

Histon Road Recreation Ground Biodiversity Improvements Consultation Survey Results

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About the Consultation

The purpose of the consultation is to encourage local communities to get involved and have their say. It provides an opportunity to share views and ask questions about the proposed improvements. Consultation helps the City Council gauge local interest and respond to feedback, shaping the proposal accordingly. Opinions and suggestions help us understand the level of local support and identify desirable alterations to the proposal.

The Histon Road Recreation Ground consultation was open for comments from Friday, 8 November to Sunday, 8 December 2024. We received 40 responses to the survey. The consultation was hosted online via our consultation and engagement platform: [Biodiversity and amenity improvements to Histon Road recreation ground](#). It was publicised on social media, posters in and around the site, and through news releases.

Survey Findings

In total, 40 people took part in the survey. There were 37 responses from individuals, and 3 on behalf of a group or business.

The survey results and individual comments are available in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively.

Key Findings

- 77.5% support the proposal for biodiversity and amenity enhancements in Histon Road recreation ground.
- 75% support the proposal to install a bee bank in Histon Road recreation ground.
- 80% support the proposal to establish a fern garden(s) in Histon Road recreation ground.
- 85% support the proposal to create a deadwood (log pile) habitat in Histon Road recreation ground.
- 77.5% support the proposal for planting in Histon Road recreation ground.
- 90% support the proposal to attach bat roost boxes and bird nest boxes to the trees in Histon Road recreation ground.
- 80% support the proposal to install information boards in Histon Road recreation ground.
- 72.5% support the proposal to install picnic table-benches in Histon Road recreation ground.
- 65% support the proposal to install cycle stands in Histon Road recreation ground.

Summary of Key Findings

Respondents are supportive of the biodiversity and amenity improvements proposed for Histon Road Recreation Ground.

Many appreciate the positive impact on the environment and the educational value for children and adults. However, there are concerns about the ongoing maintenance of the new features and the long-term success of the project. Comments suggest that

community involvement and volunteer groups might assist, highlighting the importance of engaging communities, particularly children, in maintaining green spaces.

The proximity of the bee bank to the basketball court has raised safety concerns for those with allergies. Other issues relate to dog-walking, such as dog mess and the need for responsible ownership. Measures to prevent children from climbing the log pile have also been mentioned.

Water management and flooding issues are points of concern, as well as vandalism. Areas of the recreation ground are prone to standing water during periods of heavy or persistent rainfall, raising questions about the survival of ferns and other plantings.

There has been mention that the proposed information boards might invite vandalism and how this might be prevented.

The proposed picnic table-benches and cycle stands are supported, although there are concerns about accessibility. It has been suggested that at least one bench be positioned close to a hard-surfaced path for those with mobility limitations.

The use of recycled materials for the benches, rather than timber, which will be longer-lasting and more resilient to vandalism, has been suggested. There is a preference for locations that do not interfere with open spaces used for exercise and larger gatherings, and that benches be positioned in sunny areas to prevent rotting.

There are concerns about potential negative impacts from new benches, such as increased litter and overuse of the recreation ground.

Several respondents have expressed that more bike parking is beneficial and that Sheffield stands are preferred. Visibility of parked cycles from play areas is important. However, there are concerns about the placement of the stands, suggesting they be positioned near entry and exit points.

Some respondents believe that the existing park railings are sufficient for bike parking and suggest that funds could be better allocated to other amenities, or maintenance. There is a call for a minimum of six stands, while others are against the proposal all together. Concerns include that cycle stands will encourage cycling through the park, which could be detrimental to pedestrians, including those with prams and mobility aids.

Overall, encouraging cycling over driving is seen as a positive outcome.

Overall Summary of Results

The key results from 9 choice questions are summarised below.

Questions 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, and 19 enabled respondents the opportunity to leave comments about each element of the proposal, and general comments. All individual comments are available in Appendix B.

- **Question 1. Overall, do you support the proposal for biodiversity and amenity enhancements in Histon Road recreation ground?**
40 people responded. 31 (77.5%) support, 4 (10%) are neutral, and 5 (12.5%) do not support.
- **Question 2. Do you support the proposal to install a bee bank in Histon Road recreation ground?**
40 people responded. 30 (75%) support, 6 (15%) are neutral, and 4 (10%) do not support.
- **Question 4. Do you support the proposal to establish a fern garden(s) in Histon Road recreation ground?**
40 people responded. 32 (80%) support, 4 (10%) are neutral, and 4 (10%) do not support.
- **Question 6. Do you support the proposal to create a deadwood (log pile) habitat in Histon Road recreation ground?**
40 people responded. 34 (85%) support, 4 (10%) are neutral, and 2 (5%) do not support.
- **Question 8. Do you support the proposal for planting in Histon Road recreation ground?**
40 people responded. 31 (77.5%) support, 2 (5%) are neutral, and 7 (17.5%) do not support.
- **Question 10. Do you support the proposal to attach bat roost boxes and bird nest boxes to the trees in Histon Road recreation ground?**
40 people responded. 36 (90%) support, 2 (5%) are neutral, and 2 (5%) do not support.
- **Question 12. Do you support the proposal to install information boards in Histon Road recreation ground?**

40 people responded. 32 (80%) support, 5 (12.5%) are neutral, and 3 (7.5%) do not support.

- **Question 15. Do you support the proposal to install picnic table-benches in Histon Road recreation ground?**

40 people responded. 29 (72.5%) support, 8 (20%) are neutral, and 3 (7.5%) do not support.

- **Question 17. Do you support the proposal to install cycle stands in Histon Road recreation ground?**

40 people responded. 26 (65%) support, 7 (17.5%) are neutral, and 7 (17.5%) do not support.

Demographic Summary

Sex as registered at birth

67.5% (27 out of 40) of respondents provided information on their sex as registered at birth. 51.85% (14 out of 27) of respondents were female. 48.15% (13 out of 27) of respondents were male.

This compares to 49.9% females and 50.1% males in the [Cambridge population](#).

Gender

75% (30 out of 40) of respondents answered the question about the gender they identify with, and whether this is the same as the sex they were registered with at birth. 86.6% (26 out of 30) answered Yes, 6.6% (2 out of 30) answered No, and 6.6% (2 out of 30) would prefer not to say.

Ethnicity

70% (28 out of 40) of respondents provided information on their ethnicity.

Ethnicity	Number of respondents	% respondents
White: English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British	21	75%

White: Any other White background (please give details)	4	14.2%
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	1	3.6%
Mixed: Any other mixed background (please give details)	1	3.6%
Any other ethnic group (please give details)	1	3.6%
Totals	28	100%

Age

57.5% (23 out of 40) of respondents provided information on their year of birth.

Year of Birth	Number of respondents	% respondents
1949 and before	2	8.7%
Between 1950 and 1974	7	30.4%
Between 1975 and 1999	13	56.5%
2000 and after	1	4.4%
Totals	23	100%

Annual household income

40% (18 out of 40) of respondents provided information on their annual household income.

Annual Household Income	Number of respondents	% respondents
Less than £10,000	1	5.6%
£10,000 to £19,999	1	5.6%
£20,000 to £29,999	0	0%

£30,000 to £39,999	3	16.7%
£40,000 to £49,999	2	11.1%
£50,000 to £59,999	0	0%
£60,000 to £69,999	1	5.6%
£70,000 to £79,999	3	16.7%
£80,000 to £89,999	1	5.6%
£90,000 to £99,999	2	11.1%
Over £100,000	4	22.2%
Totals	18	100%

Discussion and General Summary

This consultation provided an opportunity to present the improvement proposal for Histon Road Recreation Ground to the public and gather their feedback. This feedback will help us refine the proposal as needed.

We aim to deliver biodiversity and amenity enhancements that create a more engaging and educational experience for visitors.

The consultation survey results, and feedback have been positive, indicating that the proposal has been well-received and meets users' needs and expectations.

Bee Bank

The proposed bee bank has received strong support; however, its proximity to the basketball court and play area has raised safety concerns for those with allergies.

The City Council Biodiversity Officer has been involved and provided guidance throughout the development of the proposal. We are confident that the bee bank will not pose an issue in this location. The species of solitary bees and wasps we are targeting are not social and do not defend their nest sites communally, unlike common wasps or honeybees. This is similar to the large aggregation of Ivy Bees that have been returning to Chesterton Rec playground without incident for several years.

Fern Garden and Planting

Water management and flooding issues are a concern for some. Areas of the recreation ground are prone to standing water during periods of heavy or persistent rainfall, raising questions about the survival of the proposed fern gardens and other plantings.

We recognise that waterlogging is a persistent issue and poses a risk to the proposed planting. The main threat is to the proposed bulb planting along the grass cutting line. In the absence of funding to support a drainage scheme to address the issue, we will consider the planting in more detail and make necessary amendments to the proposal.

Regarding the proposed fern gardens, we do not consider the standing water issue to be a significant concern. While most ferns require well-drained, moist conditions, some species can tolerate standing water in a bog garden or at the edge of a pond, for example.

Deadwood (log pile) Habitat

Questions have been raised about how we plan to prevent children from climbing on the proposed log pile. While we acknowledge this possibility, the log pile is not intended to be a play feature. It will be situated within the understory of the tree belt on the southern side of the recreation ground, a less accessible area compared to the more formal open park and play areas.

We also propose installing information boards in the recreation ground to inform and educate visitors about the new features and their benefits, fostering a closer connection between people and nature. This will provide an opportunity for parents, carers, and children to explore, understand, and respect these new features.

These improvements are not intended to prevent unstructured play for children in the recreation ground. If a child or children do climb the log pile, we would expect a responsible parent or carer to gently intervene.

Information Boards

While these additions are welcome, there is concern about the possibility of vandalism to the information boards. Unfortunately, new installations are always at risk of unwanted behaviours or misuse, which can detract from their intended benefits. While we do not install features with the intention of inviting vandalism, we are aware that this is always a possibility.

We will consider this risk and explore the use of products and materials that might help reduce the risk or impact of vandalism.

We encourage anyone who witnesses any type of vandalism or antisocial behaviour in and around the open space to report it to the police and the council, as necessary.

Picnic Table-Benches

Concerns have been raised about the accessibility of the benches, minimising their impact on available open space for leisure and play, potential for vandalism, and positioning to minimise the risk of degradation.

New access paths to benches are not within the scope of these works. However, we propose positioning at least one bench near the main path through the recreation ground to make it more accessible for wheeled mobility.

Where feasible, we could consider reducing the number of picnic table-benches and instead offer a combination of picnic tables on the grass and park benches along the paths to enhance accessibility.

We will consider using recycled materials that are longer-lasting and more resilient to vandalism.

We will also carefully locate benches to avoid negatively affecting space for other users and site them away from shady or covered areas where they might be more exposed to rot and degradation.

While the addition of benches is supported, some are concerned about the potential increase in large gatherings and litter. We appreciate these concerns; however, the budget does not include provisions for litter bins. The benches are intended to provide an opportunity for visitors to enjoy the space responsibly, which is what we expect from users of all our open spaces.

We urge anyone with information about unreasonable or irresponsible behaviour in the open space to notify the City Council or the police, as appropriate.

Cycle Stands

The proposal for cycle stands in the recreation ground is supported, with respondents expressing the need for more cycle parking. Sheffield-style stands are preferred, and visibility of parked bicycles from the play areas is important.

Concerns centre around the placement of the stands, with suggestions that they should be sited nearer to entry and exit points. Additionally, there is concern that cycle stands will encourage cycling through the park, which could be detrimental to pedestrians, including those with prams and mobility aids.

Some respondents believe that the existing park railings are sufficient for bike parking.

We will consider the location and positioning of the stands, as well as the number. We will take into account the impact and accessibility to deliver the greatest benefit for all visitors and users.

Conclusion

We continue to focus on delivering improvements that benefit both people and biodiversity. Our aim is to encourage interest, bring people and nature closer together, and offer educational opportunities in this valuable green space.

We wish to enhance Histon Road Recreation Ground for both new and existing visitors, contributing to an overall positive experience for all.

While some requests for changes fall outside the scope of this project, we will consider all reasonable and relevant suggestions and concerns to support positive change.

We will now review all the information available to us and make any necessary adjustments to the proposal. Any changes will be considered based on their merits, project scope and funding, site practicalities, associated delivery and management costs, and expected benefits.

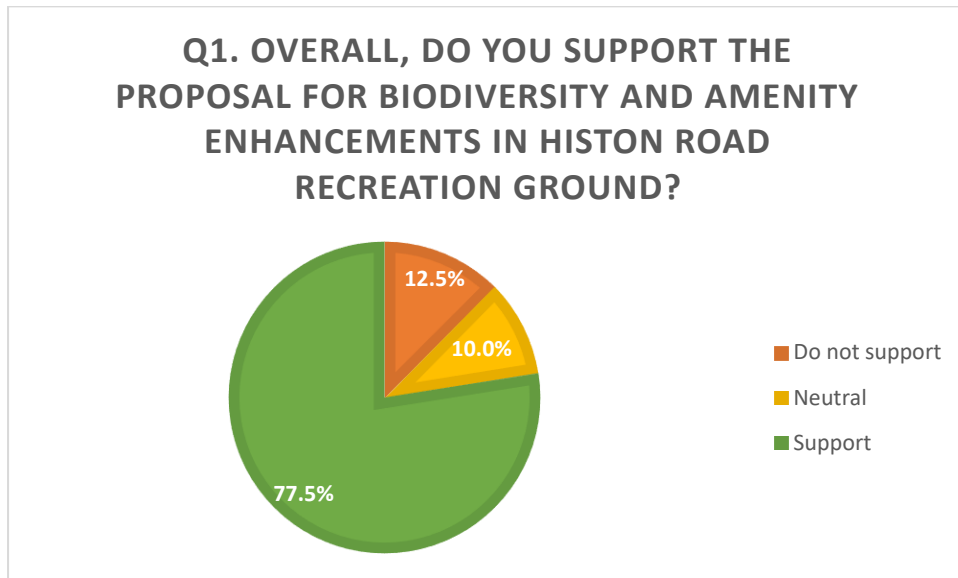
The next step will be to create a specification for the works, begin a tender process to invite bids from contractors, and then appoint a contractor to implement the improvements. Some elements of the proposal are more seasonal and therefore the works will not necessarily be completed all at one time.

There will be elements of the proposal that can be implemented by volunteers. We will explore this further and carry out engagement on this opportunity nearer the time.

Thank you to all those who participated in the survey. The information you have provided is valuable and will help us enhance the quality of the space for all its users.

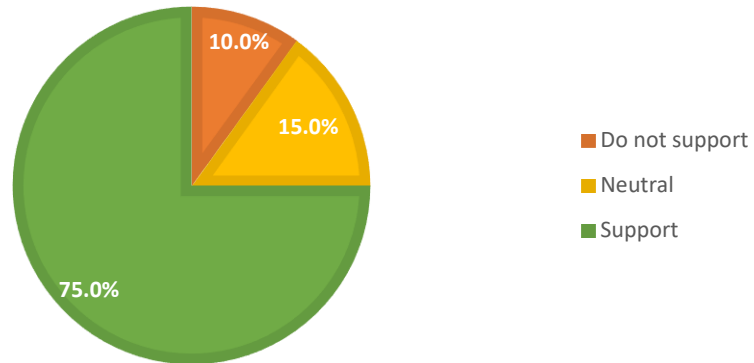
APPENDIX A. Quantitative Survey Results

The following charts show the consultation responses received in response to their opinions on the biodiversity and amenity improvements proposed for Histon Road Recreation Ground.



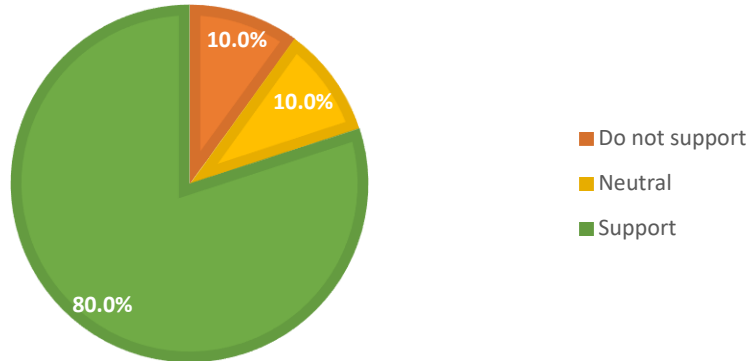
Q1. Overall, do you support the proposal for biodiversity and amenity enhancements in Histon Road recreation ground?	Responses	% Responses
Do not support	5	12.5%
Neutral	4	10.0%
Support	31	77.5%
Grand Total	40	100.0%

**Q2. DO YOU SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL TO
INSTALL A BEE BANK IN HISTON ROAD
RECREATION GROUND?**



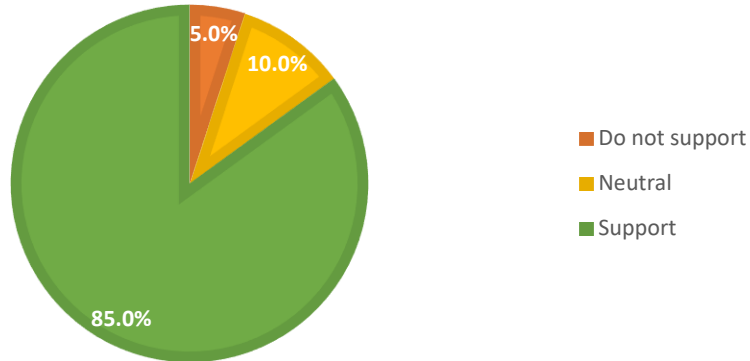
Q2. Do you support the proposal to install a bee bank in Histon Road recreation ground?	Responses	% Responses
Do not support	4	10.0%
Neutral	6	15.0%
Support	30	75.0%
Grand Total	40	100.0%

Q4. DO YOU SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A FERN GARDEN(S) IN HISTON ROAD RECREATION GROUND?



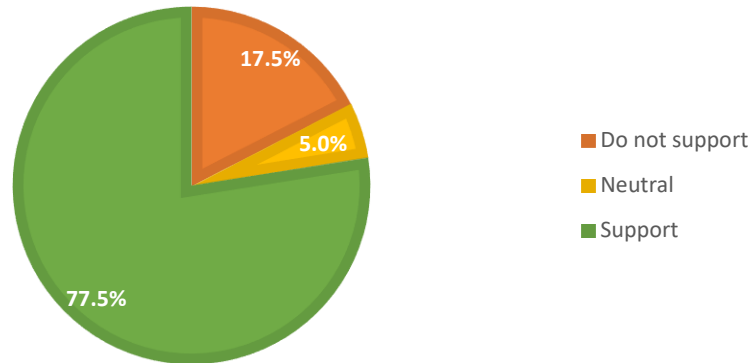
Q4. Do you support the proposal to establish a fern garden(s) in Histon Road recreation ground?	Responses	% Responses
Do not support	4	10.0%
Neutral	4	10.0%
Support	32	80.0%
Grand Total	40	100.0%

**Q6. DO YOU SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL TO
CREÄTE A DEADWOOD (LOG PILE) HABITAT IN
HISTON ROAD RECREATION GROUND?**



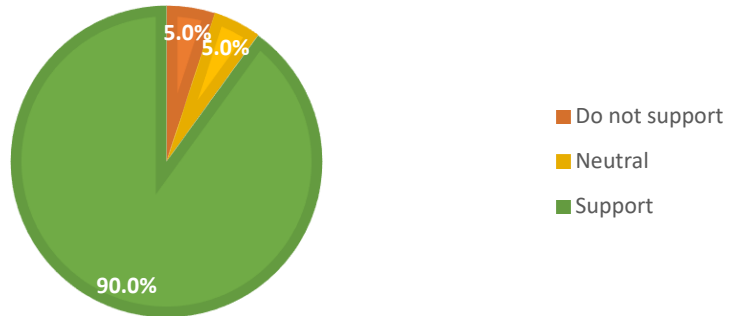
Q6. Do you support the proposal to creäte a deadwood (log pile) habitat in Histon Road recreation ground?	Responses	% Responses
Do not support	2	5.0%
Neutral	4	10.0%
Support	34	85.0%
Grand Total	40	100.0%

Q8. DO YOU SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL FOR PLANTING IN HISTON ROAD RECREATION GROUND?



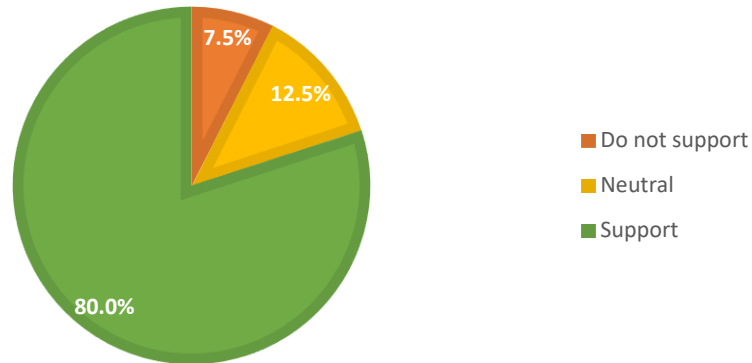
Q8. Do you support the proposal for planting in Histon Road recreation ground?	Responses	% Responses
Do not support	7	17.5%
Neutral	2	5.0%
Support	31	77.5%
Grand Total	40	100.0%

**Q10. DO YOU SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL TO
ATTACH BAT ROOST BOXES AND BIRD NEST
BOXES TO THE TREES IN HISTON ROAD
RECREATION GROUND?**



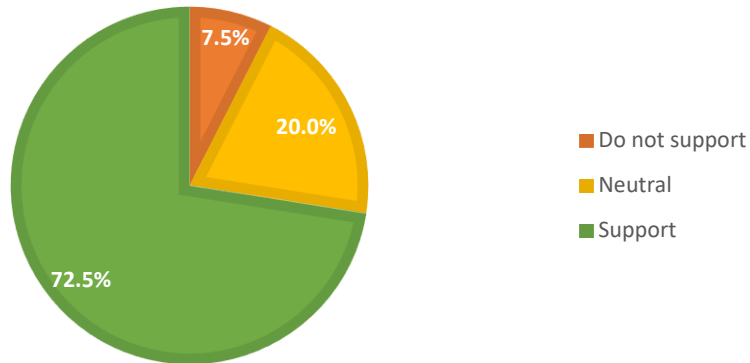
Q10. Do you support the proposal to attach bat roost boxes and bird nest boxes to the trees in Histon Road recreation ground?	Responses	% Responses
Do not support	2	5.0%
Neutral	2	5.0%
Support	36	90.0%
Grand Total	40	100.0%

**Q12. DO YOU SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL TO
INSTALL INFORMATION BOARDS IN HISTON
ROAD RECREATION GROUND?**



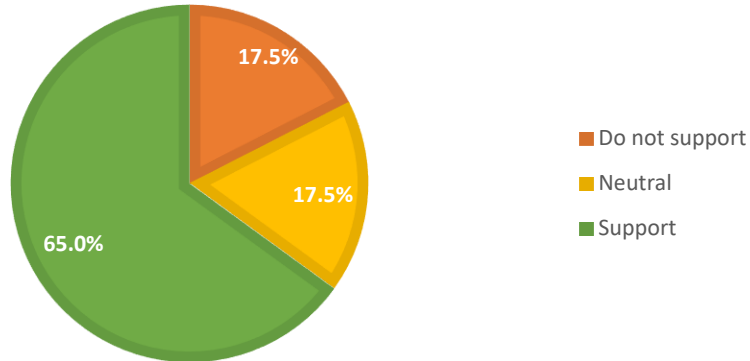
Q12. Do you support the proposal to install information boards in Histon Road recreation ground?	Responses	% Responses
Do not support	3	7.5%
Neutral	5	12.5%
Support	32	80.0%
Grand Total	40	100.0%

**Q15. DO YOU SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL TO
INSTALL PICNIC TABLE-BENCHES IN HISTON
ROAD RECREATION GROUND?**



Q15. Do you support the proposal to install picnic table-benches in Histon Road recreation ground?	Responses	% Responses
Do not support	3	7.5%
Neutral	8	20.0%
Support	29	72.5%
Grand Total	40	100.0%

**Q17. DO YOU SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL TO
INSTALL CYCLE STANDS IN HISTON ROAD
RECREATION GROUND?**



Q17. Do you support the proposal to install cycle stands in Histon Road recreation ground?	Responses	% Responses
Do not support	7	17.5%
Neutral	7	17.5%
Support	26	65.0%
Grand Total	40	100.0%

APPENDIX B. Qualitative Survey Results

The following table includes all individual comments given for questions 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, and 19.

Q3. Please say why you support or do not support the proposal to install a bee bank.	
01	Solitary bees and wasps are in deep trouble so anything that provides more habitat for them is very welcome. They do not just need nectar but also nesting opportunities such as this.
02	It is important to make sure that bees and other pollinators have a place to rest.
03	Bees are vital for food security.
04	Great idea.
05	I support the concept of installing a bee bank, but having family members with allergies to bees the proximity to the basketball court is of concern to me.
06	The Bee Bank is a vital party of the linked Biodiversity across the Recreation Ground, providing shelter, overwintering, and nesting sites for a variety of insects and bees, - not just bumble bees- providing nectar and pollination across the entire site.
07	Can enhance arthropod biodiversity and act as a biological corridor.
08	There are other better ways to support wildlife and biodiversity.
09	GOOD IDEA should increase bees.
10	These plans merely pay lip service to the protection of wildlife.
11	I support a bee bank, but not if it means removing the cow parsley. Why not install the bee bank on the grass in front of the cow parsley. Cow parsley is a vital early source of pollen for bees. Please do not remove this wonderful wildflower from this site. Work with it, not remove it!

Q5. Please say why you support or do not support the proposal to establish a fern garden.

01	Green cover is vital for invertebrates - somewhere to hide but also it maintains a level of dampness that many inverts require to survive. This will also help support vertebrates such as hedgehogs and song thrushes, themselves endangered but found in Histon Rd rec.
02	Interesting type of garden to suit its environment and conditions.
03	I think money could be better spent elsewhere.
4	There are not many ferns around and using the space in this way is more sensible than keeping it a care intensive lawn.
05	<p>During very wet periods this part of the park is more than just a bit damp. Are any drainage improvements proposed to help their area be less wet? Would ferns cope in such conditions.</p> <p>Also, how will such proposals impact the regular dog walkers in this area and keep fitters who exercise and run in the park. Surely some form of barrier would be needed to prevent damage to the ferns. Would a designated dog area be required?</p>
06	As stated, supporting, and sheltering for a wide variety of insects, aphids and small mammals including frogs and toads.
07	Why not? Ferns are attractive when planted in large number though I do not know if they are good for insect/ bird life?
08	What is wrong with just having a biodiversity friendly mowing schedule to allow long grasses and wildflowers to flourish?
09	Should increase biodiversity.
10	Same as above. You really need to be saying that you are planning to build a huge new development on the boundary of the rec, with no green space of its own. The 180 to 200 new residents will have no green space but for the rec. The area will become overused, and wildlife will be chased away.
11	What a sensible idea, to plant something hardy and suitable for the area.

12	I support this, but why not add some log piles amongst the ferns. There is only one log pile in the plan. Why not have a number placed around the site. Just having one is like adding the 'token' log pile.
Q7. Please say why you support or do not support the proposal to create a deadwood (log pile) habitat.	
01	Not enough dead wood around, it's vital for beetle larvae, fungi, saproxylic invertebrates. Needs to be logs big enough to not be thrown around or moved easily.
02	It is not particularly pretty but I love the idea of providing a micro habitat for all kinds of species.
03	Great idea but how to stop damage by children clambering on to log piles?
04	A log pile is a natural way to provide shelter, nesting and natural feeding for dozens of insects and small animals, including hedgehogs, which are in rapid decline due to lack of undisturbed environment.
05	Just recreate what has been done at Lammas Field as it all looks good.
06	If it is rational and only uses waste wood from the Rec itself.
07	Should increase biodiversity.
08	Same as above. If you care about wildlife, you would be adding the Murketts/ATS land to the rec, and give dedicated space, away from people, for wildlife. There are foxes (keeping the rat population under control) and hedgehogs to consider, too.
09	Waste of money. Stop messing about with our playground and park.
10	Yes, I support the log pile, but why only one?

Q9. Please say why you support or do not support the proposal for planting.

01	please do plant but also factor in areas of long grass - the latter being vital for various butterflies, moths, and grasshoppers to complete their life cycle.
02	Unlikely to be maintained in the long run.
03	I would love to see plants, but I think it is important to leave open space for families to picnic on or children to play ball games on.
04	Great idea but how to prevent damage by dog walkers. Currently their dogs have access to whole area but how to prevent trampling of the plants to park users not sympathetic to plants.
05	The planting will add a diverse range of flora, attracting a wide range of wildlife, and enhancing the overall attraction and interest for the local community visiting, as well as widening human awareness of the variety of wildflowers. An ideal starting point for an educational walk.
06	Why not?
07	The planting does not seem appropriate for the area and threaten current wildlife and plants - I cannot see these proposals will improve the biodiversity - it is more for show, so it looks like CIP/Hill are "doing something" to justify their planning dodge.
08	Improves appearance and should increase biodiversity BUT good maintenance is needed.
09	You are merely schmoozing us with these proposals. Your plans for the Murketts/ ATS site constitute overdevelopment in an already densely packed Castle area. We need more big green space, not little plantings etc here and there.
10	Cutting into what is currently an area of mown grass with planting will either rule out this area of grass for children's unstructured play or will create conflict between children wanting to run and play and new planting. New

	planting, especially if it flowers close to the ground, is probably best at another location.
11	Waste of money and resources. You are exploiting the BNG of the park and pretending that you are contributing to it. Get the development to provide their own been space and not piggyback off the park.
12	Please plant dense ivy - for its nectar-rich flowers for hoverflies, its calorific berries for birds in winter and its dense cover for birds and insects to nest/shelter in. Also, Firethorn shrub for flowers (nectar) in Spring and spectacular berries (Blackbird's love these) in autumn.
Q11. Please say why you support or do not support the proposal to install bat roost boxes and bird nest boxes.	
01	Anything that enables birds and bats to nest and roost is welcome as they continue to lose mature trees/suitable habitat.
02	This is a great idea, I often see bats in the park, would it be possible to install swift boxes anywhere?
03	Great idea.
04	Bats in the area will lose nesting spaces when the development of the Murketts site goes ahead.
05	The site has always been a natural site for wild birds and bats. Providing nesting and shelter will be a further attraction in an area where suitable nesting, especially for bats and small birds, is at a premium. Particularly important to ensure that such sites cannot be predated, by domestic animals, and sadly human interference.
06	Bat boxes could help declining bat populations.
07	Obviously, these low maintenance items will increase the diversity that is wanted - important to make them squirrel proof!

08	Should support bats and birds? NEED maintenance.
09	I find these proposals patronising. On the surface they might sound nice, but you need to say that this is all about stealing green space to further your own plans.
10	Another great addition to caring for nature.
11	You are exploiting the BNG of the park and not providing any of your own BNG. stop offering “Trojan horses” - sugar coated “improvements” to the park which are not needed. What is NOT required is your exploitation of our green space.
12	<p>Yes, love the idea of installing bat boxes - they prefer a line of trees to navigate, so put up boxes close to the line of trees/bushes. Also, is there street lighting shining onto/over the area? If so, replace streetlights with bat-friendly lighting see below:</p> <p>https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/lighting</p> <p>There is no point in having bat boxes if the area is well lit at night.</p> <p>Re. Birdboxes; make sure holes in boxes are not too large - predators, cats, magpies, crows etc.</p>
Q13. Please say why you support or do not support the proposal to install information boards.	
01	Communication is vital to get community support for changes to a local space.
02	Good to provide context to help mitigate vandalism.
03	Will be vandalised.
04	There are already two notice boards.

05	Maybe need to add information about people respecting biodiversity and new wildlife areas.
06	Providing guidance and information about the whole site, and its biodiversity is critical, for families, for school visits, and for visitors in general. Many people, from personal observation are unable to differentiate between the many varieties of trees, and their origins and purpose on the Rec. Providing informative boards, and critically 'Naming and basic information' on tree labels again adds to the attraction of the site.
07	Why do you ask this question for everyone?!
08	Why? Seems like a patronising waste of money.
09	Educational info is a good idea.
10	They will be covered in graffiti in no time, especially since there will be nearly 200 more people using the rec as their only green space.
11	It gives more interest.
12	You did not want to inform the local neighbourhood of your plans initially. And you clearly do not care what they say. So, what is the point of new notice boards.
13	Yes, I support information boards. Very important to involve local people, who will hopefully love and look after the site and become more aware of wildlife in the city.
<p>Q14. Use this space for any additional comments you wish to make about the biodiversity improvements being proposed in this consultation, including additional interventions you would like to see added.</p>	
01	Have you contacted the local Friends of Histon Rd group?
02	Ban cycling.

03	Good for environment, raise children's awareness to nature, good for adults too!
04	Great initiative!
05	You are only proposing these improvements because of the major housing development immediately adjacent to the park. YOU ARE NOT BEING HONEST WITH US ABOUT THE INTENTION OF THESE IMOROVEMENTS and reasons for these proposals. Histon Rd Rec is the best most bio- diverse park in the city. Other parks need improving for biodiversity e.g. Andrews Rd Recreation ground and St Albans Rd rec which is a catalogue of building development and incompetent sports field establishment.
06	The absolutely vital part for these improvements is proper on-going maintenance. The wildflower area will not prosper unless it is cut at the right time of year, and all cuttings are removed. Please can the seed mix include yellow rattle which will parasitise the grass? The current wildflower area is already pretty much just grass again because it has not had any funding for on-going maintenance. Could a volunteer group be set up to maintain these sites?
07	This is all brilliant, thank you.
08	How practical would it be to have an area dedicated to dog walking?
09	Overall, this is a positive concept, however I do question the proximity of the bee bank to the basketball courts and whether this poses a risk to users who have allergies to bee stings.
10	I LOVE these improvements! Please consider, when making improvements to the rec, than some under tree areas on the border are being used as a public loo, so the children are warned to keep away - we have ended up throwing shoes away, I will not say any more, you get the idea. If the rec can be designed in a way that stops people hiding along that undergrowth area to go to the loo, fantastic. But access to public toilets is really needed.
11	I would strongly oppose any attempt to diminish the wild spaces that exist on the recreation ground in order to facilitate access from the new housing development on Histon Road.

<p>12</p>	<p>This is a critical time, for our biodiversity, care and maintenance, and the future of this recreation ground. We must take this opportunity whilst we still can, and ensure we leave a legacy for the future.</p> <p>We really do have to take every opportunity to ensure that the parents and children, in particular, are kept engaged and aware of this green space.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>I am a Hills Road Sixth Form College student taking A Level Environmental Science and the Environmental Leadership Programme. I am really interested to aid with the project.</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>I have lived in Cambridge 10.5yrs & appreciate the corners of green & wildlife friendly sites like Logan's Meadow, the larger meadows, and Lammas Land riverine or Coleridge Common etc.</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>I think that they are very few improvements included - they are mostly worsening's to allow CIP/Hill to spend money to dodge out of their planning obligations to provide outside space for their neighbouring proposed development. The planting will overload the space with trees, worsening their health and shadowing other valuable plants. Did you consult a proper ecologist or just use someone who has read a bit about the ideas but clearly does not have a clue about supporting biodiversity and tree biology? These plans need to be rejected as they are more likely to be damaging than improvements.</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>Has water management been considered? Some areas of the Rec flood in wet weather.</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>What measures if any can be or are to be incorporated, to prevent vandalism?</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>What I would like is for the Murketts/ ATS land to be added to the rec. This would be hugely beneficial to people and wildlife. We used to have lots of bats, hedgehogs, foxes, frogs, insects etc but have seen all these disappear over the years. All green space is up for grabs and every refuge for wildlife is disappearing. Wildlife needs space away from people, not mixed in with people. The council has been running Cambridge for too many years now and has become cocky.</p>

19	It will be a pleasure to walk in this area if these proposals are passed. I always think the recreation ground at present looks very neglected and is just a cut through from Histon Road to Richmond Road which you are pleased to go through as quickly as possible as there is nothing attractive there.
20	I would have also supported the developer funded works if I had visited this website in time to respond to that survey.
21	It would be great to add something for humans as well, maybe something for physical activity as they walk through the park.
22	<p>STILL NO CLARIFICATION ON ACTUAL LOSS OF PLAYGROUND AREA. The new access point relies on reducing the size of the children's playground. It is still unclear exactly how much square meterage of current children's playground space will be lost. The proposal says they are not going to "remove any play equipment." But they are removing crucial playground/ safe woodland space where children play. Once again, the very specific value of the Rec is the Nature which it provides: currently undisturbed. (It is obviously not for CIP to go against the original terms of the covenants in place on the land (secure fencing) and dictate how much land the children shall lose.)</p> <p>LOSS OF BRAMBLES IS COUNTER TO BIODIVERSITY. The proposal talks about biodiversity, but they plan to build willow walks (along West, North and East sides of the Rec) in the place of all the brambles. The bramble is a treasure trove for biodiversity. Brambles protect other plants, provide shelter and nesting site for many animals, and in particular birds such as: thrushes, robins, long tailed tits, finches, warblers, and nightingales. By removing them (to allow for willow walks) they are removing one of the most, if not the most vital part of the the Recreation Ground's biodiversity.</p> <p>https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/plants/wild-flowers/bramble/</p> <p>https://wildlifeandwords.wordpress.com/2017/06/15/brambles-are-brilliant/</p> <p>ISSUES WITH WILLOW WALKS.</p>

The proposal says: “The enclosed tree line along the boundary offers a place for children to play within a natural environment. This could be enhanced through new play elements such as a willow tunnel and be resurfaced with mulch to create a safe area to explore.”

In addition to being a biodiversity tragedy to get rid of the brambles (for safety’s sake?), willow walks require a lot of maintenance (pruning) and are expensive to maintain. They are invasive (can easily break and take root) and are prone to disease and insect problems. Bulldozing the brambles in favour of willow walks will result in fake, ersatz “landscaping”: akin to an over-manicured hotel garden.

N.B. The secret path running around the Rec boundary is already safe and does not need enhancement. The development should provide an extra row of trees on their side of the boundary if they want to provide extra safety.

NO BREAKDOWN OF THE COST OF THE LANDSCAPING/ IMPROVEMENTS.

The plans propose: “Small play items could also be installed in front of the existing tree line, such as wooden teepees.”

As with all the landscaping proposals, there are no figures accountable. How much do these teepees cost? Do we need them? In order for the tax-paying-public to form an opinion and make a decision on additions to the Rec, they should be as informed as possible. We need to see all cost breakdowns for items.

The plans propose “Seating area centralised to existing play equipment for parents and carers.’ However, the centralisation features in the park will prevent free play. At present it is an open space which families can play rounders, football, fly a kite, and enjoy ball games. Why do we have to pay to have play space removed?!

Histon Road Recreation had been earmarked as a national site that should be increasing its biodiversity. Instead, its own biodiversity is being exploited, and the new landscaping proposals will reduce biodiversity going forward.

	Also see local opinion against the access point: https://www.change.org/p/save-histon-road-playground
23	As with all green areas in Cambridge, they are popular with dog-walkers. Logan's Meadow is an example where there is a real problem with dog mess. It is hard to go for a walk there without stepping into some. Specially if there are local school groups visiting, the Council must make sure there are enough signs and dog mess bins encouraging owners to use them responsibly.
Q16. Please say why you support or do not support the proposal to install picnic table-benches.	
01	I fully support the idea of more benches. However please consider using recycled materials (rather than timber) as these will be longer lasting and perhaps more resilient to vandalism. I would also question the positioning. In the fenced off playground area is great, but I think they need to be off to the side of the main park area where people exercise their dogs or have larger gatherings, leaving plenty of open space.
02	Such facilities enable groups, families, and individuals to gather, attracted to the opportunity to stay longer and socialise. There is plenty of space for at least four or five such locations, with porous paths to benches, branching off pathways for disabled and wheelchair access, which has so far been ignored. This is critical, currently anyone with a disability has to tread across long or wet grass, or meet standing up, on the paths! Show the Council and FOHRR respects its Disability needs.
03	Good idea, for families to picnic/ sit at while the kids are running their energy off.
04	Depends on what you will destroy to instal them.
05	This will bring litter and overuse of an already overused rec.

06	Please put at least one table close enough to a tarmac path that people whose mobility limitations make grass surfaces difficult can use it.
07	Waste of money. Get rid of access point and provide your own green space.
08	Potentially yes, but the tables should be positioned where there is sunshine during the day, so that they do not rot and become unusable.
Q18. Please say why you support or do not support the proposal to install cycle stands.	
01	More bike parking is always good, and Sheffield stands are a must.
02	Good to have location for people to lockup bikes.
03	Need to rethink placement.
04	The park railings are sufficient for cycle parking. I would rather any spare funds are spent on on- going maintenance of the park, such as ensuring the play equipment is promptly fixed when it breaks, emptying bins, maintaining benches etc.
05	This would be great, but people tend to use the playground fence to attach cycles to and this works well as it keeps bikes out of the way. I feel that the cost of these stands could be better used elsewhere, more benches, or restoring the table tennis tables for instance.
06	These locations will encourage cycling within the park, which will be on the path, to the detriment of pedestrians. Putting cycle parking nearer to entry/exit points of the park North-West and South on the main trail (where it intersects with the Sydenham Pass) would make sense.
07	Sufficient space on railings already.
08	Cycles have not been a problem so far. In many cases cycle stands simply attract long-term use and abandonment of 'wrecks' that are not removed for far too long.

09	YES! Make them visible from the two main play areas, including the ball parks.
10	Am amazed this is even a question in Cambridge. Should be 6 at least.
11	As long as these are installed with minimum destruction to the area.
12	Too much development in an already overused rec.
13	Provided the stands are used it will tidy up the area. I also hope that the main path through the area will be suitable for pushing prams, wheelchairs, and wheeled mobility aids, otherwise I will not be able to enjoy the improvements
14	Awful idea.
15	Yes, support. Also, encourages visitors to cycle instead of driving.
<p>Q19. Use this space for any additional comments you wish to make about the amenity improvements being proposed in this consultation. Including additional interventions you would like to see added.</p>	
01	No vehicles, cycles, and scooters.
02	No need for cycles rack as most people walk to the ground.
03	Funding for on-going maintenance is the key requirement.
04	Thank you for improving our local play area.
05	A toilet and small coffee stand would be absolutely amazing.
06	I would strongly oppose the removal of any trees, bushes, or bramble areas to create new access routes from the proposed adjacent housing development. The developer should provide new dwellings with adequate outside space rather than try and use the recreation ground as a substitute for the absence of adequate gardens on the development. This might mean

	fewer units being built but the health, both physical and mental, of the residents would benefit greatly.
07	All of this is potentially very positive, and we trust the projects will continue to listen, and where possible, work with the FOHRR on detail, providing information on timing, that can be passed to interest groups.
08	Too much development in an already overused rec.
09	It should be more interesting to walk through the park: maybe steppingstones, or little bridges.
10	<p>STILL NO CLARIFICATION ON ACTUAL LOSS OF PLAYGROUND AREA. The new access point relies on reducing the size of the children’s playground. It is still unclear exactly how much square meterage of current children’s playground space will be lost. The proposal says they are not going to “remove any play equipment.” But they are removing crucial playground/ safe woodland space where children play. Once again, the very specific value of the Rec is the Nature which it provides: currently undisturbed. (It is obviously not for CIP to go against the original terms of the covenants in place on the land (secure fencing) and dictate how much land the children shall lose.)</p> <p>LOSS OF BRAMBLES IS COUNTER TO BIODIVERSITY. The proposal talks about biodiversity, but they plan to build willow walks (along West, North and East sides of the Rec) in the place of all the brambles. The bramble is a treasure trove for biodiversity. Brambles protect other plants, provide shelter and nesting site for many animals, and in particular birds such as: thrushes, robins, long tailed tits, finches, warblers, and nightingales. By removing them (to allow for willow walks) they are removing one of the most, if not the most vital part of the the Recreation Ground’s biodiversity.</p> <p>https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/plants/wild-flowers/bramble/</p> <p>https://wildlifeandwords.wordpress.com/2017/06/15/brambles-are-brilliant/</p> <p>ISSUES WITH WILLOW WALKS.</p>

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	Also see that local opinion is against your access point. Provide your own green space. https://www.change.org/p/save-histon-road-playground
11	Please add litter bins. Visitors picnicking will want somewhere to put litter.