courts, skate park and children’s areas. |
| People often let their dogs foul the grass. So we never use it as we have children. We always have to stick to the paths and the play area that is fenced off to ensure we don’t step in anything or spread it around. It’s a shame as we used to picnic in the park but don’t feel it’s safe to do so any more. |
| I think the amount of noisy events should be limited , especially if they are licensed and allowed to run late into the evening. |
| The sound of music and announcers travelled too far and went on too long considering how often Victoria park is being used as well as the pump room gardens. It can make the summer months noisy. |
| Pub in the park was disruptive as it left so little of the park available to use. It was also a very expensive event. I generally like to see events in the park, particularly the Commonwealth Games last year and the bowling championships as they're great for the area and aren't disruptive. |
| I would like to see cycling and the use of e-scooters banned in the park. One cannot walk safely as many of the users have no warning bells and travel at fast speeds. |
| Do not think of providing lighting in the park. It will attract people to the park for the wrong reasons (e.g drug dealing) It is also bad for the environment. Bats and moths need dark places and are confused by lighting. Also the local wildlife need as much peace as possible. The dark nights should be theirs to enjoy. There is no need to provide a bridge to the other side of the river. It is a short walk, or cycle ride and a bridge would cause unnecessary intrusion to the quiet wooded walk. Do you have too much money to spend? We now have plenty of activities in the park for all ages. Don't spoil our much loved park by providing any more. All new plans should now be purely for the benefit of the environment and biodiversity. |
| Being a very local resident, these larger events are great for the area but I think it is vital to ensure that all of them include provision to close Archery Road to non-residents (as per the bowls & commonwealth games). Some of the smaller events (fake festival) still pull large crowds who attempt to park in resident spaces on Victoria Street & Road - this in turn lead to at least 2 incidents of damages to parked cars (which I witnessed) due to the tightness of the roads. |
| I think it would be good if the cycle path in the park could be made more obvious to reduce the amount of people on bikes passing the play area to reduce conflict because only the southern side of the circular path from princess drive to archery road is cycle path. This could be done by having bike symbols with arrows directing people on bikes along the proper route, the shared use signs aren't very effective at doing this and are quite hidden by the bushes.  This would be a great way to reduce conflict with cyclists and pedestrians in the busy areas of the park, letting parents be more at ease and improving the park experience for everyone. |
| As I said, both in Victoria park and by the bandstand in the other park there have been multiple occasions where people are smoking cannabis and that has impaired my enjoyment as I am out with my young children |
| Attended fake festival and pub in the park. Loved those events. Please do more! |
| The tennis facilities are not being managed well, poor coaching, rubbish in courts, no kids holiday club and no shelter for players. Needs to be looked after better |
| The basketball court is really poor ring and back board cheap material and water pools on the concrete, also balls fly off into logged area and very small srea to play |
| I feel that using the bowls greens is good for Leamington and is beneficial to the town, however the downside is using the open grass area for parking which limits the use of the park for the general public. I felt that the Pub in the Park event used up too much of the park space and there was an issue with parking which meant it spilt over to the local environment. |

## Appendix Item 4. Unedited feedback on question regarding disabilities affecting the use of the park, and how would you like to see this addressed? (Question 29)

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| I do not have a disability, but I regularly visit with my Mum who is in a wheelchair. She often comments that Victoria Park has the smoothest and most comfortable surface for wheelchairs |
| It's close to where I live and the paths are wide and flat but it's scary with bikes racing around. |
| I Walk with an aid so very nervous and fearful of being knocked down by cyclists and scooters also dogs that are not on leads. |
| Parking can be difficult even with a blue badge, benches facing the grass area as well as the outer circle would be good |
| I am unable to walk the distances from the car park to the children's play area. |
| The green spaces are a great help for mental wellness |
| Wheelchair user, more blue badge parking needed |
| I said yes but it is my son who has the disability and we regularly use the park. He is unable to access a lot of the play equipment, my previous answers have shown how this can be improved. The circular path is great for him to ride his adapted bike on. |
| Not me but my 4 year old daughter who’s on a wheelchair. Nice to have more choices that not only can she use but other children too whether they have disabilities or not. Check out Stratford park |
| Asthma and anxiety - by living the grass not cut makes it harder to breath. The skate park users are older teenagers Drinking alcohol and smoking cannabis I feel scared to walk passed. |
| Ibs - I didn’t know there were toilets!! I’ll look next time. Perhaps they need signs? I need to find them. |
| not |
| Autism |
| I use the park as have no garden and it's good for my mental Wellbeing. I would like More benches and the bird poo scraped off them once in a while. The outdoor gym was a great idea but while it's always swarming with young children it's not very usable also constant muddy footprints on all the seats as is not designed for children that size. |
| Need more accessibility to toilets |
| More disabled parking and regular checks of the car park. |
| Need parking near to park. Need seating areas. |
| I don't think anything can be done in terms of my disability (ME/CFS) to enable me to use the park more. |
| It helps me to exercise |
| My daughter has a neuro degenerative disease, movement disorder, partially sighted. Epilepsy severe learning difficulties. All of it is easy to manage with her chair. It’s just the swing and maybe a sand table at a height for wheelchair users |
| Yes, antisocial behaviour in the park, affects my anxiety and mental health |
| I enjoy the fresh air & feel safe in the day. |
| C/5 complete spinal cord injury |
| Some leg presses equipment in the gym |
| Although I live quite close to the park, by the time a get there on foot I am too tired to enjoy it. So carparking is good for me. I am not entitled to a disabled parking slot, but can potter around once there with my grandchildren if I have arrived by car. |
| Blue badge holders should be allowed to use the Archery Road car park during bowls championship. Quite often the small Princes Drive car park used by residents is full of bowls visitors avoiding the £5.00 parking charge. |
| I would like to see electric scooters banned on the tarmac pathways . Having poor eye sight and being a little deaf l find them quite dangerous |
| It doesn't |