

Alperton Parks and Open Spaces Survey: Findings Report

Introduction

Parks and open spaces are vital to daily life and physical and mental health. From having a picnic with family and friends, taking a walk, to exercising, high quality green spaces enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing and improve residents' perceptions of their community.

The Regeneration team and Parks Services conducted this consultation to understand satisfaction levels with Alperton Sports Ground, Mount Pleasant, Heather Park and One Tree Hill, identify challenges and highlight any opportunities there are for improvements. The consultation findings will be used to inform future funding bids for improvements to the parks and open spaces.

The purpose of this report is to present the findings of the consultation.

The consultation

The Alperton parks and open spaces survey was conducted from Monday 15th February 2021 to Friday 12th March 2021. The survey was designed to capture information about park users' reasons for visiting the parks and open spaces, experiences and perceptions about their local parks and ideas for future improvements.

290 responses to the survey were received through the council's consultation portal. The survey was conducted online with no face to face engagement due to the Government restrictions on Covid-19. The survey was available in English, Gujarati, Somali, Polish and Hindi.

The survey was emailed to stakeholders which includes Friends of the parks, ward councillors, community and voluntary organisations, schools, businesses, GPs and local businesses to share with their networks in the community. In addition, the survey was advertised on noticeboards around the parks and open spaces, social media was used to promote the consultation and an article in the resident's e-newsletter.

Headline findings

The headline analysis is a snapshot of the consultation outcome by all parks and open spaces. Breakdown analysis for each park or open space is available below.

- 1) We received 164 responses to the survey from park users and residents of One Tree Hill Recreation Ground, 64 Alperton Sports Ground, 41 Mount Pleasant Open Spaces and 21 Heather Park open space.
- 2) More than 60% of respondents live within 10 minutes' walk from their local park or open space. 90% of Heather Park respondents live less than 5 minutes away from their open space.

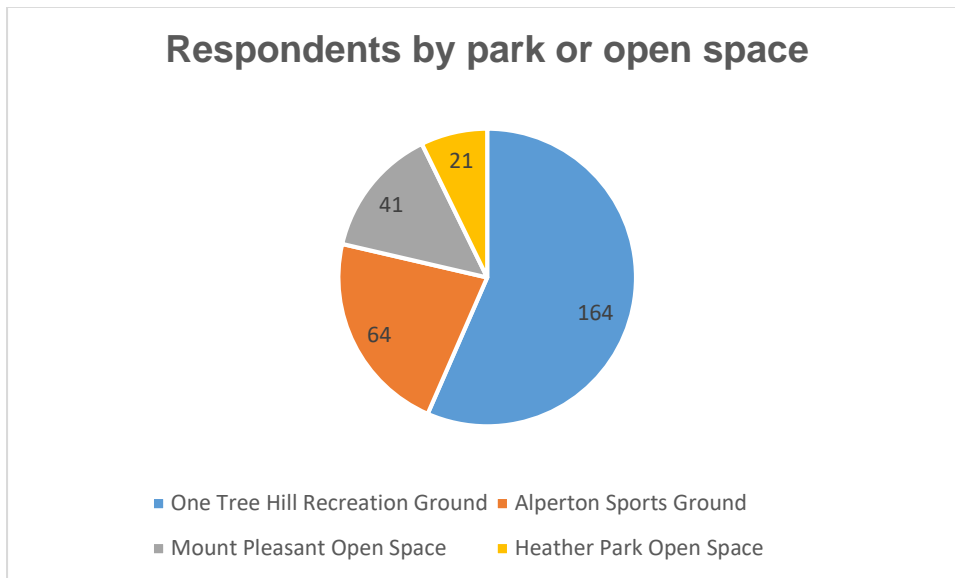
- 3) 82% (238) of respondents indicated that their park or open space is extremely important to them.
- 4) The majority of respondents said they visited the park or open space weekly, with 48% (138) of respondents visiting the park daily. Park users in all the parks or open space are more likely to visit the park weekly. The increase in park usage can be interpreted as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions.
- 5) The top 5 reasons for visiting the park or open space were:
 1. Walking
 2. Enjoying the green space
 3. Exercise
 4. Visiting the playground
 5. Sports and games
- 6) In answer to the question "How would you rate the play and sports facilities that are available": 50% (20) of Mount Peasant Open Space park respondents rated the quality of play facilities as fair compared with 35% of One Tree Hill. Whilst Heather park users and visitors (52%) rated the sports facilities as very poor.
- 7) The top 5 things respondents value about their park or open space were:
 - 1) Cleanliness
 - 2) Safety and security
 - 3) Trees
 - 4) Location
 - 5) Available facilities
- 8) Overall 121 (42%) of respondents said their impression of their local park or open space was poor or very poor, 88 (30%) of said fair and 81 (28%) said it was very good or good.

The top 3 reasons given based on the number of times they were mentioned when asked "Please tell us the reason for your response to question 8?"

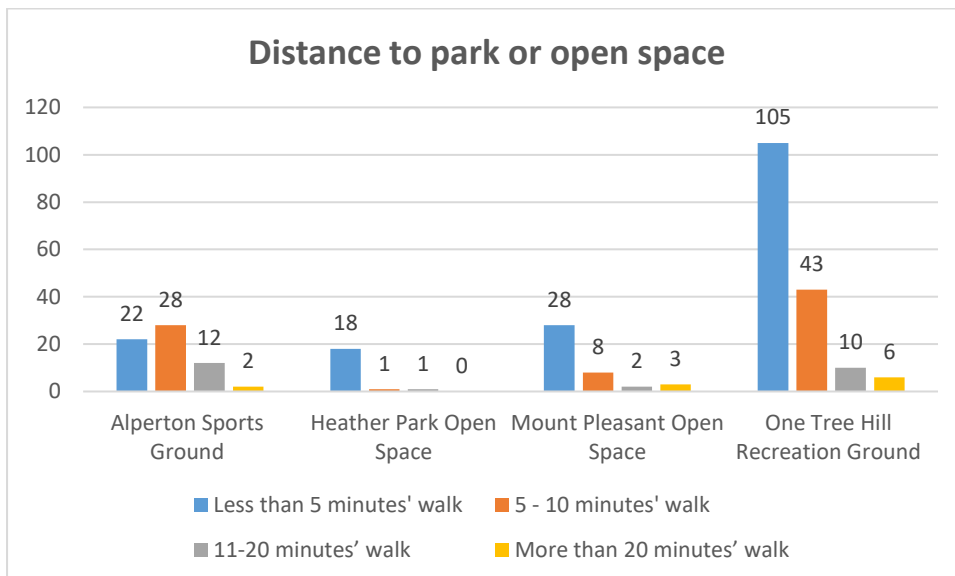
- 1) Litter and fly tipping
 - 2) Drinking, drugs, urinating and anti-social behaviour issues
 - 3) Not enough seating / benches
- 9) The top 3 improvements suggested by respondents are:
 - 1) Improved cleanliness
 - 2) More seating areas
 - 3) Improvements to play equipment's
 - 10) 102 respondents said they would be interested in joining a steering group for their local park or open space, if a steering group was created.

Findings

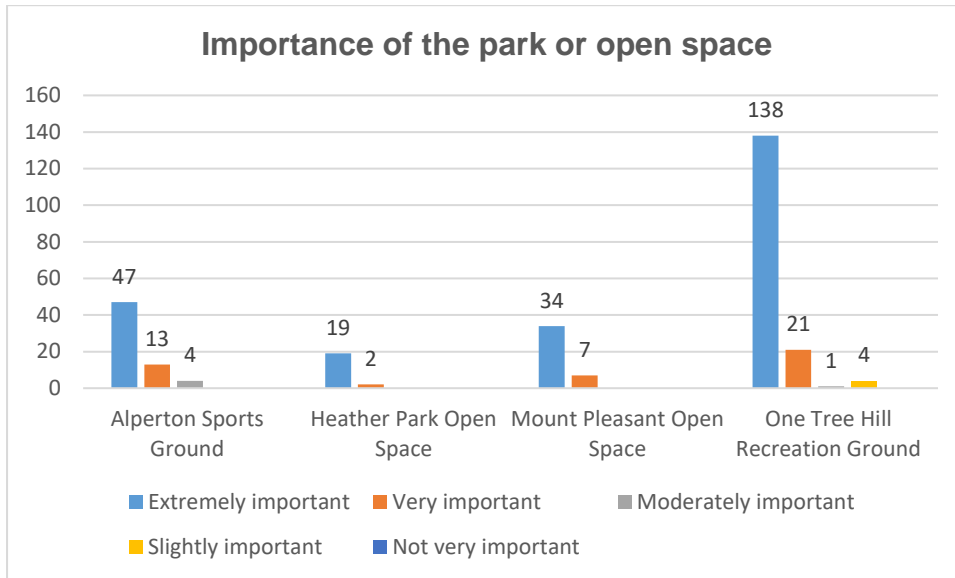
Q1. Please, select your local park from the list – This identifies the parks or open spaces the respondents were providing feedback for.



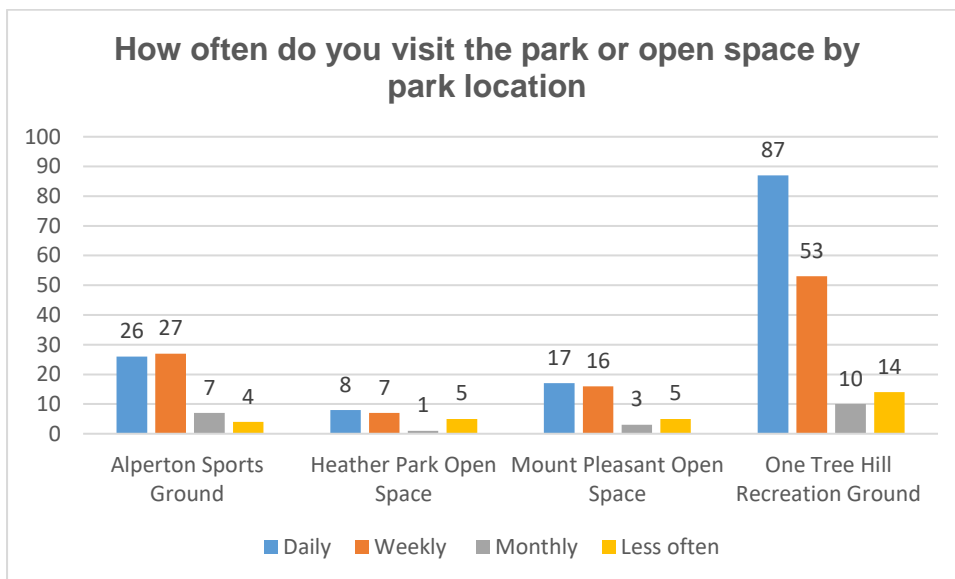
Q2. How far do you live from your park or open space?



Q3. How important is the park or open space to you?

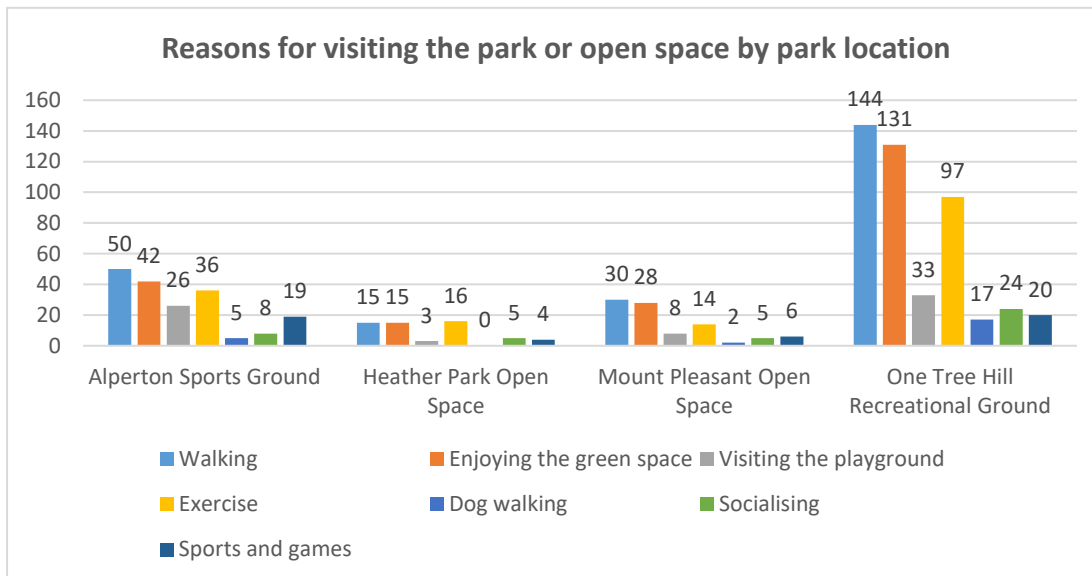


Q4. How often do you visit your park or open space?



There were 290 responses to this part of the question.

Q5. What are your main reasons for visiting the park or open space?

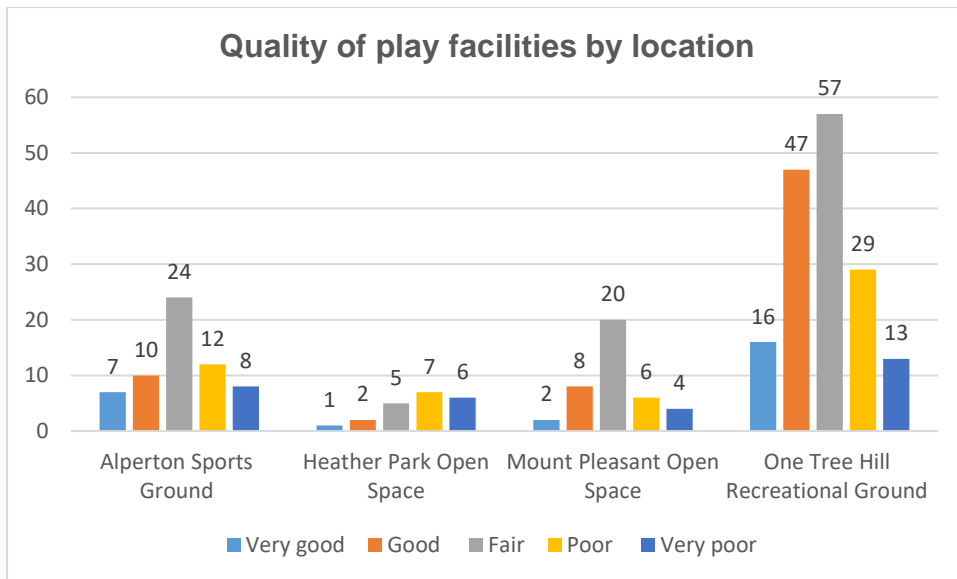


Respondents were asked to select more than one reasons for visiting their local park or open space. Walking 83% (239 times) was ranked as the highest by visitors of all the four parks and open space followed by enjoying the green space 76% and exercise 57%. .

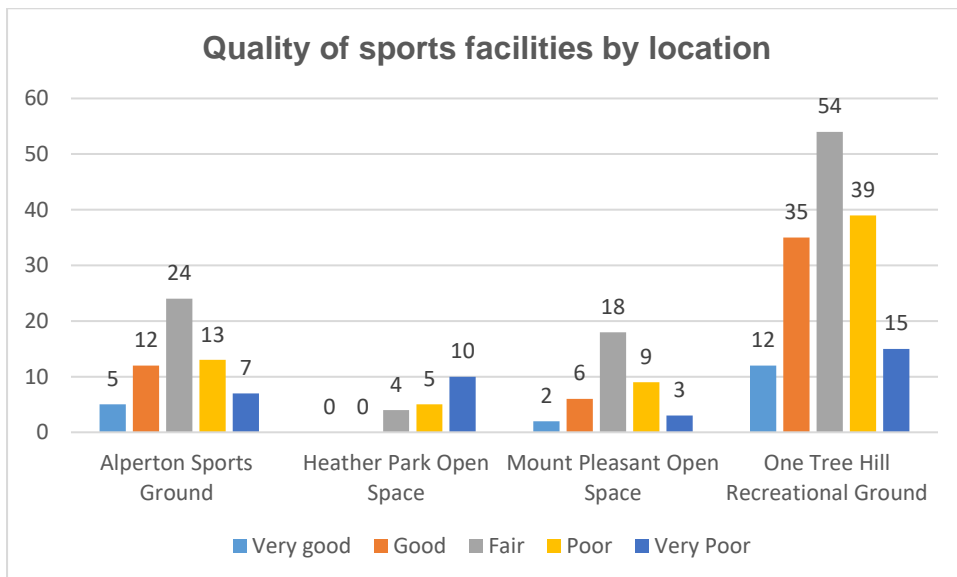
Other comments for visiting the park or open space:

Alperton Sports Ground	Heather Park Open Space	Mount Pleasant Open Space	One Tree Hill Recreation Ground
Be in touch with nature	I live by the park	Use the park as a recreational space when meeting with local girl guides based at St. James church hall as nearest outdoor space.	I use the park at 7.30 to 9.00 am for walk ,Exercise & Evening 5-6 pm green fresh air every day
Bring the family especially children to enjoy the park	Fresh air	Taking the grand child to the children's play area.	The View / Meditation
To enjoy walking in the fresh air and meet people	For running around the track	Taking my mum for a walk	It's the closest green space to enjoy when we are stuck indoors during pandemic

Q6. How would you rate the play and sports facilities that are available:

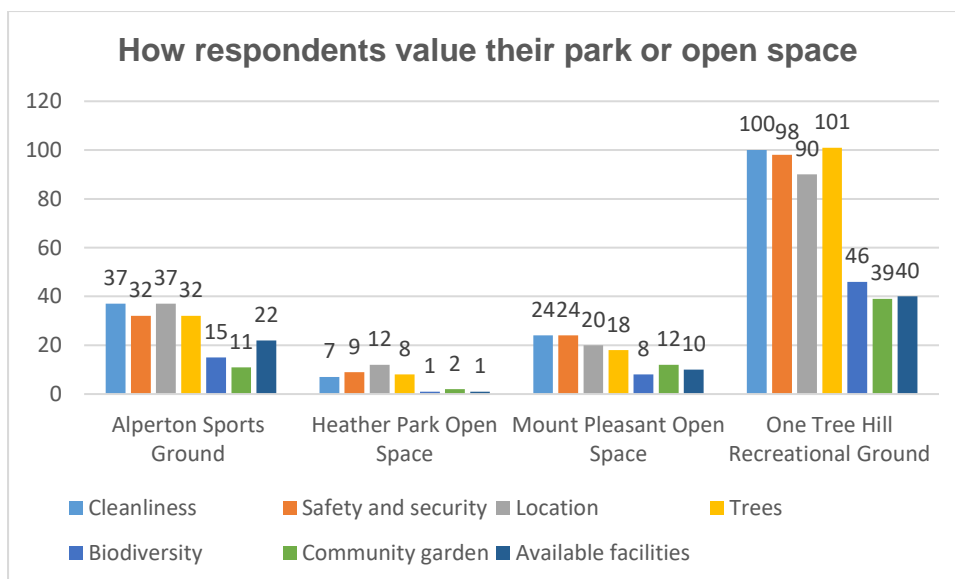


284 responded to this question



273 responded to this question

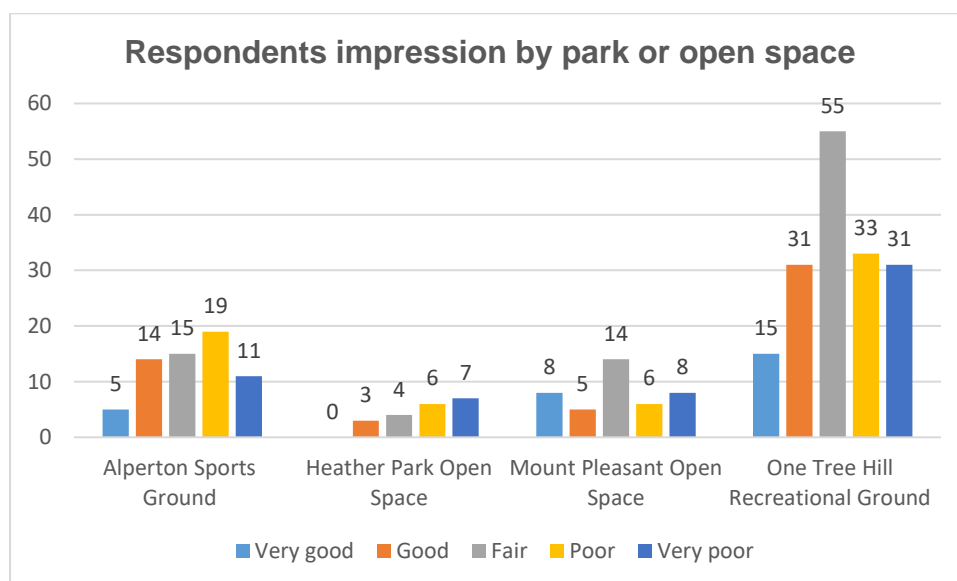
Q7. What do you value most about your park or open space?



Respondents selected more than one thing they valued from their local park or open space.

Alperton Sports Ground	Heather Park Open Space	Mount Pleasant Open Space	One Tree Hill Recreation Ground
It's local	It is not clean and it is not safe lots of drugs	Cleanliness	Hilltop view and view of local train passing excitement for young children
Safety and security	The park is not user friendly at times unless it has just been cleaned by Brent Council, due to drinking, daily fly tipping and dog fouling	Flower beds	Vital space for wildlife and fresh air
Paths to walk	Green space	The area is small for walking and playing for teenagers and not any flowers plants	It's not very clean and wouldn't feel safe there on my own
Pathways for walking, facilities (benches and rubbish bins)	Social behaviour	Fact that it is open space and not looking at flats.	It used to be a safe park to go an exercise, socialise and have picnics. Now it is run down, unsafe and in a bad condition.

8: What is your overall impression of your park or open space?



Park users were asked to provide reasons for their answer to question 8. Below is a list of all comments and the number of times each was mentioned.

Alperton Sports Ground

Number of times mentioned	Comment
8	Litter everywhere
8	Lack of facilities / need improvement
7	Not enough seating / benches
6	Waste disposal opposite children's play area smells
4	Drinking, drugs and anti-social behaviour issues
4	No walking paths
4	More trees and flowers need to be planted to make it nice
3	Poor drainage so swampy grass
3	The park could have a lot more greenery and biodiversity
3	Not clean
2	Was great but part sold to goals for commercial reasons
2	The landscaping is very poor
2	Consideration for mobility impaired people should be provided through appropriate pathways.
1	The pavement to get to the park is all broken which makes it hardly accessible with pushchairs or wheelchairs.
1	Forgotten park in this part of Brent
1	Lack of security
1	Well kept open space that is user friendly

1	Accessible
1	Cleanliness
1	Could have a floral section for something nice to look at but think that's a nice to have and not essential
1	Poor lighting
1	Never been any money spent on it - the toilets have been closed for years and the tennis courts are pathetic.
1	Goals football spoils the park and club house when open is a pain drunk people in car park shouting and fighting till all hours
1	It's important for me to be able to have a feel of nature in the area.
1	Reachable, good for a pleasant walk, picnic lunches during weekends.

Heather Park

Number of times mentioned	Comment
10	Litter and fly tipping
4	Drinking, drugs and anti-social behavior issues
2	Not enough seating / benches
2	Children's play area needs to be improved
2	Nice open space for all activities including walking and cycling
2	Broken glasses on the floor
2	Uninviting
1	No sports facilities
1	Cars parked either near the entrance or within
1	Benches are broken
1	Lack of tree planting

Mount Pleasant

Number of times mentioned	Comment
10	Litter / over flowing bins and fly tipping
10	Drinking, drugs and anti-social behavior issues
7	Empty / broken bottles, needles and cans are littered everywhere
3	Lack of security
3	Since a local group (Friends of Mount Pleasant) took over the running of the open space it has improved beyond

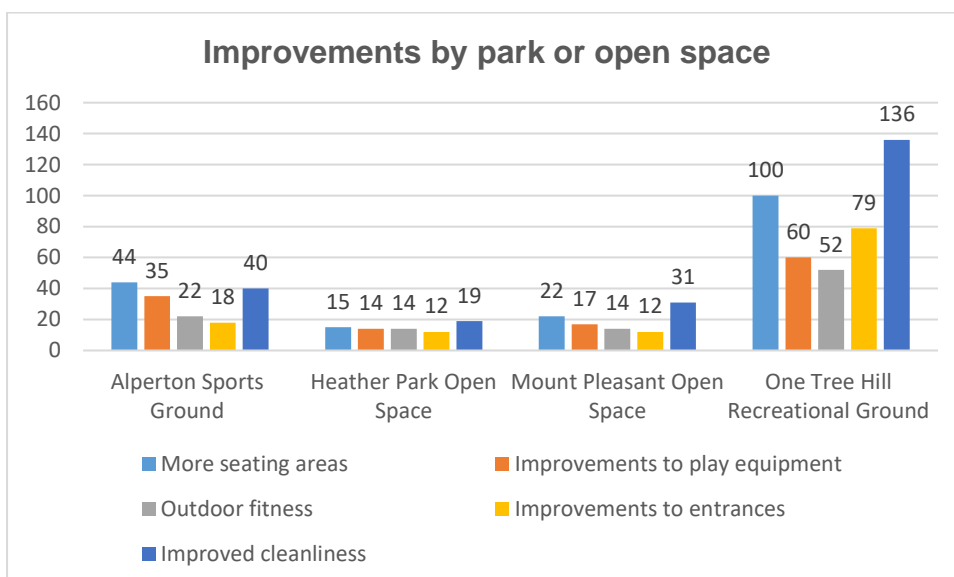
	measure. It has more varied plants, gym furniture and a better shape to it.
2	Improved cleanliness will be appreciated.
2	It's kept clean and tidy
1	It could have better play area
1	Not enough benches
1	Lighting is poor in the dark
1	The open space is very convenient for a walk and the exercise equipment is very useful.
1	It's a good use of space, lots of people use it for exercise and in the summer to sit out on the grass.

One Tree Hill Recreation Ground

Number of times mentioned	Comments
58	Drinking, drugs, urinating and anti-social behaviour issues
38	Litter
29	Lack of security / Unwelcoming
14	Poor walking paths
13	CCTV / Park warden to patrol
11	Dirty including entrances
9	Not enough bins /Over flowing bins
8	More trees, flower beds & community garden
8	Play area needs improvement
7	Empty / broken bottles, needles and cans are littered everywhere
5	Park is clean and tidy
4	Not enough benches
3	People throw their rubbish food to birds eat it
3	Park is open so it feels very safe.
2	Nice views
2	Lots needs to be done on walking path leading to Braemar Avenue
1	It's a fairly nice park. But the Bridgehill Close entrance is very unattractive (I use it because it's the most convenient, but it doesn't look welcoming at all). Also, once inside the park, several of the paths are constantly muddy or covered in puddles.

1	It is a good park. I would focus on cleanliness and security...we can run some events in summer for kids to come over as kids play area is really awesome.
1	Don't feel safe. The entrance from Bowrons Ave is awful - unattractive and has louts hanging around. Rubbish left there.
1	As it is very good that it is very nearer to our residence
1	No points of interest ie. flower beds, art works, cafe, lake/pond.
1	No lights makes it impossible to walk after sunset
1	The open spaces and parks available in neighbouring boroughs are of a much higher standard and quality.
1	There is decent exercising equipment and space, but not adequate sports facilities

Q9. Are there any improvements you would like to see to your park or open space?



Other improvements suggested by park users

Alperton sports Ground

Number of times mentioned	Comments
5	More trees, plants and flowers
4	Paths to walk inside the open space
3	Lights and police also need to come to this area
1	Make them family friendly
1	New toilets
1	A coffee shop

1	Free tennis courts
1	Grass cut in the central area to allow for cricket and other games from May till September specially. Action taken against groups of drinker and antisocial people who leave their rubbish.
1	Cricket nets & Jogging paths need to be introduced to make the ground usable.

Heather Park

Number of times mentioned	Comments
1	New benches needed.
1	The play area should only be for and up-to a certain age for children and likewise with any sports area so that the equipment cannot be destroyed.
1	A tennis court would be nice too
1	There are no gym equipment's in the Heather Park Open Space area, it can help improve fitness in the area
1	Improvements to security

Mount Pleasant

Number of times mentioned	Comments
7	Warden service / CCTV
2	finer for alcoholic consuming alcohol in children's playground
1	More flowers plants
1	Maybe a regular stop by local police as a routine check point.

One Tree Hill Recreation Ground

Number of times mentioned	Comments
34	Park wardens to improve security & safety / CCTV
15	More trees, shrubs, community garden /flower
11	Improve walking paths
3	This park may need to be gated at a certain time at night.
3	Lighting
3	Café
3	Toilets

2	Provide bigger or more waste bin so there no excess litter by the bins.
1	Callisthenic equipment. More bins.
1	enhanced ecology
1	Enforcement of no drinking in the park.
1	I don`t think any of the locals sit on any of the benches at One Tree Hill, due to it being constantly occupied by several groups who make a mess, litter and urinate everywhere. More seating areas here would cause more problems unfortunately.
1	Removal of the "meadow areas" or improvement and cleanliness of them. Introduce them on the hills rather than the flat usable space
1	Would be nice to see something done with the hilly part of the park. Walking up to the hill and seeing the views is great, but there are a lot of fallen trees/ weeds in the grassy areas around. It feels like there should be a better use of that part, but maybe it's just too hilly. The better solution is probably to just increase the amount of green space instead of constantly building huge blocks of flats...
1	I would also appreciate tennis courts and some picnic tables
1	Some fenced off areas so that the dogs can have a bit of a run

Q10. If a steering group was established for your local park or open space, would you be interested in becoming a member?

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	102	33.57%
No	187	65.03%
Not Answered	4	1.40%

Respondents interested in joining a steering group to help maintain/improve their local park or open space will be contacted when such groups are created. Details will be forwarded to colleagues in Parks services for this basis only.

Demographic information

Age	Total
Under 18	2
18-24	11
25-34	48

35-44	65
45-54	45
55-64	59
65+	49
Prefer not to say	8
Not Answered	3

Gender	Total
Male	135
Female	144
Prefer not to say	7
Not Answered	4

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?	Total
Yes	18
No	255
Prefer not to say	12
Not Answered	5

Ethnicity	Total	Percent
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	6	2.10%
Asian or Asian British: Chinese	3	1.05%
Asian or Asian British: Indian	129	43.71%
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	8	2.80%
Asian/Asian British/Other Asian Background	5	1.75%
Black or Black British: African	6	2.10%
Black or Black British: Caribbean	8	2.80%
Black or Black British: Somali	0	0.00%
Black/Black British/ Other Black Background	1	0.35%
Mixed/Dual Heritage: White & Asian	4	1.40%
Mixed/Dual Heritage: White & Black African	1	0.35%
Mixed/Dual Heritage: White & Black Caribbean	4	1.40%
Mixed/Dual Heritage: Any Other Mixed Background	3	1.05%
Other Ethnic Groups: Afghan	0	0.00%
Other Ethnic Groups: Arabic	2	0.70%
Other Ethnic Groups: Turkish	0	0.00%
Other Ethnic Groups: Eastern European	3	1.05%
Other Ethnic Groups / Any other Groups	2	0.70%
White: British /English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish	51	17.83%

White: Irish	5	1.75%
White: Traveller of Irish Heritage	0	0.00%
White: Gypsy/Roma	0	0.00%
White: Other	19	6.64%
Prefer not to say	25	8.74%
Not Answered	5	1.75%