

Glasgow City Council



Victoria Park Red Blaes Pitches

Consultation Analysis

Introduction

Land and Environmental Services agreed in January 2015 that a consultation would be carried out, in order to gather views and opinions for the future use of the red blaes pitches in Victoria Park. Three proposals were put forward to the public, with current park/pitches use, further ideas and general comments also being gathered.

The survey was available on the Council's [Consultation Hub](#) from 4th February until 13th March. Promotion of the survey took place, including updates on the Council's social media channels and the Evening Times. A paper version was available on request, with 49 responses received.

In total, there were **1,468** responses to the survey. This report provides a summary of the responses.

Park Use

Q. In general, how do you normally use the Park? (select all that apply)

More than three quarters (77%) of respondents stated that they normally use the Park for activities such as walking/running, with a further 51% using it for relaxation. Just over a third (35%) use the Park as a route to get to other places.

Activity	Percentage
Walking/Running	77%
Relaxation	51%
Children's play	43%
Cycling	31%
Visit attractions	27%
Ball sports	25%
Attend events	24%
Dog walking	23%
Route to other activities	17%
Route to shops	10%
Route to work/education	8%
Other (please specify)	4%
Do not use the park	3%

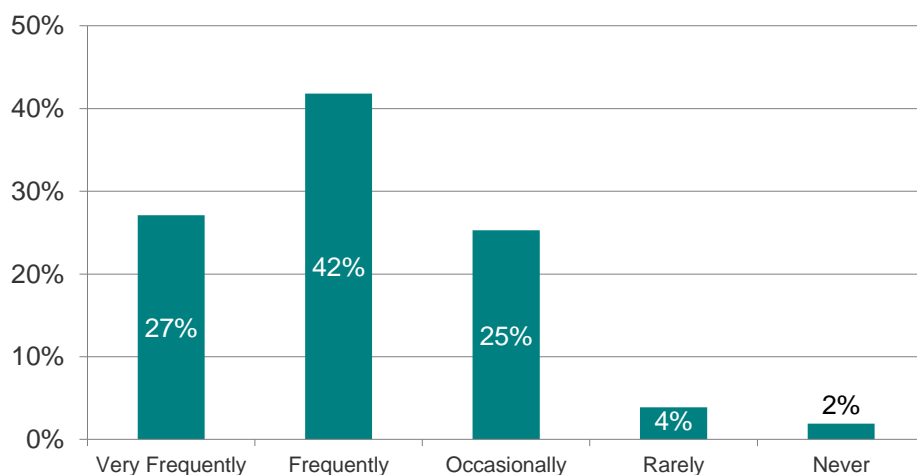
Base – 1,423

Other uses for the Park that respondents noted include:

- Nature/wildlife
- Spending time with family
- Geocaching
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Yoga
- Sledging
- Skateboarding
- Volunteering
- Fishing

Q. How often do you use the Park?

Just over two thirds (69%) use the Park either very frequently or frequently.

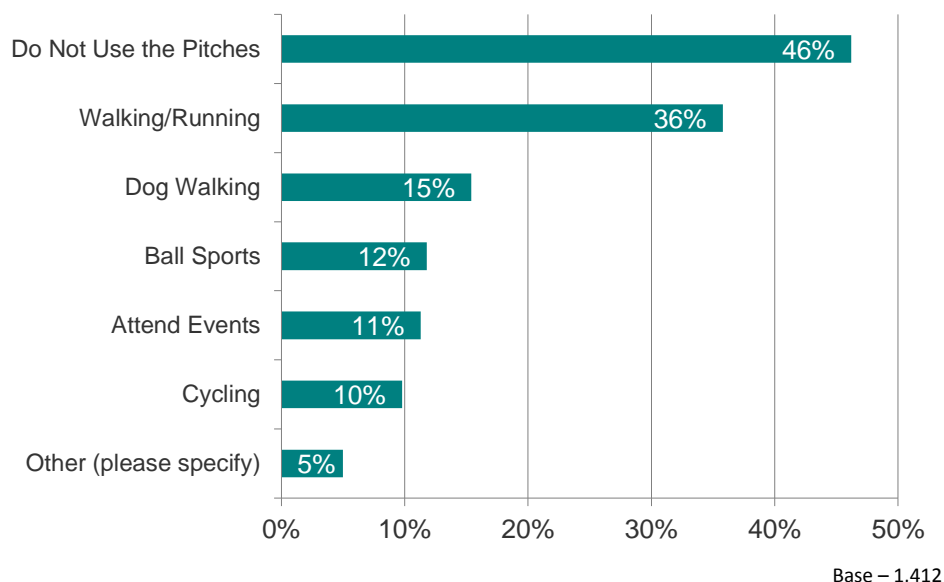


Base – 1,417

Pitches Use

Q. How do you currently use the red blaes pitches? (select all that apply)

Almost half of respondents (46%) do not currently use the pitches, with many noting in the further comments that they tend to avoid the area due to the poor condition. Just over a third (36%) use the pitches for walking/running.



The Other comments note that respondents also use the pitches to cross through to other areas of the Park.

Q. Which of the following would you be likely to use, if provided, on the red blaes pitches?

Roughly half of respondents stated they would be likely to use grass (55%), trees (49%) and seating (46%). Around a third would be likely to use a café (40%) and toilets (31%).

Activity	Percentage
Grass	55%
Trees	49%
Seating	46%
Café	40%
Sports Pitch	39%
Toilets	31%
Skate Park	13%
None	2%

Base – 1,405

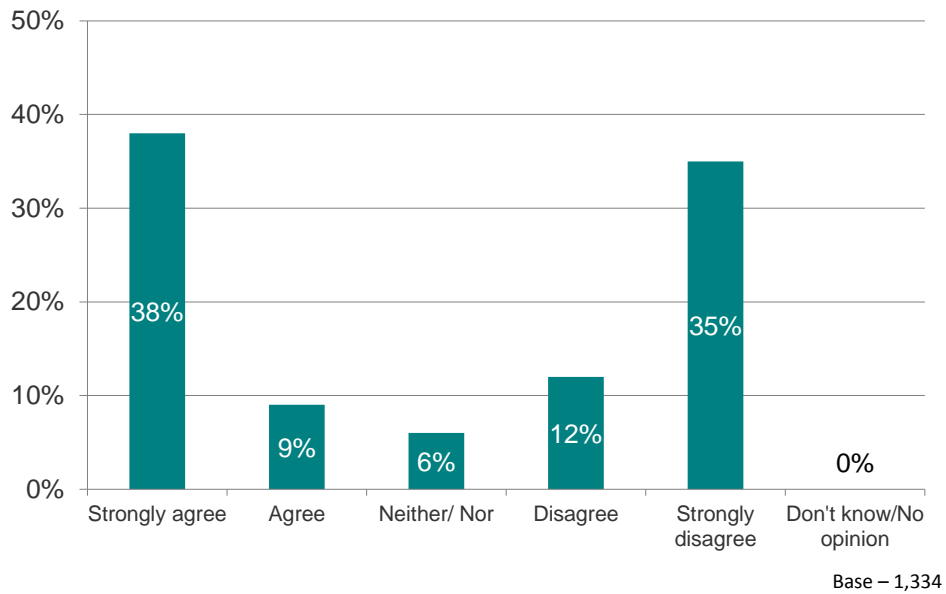
Other features respondents would be likely to use include:

- Community meadow/garden
- Cycle/bike activities
- Picnic area
- Enclosed dog walking area
- Restaurant/café
- Parking
- Paths
- Running track
- Allotments

Proposal 1 – Community Sports Facility

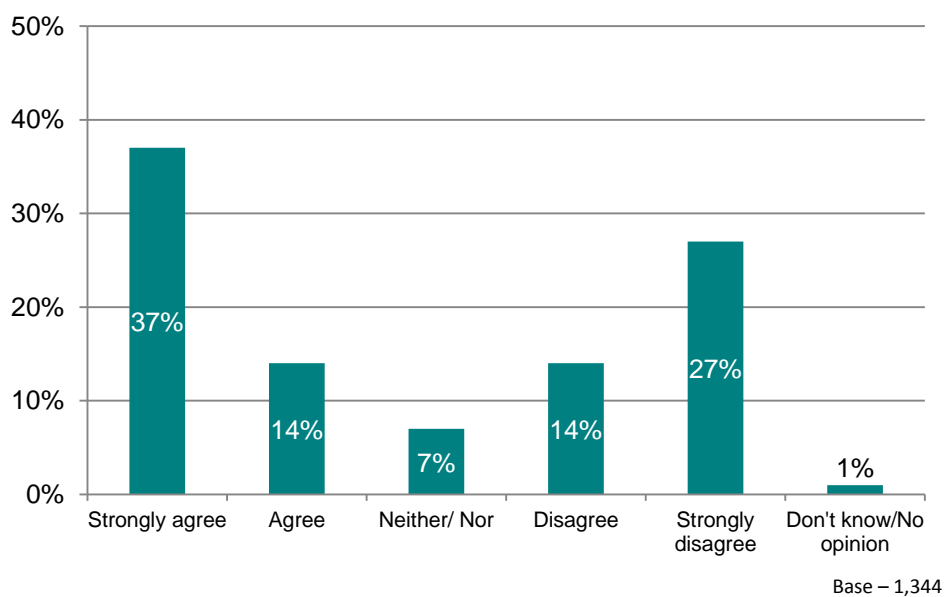
Responses show that opinion is either in one extreme or the other, with 47% agreeing with the proposal and 47% disagreeing with the proposal overall.

Q. Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal?

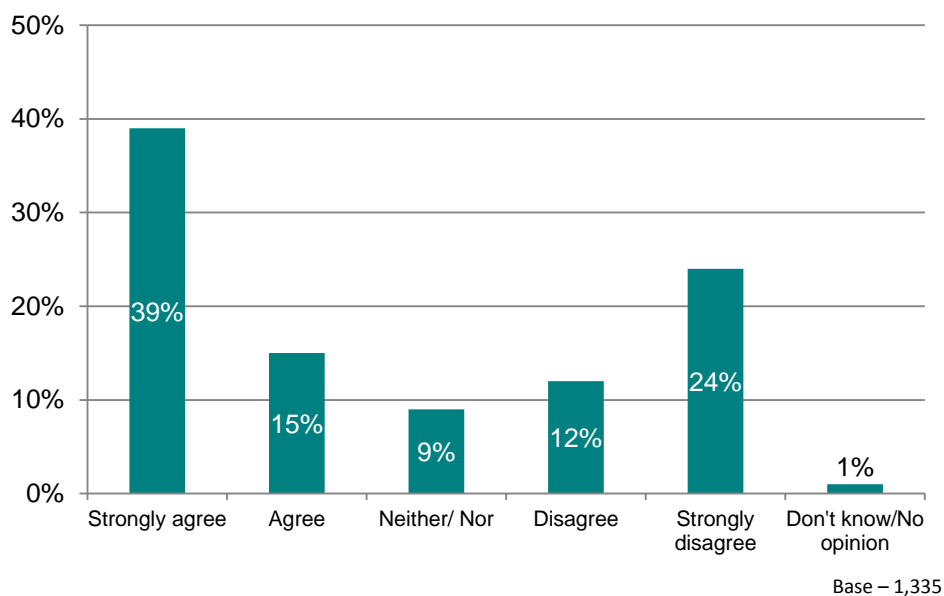


Regarding the benefits of the proposal, the quantitative responses show a slightly more positive than negative reaction from respondents. In terms of the proposal providing community benefit, over half (51%) agree, with 41% disagreeing. In terms of whether or not the facilities provided would be of benefit to Glasgow residents, 54% agree, with 36% disagreeing.

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal provides an overall community benefit to the residents of Glasgow?

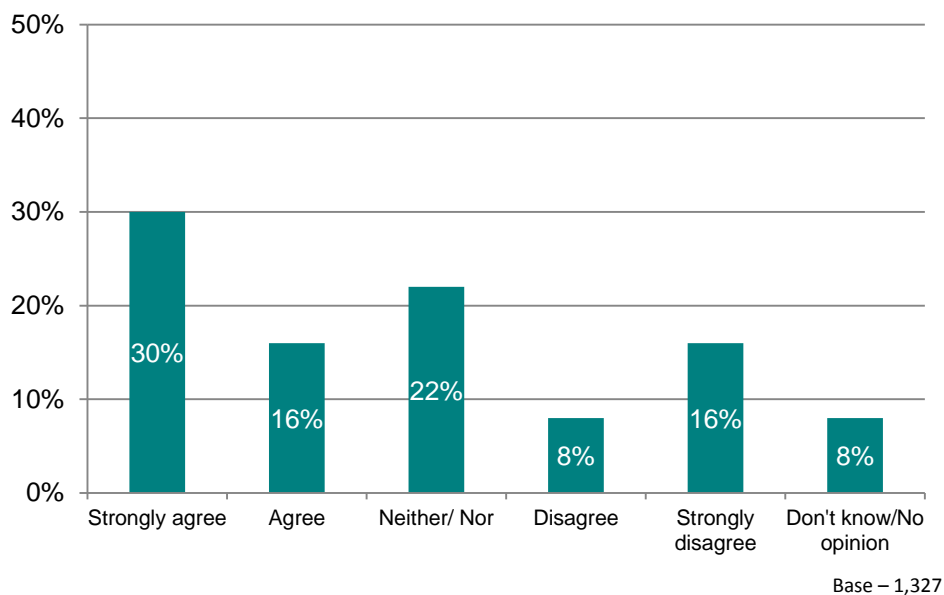


Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal provides facilities that would be of benefit to residents in Glasgow?



Respondents were asked about whether or not the proposal addresses public safety, and if their support would be stronger if there was an associated traffic management scheme. Just under half (46%) agree that the proposal addresses public safety, with 24% disagreeing. Around a quarter (26%) would support the proposal more strongly if it had an associated traffic management scheme.

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal addresses public safety?



Q. Would your support be stronger for this proposal if there was an associated traffic management scheme, e.g. parking and/or speed restrictions?

Yes	No	Don't know/No opinion
26%	56%	18%

Base – 1,335

Community Sports Facility - Further Comments

In total, 903 of the respondents gave further comments about the Community Sports Facility. In general, the views and opinions expressed were either strongly opposing or strongly supporting of the proposal.

Respondents highlighted a number of perceived benefits which the proposal could bring to the local and wider community. One of the main benefits identified was the increased availability of sports facilities in the area. Respondents highlighted the current difficulty in finding suitable venues and facilities within the area which can cater for specific requirements. Although Scotstoun is close-by, respondents noted that it tends to be at full capacity during key times.

The proposal was also seen as an opportunity to improve health and fitness among children and young people by encouraging them to participate in sport. There was a feeling that the proposal helps to build on, and support, the legacy from the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

A number of respondents liked the proposal, as it retained the original use of the space as football pitches. However, it is noted that it would be preferable if the new facilities were free with open access, as is currently the case.

Respondents felt the proposal was likely to attract the largest number of users.

In contrast, a significant number of respondents thought that such a facility was not necessary in the area, as there is already sufficient capacity at the nearby Scotstoun Leisure Centre. Respondents added that if additional capacity was needed, then it would be better placed elsewhere in the west end, such as Knightswood Park or the Jordanhill Sports Campus.

Respondents highlighted the potential for both noise and light pollution. This was particularly evident among respondents whose property was in close proximity to the site. It was felt that the use of floodlighting, especially during the winter months, may cause some nuisance to neighbouring properties, as well as within the park itself. The potential for increased levels of noise was also raised in reference to the proposed facility being predominately designed for team sports, aimed at children and young people.

The issue of parking and traffic congestion locally, and particularly within the surrounding streets, was raised by a significant number of respondents. It was highlighted that the area already suffered from parking and traffic issues during match days at Scotstoun, and during the summer when the park is busy.

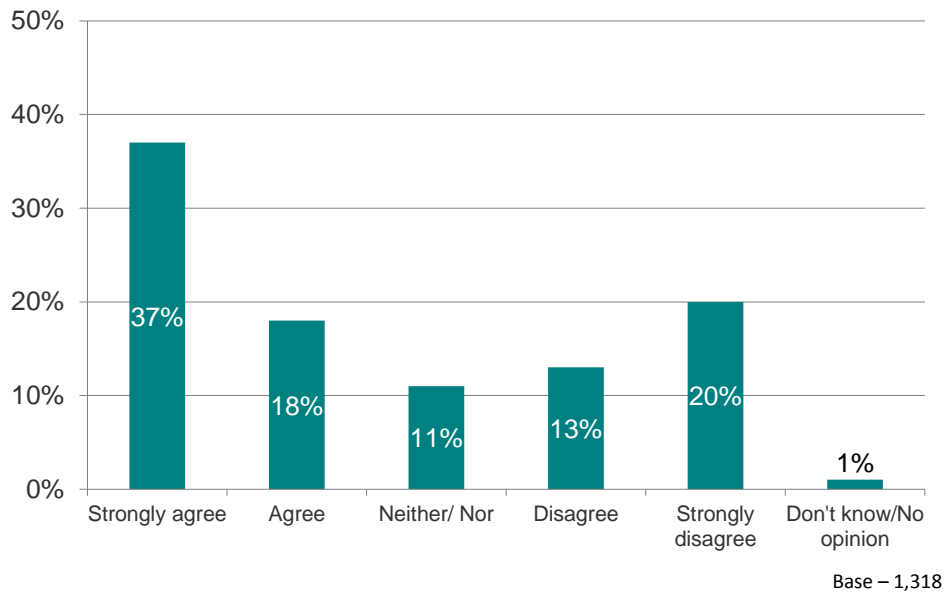
There were some concerns raised that the proposal would restrict free and open access to the park. It was felt that the proposal would remove a significant portion of the park by fencing off an area and preventing access at specific times. It was also mentioned that the requirement of membership would limit open access.

Concerns were raised about the proposal as it was deemed to commercialise the park. Respondents did not agree with the park being used for commercial purposes by any individual, group or organisation. There was a view that this would set a precedent for future green space both locally and across the city. A further concern related to this was the impact, should any particular organisation or group involved in operating in the park no longer remain sustainable, or run into difficulty. In most cases, those respondents also highlighted the need for existing green space to be secured and maintained for the use of current and future generations of Glasgow residents.

Proposal 2 – Community Orchard, Bike Recreation Area and Community Garden

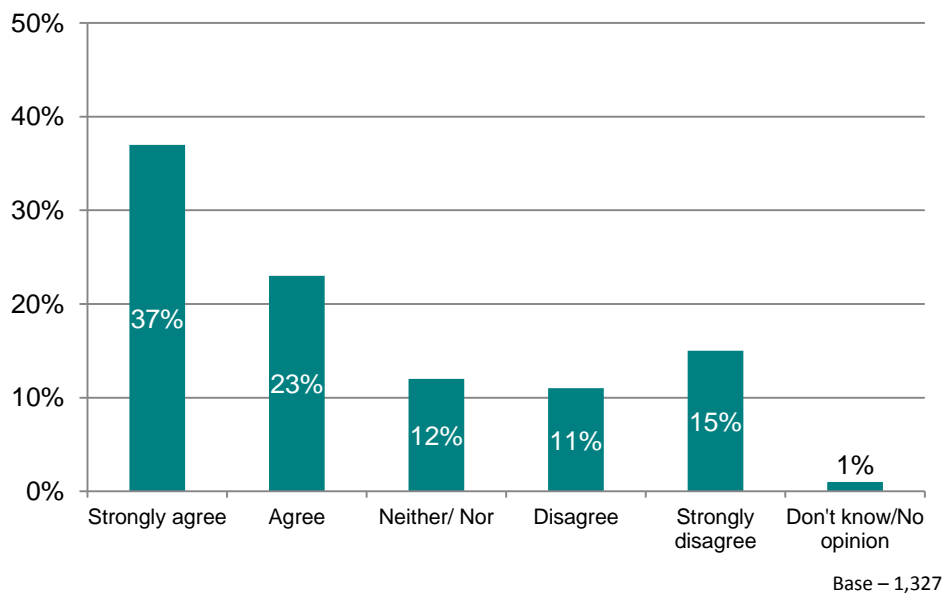
The quantitative responses show a positive reaction overall, with more than half (55%) agreeing, as opposed to 33% disagreeing.

Q. Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal?

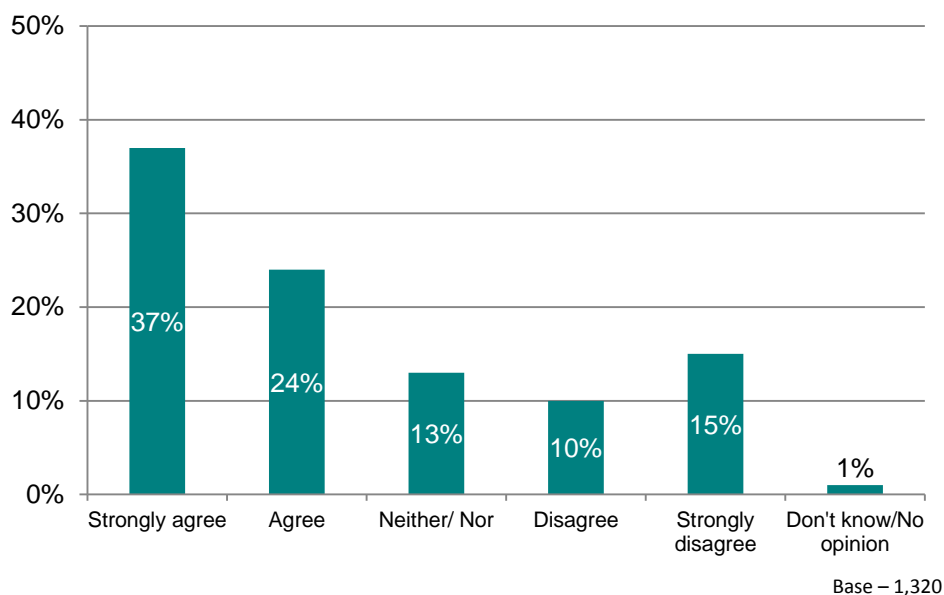


Regarding the benefits of the proposal, the quantitative responses show a more positive than negative reaction from respondents. In terms of the proposal providing community benefit, 60% agree, with 26% disagreeing. In terms of whether or not the facilities provided would be of benefit to Glasgow residents, the responses were very similar, with 61% agreeing, and 25% disagreeing.

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal provides an overall community benefit to the residents of Glasgow?

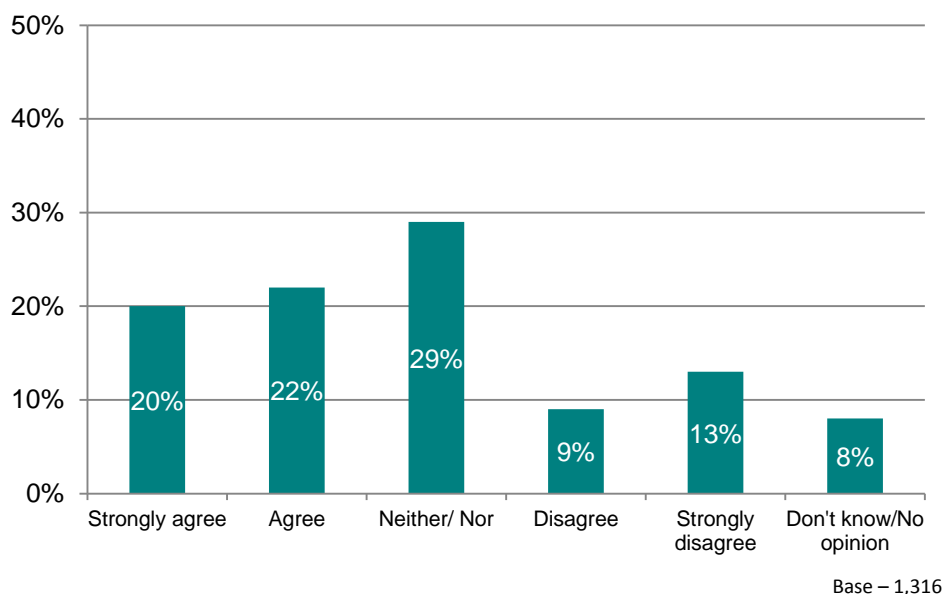


Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal provides facilities that would be of benefit to residents in Glasgow?



In terms of addressing public safety, and if their support would be stronger if there was an associated traffic management scheme, just under half (42%) agree that it addresses public safety, with 22% disagreeing. One fifth (20%) would support the proposal more strongly if it had an associated traffic management scheme.

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal addresses public safety?



Q. Would your support be stronger for this proposal if there was an associated traffic management scheme, e.g. parking and/or speed restrictions?

Yes	No	Don't know/No opinion
20%	58%	23%

Base – 1,313

Community Orchard, Bike Recreation Area and Community Garden -Further Comments

Further comments were made by 795 of the respondents. Overall the comments for the community orchard, bike recreation area and community garden were positive. By far the strongest theme was that of inclusiveness, with respondents feeling that the proposal would appeal to a variety of age groups and would be accessible for people with a disability.

A significant number of people saw the proposal as a way of promoting community involvement in the park and increasing social interaction among the local community. Equally important were the perceived environmental opportunities, with many interested in biodiversity and the opportunity for bees and wildflower to flourish in such an area.

Some respondents commented on how they visualised the proposal, a number of people felt the design was creative and the area looked peaceful and relaxing while many others liked that it was in-keeping with the rest of the park.

There was interest in the possibility of educational opportunities for local schools, and their involvement in the gardens. Some respondents felt that this option would encourage physical activity, particularly cycling. Furthermore, the lack of a fee/subscription was a positive factor for a number of people.

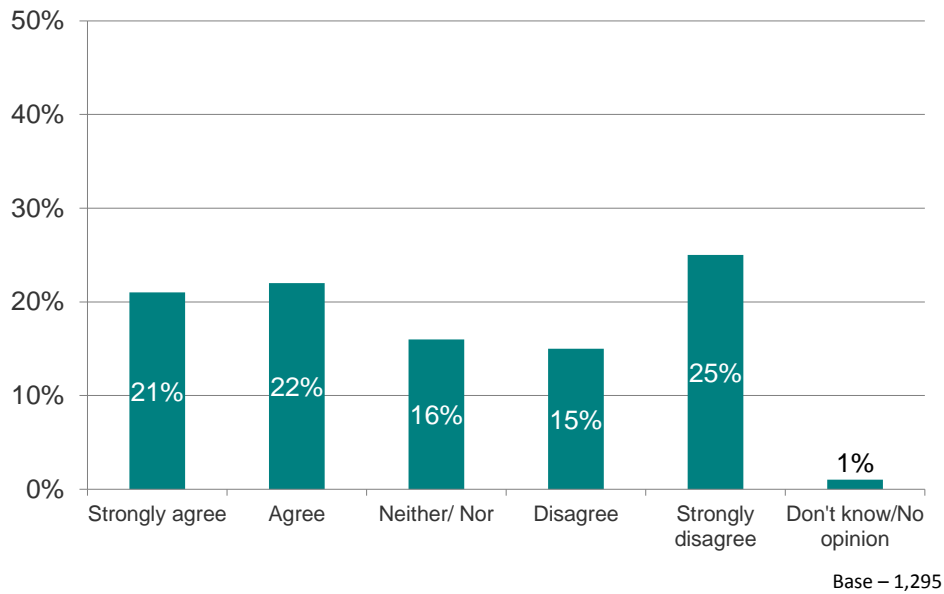
Although the comments were generally positive, some concerns were raised, particularly that the area would attract anti-social behaviour. There was some unease that it would be attractive for people to drink in or vandalise, and that the fruit and vegetables may be stolen. There was considerable interest in the long term maintenance plan for this area, as many were concerned about it falling into disrepair in the future, and questioned who would be responsible for the maintenance and how this would be funded.

Some respondents were apprehensive about the wider appeal of the facilities and felt that it was targeted at a limited number of people with specific interests. It was also felt that a number of aspects of the proposal are already available elsewhere in the park or nearby, for example the bike park at Kelvingrove.

Proposal 3 – Grassing Over

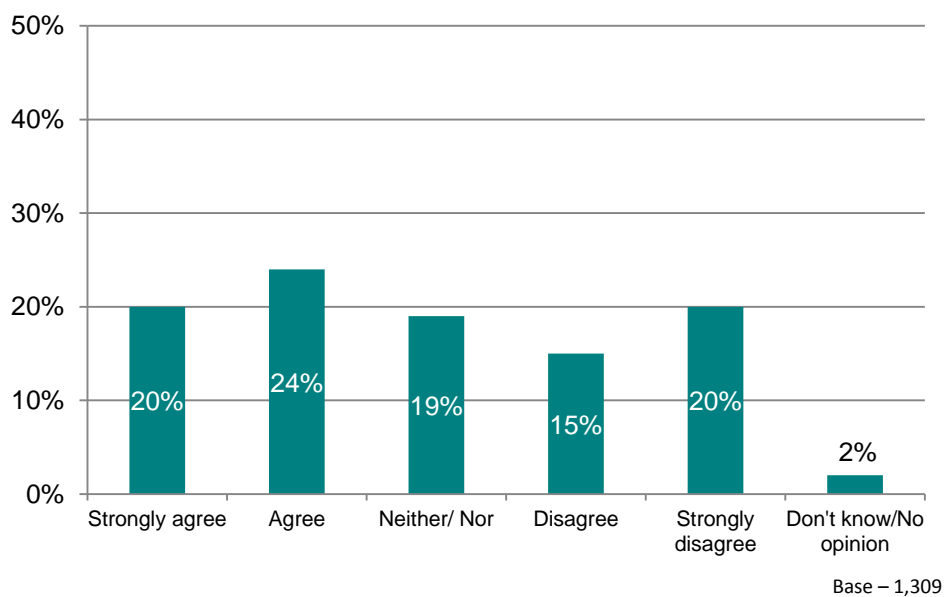
The quantitative responses show a mixed feeling toward the proposal, with 43% agreeing and 39% disagreeing with the proposal overall.

Q. Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal?

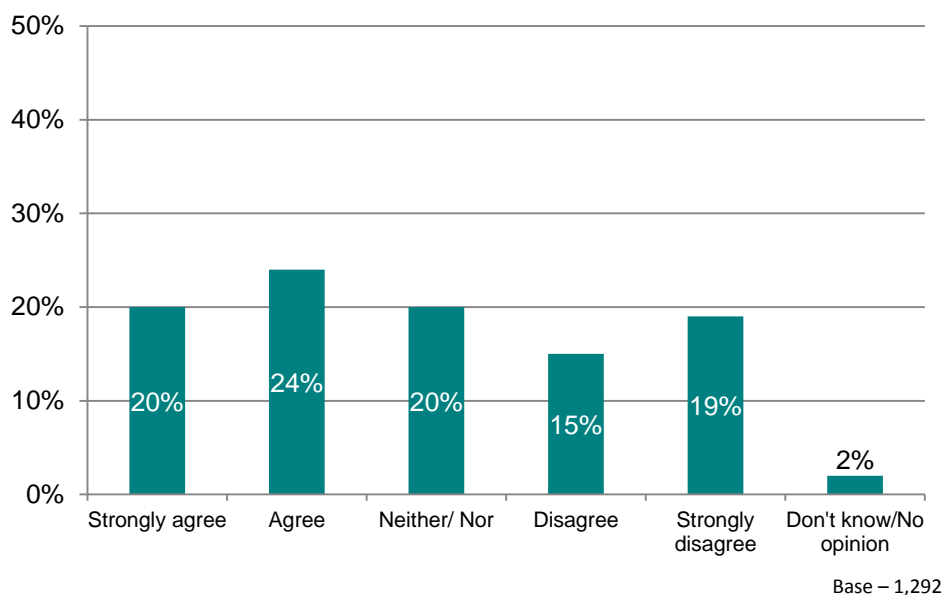


Regarding the benefits of the proposal, the quantitative responses show a slightly more positive than negative reaction from respondents. In terms of the proposal providing community benefit, 44% agree, with 35% disagreeing. In terms of whether or not the facilities provided would be of benefit to Glasgow residents, the responses were very similar with 44% agreeing, and 34% disagreeing.

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal provides an overall community benefit to the residents of Glasgow?

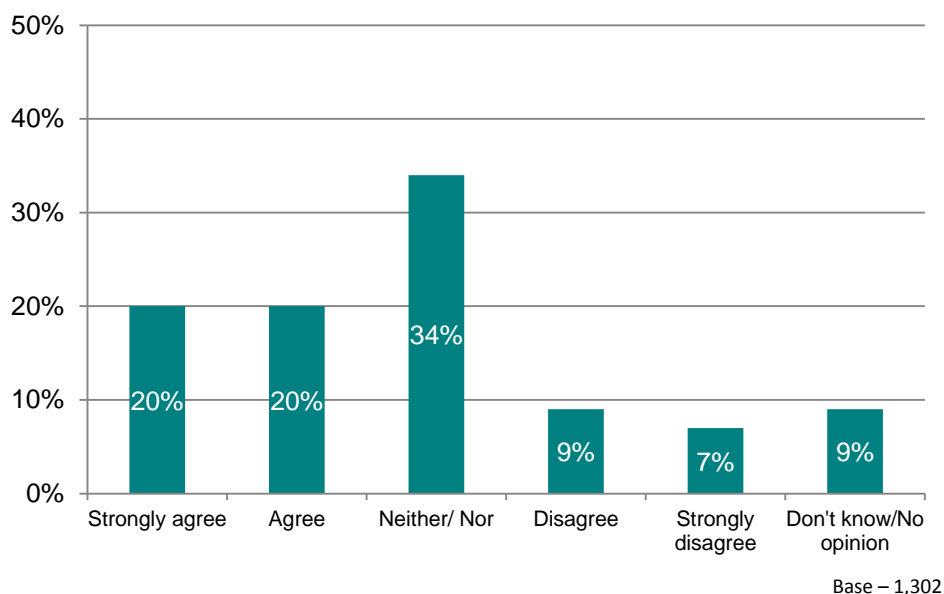


Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal provides facilities that would be of benefit to residents in Glasgow?



In terms of addressing public safety, and if their support would be stronger if there was an associated traffic management scheme, 40% agree that it addresses public safety, with 16% disagreeing. Just under a fifth (17%) would support the proposal more strongly if it had an associated traffic management scheme.

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal addresses public safety?



Q. Would your support be stronger for this proposal if there was an associated traffic management scheme, e.g. parking and/or speed restrictions?

Yes	No	Don't know/No opinion
17%	58%	25%

Base – 1,299

Grassing Over - Further Comments

In total, 749 respondents provided further comments relating to the grassing over proposal. A significant number of respondents expressed concern that this option was not as ambitious or imaginative as the other two proposals. The space was seen as an opportunity to do something that will benefit the area, and the community, and that simply grassing it over does not take full advantage of this.

A feeling that there are already enough grassed areas in the park and, therefore, an additional area is not required, was strong throughout the responses. However, respondents were positive towards the flexibility a grassed, open space would offer, with many noting the area could be used for a variety of activities, such as events and as a temporary car park. Also, the proposal was viewed by a significant portion as a low-cost, simple solution that will be an improvement on the current situation.

With many respondents, there was a feeling that, if their first choice (either proposal 1 or 2), is not possible, they would accept grassing over the area as an alternative.

Further Ideas and Further General Comments

Respondents provided a range of other ideas and suggestions which could be included as part of the re-development of the area, as well as a number of general comments about the pitches, and the wider park.

A significant proportion of respondents would like to see a café within the park, similar to Kelvingrove. There was particular support for a facility which would include toilets. Similarly, respondents wanted to see additional seating in and around the park, including a picnic area.

There was also support for the idea of extending the existing parkland to include this area. Respondents were keen on the idea of including new trees, plants and flowers, in both a formal and informal way. Particular mention was made of natural meadows, sensory/community gardens and allotments.

Respondents highlighted the need for more facilities aimed specifically for children and young people, particularly a skate/cycle park, children's play equipment, and also local schools being able to use the area. The physical and mental health benefits of parks and open spaces were also mentioned. The idea of creating multi-sport pitches, which were open and free for the public, was highlighted as well.

There were also some other suggestions for what could be done with the area. A number of respondents felt that if the pitch material was upgraded and the area maintained, this would be an alternate solution. Others liked the idea of a combination of the orchard and sports facility proposals, and some wanted the area to be left as it is.

The suggestion of creating a multi-purpose surface was seen as being potentially beneficial to the local area, which could be used to support a number of events such as car boot sales, an open-air cinema, circuses, and local farmers markets. It was also felt that such a space could be used for additional car parking during events at Scotstoun.

Respondents spoke of a general wish to see the pitches improved upon or maintained, and many were glad to see something positive being done with the area. There was a strong feeling that the area should stay open for all and kept in the community, with many respondents noting disquiet with what they see as the possible commercialisation of the park. The need for an overall plan for the park, and the use of this space in the long-term, was also highlighted.

Respondents highlighted concerns about the current and future maintenance of the area, i.e. dog walkers/dog fouling and drainage issues etc. Also, issues around the park's Common Good and Dark sky status are mentioned.

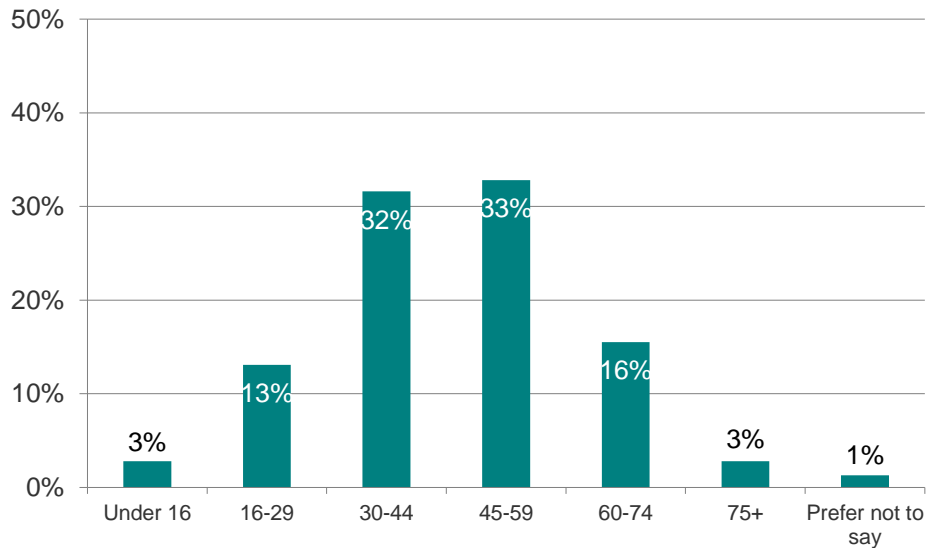
Other further ideas and suggestions for the pitches and the park include:

- Biodiversity projects
- Park gates being restored/locked at night
- Changing rooms
- Paths
- Enclosed dog space
- Outdoor gym/exercise equipment
- Pedestrian crossing outside the park
- Running trails

Respondents

The majority of the respondents were individuals, with some responses received from community councils, sports clubs, businesses, a local residents' association and the Glasgow branch of the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

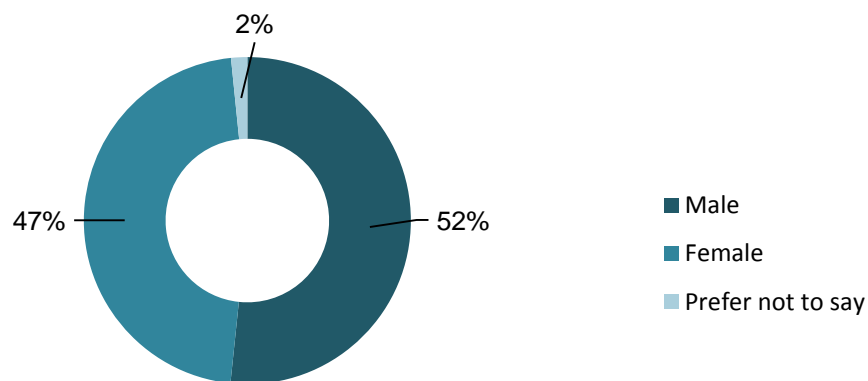
Age



Base – 1,456

Responses were received from a broad range of age groups, with the largest group (65%) being aged between 30 and 59.

Gender



Base – 1,427